

# COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT FORECASTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

## PENSION IMPACT NOTE

### 95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

BILL NO:           **HB 2047, as amended by HA #1**

May 19, 2008

SPONSOR (S):     K. Joyce – R. Bradley

SYSTEM(S):       Downstate Firefighters' Article

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**FISCAL IMPACT:** HB 2047, as amended by HA #1, cannot be determined as it is unknown how many additional firefighters will be eligible to apply to receive disability benefits under the circumstances set forth in the bill. The statewide cost is expected to be minimal.

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**SUBJECT MATTER:** HB 2047, as amended by HA #1, amends the Downstate Firefighters' Article of the Illinois Pension Code. The bill stipulates that a firefighter need not have 7 years of creditable service with one employer in order to qualify for a disability pension in the event that the firefighter begins employment with a new employer as a result of an intergovernmental agreement that results in the elimination of the firefighter's previous employer.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** HB 2047, as amended by HA #1, cannot be determined as it is unknown how many additional firefighters will be eligible to apply to receive disability benefits under the circumstances set forth in the bill. The statewide cost is expected to be minimal.

**COMMENT:** Currently, a firefighter must have at least 7 years of creditable service with his or her employer in order to qualify for a non-duty related disability pension. HB 2047, as amended by HA #1, eliminates this requirement in the event that the firefighter begins employment with a new employer as a result of an intergovernmental agreement that resulted in the elimination of the previous employer's fire department. HB 2047, as amended by HA #1, requires a firefighter to have 7 years of total combined creditable service time to qualify for a disability pension. The disability pension shall be paid by the previous employer and new employer in proportion to the firefighter's years of service with each employer.

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