

COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT FORECASTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

PENSION IMPACT NOTE

95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

BILL NO: **HB 4731**

February 27, 2008

SPONSOR (S): Harris

SYSTEM(S): Chicago Teachers' Retirement Fund

FISCAL IMPACT: HB 4731 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.

SUBJECT MATTER: HB 4731 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 4731 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 4731 provides beginning July 1, 2008, an unmarried teacher may designate a domestic partner by filing a written designation with the Chicago Teachers' Retirement Fund. Eligibility requirements for designated surviving spouses will adhere to using the date of designation as the equivalent of a marriage date and a modified designation shall be the equivalent of the termination of a 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 4731 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.

HB 4731 amends the State Mandates Act to require implementation without reimbursement.

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