



Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability

PENSION IMPACT NOTE *103RD General Assembly*

BILL NO: HB 4139, as amended by HA 2

March 27, 2024

SPONSOR: Fritts – Yang Rohr, et al.

SYSTEM: Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund

FISCAL IMPACT

From 2018 to 2022, IMRF says that it has paid out \$30,486,460 in temporary disability benefits and \$13,641,378 in permanent disability benefits. Under P.A. 101-0054, enacted on July 12, 2019, a similar change was made to SERS, under which non-physicians could render disability-related medical opinions. SERS reports that the change has had a positive impact on the system by reducing administrative burdens.

IMPACT OF HA 002: HA 002 amends the portion of the underlying bill that designates a “health care professional” as any person licensed as a physician, clinical psychologist, physician assistant (PA), or advanced practice registered nurse (APRN), to provide clarity to the underlying bill’s definition of “medical professional”. HA 002 adds the definition of each health care profession and the appropriate licensure that each respective profession must attain under Illinois law.

SUBJECT MATTER: HB 4139, as amended by HA 2, amends the Illinois Municipal Retirement Article of the Pension Code to allow participating employees and annuitants to seek medical examinations for both temporary and permanent disability claims from designated health care professionals rather than solely from licensed physicians. HA 2 defines “health care professionals” as physicians, advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs), clinical psychologists, and physician assistants (PAs).

COMMENT: Under current law, the IMRF article of the Pension Code stipulates that both permanent and temporary disability benefits shall not be awarded without the opinion of at least one licensed and practicing physician. In the case of temporary disability benefits, annuitants shall be subject to periodic checks by licensed and practicing physicians to determine if the medical condition warrants continued disability or if the member is fit to return to service.

HB 4139, as amended by HA 2, amends the IMRF article such that all disability determinations currently rendered by licensed physicians may also be granted by physician assistants, clinical psychologists, or advanced practice nurses, as the Board of Trustees of IMRF deems necessary.

MH:bs

LRB103 34045 RPS 70129 a