

HB 180 -- Kansas City Police Relief and Pension Systems

Sponsor: Johnson (47)

This bill changes the requirements for the five elected members of the Kansas City Police Retirement Board. If Kansas City has established a Civilian Employees' Retirement System of the police department, the bill requires the elected members to consist of three restricted members and two open members. The three restricted members will consist of a retired member, an active member below the rank of sergeant, and a civilian member. If Kansas City has not established a Civilian Employees' Retirement System of the police department, three members will be open members. (Kansas City has established a Civilian Employees' Retirement System.) Open members will have no qualification requirements. Current law has no requirement that the board have an open member. The bill outlines a staggered election process.

The bill allows members of the Police Retirement System and the Civilian Employees' Retirement System to receive a partial lump-sum option payment. Police officers who have a minimum of 26 years of service are eligible to receive up to three years of benefit payments in a lump-sum, depending on their years of creditable service. The member would then receive a reduced pension on a normal monthly basis. Civilian employees working one year beyond their earliest eligible retirement date would also be eligible for the partial lump-sum option. The election to receive a lump-sum distribution and reduced monthly base pension is void if the member dies before retirement and amounts due a beneficiary will be determined without regard to the election.

The bill also makes the retirement board a state agency for the purpose of the administrative procedure and review process.