

# COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT FORECASTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

## PENSION IMPACT NOTE

102<sup>nd</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY

BILL NO: **HB 3837**

March 10, 2021

SPONSOR (S): LaPointe

SYSTEM(S): Chicago Police, Chicago Fire

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**FISCAL IMPACT:** The fiscal impact of HB 3837 cannot be determined as the number of Chicago police officers or firefighters who might claim an occupational disease disability benefit due to Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder is unknown. The number of historical PTSD-related deaths is not known as neither fund tracks this data.

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**SUBJECT MATTER:** HB 3837 amends the Chicago Police and Chicago Fire articles of the Pension Code. The bill provides that the death of any police officer or firefighter as a result of post-traumatic stress disorder shall be rebuttably presumed to have been contracted while in the performance of an act of duty. HB 3837 also provides occupational disease disability benefits to certain police officers and firefighters who are unable to perform their duties as a result of post-traumatic stress disorder.

**COMMENT:** HB 3837 amends the Chicago Police and Chicago Fire articles of the Pension Code. The bill provides that the death of any police officer or firefighter as a result of post-traumatic stress disorder shall be rebuttably presumed to have been contracted while in the performance of an act of duty, and the police officer and/or firefighter shall be rebuttably presumed to have been fatally injured while in active service.

The bill also provides that any police officer or firefighter who has completed 7 or more years of service and is unable to perform his or her duties by reason of a disabling post-traumatic stress disorder that develops or manifests during active service shall be entitled to receive an occupational disease disability benefit during any period of service for which he or she does not have a right to receive salary. For both funds, under current law, Occupational Disease disability benefits are equal to 65% of the participant's salary on the date of removal from payroll. HB 3837 provides that the City of Chicago will be provided the opportunity to rebut the PTSD-related award of an occupational disability benefit.

DH:bs

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