

COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT FORECASTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

PENSION IMPACT NOTE

95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

BILL NO: **SB 0085**

February 7, 2007

SPONSOR (S): Cullerton

SYSTEM(S): Chicago Teachers' Pension Fund

FISCAL IMPACT: The fiscal impact of SB 0085 cannot be determined, as the number of members who would designate a domestic partner is unknown. According to the Fund's actuary, however, the costs can be expected to be relatively small.

SUBJECT MATTER: SB 0085 amends the Chicago Teachers' article of the Illinois Pension Code to allow for the designation of a domestic partner to qualify for survivor and death benefits in the same manner as a surviving spouse.

FISCAL IMPACT: The fiscal impact of SB 0085 cannot be determined, as the number of members who would designate a domestic partner is unknown. According to the Fund's actuary, however, the costs can be expected to be relatively small.

COMMENTS: SB 0085 creates a new section in the Chicago Teachers' Article of the Pension Code with respect to domestic partners. SB 0085 states that beginning July 1, 2007, an unmarried teacher may designate a domestic partner by filing a written designation as required by the Fund.

SB 0085 allows a designated domestic partner to be eligible to receive survivor and death benefits in the same manner as a surviving spouse. SB 0085 also states that references to a surviving spouse in the Chicago Teachers' Article and other applicable Articles of the Pension Code shall be deemed to include a surviving designated domestic partner.

SB 0085 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 indefinite duration; (2) has resided together with the teacher at the same address for at least 12 months; (3) is not related to the teacher by blood to a degree of closeness that would prohibit legal marriage in the state in which they legally reside; (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 to share financial obligations.

SB 0085 amends the State Mandates Act to require implementation without reimbursement.

DH:dkb

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