

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1991

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SENATE BILL 1142

Short Title: Transfer Fire/Rescue Pension Fund.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senator Martin of Guilford.

Referred to: Pensions and Retirement.

June 3, 1992

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO TRANSFER THE NORTH CAROLINA FIREMEN'S AND RESCUE SQUAD WORKERS' PENSION FUND FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AUDITOR TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE TREASURER, AND TO MAKE THE STATE TREASURER THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE PENSION FUND.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. The statutory authority, powers, duties, and functions, records, personnel, property, unexpended balances of appropriations, allocations or other funds, including the functions of budgeting and purchasing, of the Department of State Auditor to administer the North Carolina Firemen's and Rescue Squad Workers' Pension Fund are transferred to the Department of State Treasurer.

Sec. 2. G.S. 58-86-5 reads as rewritten:

"§ 58-86-5. Creation and membership of board of trustees; compensation.

There is created a board to be known as the 'Board of Trustees of the North Carolina Firemen's and Rescue Squad Workers' Pension Fund', hereinafter known as 'the board'.

The board shall consist of seven members:

- (1) The State Auditor, Treasurer, who shall act as chairman.
(2) The State Insurance Commissioner.
(3) The State Treasurer, Auditor.
(4) Four members to be appointed by the Governor; one a paid fireman, one a volunteer fireman, one volunteer rescue squad worker, and one representing the public at large, for terms of four years each. These members may succeed themselves.

1 The members presently serving on the 'Board of Trustees of the Firemen's Pension
2 Fund' shall continue to serve until the expiration of their terms. No member of the
3 board shall receive any salary, compensation or expenses other than that provided in
4 G.S. 138-6 for each day's attendance at duly and regularly called and held meetings of
5 the board of trustees."

6 Sec. 3. G.S. 58-86-30 reads as rewritten:

7 "**§ 58-86-30. 'Eligible rescue squad worker' defined; determination and**
8 **certification of eligibility.**

9 'Eligible rescue squad worker' means any member of a rescue squad who is eligible
10 for membership in the North Carolina Association of Rescue Squads, Inc., and who has
11 attended a minimum of 36 hours of training and meetings in the last calendar year. Each
12 rescue squad worker eligible for membership in the North Carolina Association of
13 Rescue Squads, Inc., must file a roster certified by the secretary of the association of
14 those rescue squad workers meeting the association requirements with the State Auditor
15 Treasurer by January 1 of each calendar year.

16 'Eligible rescue squad worker' does not mean 'eligible fireman' as defined by G.S.
17 58-86-25, nor may an 'eligible rescue squad worker' qualify also as an 'eligible fireman'
18 in order to receive double benefits available under this Article."

19 Sec. 4. G.S. 58-86-40 reads as rewritten:

20 "**§ 58-86-40. Rescue squad worker's application for membership in funds; monthly**
21 **payments by members; payments credited to separate accounts of**
22 **members.**

23 Those rescue squad workers eligible pursuant to G.S. 58-86-30 may make
24 application to the board for membership. All persons who subsequently become rescue
25 squad workers may make application for membership. Each eligible rescue squad
26 worker upon becoming a member shall pay the director of the fund the sum of five
27 dollars (\$5.00) per month. A rescue squad worker who, on the date of the establishment
28 of the fund, has service as a rescue squad worker certified by the Department of State
29 ~~Auditor, Treasurer~~, may make a lump sum payment of five dollars (\$5.00) per month for
30 each month of service as an eligible rescue squad worker as defined by G.S. 58-86-30,
31 on or before December 31, 1983, for as many as 240 months together with interest at an
32 annual rate of six percent (6%).

33 The monthly payments shall be credited to the separate account of the member and
34 shall be kept by the custodian so it is available for payment on withdrawal from
35 membership or retirement."

36 Sec. 5. G.S. 143-166.2(d) reads as rewritten:

37 "(d) The term 'law-enforcement officer,' 'officer,' or 'fireman' shall mean all law-
38 enforcement officers employed full time by the State of North Carolina or any county or
39 municipality thereof and all full-time custodial employees of the North Carolina
40 Department of Correction and all full-time institutional and detention employees of the
41 Division of Youth Services of the Department of Human Resources. The term 'firemen'
42 shall mean both 'eligible fireman'; or 'fireman' as defined in G.S. 58-86-25 and all full-
43 time, permanent part-time and temporary employees of the North Carolina Division of
44 Forest Resources, Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources, during

1 the time they are actively engaged in fire-fighting activities; and shall mean all full-time
2 employees of the North Carolina Department of Insurance during the time they are
3 actively engaged in fire-fighting activities, during the time they are training fire fighters
4 or rescue squad workers, and during the time they are engaged in activities as members
5 of the State Emergency Response Team, when the Team has been activated. The term
6 'rescue squad worker' shall mean a person who is dedicated to the purpose of alleviating
7 human suffering and assisting anyone who is in difficulty or who is injured or becomes
8 suddenly ill by providing the proper and efficient care or emergency medical services.
9 In addition, this person must belong to an organized rescue squad which is eligible for
10 membership in the North Carolina Association of Rescue Squads, Inc., and the person
11 must have attended a minimum of 36 hours of training and meetings in the last calendar
12 year. Each rescue squad belonging to the North Carolina Association of Rescue
13 Squads, Inc., must file a roster of those members meeting the above requirements with
14 the State ~~Auditor~~-Treasurer on or about January 1 of each year, and this roster must be
15 certified to by the secretary of said association. In addition, the term 'rescue squad
16 worker' shall mean a member of an ambulance service certified by the Department of
17 Human Resources pursuant to Article 7 of Chapter 131E of the General Statutes. The
18 Department of Human Resources shall furnish a list of ambulance service members to
19 the State ~~Auditor~~-Treasurer on or about January 1 of each year. The term 'Civil Air
20 Patrol members' shall mean those senior members of the North Carolina Wing-Civil Air
21 Patrol 18 years of age or older and currently certified pursuant to G.S. 143B-491(a).
22 The term 'fireman' shall also mean county fire marshals when engaged in the
23 performance of their county duties. The term 'rescue squad worker' shall also mean
24 county emergency services coordinators when engaged in the performance of their
25 county duties."

26 Sec. 6. This act becomes effective July 1, 1992.