

SUBJECT: Pharmacy board law enforcement officers retirement benefits

COMMITTEE: Pensions and Investments — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 7 ayes — Telford, Johnson, Averitt, Berlanga, Haggerty, McCall, Rangel
0 nays
2 absent — Willis, Wilson

WITNESSES: None

BACKGROUND: The Law Enforcement/Custodial Office Supplemental Retirement Fund Program (LECOSRF), administered by the Employees Retirement System, provides supplemental retirement benefits to custodial officers employed by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, and commissioned law enforcement officers of the Texas Department of Public Safety, the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, the State Purchasing and General Services Commission, Capitol Area Security Force and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

The supplemental benefit provided is an additional percentage of the highest 36-month salary added directly on top of their normal retirement payment. Eligible officers can retire at any age with 20 years of service or at age 55 with 10 years of service.

DIGEST: CSHB 2522 would add commissioned peace officers of the State Board of Pharmacy to the list of those eligible for LECOSRF benefits who can retire with 10 years service if they are at least 55 years of age.

The bill would take effect September 1, 1995.

SUPPORTERS SAY: CSHB 2522 would allow commissioned peace officers of the State Board of Pharmacy to be entitled to additional benefits allowed other state commissioned peace officers. The pharmacy board has six commissioned law enforcement officers. Allowing these officers to receive benefits they should be entitled to would have virtually no actuarial affect on the Employees Retirement System or the LECOSRF.

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OPPONENTS
SAY: No apparent opposition.

NOTES: The substitute was written by the Texas Legislative Council and made no substantive changes.

HB 384 by Rep. Junell would allow oil field theft investigators to retire as peace officers. The bill was referred to Senate State Affairs on May 5, 1995.