

# COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT FORECASTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

## PENSION IMPACT NOTE

### 96TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

BILL NO: **SB 0250**

February 9, 2009

SPONSOR (S): Lightford

SYSTEM(S): Downstate Police, Fire

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**FISCAL IMPACT:** SB 0250 will have no direct fiscal impact on Downstate Police and Fire pension funds.

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**SUBJECT MATTER:** SB 0250 amends the Downstate Police and Fire articles of the Pension Code to allow a municipality the right to appear in any proceeding involving a participant or a beneficiary under the Downstate Police and Fire articles of the Pension Code that might result in a final administrative decision by the pension board.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** SB 0250 will have no direct fiscal impact on Downstate Police and Fire pension funds.

**COMMENT:** Under current law, municipalities do not have a statutory right to participate in police and fire pension board hearings (this was a result of a court decision several years ago). Municipalities can only offer testimony before police and fire pension boards when granted that authority by the board. As a consequence, municipalities do not have the right of administrative review through the court system if the pension board makes a decision that the municipality wishes to dispute. SB 0250 would grant municipalities the same access to court review as employees currently have.

DH:dkb

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