

CCS SCS HCS HB 397 & HCS HB 947 -- POLICE RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

This bill changes the laws regarding retirement based on disability in the police retirement systems of Kansas City and St. Louis.

POLICE RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF KANSAS CITY

The bill changes the retirement benefits of any member of the Police Retirement System of Kansas City who retired due to being permanently disabled or any eligible surviving spouse of a member who died in service on or before August 28, 2009. If the member's or surviving spouse's current retirement benefit is less than \$600 per month, excluding supplemental retirement benefits, he or she may be appointed as a consultant to the board and will receive \$600 per month until the member's or surviving spouse's current total base pension and cost-of-living adjustments exceed \$600 per month.

POLICE RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF ST. LOUIS

The bill:

(1) Defines "reserve officer" as it relates to the Police Retirement System of St. Louis as any member of the police reserve force, armed or unarmed, who works less than full time without compensation and who, by his or her assigned function or as implied by his or her uniform, performs duties associated with those of a police officer and who currently receives retirement benefits;

(2) Specifies that a reserve officer will not be considered a member of the system for the purpose of determining creditable service, nor will any contributions be due. A reserve officer will not be entitled to any benefits other than those awarded upon his or her original retirement. Service as a reserve officer will not prohibit distribution of these benefits;

(3) Eliminates the medical board of physicians that arranges for required disability-related medical examinations and replaces it with a medical director who must appoint doctors to investigate the physical and mental conditions of applicants for disability retirement. The medical director must report in writing to the board of trustees of the system on the doctor's conclusions and recommendations in connection with an application for disability retirement;

(4) Allows a member who has completed at least 10 years of creditable service and who becomes permanently unable to perform the duties of a police officer as the result of an injury or

illness not exclusively caused or induced by his or her official duties or by his or her negligence to retire upon certification of the medical director and approval by the board of trustees;

(5) Allows a member who is permanently disabled exclusively as the result of an accident occurring within the actual performance of duty at some definite time and place to retire upon certification by the medical director and the approval of the board of trustees. The member must apply for disability within five years of the accident, unless the accident was reported within five years and the member was examined by a health care provider supplied by the board of police commissioners within 30 days of the accident;

(6) Allows the board to require a member who retires because of disability and is younger than 60 years of age to submit to a medical examination yearly for the first five years following his or her retirement and at least once every three years thereafter. If the retiree refuses to submit to a medical examination, his or her disability pension may be discontinued. If the retiree continues to refuse for one year, his or her pension may be revoked; and

(7) Specifies that the disability pension will end if the medical director certifies to the board of trustees that a member who retired because of disability is able to perform the duties of a police officer and the board agrees. If the officer returns to active service, the period of time during which the officer received a disability pension will not be included in his or her time of service.

The bill contains an emergency clause for the provisions regarding a surviving spouse being appointed as a consultant for the Police Retirement System of Kansas City.