

established a Downstate Fire Pension Fund; also, the governing authority of the employer must approve the SLEP status for the aforementioned firefighters.

***Due to the population of Bedford Park being lower than 5,000, their firefighters are ineligible for an Article 4 pension fund. They have attempted to obtain this type of fund via referendum but were unsuccessful. The employer's normal cost of an Article 4 benefit plan is approximately 7.045% on average. The employer's normal cost of a SLEP benefit plan is approximately 8.67%. This is a difference of about 1.625% making these benefit plans fiscally comparable.**

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