

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2005

Legislative Fiscal Note

BILL NUMBER: Senate Bill 149 (First Edition)

SHORT TITLE: Law Officers' 25-Year Retirement.

SPONSOR(S): Senator Thomas

FUNDS AFFECTED: General Fund, Highway Fund, Receipt Funds and Local Funds.

SYSTEM OR PROGRAM AFFECTED: Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System and Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2005

BILL SUMMARY: Reduces the service requirement for unreduced retirement benefits from 30 years of service to 25 years of service as a law enforcement officer regardless of age. The bill also reduces the requirement of 30 years to 25 years in order to qualify to receive the special separation allowance of .85% of salary for each year of service.

ESTIMATED IMPACT: Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System

Retirement System Actuary: Mellon estimates the normal cost will increase by .01% and the accrued liability cost will increase by .02% for a total increase of .03% of the payroll of all members of the Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System.

	<u>2005-06</u>	<u>2006-07</u>	<u>2007-08</u>	<u>2008-09</u>	<u>2009-10</u>
General Fund	\$2.4M	\$2.5M	\$2.7M	\$2.8M	\$2.9M
Highway Fund	\$ 0.1M	\$ 0.1M	\$ 0.1M	\$ 0.1M	\$ 0.1M
Receipt Funds	<u>\$ 0.8M</u>	<u>\$ 0.8M</u>	<u>\$ 0.9M</u>	<u>\$ 0.9M</u>	<u>\$ 1.0M</u>
Ret. Cost	\$3.3M	\$3.5M	\$3.7M	\$3.8M	\$4.0M
Separation Allow.	<u>\$0.6M</u>	<u>\$1.1M</u>	<u>\$1.4M</u>	<u>\$1.7M</u>	<u>\$2.0M</u>
TOTAL COST	\$4.0M	\$4.6M	\$5.0M	\$5.5M	\$6.0M

General Assembly Actuary: Hartman & Associates estimates the normal cost will increase by .01% and the accrued liability cost will increase by .03% for a total increase of .04% of the payroll of all members of the Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System.

	<u>2005-06</u>	<u>2006-07</u>	<u>2007-08</u>	<u>2008-09</u>	<u>2009-10</u>
General Fund	\$3.2M	\$3.4M	\$3.5M	\$3.7M	\$3.9M
Highway Fund	\$0.2M	\$0.2M	\$0.2M	\$0.2M	\$0.2M
Receipt Funds	<u>\$1.1M</u>	<u>\$1.1M</u>	<u>\$1.2M</u>	<u>\$1.2M</u>	<u>\$1.3M</u>
Ret. Cost	\$4.4M	\$4.7M	\$4.9M	\$5.1M	\$5.3M
Separation Allow.	<u>\$1.6M</u>	<u>\$1.9M</u>	<u>\$2.3M</u>	<u>\$2.8M</u>	<u>\$3.3M</u>
TOTAL COST	\$6.0M	\$6.6M	\$7.2M	\$7.9M	\$8.6M

There are available gains of 0.47% of payroll in the Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System to fund this benefit enhancement.

ESTIMATED IMPACT: Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System

Retirement System Actuary: Mellon estimates the normal cost will increase from 5.27% of payroll to 5.92% for a net increase of .65% of the payroll of law enforcement officers. Mellon estimates that the first year annual cost to pay the unfunded accrued liability will be \$6,842,000 based on a 15-year amortization period.

	<u>2005-06</u>	<u>2006-07</u>	<u>2007-08</u>	<u>2008-09</u>	<u>2009-10</u>
Normal Cost	\$4.6M	\$4.9M	\$5.2M	\$5.5M	\$5.8M
Unfunded Liability	<u>\$6.8M</u>	<u>\$7.2M</u>	<u>\$7.7M</u>	<u>\$8.1M</u>	<u>\$8.6M</u>
Ret. Cost	\$11.5M	\$12.2M	\$12.9M	\$13.6M	\$14.4M
Separation Allow.	<u>\$ 4.4M</u>	<u>\$ 6.2M</u>	<u>\$ 7.4M</u>	<u>\$ 8.6M</u>	<u>\$9.2M</u>
TOTAL COST	\$15.9M	\$18.4M	\$20.3M	\$22.3M	\$23.7M

General Assembly Actuary: Hartman & Associates estimates the normal cost will increase from 5.27% of payroll to 5.83% for a net increase of 0.56% of the payroll of law enforcement officers. They also estimate that the annual cost to pay the unfunded accrued liability will increase by \$6.9 million the first year.

	<u>2005-06</u>	<u>2006-07</u>	<u>2007-08</u>	<u>2008-09</u>	<u>2009-10</u>
Normal Cost	\$4.0M	\$4.2M	\$4.5M	\$4.8M	\$5.0M
Unfunded Liability	<u>\$6.9M</u>	<u>\$7.3M</u>	<u>\$7.7M</u>	<u>\$8.2M</u>	<u>\$8.7M</u>
Ret. Cost	\$10.9M	\$11.5M	\$12.2M	\$12.9M	\$13.7M
Separation Allow.	<u>\$ 6.1M</u>	<u>\$ 7.1M</u>	<u>\$ 8.4M</u>	<u>\$ 9.1M</u>	<u>\$9.3M</u>
TOTAL COST	\$17.0M	\$18.7M	\$20.6M	\$22.0M	\$23.0M

There are available gains of 0.52% of payroll in the Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System to help fund this benefit enhancement.

ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY:

Teachers' & State Employees' Retirement System

The cost estimates of the System's Actuary are based on the employee data, actuarial assumptions and actuarial methods used to prepare the December 31, 2003 actuarial valuation of the fund. The data included 303,768 active members with an annual payroll of \$10.1 billion and 123,077 retired members in receipt of annual pensions totaling \$2.1 billion. Significant actuarial assumptions used include (a) an investment return rate of 7.25%, (b) salary increase rate of 6.25%, (c) the George B. Buck Mortality Tables for deaths in service and after retirement and (d) rates of separation from active service based on System experience. The actuarial cost method used was the entry age normal method with open-end unfunded accrued liability and a frozen unfunded liquidation period of nine years. Detailed information concerning these assumptions and methods is shown in the actuary's report, which is available upon request from Stanley Moore.

Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System

The cost estimates of the System's Actuary are based on the employee data, actuarial assumptions and actuarial methods used to prepare the December 31, 2003 actuarial valuation of the fund. The data included 119,755 active members with an annual payroll of \$3.9 billion and 34,861 retired members in receipt of annual pensions totaling \$487.5 million. Significant actuarial assumptions used include (a) an investment return rate of 7.25%, (b) salary increase rate of 6.25%, (c) the 1979 George B. Buck Mortality Tables for deaths in service and after retirement and (d) rates of separation from active service based on System experience. The actuarial cost method used was the projected benefit method with aggregate level normal cost and frozen accrued liability. Detailed information concerning these assumptions and methods is shown in the actuary's report, which is available upon request from Stanley Moore.

SOURCES OF DATA: System Actuary - Mellon
General Assembly Actuary - Hartman & Associates, LLC

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS: None

FISCAL RESEARCH DIVISION: (919) 733-4910. The above information is provided in accordance with North Carolina General Statute 120-114 and applicable rules of the North Carolina Senate and House of Representatives.

PREPARED BY: Stanley Moore

APPROVED BY: James D. Johnson, Director
Fiscal Research Division



DATE: February 25, 2005

Signed Copy Located in the NCGA Principal Clerk's Offices