

COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT FORECASTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

PENSION IMPACT NOTE

96TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

BILL NO: **HB 0923**

February 18, 2009

SPONSOR (S): Burke

SYSTEM(S): Downstate Fire

FISCAL IMPACT: The fiscal impact of HB 0923 cannot be determined as it is unknown how many additional firefighters will qualify for line-of-duty disability benefits if this bill becomes law.

SUBJECT MATTER: HB 0923 amends the Downstate Firefighter Article of the Illinois Pension Code to expand the definition of “act of duty” with regard to eligibility for line-of-duty disability pensions.

FISCAL IMPACT: The fiscal impact of HB 0923 cannot be determined as it is unknown how many additional firefighters will qualify for line-of-duty disability benefits if this bill becomes law.

COMMENT: Currently, Downstate firefighters who become disabled in the line of duty qualify for a duty disability pension equal to the greater of a) 65% of the monthly salary attached to the rank held by the firefighter at the date the firefighter is removed from the payroll, or b) the retirement pension that the firefighter would be eligible to receive if he or she retired (excluding automatic annual increases). HB 0923 stipulates that the term “act of duty” shall include any assignment to any firefighter, EMT, or paramedic, and is not limited in any fashion to a firefighting activity that involves a special risk of the occupation. Hence, a firefighter could qualify for a disability pension performing routine maintenance, housekeeping chores, clerical tasks, or other duties so long as they are directly or indirectly assigned by a supervisor.

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