



Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability

PENSION IMPACT NOTE *103RD General Assembly*

BILL NO: HB 3162

February 22, 2023

SPONSOR (S): Hoffman – Buckner, et al.

SYSTEM: Chicago Police, Chicago Fire

FISCAL IMPACT

The Chicago Fire Pension Fund says that to date, there have been two hearings for duty disability benefits related to COVID, and both have resulted in denial. The pension fund says that in duty disability proceedings, it has a presumption that includes heart and lung conditions which are permanently debilitating. In the two aforementioned COVID cases which came before the board, the pension fund claims the evidence presented supported the denial of benefits. No information has been provided by the Chicago Police Pension Fund as of this writing; an updated impact note will be issued when such information becomes available.

SUBJECT MATTER: HB 3162 amends the Chicago Police and Chicago Fire articles of the Pension Code. The bill provides that any police officer or firefighter who becomes disabled as a result of exposure to COVID-19 shall be rebuttably presumed to have contracted the disease while in the performance of an act of duty. The foregoing presumption of duty disability shall apply to any police officer or firefighter who was exposed to and contracted COVID-19 on or after March 9, 2020 and on or before June 30, 2021.

COMMENT: HB 3162 amends the Chicago Police and Chicago Fire articles of the Pension Code. The bill provides that any police officer or firefighter who becomes disabled as a result of exposure to COVID-19 shall be rebuttably presumed to have contracted the disease while in the performance of an act of duty. If such an award is granted, the police officer or firefighter shall receive a duty disability benefit. Duty disability benefits in both funds are equal to 75 % of the salary attached to the rank of the active police officer/firefighter at the time of disability.

For the Chicago Police fund, ordinary disability benefits are payable at the rate of 50% of the rank attached to the police officer at the time of separation from service. For the Chicago Fire fund, ordinary disability benefits are also payable at the rate of 50% of the rank attached to the firefighter at the time of separation from service, less a 9% employee contribution rate, for a net benefit of 41% of salary at the time of separation from service.

The foregoing presumption of duty disability shall apply to any police officer or firefighter who was exposed to and contracted COVID-19 on or after March 9, 2020 and on or before June 30, 2021. The presumption shall not apply if the police officer or firefighter was on a leave of absence from his or her employment or was otherwise not required to report for duty for a period of 14 or more consecutive days during the foregoing eligibility period. The bill contains a statement of legislative intent that any police officer or firefighter who was previously denied a duty disability benefit due to COVID-19 exposure shall be entitled to a retroactive duty disability benefit.

DH:bs

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