COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT FORECASTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

PENSION IMPACT NOTE

95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

BILL NO: **HB 3742, as engrossed** May 30, 2008

SPONSOR (S): Madigan - Hannig

SYSTEM(S): State Employees' Retirement System

FISCAL IMPACT: HB 3742, as engrossed, cannot be determined as it is unknown how many SERS employees will elect to receive the alternative retirement cancellation payment option. The enhanced refund option includes all of the employee's contributions to the retirement system, with interest at 6.5% annually, multiplied by two. In 2006, total lump-sum payments were made to 257 ARCP participants in the amount of \$10.5 million. The total FY 07 payroll reduction associated with the 2006 ARCP was \$9.2 million.

<u>SUBJECT MATTER</u>: HB 3742, as engrossed, creates the FY 2009 Budget Implementation (Finance) Act. The bill renews the Alternative Retirement Cancellation Payment Option for eligible members of SERS. The provisions of this program are summarized in the Comments section below.

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COMMENT:

Alternative Retirement Cancellation Payment Option

Public Act 94-0839 (SB1977), which became effective on June 6, 2006, provided an enhanced refund option for certain State employees terminating State service before September 30, 2006 with the agreement that those participants forfeit all SERS benefits. The Alternative Retirement Cancellation Payment (ARCP) option was limited to 500 employees in specific job titles under the Governor's purview and an unlimited number

of employees in all job titles not under the Governor's purview with the authorization of the director or department head. HB 3742, as engrossed, renews this program for 2008. In order to participate in the ARCP, eligible employees must be employed during June 2008 and in an eligible position continuously since January 1, 2008. Employees cannot participate if they have previously received any SERS retirement annuity.

State employees eligible to receive an alternative retirement cancellation payment must:

- 1) be a member of SERS who, as of June 1, 2008 was (i) in active payroll status as an employee in specific job titles and other job titles not specifically listed but with authorization of the director or department head, and (ii) an active contributor to SERS;
- 2) have not previously received any retirement annuity under SERS;
- 3) in the case of persons employed by agencies under the purview of the Governor, be among the first 500 persons to file with the Board on or before August 31, 2008 a written application requesting the alternative retirement cancellation payment;
- 4) persons employed by other constitutional officers and legislative agencies must receive written authorization from the director or head of his or her department and file that authorization with the system on or before August 1, 2008;
- 5) if there is a QILDRO (Qualified Illinois Domestic Relations Order) in effect against the person, file with the Board the written consent of all alternative payees under the QILDRO to the election of an alternative retirement cancellation payment; and
- 6) terminate employment under SERS within one month after the approval of the person's application requesting the alternative retirement cancellation payment but in no event later than September 30, 2008.

HB 3742, as engrossed allows participating employees to terminate employment under SERS within one month after approval of the person's application requesting the alternative retirement cancellation payment no later than September 30, 2008.

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