



Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability

PENSION IMPACT NOTE *103RD General Assembly*

BILL NO: **HB 2054**

March 10, 2023

SPONSOR (S): Vella

SYSTEM: **SERS**

FISCAL IMPACT

HB 2054 expands employment requirements for Department of Juvenile Justice personnel to include prospective employees who have 2 or more years of experience providing direct care to youth, in lieu of having a bachelor's or advanced degree. The bill makes technical changes to the SERS article of the Pension Code to track with the updated educational and work requirements that are being made in the Unified Code of Corrections.

According to SERS, the proposed legislation would provide eligibility for the Alternative Formula for 150 employees in certain job titles with the Department of Juvenile Justice that currently participate in the Regular Formula. SERS claims this change would result in an increase to the accrued liability of between \$35 to \$40 million, with an estimated annual increase in State contributions of approximately \$2 million per year through FY 2045.

SUBJECT MATTER: HB 2054 amends the Unified Code of Corrections and the SERS Article of the Illinois Pension Code. The bill provides changes to educational and work requirements for Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) personnel under the Unified Code of Corrections. Corresponding changes are being made in the SERS article of the Pension Code that track with the underlying thrust of the bill. According to SERS, changes would expand Alternative Formula participation for certain DJJ employees, as explained below in the Comment section.

COMMENT: HB 2054 amends the Unified Code of Corrections by no longer solely requiring a bachelor's or advanced degree from an accredited college or university as a condition of employment if the position is based at a DJJ facility and has involvement in areas such as training of delinquent youths, providing rehabilitative and vocational training, and assisting other

personnel who perform such duties. Under the bill, such personnel must be over the age of 21, and have obtained either a bachelor's or advanced degree from an accredited college or university or have two or more years of experience providing direct care to youth in the form of residential care, counseling, case management, or mentoring. The bill amends the SERS article of the Pension Code to reflect the aforementioned employment qualification changes being made under the Unified Code of Corrections.

According to SERS, the net effect of this change means that 150 positions in the Department of Juvenile Justice will now gain eligibility for the Alternative Formula. Some of the job titles impacted are Counselors, Activities Coordinators, Food Service Employees, amongst others. Generally speaking, these positions are based at DJJ facilities and the personnel impacted must have direct contact with the youth who are subjects of the DJJ at a given facility. SERS claims that such Alternative Formula participation will be prospective only; no mechanism exists in the bill to upgrade past regular service to Alternative Formula service.

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