

# COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT FORECASTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

## PENSION IMPACT NOTE

96TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

BILL NO: **HB 4870**

January 21, 2010

SPONSOR (S): Mell

SYSTEM(S): Chicago Teachers' Retirement Fund

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**FISCAL IMPACT:** HB 4870 may have a fiscal impact, but the impact cannot be determined as it is unknown how many domestic partners will be designated and eligible to receive benefits.

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**SUBJECT MATTER:** HB 4870 amends the Chicago Teachers' Retirement Fund Article of the Illinois Pension Code to allow teachers to designate domestic partners who may be eligible to receive survivor and death benefits similar to a surviving spouse. The bill also defines a domestic partner for eligibility purposes.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** HB 4870 may have a fiscal impact, but the impact cannot be determined as it is unknown how many domestic partners will be designated and eligible to receive benefits.

**COMMENT:** HB 4870 provides beginning July 1, 2010, an unmarried teacher may designate a domestic partner by filing a written designation with the Chicago Teachers' Retirement Fund. For the purposes of determining eligibility for domestic partner benefits, the date of designation of a domestic partner shall be deemed the equivalent of the date of marriage. This bill provides that the designation of a domestic partner is revocable at any time, but may not be changed more than once in a 24 month period. In addition, the marriage of a teacher automatically revokes any designation of a domestic partner previously made by that teacher.

HB 4870 defines a domestic partner as an individual of the same or opposite gender as an unmarried teacher who (1) is involved with the teacher in a long-term relationship of infinite duration; (2) cohabitates with the teacher at the same address for a minimum of 12 months; (3) is not related to the teacher by blood; (4) is not married to any other person; and (5) has an exclusive mutual commitment to the teacher in which they agree to be jointly responsible for each other's common welfare and share financial obligations.

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