

COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT FORECASTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

PENSION IMPACT NOTE

95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

BILL NO: **HB 1331**

February 28, 2007

SPONSOR (S): Hamos

SYSTEM(S): Teachers' Retirement System

FISCAL IMPACT: The fiscal impact of HB 1331 cannot be determined because the number of employees affected is not known.

SUBJECT MATTER: HB 1331 amends the Downstate Teacher Article of the Illinois Pension Code to allow a designated domestic partner to qualify as a surviving spouse for purposes of survivor and death benefits.

FISCAL IMPACT: The fiscal impact of HB 1331 cannot be determined because the number of employees affected is not known.

COMMENT/DISCUSSION: The Illinois Pension Code specifies that survivor and death benefits shall be paid to the surviving spouse, i.e., a husband or wife legally married to the employee at the time of death. HB 1331 amends the Code to provide that TRS shall also allow designated domestic partners to qualify as a surviving spouse and thereby receive survivor and death benefits. Domestic partner means an individual of the same gender as an unmarried employee who (1) is involved with the employee in a long term relationship; (2) has resided together with the employee at the same address for at least 12 months; (3) is not related to the employee by blood to a degree of closeness that would prohibit legal marriage; (4) is not married to any other person; and (5) has an exclusive mutual commitment to the employee in which they agree to be jointly responsible for each other's common welfare and to share financial obligations.

GS:dkb

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