

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 2340

As Passed House:
February 12, 2020

Title: An act relating to the definition of index for the Washington state patrol retirement system.

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

Sponsors: Representatives Fitzgibbon, Leavitt, Lovick, Ormsby and Volz; by request of Select Committee on Pension Policy.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Appropriations: 1/20/20, 1/23/20 [DP].

Floor Activity:

Passed House: 2/12/20, 96-0.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Replaces an obsolete reference to the Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton Consumer Price Index (CPI) used to adjust the benefits for retirees of the Washington State Patrol Retirement System with a reference to the Seattle, Washington area CPI.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 31 members: Representatives Ormsby, Chair; Robinson, 1st Vice Chair; Bergquist, 2nd Vice Chair; Stokesbary, Ranking Minority Member; MacEwen, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Rude, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Caldier, Chandler, Chopp, Cody, Corry, Dolan, Dye, Fitzgibbon, Hansen, Hoff, Hudgins, Kilduff, Kraft, Macri, Mosbrucker, Pettigrew, Pollet, Ryu, Schmick, Senn, Sullivan, Sutherland, Tarleton, Tharinger and Ybarra.

Staff: David Pringle (786-7310).

Background:

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

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 United States 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. Additionally 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 of Bill:

The reference to the Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton Consumer Price Index (CPI) for urban wage earners and clerical workers is removed from the statute that defines the index used to adjust the benefits for retirees of the Washington State Patrol Retirement System, leaving reference to the "Seattle, Washington area" CPI.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony:

(In support) This is really just a technical fix bill. The Federal government changed the name of the index, so Washington needs to make this update to state law. The troopers' association appreciates the committee's consideration of this bill.

(Opposed) None.

Persons Testifying: Davor Gjurasic, Washington State Patrol Troopers Association; and Jeff DeVere, Washington State Patrol Lieutenants and Captains Association.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.