



Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability

PENSION IMPACT NOTE *104th General Assembly*

BILL NO: **HB 2524**

March 6, 2025

SPONSOR (S): Canty

SYSTEM: Downstate Fire

FISCAL IMPACT

HB 2524 adds "de facto firefighters" to the Downstate Fire Article of the Pension Code. While the number of new members is unknown, CGFA's actuary, Segal, notes that adding members initially creates a small liability but also brings immediate contributions that grow over time. The financial impact depends on group size—smaller populations feel the effects more, but in both small and large funds, new contributions generally strengthen the system when they cover normal costs and amortized liabilities.

SUBJECT MATTER: HB 2524 amends the Downstate Firefighter Article of the Illinois Pension Code to include the definition of a "de facto firefighter" within the larger "Firefighter" definition under Article 4.

COMMENT: Under current law, the definition of "Firefighter" under Article 4, the Downstate Fire Article, includes the following job titles listed under the Illinois Municipal Code, found in the table below:

Division 1 Municipalities	Division 2.1 Municipalities	Municipalities w/o Division Designation*	Not Included
Firefighter	Firefighter	Firefighter	Anyone actively participating in SURS
Fire Engineer	Fire Engineer	Fire Engineer	
Marine Engineer	Marine Engineer	Marine Engineer	
Fire Pilot	Fire Pilot	Fire Pilot	
Bomb Technician	Bomb Technician	Bomb Technician	
Scuba Diver	Scuba Diver	Scuba Diver	
*Except those who served as a de facto and not as a de jure firefighter			

HB 2524 adds 'de facto firefighter' to the broader definition of 'firefighter' under Article 4. The definition of a “de facto firefighter” is a firefighter who:

- Spends the majority of working time participating in the work of controlling and extinguishing fires at the location of such fires, preparing for such work, or waiting to respond to calls for such work, and
- Has scheduled or actually works hours commensurate in duration and frequency with firefighters under both divisions of the Illinois Municipal Code.

This definition **does not** include:

- Part-time firefighters not already covered by the Code;
- Auxiliary, reserve, or voluntary firefighters (including paid-on-call firefighters);
- Clerks, dispatchers, or other civilian employees of fire departments or fire protection districts not routinely expected to perform firefighter duties.

ZH:bs

LRB104 08204 RPS 18254 b