



Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability

PENSION IMPACT NOTE *104th General Assembly*

BILL NO: **HB 727, as amended by HA 1**

April 16, 2026

SPONSOR: Faver Dias

SYSTEM: Downstate Fire

FISCAL IMPACT

Increasing the continuation disability pension paid to survivors by a flat 3% would have a fiscal impact on applicable local downstate firefighter pension funds, limited to survivors who would meet the eligibility requirements. It is not known how many would be eligible for the 3% increase provided in HB 727, as amended by HA 1. However, the number of eligible survivors is expected to be limited due to the restrictive requirements.

SUBJECT MATTER: HB 727, as amended by HA 1, amends the Downstate Fire article of the Illinois Pension Code to provide for a one-time 3% increase to the minimum continuing disability pension offered to eligible survivors of Downstate Fire participants that pass away while receiving disability.

COMMENT:

Impact of HA 001

HB 727, as amended by HA 1, provides for a one-time 3% increase to the continuing disability pension offered to eligible survivors of Downstate Fire participants that pass away while receiving duty disability. The underlying bill was a shell bill.

Under current law, if the firefighter passes away while still disabled and receiving a disability pension, the disability pension should continue to be paid to survivors of the firefighter, which shall be deemed to be a continuation of the pension.

Also, the current statute provides that the minimum pension amount for retirement (with at least 20 years of service), disability, and survivor's annuity cannot be below \$1,159.27 per month as of July 1, 2008, pursuant to Public Act 93-689 (eff. July 1st, 2004), which increased the minimum benefit from \$1,030 in 2004 to the aforementioned amount in 2008. This minimum also applies to survivors

that receive the continued disability pensions of participants that passed away while receiving disability.

Please refer to the table on the below for the history of the previous increases to the minimum pension amount:

Public Act	Year(s)	Minimum Monthly Benefit
Public Act 83-374 (eff. Jan. 1, 1984)	Jan. 1, 1984 – June 30, 1987	\$300
Public Act 85-941 (eff. July 1, 1988)	July 1, 1987 – June 30, 1993	\$400
Public Act 87-1265 (eff. Jan. 25, 1993)	July 1, 1993 – Dec. 31, 1998	\$475
Public Act 91-466 (eff. Aug. 6, 1999)	Jan. 1, 1999 – Dec. 31, 1999	\$600
	Jan. 1, 2000 – Dec. 31, 2000	\$800
	Jan. 1, 2001 – June 30, 2004	\$1,000
Public Act 93-689 (eff. July 1, 2004)	July 1, 2004 – June 30, 2005	\$1,030
	July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006	\$1,060.90
	July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007	\$1,092.73
	July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008	\$1,125.51
	July 1, 2008 - Present	\$1,159.27

NOTE: The aforementioned minimum benefits apply without regard to whether the death, retirement, or disability occurred prior to the effective date. Thus, an annuitant that retired before July 1, 2008 would still have their pension increased to new minimum set after July 1, 2008.

As shown above, since the minimum was set at \$1,000, it has historically increased by 3% with each subsequent increase.

HB 727, as amended by HA 1, shall increase the continuing disability annuity received by survivors by a one-time 3% if all the following conditions are met:

- The firefighter died in 2023;
- The firefighter died less than 6 months before his or her 60th birthday; and
- By no later than one year after the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 104th General Assembly, the board of trustees of the fire protection district adopted an ordinance or resolution granting the increase.

It is not known how many survivors would be eligible for this 3% increase. Though it is presumed to be limited, given its restrictive requirements.

RF:bs

LRB104 04620 RPS 3504 a