

HCS HB 606 -- POLICE RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF ST. LOUIS

SPONSOR: Smith, 118 (Lembke)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Retirement by a vote of 9 to 0.

This substitute changes the laws regarding the Police Retirement System of St. Louis. Currently, increased disability or survivor benefit payments are allowed for up to three dependent children. The substitute removes the three child limitation for increased benefits.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2006, FY 2007, and FY 2008.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill makes changes to two benefits. When a member dies, their surviving spouse immediately receives a retirement benefit of 40% of the deceased member's final average compensation which cuts the benefit amount by approximately 50%. The change will allow the surviving spouse to receive the same benefit as the member for one year after the death of the member. Additionally, if a member has more than three children and dies, only up to three children would receive survivor benefits. The bill will allow all surviving children to receive benefits.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Lembke; and Police Retirement System of St. Louis.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that the City of St. Louis is already faced with financial hardship, and the bill will increase that burden.

Testifying against the bill was City of St. Louis.

Marc Webb, Legislative Analyst