

COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT FORECASTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

PENSION IMPACT NOTE

99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

BILL NO: **SB 2439, as amended by SA1**

May 9, 2016

SPONSOR (S): Sandoval – Bush, et al. (Zalewski)

SYSTEM(S): Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund

FISCAL IMPACT: According to IMRF, SB 2439 is projected to only affect the firefighters and/or the police officers of Bedford Park. This is projected to affect 133 employees at most. Currently, the employer's normal cost for the regular IMRF formula is approximately 4.56%, and the employer's normal cost for the Sheriff's Law Enforcement Personnel (SLEP) formula is approximately 8.67%. These figures are based on a statewide average as reported in IMRF's most recent actuarial report. The actual cost to the employer would factor in the age, service credit, and salaries of the employees in question and would need to be calculated by IMRF's actuary.

SUBJECT MATTER: SB 2439 amends the IMRF Article of the Pension Code to allow qualifying firefighters and/or police officers to receive Sheriff's Law Enforcement Personnel (SLEP) benefits.

COMMENT: According to current law, the IMRF article of the Pension Code recognizes the following as "Sheriff's Law Enforcement Employees" or "SLEP":

- 1) A county sheriff and all full-time deputies excluding special deputies.
- 2) A person who was elected to participate in IMRF, and who is employed by a participating municipality to perform police duties.
- 3) A law enforcement officer employed on a full-time basis by a Forest Preserve District, provided that such officer is deemed eligible for SLEP service by the board of commissioners of the District.
- 4) A person that is employed full-time by a participating municipality to perform police duties at an airport and is deemed eligible for SLEP service by the governing authority of the employer.

SB 2439 amends the IMRF Article of the Illinois Pension Code by providing participating firefighters and police officers SLEP status with the approval of the employing municipality. The participating municipality must have at least 50 full-time firefighters and at least 30 full-time police officers that have not established a Downstate Fire Pension Fund; also, the governing authority of the employer must approve the SLEP status for the aforementioned

firefighters. This bill is intended to alleviate the issue in the Village of Bedford Park that doesn't allow their firefighters or police officers to participate in a Downstate Police or Downstate Fire pension fund, due to having a population of less than 5,000. These employees are already members in the standard IMRF program, so prior service would not apply if this bill were to pass, however any service as a firefighter or police officer since 1/1/2011 would be upgraded to SLEP service credit, with no additional cost to the employee.

SB 2439, as amended by SA1, makes a small technical change to the original bill. It specifies that any adopted resolution to grant SLEP status to police officers or firefighters must specify that SLEP status shall be applicable on or after January 1, 2011 rather than January 1, 2017.

JL:dkb

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