

FINAL BILL REPORT

HB 2051

C 107 L 20
Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Concerning firefighters and law enforcement officers pension and disability boards.

Sponsors: Representatives Lovick, Chapman, Griffey and Dent.

House Committee on Appropriations
Senate Committee on Ways & Means

Background:

The Law Enforcement Officers' and Fire Fighters' Retirement System (LEOFF) Plan 1 provides retirement and disability benefits to law enforcement officers and firefighters who entered eligible employment between 1969 and 1977. Since 1977, eligible law enforcement officers and firefighters have entered LEOFF Plan 2. Before the implementation of LEOFF Plan 1 in 1970, law enforcement and firefighter pensions, referred to as Prior Act systems, were administered by local pension boards. When LEOFF Plan 1 was created, the law established LEOFF Plan 1 disability boards. Disability boards determine medical and disability benefits to be paid to LEOFF Plan 1 members. The LEOFF Plan 1 is unique among state retirement system plans in that retiree benefits include coverage for all necessary medical services.

Each city with a population of 20,000 or more has a LEOFF Plan 1 disability board. Each county also has a disability board, and these county boards have jurisdiction over LEOFF Plan 1 members who are not employed in a city with its own disability board. The LEOFF Plan 1 city disability boards have five members:

- two members of the city legislative body;
- one member of the public appointed by the other members of the disability board;
- one active or retired firefighter member representing firefighters; and
- one active or retired law enforcement officer representing law enforcement officers.

Only active or retired Prior Act, LEOFF Plan 1, and LEOFF Plan 2 firefighters employed by or retired from the city, county, or fire protection district are eligible to be elected to a pension or disability board. Since 2013, if no firefighters under a LEOFF Plan 1 city disability board's jurisdiction are eligible to vote, the law enforcement officers eligible to vote must elect a second representative. If no law enforcement officers under a LEOFF Plan

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.

1 city disability board's jurisdiction are eligible to vote, the firefighters eligible to vote must elect a second representative. Only those covered by the jurisdiction of the board are eligible to vote. According to the Department of Retirement Systems, there are approximately 3,022 members who may be eligible for a Prior Act pension benefit. The 2016 LEOFF Plan 1 Medical Benefits Actuarial Valuation Report indicates 62 active and 5,753 inactive LEOFF Plan 1 members.

Summary:

Any active or retired firefighter or law enforcement officer who resides within the jurisdiction served by a Law Enforcement Officers' and Fire Fighters' (LEOFF) Plan 1 or Prior Act disability board, or the surviving spouse or domestic partner of a firefighter or law enforcement officer subject to jurisdiction of the board, may be elected to a Prior Act and LEOFF Plan 1 disability board, if no eligible active or retired firefighter or law enforcement officer is willing or able.

Votes on Final Passage:

House	96	0	
House	96	0	
Senate	48	0	(Senate amended)
House	96	0	(House concurred)

Effective: June 11, 2020