

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5987

As Passed Senate, March 12, 1999

Title: An act relating to the withdrawal of accumulated contributions under the law enforcement officers' and fire fighters' retirement system.

Brief Description: Withdrawing accumulated contributions under the law enforcement officers' and fire fighters' retirement system.

Sponsors: Senators Goings, Benton, Bauer, Hochstatter, Costa, Gardner and Rasmussen.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Ways & Means: 2/23/99, 2/25/99 [DP].
Passed Senate, 3/12/99, 46-0.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

Majority Report: Do pass.

Signed by Senators Loveland, Chair; Bauer, Vice Chair; Brown, Vice Chair; Fairley, Honeyford, Kline, Kohl-Welles, Rasmussen, Rossi, B. Sheldon, Snyder, Spanel, Thibaudeau, Winsley, Wojahn, Zarelli.

Staff: Pete Cutler (786-7454)

Background: Members of the Law Enforcement Officers and Fire Fighters' Retirement System, Plan 2 (LEOFF 2) who become totally incapacitated for continued employment are eligible to receive a disability retirement allowance. The allowance is canceled if the member recovers from the disability and is no longer entitled to workers' compensation benefits. The statute also provides that a member who has recovered from a disability shall be restored to duty.

LEOFF 2 members are entitled to a refund of their accumulated member contributions if they cease to be an employee of a LEOFF employer, except by service or disability retirement. A LEOFF 2 member who leaves employment due to a disability retirement, but is not re-employed upon recovery from the disability, is not able to receive a refund of the difference between the disability payments received and the member's total accumulated contributions.

Summary of Bill: If the disability retirement allowance of a LEOFF 2 member is canceled for any reason other than the member's re-entry into employment or retirement for service, the member must be paid the excess, if any, of the member's accumulated contributions over all previous LEOFF 2 payments. The bill applies to any LEOFF 2 member who received a disability allowance after February 1, 1990.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on February 22, 1999.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Testimony For: LEOFF 2 members who recover from a disability but do not return to LEOFF employment should be able to withdraw their member contributions, reduced by whatever disability payments they received.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: Jim Rudd, WSCFF (pro).