

AN ACT

relating to the administration of retirement systems for paid, partly paid, or volunteer firefighters.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 13, Texas Local Fire Fighters Retirement Act (Article 6243e, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 13. (a) A member of a retirement system who meets an applicable length-of-service requirement for service retirement benefits but does not meet the applicable age requirement for service retirement benefits may terminate employment with or otherwise discontinue service for the fire department and remain eligible to receive service retirement benefits from the retirement system on attaining the applicable age, as long as the member does not withdraw contributions in the retirement system.

~~(b) [On termination of employment or other discontinuance of service of a person described by Subsection (a) of this section, the board of trustees of the retirement system of which the person is a member shall issue to the member a certificate of service, stating the completion of the service requirement and certifying that the member is entitled to applicable service retirement benefits on attaining the applicable age, whether or not the member performs service after the date of the issuance of the certificate. The certificate also shall state that the entitlement is~~

1 ~~conditioned on the member's leaving contributions in the retirement~~
2 ~~system.~~

3 ~~(c)~~ A member who terminates employment or otherwise
4 discontinues service after meeting an applicable length-of-service
5 requirement for service retirement may not be required to pay to the
6 retirement system contributions that become due after the date of
7 termination or discontinuance.

8 SECTION 2. Section 19(b), Texas Local Fire Fighters
9 Retirement Act (Article 6243e, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), is
10 amended to read as follows:

11 (b) During each period that begins on December 1 of one year
12 and ends on January 31 of the following year, the participating
13 members of a fire fighters' retirement system in a municipality or
14 other political subdivision subject to this section shall elect by
15 secret ballot and certify to the governing body of the municipality
16 or other political subdivision a member to the board of trustees to
17 serve a term of three years. To be elected a member of a board of
18 trustees under this subsection, a person must be a participating
19 member of the retirement system and receive a majority of the votes
20 cast in the election, and at least 50 percent of all participating
21 members of the retirement system must vote in the election.

22 SECTION 3. Section 21A(h), Texas Local Fire Fighters
23 Retirement Act (Article 6243e, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), as
24 added by Chapter 327, Acts of the 77th Legislature, Regular
25 Session, 2001, is redesignated as Subsection (h-1) to read as
26 follows:

27 (h-1) ~~(h)~~ The fire fighters' pension commissioner shall

1 prepare and maintain a written plan that describes how a person who
2 does not speak English or who has a physical, mental, or
3 developmental disability can be provided reasonable access to the
4 programs administered by the commissioner.

5 SECTION 4. Section 29(b), Texas Local Fire Fighters
6 Retirement Act (Article 6243e, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), is
7 amended to read as follows:

8 (b) A municipality or other political subdivision that has
9 employees who are participating members of a retirement system
10 shall make contributions to the system each payroll period. Except
11 as provided by Subsection (d) of this section, contributions
12 required under this subsection are computed on the total
13 compensation paid to the employees who are participating members of
14 the system. A municipality or other political subdivision is
15 required to make contributions under this subsection at the same
16 rate paid by employees or 12 [~~nine~~] percent, whichever is the
17 smaller rate. The governing body of a municipality or other
18 political subdivision by ordinance may adopt a rate of employer
19 contributions that is greater than the rate required by this
20 subsection.

21 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
22 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
23 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
24 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
25 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 3731 was passed by the House on May 2, 2007, by the following vote: Yeas 147, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 3731 on May 25, 2007, by the following vote: Yeas 138, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 3731 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 22, 2007, by the following vote: Yeas 28, Nays 1.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor