

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 6219

As Reported by Senate Committee On:
Ways & Means, January 23, 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: Senators Conway and Schoesler; by request of Select Committee on Pension Policy.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Ways & Means: 1/15/20, 1/23/20 [DP].

Brief Summary of Bill

- Removes the reference to Tacoma-Bremerton from the statute that defines the index used to adjust the benefits for retirees of the Washington State Patrol Retirement System.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

Majority Report: Do pass.

Signed by Senators Frockt, Vice Chair, Operating, Capital Lead; Mullet, Capital Budget Cabinet; Braun, Ranking Member; Brown, Assistant Ranking Member, Operating; Honeyford, Assistant Ranking Member, Capital; Becker, Billig, Carlyle, Conway, Darneille, Dhingra, Hasegawa, Hunt, Keiser, Liias, Muzzall, Pedersen, Rivers, Schoesler, Van De Wege, Wagoner, Warnick and Wilson, L..

Staff: Amanda Cecil (786-7460)

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.

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.

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

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

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

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: This is technical fix that cleans up the language to align it with the other pension systems.

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

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: No one.