



## Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability

### PENSION IMPACT NOTE *104<sup>th</sup> General Assembly*

BILL NO:           **HB 2721**

February 26, 2025

SPONSOR (S):     Tarver

SYSTEM:           TRS and CTPF

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#### FISCAL IMPACT

According to TRS, there have been 255 felony forfeiture cases in which TRS members lost their pensions since 1985, the earliest year for which TRS data is available. These forfeitures may involve various causes as TRS does not track the nature of these forfeiture cases. The fiscal impact of HB 2721 is not known as the number of CTPF or TRS members who might become a subject of a criminal sexual investigation or convicted of a sexual crime, whether related to their teaching service or not, is not known.

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SUBJECT MATTER: HB 2721 amends the Downstate Teacher (TRS) and Chicago Teacher (CTPF) Articles of the Pension Code. This legislation mandates a TRS or CTPF member to forfeit all pension benefits if under a criminal sexual investigation or convicted of a sexual crime, or if an inspector general investigates or substantiates sexual misconduct allegations against a student. Details can be found in the Comment section below.

COMMENT: Currently, TRS and CTPF have felony conviction forfeiture provisions in their respective articles. Under these provisions, a member convicted of any felony related to service as a member in the pertinent system loses all pension benefits, including survivor benefits.

HB 2721 would introduce new pension forfeiture provisions for crimes under the Sex Offenses Article of the Criminal Code of 2012 or crimes requiring registration under the Sex Offender Registration Act. A member of TRS or CTPF would forfeit all pension benefits if the member:

- Is under a criminal investigation for such crimes; or
- Is convicted of such crimes.

If criminal charges are dismissed with prejudice or the member is acquitted, the member may resume receiving pensions.

Additionally, HB 2721 would add another new pension forfeiture provision related to investigations by an inspector general for sexual misconduct committed against a student. A member would forfeit all pension benefits if:

- The member is under such investigation; or
- An inspector general substantiates the allegations.

If the inspector general determines that the allegations are unfounded, the member would regain the right to receive pension benefits.

These new pension forfeiture provisions would apply only to members who first become teachers on or after the effective date of this bill. All teachers who enter service on or after this date shall be considered to have consented to the provisions outlined in this legislation.

JB:bs

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