

Teacher Article of the Pension Code to add pregnancy leaves of absence to this approved list. Members are required to provide satisfactory evidence for the leave and pay all contributions as of the date specified. The total optional service credit available for purchase due to pregnancies and other leaves of absence may not exceed 3 years. In addition, SB 0153, as amended by House Amendment 001, states that allowing teachers to establish service credit for a pregnancy leave of absence constitutes a new benefit increase and this increase shall be funded by the additional employee contributions.

Currently, the Pension Code allows the Chicago Teachers' Pension Fund to reimburse retirees, survivors, and disability annuitants for a portion of their health insurance coverage. The total reimbursement amount cannot exceed \$65 million annually, plus any amount that was authorized to be paid in any preceding year that was not actually paid. (P.A. 93-0677 raised the cap from \$40 million to \$65 million). The Pension Code further specifies that the total annual amount of payments made for retiree health insurance reimbursement may not exceed 75% of the total cost of the coverage for all recipients who receive payments in that year. This retiree health insurance subsidy is made by the Chicago Teacher Pension Fund via State appropriation, and is not currently mandated by law.

Continuing Appropriation to Chicago Teachers' Pension Fund

SB 0153, as amended by House Amendment 001, would create a continuing monthly appropriation for the Chicago Teachers' Pension Fund equal to one-twelfth of \$65,044,700 (the amount of the State subsidy for retiree healthcare in FY 2007 as contained in P.A. 94-0798) or the amount of the vouchers for required State contributions lawfully submitted by the fund pursuant to the School Code.

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