COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT FORECASTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

PENSION IMPACT NOTE

102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

BILL NO: **HB 3651** March 23, 2021

SPONSOR (S): Reick – Meier, et al.

SYSTEM(S): Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) and Chicago Teachers' Pension Fund (CTPF)

FISCAL IMPACT: According to TRS, there were a total of 14 cases of felony forfeiture in the past 3 years. According to CTPF, CTPF does not track felony forfeiture cases. There is no discernible fiscal impact associated with HB 3651.

SUBJECT MATTER: HB 3651 amends the Downstate (TRS) and Chicago Teacher (CTPF) Articles of the Pension Code to provide that none of the pension benefits shall be paid to a person who the board determines to have sexually abused a student and who first becomes a member after the effective date of this legislation.

COMMENT: If a retiring member is accused of sexually abusing a student, an employer under TRS or CTPF must notify the board of trustees of TRS or CTPF. The board may review and order that a member's benefits be forfeited through an administrative hearing.

Currently, in a case where a TRS member is convicted of any felony relating to the member's service as a teacher, TRS reviews the conviction to determine whether it is job-related. Then, the member's pension benefits may be forfeited upon approval of the TRS Executive Director. According to CTPF, CTPF does not have an internal process set up to deal with this issue yet.

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