



Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability

PENSION IMPACT NOTE *103RD General Assembly*

BILL NO: HB 2035, as amended by HA 002

March 2, 2023

SPONSOR (S): Burke

SYSTEM: Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Fund (MWRD)

FISCAL IMPACT

The MWRD pension fund claims that the two changes made by HB 2035, as amended by HA 002, in the MWRD article of the Pension Code, allowing non-physicians to make disability determinations and granting the pension fund the ability to waive guardianship in cases where a disability applicant's parents or spouse is deceased, have no fiscal impact as the changes are purely administrative.

SUBJECT MATTER: HB 2035, as amended by HA 002, amends the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Article of the Illinois Pension Code. This bill would allow licensed health care professionals other than physicians to make disability determinations. The bill also grants to the MWRD Board of Trustees the powers to waive the requirement of legal guardianship, changing language concerning certain persons eligible for the waiver of the requirement.

COMMENT:

Disability Determinations by Non-Licensed Physicians

According to the MWRD Pension Fund, medical exams in disability cases are often delegated to medical professionals other than a physician (Nurse Practitioners, Licensed Physician's Assistants, etc.) but a licensed physician is required to sign off on the examination. HB 2035, as amended by HA 002, would allow the aforementioned healthcare practitioners to make disability determinations on their own. According to the pension fund, the bill would allow the MWRD Pension Fund the ability to accept disability documentation signed by the healthcare practitioner without having to wait on a doctor's signature.

Waiver of Guardianship in Cases of Deceased Parents or Spouse

The MWRD Pension Fund claims that in the event that an unmarried member with deceased parents becomes incapacitated, current statute does not allow the member's adult child or adult sibling to act as a decision maker, even if given Board approval. HB 2035, as amended by HA 2, amends the MWRD article of the Pension Code to allow for a representative other than the spouse or parent of the disabled member to represent the annuitant before the board in cases where a disability benefit is under consideration by the board.

IMPACT OF HA 002: HA 002 amends HB 2035 by deleting reference to an individual who has obtained a license under the Clinical Psychologist Licensing Act from the definition of "licensed health care professional" as originally introduced. This is the only change made by the amendment.

ZH:bs

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