

# COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT FORECASTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

## PENSION IMPACT NOTE

102<sup>nd</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY

BILL NO: **HB 5447**

January 31, 2022

SPONSOR (S): Ugaste

SYSTEM(S): Downstate Police

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**FISCAL IMPACT:** The fiscal impact of HB 5447 is not known as the number of currently retired Downstate police officers who would be eligible for the new survivor's benefit by virtue of marrying subsequent to retirement is not known. The bill also applies to all active members, and the number of active police officers who might marry after retirement cannot be known. To the extent that a survivor's annuity is payable that would otherwise not be payable under current law, there would be a fiscal impact to the impacted Downstate Police pension fund as a result of HB 5447.

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**SUBJECT MATTER:** HB 5447 amends the Downstate Police article of the Pension Code to allow surviving spouses who married retired Downstate Police officers to qualify for a survivor's pension under certain conditions, as enumerated below.

**COMMENT:** Under current law, if a Downstate Police officer marries after retirement and subsequently dies, the surviving spouse is not entitled to any survivor's annuity. HB 5447 amends the Downstate Police Article of the Pension Code such that a surviving spouse who married a retired Downstate Police officer would be eligible for a survivor's annuity under the following conditions: 1) the police officer was married to the surviving spouse for at least 12 months prior to the police officer's death, and 2) the surviving spouse has attained the age of 62. The bill specifies that the surviving spouse benefit shall terminate no later than 15 years after the benefit begins to accrue. HB 5447 also specifies that this new surviving spouse benefit would apply to active and retired police officers alike.

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