

COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT FORECASTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

PENSION IMPACT NOTE

95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

BILL NO: **HB 1331, as amended by HA #1** March 28, 2007

SPONSOR (S): Hamos – Harris, et al.

SYSTEM(S): Chicago Teachers Article, Teachers' Retirement System

FISCAL IMPACT: The fiscal impact of HB 1331, as amended by HA #1, cannot be determined as the number of teachers who will designate a domestic partner is unknown, however the costs are expected to be relatively minor.

SUBJECT MATTER: HB 1331, as amended by HA #1, amends the Chicago and Downstate Teacher Article of Illinois Pension Code by allowing designated domestic partners to qualify as surviving spouses for purposes of receiving survivor and death benefits.

FISCAL IMPACT: The fiscal impact of HB 1331, as amended by HA #1, cannot be determined as the number of teachers who will designate a domestic partner is unknown, however the costs are expected to be relatively minor.

COMMENT: HB 1331, as amended by HA #1, amends the Downstate and Chicago Teacher Articles of the Pension Code by adding specific language delineating a domestic partner as someone who may receive survivor and death benefits, in the same manner as a surviving spouse. The bill also states that a domestic partner is an individual of the same gender as an unmarried teacher who (1) is involved with the teacher in a long-term relationship of indefinite duration; (2) has resided together with the teacher at the same address for at least 12 months; (3) is not related to the teacher by blood to a degree of closeness that would prohibit legal marriage in the state in which they legally reside; (4) is not married to any other person; and (5) has an exclusive mutual commitment to the teacher in which they agree to be jointly responsible for each other's common welfare and to share financial obligations.

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