

SENATE BILL REPORT

HB 2891

As Reported By Senate Committee On:
Ways & Means, February 27, 2002

Title: An act relating to determining which fire fighters or law enforcement officers may elect or be elected to certain pension and disability boards.

Brief Description: Determining which fire fighters or law enforcement officers may elect or be elected to certain pension and disability boards.

Sponsors: Representatives Sommers, Sullivan, Simpson, Cooper, O'Brien, Chase, Conway, Santos, Ogden, Casada and Morell.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Ways & Means: 2/26/02, 2/27/02 [DP].

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

Majority Report: Do pass.

Signed by Senators Brown, Chair; Regala, Vice Chair; Fairley, Vice Chair; Fraser, Kline, Kohl-Welles, Long, Parlette, Rasmussen, B. Sheldon, Snyder, Spanel, Thibaudeau and Winsley.

Staff: Erin Hannan (786-7708)

Background: The statutes creating the retirement system Plan 1 (LEOFF 1) provide for the creation of city and county disability boards. These boards rule on claims for disability retirement for LEOFF 1 members, designate which medical services are available to LEOFF 1 retirees, and may require a LEOFF 1 retiree who seeks payment for medical services to submit to a medical exam.

Each city with a population of 20,000 or more has a LEOFF 1 disability board. Each county has a disability board with five members. The county board has jurisdiction over LEOFF 1 members who are not employed by a city that has its own disability board. Under current law, one of the members of the county board must be a member of the legislative body of a city or town that does not have its own board. This member must be chosen by a majority of the mayors of the affected cities or towns within the county.

Representatives on the disability boards are not required to be LEOFF 1 members. Given the growing proportion of the Law Enforcement Officers' and Fire Fighters' Plan 2 (LEOFF 2) members, the membership of many LEOFF 1 disability boards has become increasingly dominated by LEOFF 2 members.

Summary of Bill: LEOFF Plan 2 members may continue to serve on LEOFF 1 disability boards, but they must be elected by the LEOFF 1 members who are subject to the jurisdiction of that board.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

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

Testimony For: The bill is straight-forward. It allows LEOFF 2 members on the disability boards but restricts voting eligibility to those LEOFF 2 board members elected by LEOFF 1 members from each board's jurisdiction.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: Dick Warbrouck, Retired Firefighters of Washington (pro).