

COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT FORECASTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

PENSION IMPACT NOTE

102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

BILL NO: **HB 0416**

February 4, 2021

SPONSOR (S): Burke

SYSTEM(S): Cook County

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no readily discernible fiscal impact associated with HB 0416.

SUBJECT MATTER: HB 0416 amends the Cook County article of the Pension Code to allow for physician opinions concerning disability benefits to come from a physician “acceptable” to the board of trustees, or a physician appointed by the board. The bill also permits the board to lengthen the period under which disability recipients must undergo a physical exam to one year “or a longer period of time.”

COMMENT: Under current law, the Cook County pension fund requires proof of duty or ordinary disability via the opinion of at least one licensed and practicing physician appointed by the Board of Trustees of the fund. HB 0416 would change this requirement such that the physician opinion in such cases can be rendered by a physician appointed by the board, or a physician “acceptable” to the board.

Additionally, duty and ordinary disability annuitants are currently required to be examined by a physician at least once a year. HB 0416 would change this requirement to “once a year or a longer period of time as determined by the board.”

DH:bs

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