COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT FORECASTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

PENSION IMPACT NOTE

101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

BILL NO: **HB 0782, as amended by HA 1** January 7, 2021

SPONSOR (S): Madigan

SYSTEM(S): Chicago Police, Chicago Fire

FISCAL IMPACT: The Chicago Fire Pension Fund reports one COVID-19 related duty death benefit has been granted under P.A. 101-0633, and the fund is also anticipating the application for another such benefit for a firefighter who died from COVID-19 in December 2020. The Chicago Police Pension fund reports that there have been three COVID-related duty death benefit awards under the aforementioned Act.

SUBJECT MATTER: HB 0782, as amended by HA 1, amends the Chicago Police and Fire articles of the Pension Code to extend duty death benefits to the surviving spouses of Chicago police officers and firefighters who die due to COVID-19 before June 30, 2021. This bill is an extension of the same benefit that was granted on June 5th, 2020, with the enactment of P.A. 101-0633.

COMMENT: P.A. 101-0633, which became effective on June 5th, 2020, amended the Chicago Police and Fire Articles of the Pension Code. The Act provided that the death of any Chicago police officer or firefighter resulting from COVID-19 shall be rebuttably presumed to have been contracted in the line of duty if exposure occurred between March 9th and December 31st, 2020. The Act states that the date of contraction of COVID-19 is determined by law as either the date the police officer or firefighter was diagnosed with COVID-19 or was unable to work due to symptoms which were later diagnosed as COVID-19. HA 1 to HB 782 would extend the period for payment of COVID-19 duty death benefits to June 30, 2021, including any COVID-related deaths that occurred after December 31, 2020, and before the effective date of this bill.

The duty death benefit is 75% of the salary attached to the rank of the Tier 1 or Tier 2 firefighter/police officer at the time of death. The benefit, which is payable to the surviving spouse for life, is increased commensurately with all future department increases to salary attached to the rank of the deceased officer/firefighter.

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