

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5468

As of January 31, 2023

Title: An act relating to ensuring that firefighters who accept promotional firefighter positions within a fire department remain members of the law enforcement officers' and firefighters' retirement system.

Brief Description: Ensuring that firefighters who accept promotional firefighter positions within a fire department remain members of the law enforcement officers' and firefighters' retirement system.

Sponsors: Senators Van De Wege, Holy, Conway, Lovick, Nguyen, Randall and Valdez.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Ways & Means: 1/31/23.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Expands the definition of firefighter, for inclusion in the Law Enforcement Officers' and Fire Fighters' Retirement System to include any person who is serving in a position that requires an experienced firefighter.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

Staff: Amanda Cecil (786-7460)

Background: The Law Enforcement Officers' and Fire Fighters' Retirement System (LEOFF) provides retirement benefits to full-time, fully-compensated law enforcement officers and fire fighters employed by the state, cities, counties, and special districts.

In addition to being full-time and fully compensated in order to be covered by LEOFF as a firefighter, the person must also be actively employed as a firefighter, employed in a supervisory firefighter position, or be employed by a fire department as an emergency

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medical technician.

Summary of Bill: The definition of firefighter, for inclusion in LEOFF, is expanded to include any person who is serving in a position that requires an experienced firefighter.

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: The Department of Retirement Systems has threatened to take people in admin work and put them into a different pension system. This bill would ensure that they do not. There is an assumption that experienced firefighters who move into a position that does not respond to calls would be moved to a new pension system. This assumption is problematic as it creates a huge disadvantage to candidates applying to those positions. Firefighters need to be able to move freely between positions to ensure a stable workforce in all positions, without concerns over pension systems.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Senator Kevin Van De Wege, Prime Sponsor; Bud Sizemore, WSCFF.

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