

HCS HB 131 -- LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

SPONSOR: Smith, 118 (Deeken)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Retirement by a vote of 12 to 0.

This substitute gives jurisdiction over any dispute regarding the Local Government Employees' Retirement System (LAGERS) to the circuit court of Cole County.

If a former member of the retirement system becomes re-employed in a position covered by the system, and the re-employment occurs within a period of 10 years from the date of last membership, the member's credited service which was forfeited will be restored.

The substitute also suspends full-time student benefits under LAGERS during any period of military duty. Upon the student's return to school, the benefits will be reinstated. The student's benefit period will be extended by the number of months of military service.

Under current law, a disability allowance under LAGERS is adjusted by the amount of workers' compensation benefit, federal social security insurance, or other monthly personal service received for any gainful employment. The substitute repeals this section of law and allows the full disability allowance.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will provide for the centralization of dispute resolution and the filing of lawsuits brought against LAGERS. The Missouri State Employees' Retirement System has a similar process. A full-time college student who receives benefits and who is a member of the military should be allowed to have benefits suspended and re-instated due to military service.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Deeken; and Missouri Local Government Employees' Retirement System.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Joseph Deering, Legislative Analyst