



Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability

PENSION IMPACT NOTE *103RD General Assembly*

BILL NO: **HB 2057**

February 15, 2023

SPONSOR (S): Burke

SYSTEM: Chicago Laborers Fund

FISCAL IMPACT

HB 2057 would have no fiscal impact relating to the powers granted to the Chicago Laborers' Fund Board of Trustees to subpoena witnesses. The pension fund claims that attaching witness fees for board proceedings to the compensation granted to witnesses before the Illinois circuit courts would have a negligible fiscal impact.

SUBJECT MATTER: HB 2057 provides the Board of Trustees of the Chicago Laborers Pension Fund the power to use subpoenas to compel witnesses to attend hearings and produce documents and materials necessary for the board to conduct its business. The fees associated with these witnesses are to be set at the same rate as the fees granted to witnesses in the circuit courts of Illinois.

COMMENT: Under current law, the Chicago Laborers Article of the Pension Code contains very sparse language regarding the subpoena powers of the Board of Trustees. Current statute simply states that the Board is empowered to compel witnesses to testify before it on any matter concerning the fund and permitting the board to pay witness fees "not in excess of \$6 per day."

HB 2057 would expand the subpoena powers of the board by allowing it to compel the production of records and to compel the attendance of witnesses on any matter concerning the fund in conjunction with the following:

- Disability claims;
- Administrative review hearings;
- Attempts to obtain information to assist in the collection of sums due to the Fund;
- Obtaining any and all personal identifying information necessary for the administration of benefits;

- The determination of the death of an annuitant or a potential benefit recipient; or
- A felony forfeiture investigation.

The bill states that the fees paid to witnesses for attendance and travel to board proceedings shall be the same as the fees paid to witnesses before the circuit courts of Illinois, and shall be paid by the board when a subpoena is issued.

Under the Circuit Courts Act, witnesses in circuit courts are entitled to receive the sum of \$20 for each day's attendance and \$0.20 per mile each way for necessary travel. HB 2057 would grant the aforementioned reimbursement for subpoenaed parties, and the bill would delete the aforementioned cap on witness fees of \$6 per day that is currently enshrined into law.

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