

COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT FORECASTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

PENSION IMPACT NOTE

102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

BILL NO: **HB 0417**

February 4, 2021

SPONSOR (S): Burke

SYSTEM(S): Cook County

FISCAL IMPACT: HB 0417 would allow the Cook County Forest Preserve District to use other lawfully available funds in place of the current statutorily required annual property tax levy for purposes of making employer contributions to the Cook County Forest Preserve Pension Fund. According to the pension fund's 2019 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), the fund had an unfunded liability of \$116.2 million and a funded ratio of 63.7%. The report also projects an insolvency date of 2042.

SUBJECT MATTER: HB 0417 amends the Cook County Forest Preserve Article of the Pension Code to provide that the Forest Preserve District may use other lawfully available funds in place of all or part of the statutorily-mandated annual property tax levy.

COMMENT: Under current law, the Cook County Forest Preserve District's total contribution to the pension fund is equal to the amount of contributions made by the employees to the Plan in the calendar year two years prior to the year for which annual applicable tax is levied, multiplied by 1.30. HB 0417 amends the Cook County Forest Preserve District Article of the Pension Code to allow the Forest Preserve District to use other lawfully available funds in lieu of all or part of the aforementioned levy. The bill does not specify the source of these funds, nor the amount by which they would exceed the contribution amounts generated by the current tax levy multiplier. The tax levy multiplier generated \$4.3 million in employer contributions to the pension fund in FY 2019, and \$4.1 million in FY 2018.

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