

FINAL BILL REPORT

SB 5296

C 98 L 21
Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Modifying the definition of index for the Washington state patrol retirement system.

Sponsors: Senators Schoesler, Conway, Dozier, Muzzall, Rivers, Van De Wege and Warnick;
by request of Select Committee on Pension Policy.

Senate Committee on Ways & Means
House Committee on Appropriations

Background: The Washington State Patrol Retirement System (WSPRS) covers commissioned officers of the Washington State Patrol. As required by statute, WSPRS retiree benefits are adjusted annually based specifically on the consumer price index (CPI) for the Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton, Washington area for urban wage earners and clerical workers, up to 3 percent each year.

In 2018, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, which is responsible for producing the CPIs nationally, modified the geographic sample of the Seattle, Washington area CPI to no longer include Island, Kitsap, and Thurston counties. It was renamed the Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue CPI.

Even though retirees from other pension systems have their benefits adjusted based on the same index, other statutes related to the adjustments include a general reference to the Seattle, Washington area CPI rather than identifying it by the specific name.

Summary: The reference to Tacoma-Bremerton is removed from the statute that defines the index used to adjust the benefits for retirees of the WSPRS.

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate	48	0
House	98	0

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Effective: July 25, 2021