By:  Anchia (Senate Sponsor - Huffman, Schwertner) H.B. No. 3898

(In the Senate - Received from the House May 12, 2021; May 14, 2021, read first time and referred to Committee on Finance; May 21, 2021, reported adversely, with favorable Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 10, Nays 0; May 21, 2021, sent to printer.)

COMMITTEE VOTE

                    Yea Nay Absent  PNV

Nelson               X

Lucio                X

Bettencourt          X

Buckingham           X

Campbell             X

Creighton                     X

Hancock              X

Huffman              X

Kolkhorst                     X

Nichols              X

Perry                X

Schwertner                    X

Taylor                        X

West                 X

Whitmire                      X

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR H.B. No. 3898 By:  Huffman

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the funding of public retirement systems.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 28(h), Texas Local Fire Fighters Retirement Act (Article 6243e, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), is amended to read as follows:

(h)  A retirement system established under this Act is exempt from Subchapter C, Chapter 802, Government Code, except Sections 802.2011, 802.2015, 802.202, 802.205, and 802.207.

SECTION 2.  Section 802.2011, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 802.2011.  FUNDING POLICY. (a) In this section:

(1)  "Funded ratio" means the ratio of a public retirement system's actuarial value of assets divided by the system's actuarial accrued liability.

(2)  "Governmental entity" has the meaning assigned by Section 802.1012.

(3)  "Statewide retirement system" means:

(A)  the Employees Retirement System of Texas, including a retirement system administered by that system;

(B)  the Teacher Retirement System of Texas;

(C)  the Texas County and District Retirement System;

(D)  the Texas Emergency Services Retirement System; and

(E)  the Texas Municipal Retirement System.

(b)  The governing body of a public retirement system and, if the system is not a statewide retirement system, its associated governmental entity shall:

(1)  jointly, if applicable:

(A)  develop and adopt a written funding policy that details a [~~the governing body's~~] plan for achieving a funded ratio of the system that is equal to or greater than 100 percent; and

(B)  timely revise the policy to reflect any significant changes to the policy, including changes required as a result of formulating and implementing a funding soundness restoration plan, including a revised funding soundness restoration plan, under Section 802.2015 or 802.2016;

(2)  maintain for public review at its main office a copy of the policy;

(3)  file a copy of the policy and each change to the policy with the board not later than the 31st day after the date the policy or change, as applicable, is adopted; and

(4)  post [~~submit~~] a copy of the most recent edition of the policy on a publicly available Internet website in accordance with Section 802.107(c)(2) [~~and each change to the policy to the system's associated governmental entity not later than the 31st day after the date the policy or change is adopted~~].

(c)  For purposes of Subsection (b)(1)(B), the written funding policy must outline any automatic contribution or benefit changes designed to prevent having to formulate a revised funding soundness restoration plan under Section 802.2015(d), including any automatic risk-sharing mechanisms that have been implemented, the adoption of an actuarially determined contribution structure, and other adjustable benefit or contribution mechanisms.

(d)  The board may adopt rules necessary to implement this section.

SECTION 3.  Section 802.2015, Government Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a), (c), (d), (e), (f), and (g) and adding Subsections (d-1), (e-1), (e-2), (e-3), (e-4), and (h) to read as follows:

(a)  In this section:

(1)  "Funded ratio" has the meaning assigned by Section 802.2011.

(2)  "Governmental [~~, "governmental~~] entity" has the meaning assigned by Section 802.1012.

(c)  A public retirement system shall notify the associated governmental entity in writing if the [~~retirement~~] system receives an actuarial valuation indicating that the system's actual contributions are not sufficient to amortize the unfunded actuarial accrued liability within 30 [~~40~~] years. The [~~If a public retirement system's actuarial valuation shows that the system's amortization period has exceeded 40 years for three consecutive annual actuarial valuations, or two consecutive actuarial valuations in the case of a system that conducts the valuations every two or three years, the~~] governing body of the public retirement system and the governing body of the associated governmental entity shall jointly formulate a funding soundness restoration plan under Subsection (e) if the system's actuarial valuation shows that the system's expected funding period:

(1)  has exceeded 30 years for three consecutive annual actuarial valuations, or two consecutive annual actuarial valuations in the case of a system that conducts the valuations every two or three years; or

(2)  effective September 1, 2025:

(A)  exceeds 40 years; or

(B)  exceeds 30 years and the funded ratio of the system is less than 65 percent [~~in accordance with the system's governing statute~~].

(d)  Except as provided by Subsection (d-1), the [~~The~~] governing body of a public retirement system and the governing body of the associated governmental entity that have an existing [~~formulated a~~] funding soundness restoration plan under Subsection (e) shall formulate a revised funding soundness restoration plan under Subsection (e-1) [~~that subsection, in accordance with the system's governing statute,~~] if the system becomes subject to Subsection (c) before the 10th anniversary of the date prescribed by Subsection (e)(2)(A) or (B), as applicable [~~conducts an actuarial valuation showing that:~~

[~~(1) the system's amortization period exceeds 40 years; and~~

[~~(2) the previously formulated funding soundness restoration plan has not been adhered to~~].

(d-1)  The governing body of a public retirement system and the governing body of the associated governmental entity are not subject to Subsection (d) if:

(1)  the system's actuarial valuation shows that the system's expected funding period exceeds 30 years but is less than or equal to 40 years; and

(2)  the system is:

(A)  adhering to an existing funding soundness restoration plan that was formulated before September 1, 2025; or

(B)  implementing a contribution rate structure that uses or will ultimately use an actuarially determined contribution structure and the system's actuarial valuation shows that the system is expected to achieve full funding.

(e)  A funding soundness restoration plan formulated under this section must:

(1)  be developed by the public retirement system and the associated governmental entity in accordance with the system's governing statute; [~~and~~]

(2)  be designed to achieve a contribution rate that will be sufficient to amortize the unfunded actuarial accrued liability within 30 [~~40~~] years not later than the later of:

(A)  the second [~~10th~~] anniversary of the valuation date stated in the actuarial valuation that required formulation of the plan under this subsection; or

(B)  September 1, 2025;

(3)  be based on actions agreed to be taken by the system and entity that were approved by the respective governing bodies of both the system and the entity before the plan was adopted; and

(4)  be adopted at open meetings of the respective governing bodies of the system and the entity not later than the second anniversary of the date the actuarial valuation that required application of this subsection was adopted by the governing body of the system [~~on which the final version of a funding soundness restoration plan is agreed to~~].

(e-1)  A revised funding soundness restoration plan formulated under this section must:

(1)  be  developed by the public retirement system and the associated governmental entity in accordance with the system's governing statute;

(2)  be designed to achieve a contribution rate that will be sufficient to amortize the unfunded actuarial accrued liability within 25 years not later than the second anniversary of the valuation date stated in the actuarial valuation that required formulation of a revised plan under this subsection;

(3)  be based on actions, including automatic risk-sharing mechanisms, an actuarially determined contribution structure, and other adjustable benefit or contribution mechanisms, agreed to be taken by the system and entity that were approved by the respective governing bodies of both the system and the entity before the plan was adopted; and

(4)  be adopted at open meetings by the respective governing bodies of the system and the entity not later than the second anniversary of the date the actuarial valuation that required application of this subsection was adopted by the governing body of the system.

(e-2)  Not later than the 90th day after the date on which the plan is adopted by both the governing body of the system and the governing body of the associated governmental entity, a system may submit to the board an actuarial valuation required under Section 802.101(a) or other law that shows the combined impact of all changes to a funding soundness restoration plan adopted under this section, including a revised funding soundness restoration plan adopted under Subsection (e-1). If a system does not provide an actuarial valuation to the board in accordance with this subsection, the board may request that the system provide a separate analysis of the combined impact of all changes to a funding soundness restoration plan adopted under this section not later than the 90th day after the date the board makes the request. An actuarial valuation or separate analysis conducted under this subsection must include:

(1)  an actuarial projection of the public retirement system's expected future assets and liabilities between the valuation date described by Subsection (e)(2)(A) or (e-1)(2), as applicable, and the date at which the plan is expected to achieve full funding; and

(2)  a description of all assumptions and methods used to perform the analysis which must comply with actuarial standards of practice.

(e-3)  The associated governmental entity may pay all or part of the costs of the separate analysis required under Subsection (e-2). The public retirement system shall pay any costs for the analysis not paid by the associated governmental entity.

(e-4)  A funding soundness restoration plan adopted under this section, including a revised funding soundness restoration plan adopted under Subsection (e-1), may not include actions that are subject to future approval by the governing bodies of either the public retirement system or the associated governmental entity.

(f)  A public retirement system and the associated governmental entity required to [~~that~~] formulate a funding soundness restoration plan under this section, including a revised funding soundness restoration plan, shall provide a report to the board on [~~any updates of~~] progress made by the system and entity in formulating the plan, including a draft of any plan and a description of any changes under consideration for inclusion in a plan, not later than the first anniversary of the date of the actuarial valuation that required formulation of the plan under Subsection (e) or (e-1) and each subsequent six-month period until the plan is submitted to the board under this section [~~entities toward improved actuarial soundness to the board every two years~~].

(g)  Each public retirement system that formulates a funding soundness restoration plan as provided by this section shall submit a copy of that plan to the board and any change to the plan not later than the 31st day after the date on which the plan is adopted by both the governing body of the system and the governing body of the associated governmental entity or the date the change is agreed to.

(h)  The board may adopt rules necessary to implement this section.

SECTION 4.  Section 802.2016, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 802.2016.  FUNDING SOUNDNESS RESTORATION PLAN FOR CERTAIN PUBLIC RETIREMENT SYSTEMS. (a) In this section:

(1)  "Funded ratio" has the meaning assigned by Section 802.2011.

(2)  "Governmental [~~, "governmental~~] entity" has the meaning assigned by Section 802.1012.

(b)  This section applies only to a public retirement system that is governed by Article 6243i, Revised Statutes, and its associated governmental entity.

(c)  A public retirement system shall notify the associated governmental entity in writing if the [~~retirement~~] system receives an actuarial valuation indicating that the system's actual contributions are not sufficient to amortize the unfunded actuarial accrued liability within 30 [~~40~~] years. The governing body of [~~If a public retirement system's actuarial valuation shows that the system's amortization period has exceeded 40 years for three consecutive annual actuarial valuations, or two consecutive actuarial valuations in the case of a system that conducts the valuations every two or three years,~~] the associated governmental entity shall formulate a funding soundness restoration plan under Subsection (e) if the system's actuarial valuation shows that the system's expected funding period:

(1)  has exceeded 30 years for three consecutive annual actuarial valuations, or two consecutive annual actuarial valuations in the case of a system that conducts the valuations every two or three years; or

(2)  effective September 1, 2025:

(A)  exceeds 40 years; or

(B)  exceeds 30 years and the funded ratio of the system is less than 65 percent [~~in accordance with the public retirement system's governing statute~~].

(d)  Except as provided by Subsection (d-1), the governing body of an [~~An~~] associated governmental entity that has an existing [~~formulated a~~] funding soundness restoration plan under Subsection (e) shall formulate a revised funding soundness restoration plan under Subsection (e-1) [~~that subsection, in accordance with the public retirement system's governing statute,~~] if the system becomes subject to Subsection (c) before the 10th anniversary of the date prescribed by Subsection (e)(2)(A) or (B), as applicable [~~conducts an actuarial valuation showing that:~~

[~~(1) the system's amortization period exceeds 40 years; and~~

[~~(2) the previously formulated funding soundness restoration plan has not been adhered to~~].

(d-1)  The associated governmental entity is not subject to Subsection (d) if:

(1)  the system's actuarial valuation shows that the system's expected funding period exceeds 30 years but is less than or equal to 40 years; and

(2)  the system is:

(A)  adhering to an existing funding soundness restoration plan that was formulated before September 1, 2025; or

(B)  implementing a contribution rate structure that uses or will ultimately use an actuarially determined contribution structure and the system's actuarial valuation shows that the system is expected to achieve full funding.

(e)  A funding soundness restoration plan formulated under this section must:

(1)  be developed in accordance with the public retirement system's governing statute by the associated governmental entity; [~~and~~]

(2)  be designed to achieve a contribution rate that will be sufficient to amortize the unfunded actuarial accrued liability within 30 [~~40~~] years not later than the later of:

(A)  the second [~~10th~~] anniversary of the valuation date stated in the actuarial valuation that required formulation of the plan under this subsection; or

(B)  September 1, 2025;

(3)  be based on actions, including automatic risk-sharing mechanisms, an actuarially determined contribution structure, and other adjustable benefit or contribution mechanisms, agreed to be taken by the system and entity that were approved by the governing body of the associated governmental entity before the plan was adopted; and

(4)  be adopted at an open meeting of the governing body of the associated governmental entity not later than the second anniversary of the date the actuarial valuation that required application of this subsection was adopted by the governing body of the system [~~on which the final version of a funding soundness restoration plan is formulated~~].

(e-1)  A revised funding soundness restoration plan formulated under this section must:

(1)  be  developed by the associated governmental entity in accordance with the system's governing statute;

(2)  be designed to achieve a contribution rate that will be sufficient to amortize the unfunded actuarial accrued liability within 25 years not later than the second anniversary of the valuation date stated in the actuarial valuation that required formulation of a revised plan under this subsection;

(3)  be based on actions agreed to be taken by the system and entity that were approved by the governing body of the associated governmental entity before the plan was adopted; and

(4)  be adopted at an open meeting of the governing body of the associated governmental entity not later than the second anniversary of the date the actuarial valuation that required application of this subsection was adopted by the governing body of the system.

(e-2)  Not later than the 90th day after the date on which the plan is adopted by the governing body of the associated governmental entity, a system may submit to the board an actuarial valuation required under Section 802.101(a) or other law that shows the combined impact of all changes to a funding soundness restoration plan adopted under this section, including a revised funding soundness restoration plan adopted under Subsection (e-1). If a system does not provide an actuarial valuation to the board in accordance with this subsection, the board may request that the system provide a separate analysis of the combined impact of all changes to a funding soundness restoration plan adopted under this section not later than the 90th day after the date the board makes the request. An actuarial valuation or the separate analysis conducted under this subsection must include:

(1)  an actuarial projection of the public retirement system's expected future assets and liabilities between the valuation date described by Subsection (e)(2)(A) or (e-1)(2), as applicable, and the date at which the plan is expected to achieve full funding; and

(2)  a description of all assumptions and methods used to perform the analysis which must comply with actuarial standards of practice.

(e-3)  The associated governmental entity may pay all or part of the costs of the separate analysis required under Subsection (e-2). The public retirement system shall pay any costs for the analysis not paid by the associated governmental entity.

(e-4)  A funding soundness restoration plan adopted under this section, including a revised funding soundness restoration plan adopted under Subsection (e-1), may not include actions that are subject to future approval by the governing body of the associated governmental entity.

(f)  An associated governmental entity required to formulate [~~that formulates~~] a funding soundness restoration plan under this section, including a revised funding soundness restoration plan, shall provide a report to the board on [~~any updates of~~] progress made by the [~~public retirement system and~~] associated governmental entity in formulating the plan, including a draft of any plan and a description of any changes under consideration for inclusion in a plan, not later than the first anniversary of the date of the actuarial valuation that required formulation of the plan under Subsection (e) or (e-1) and each subsequent six-month period until the plan is submitted to the board under this section [~~toward improved actuarial soundness to the board every two years~~].

(g)  An associated governmental entity that formulates a funding soundness restoration plan as provided by this section shall submit a copy of that plan to the board and any change to the plan not later than the 31st day after the date on which the plan is adopted by the governing body of the associated governmental entity or the date the change is formulated.

(h)  The board may adopt rules necessary to implement this section.

SECTION 5.  The changes in law made by this Act apply to a funding soundness restoration plan that is formulated or revised under Section 802.2015 or 802.2016, Government Code, as applicable, on or after the effective date of this Act. A funding soundness restoration plan formulated or revised before the effective date of this Act other than a plan that is subject to Section 802.2015(d-1) or Section 802.2016(d-1), Government Code, as added by this Act, is governed by the law as it existed immediately before that date, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose, except if:

(1)  the public retirement system and its associated governmental entity are required to formulate a revised funding soundness restoration plan under Section 802.2015(d), Government Code, as that section existed immediately before the effective date of this Act, the system and its associated governmental entity shall formulate the plan under Section 802.2015(e), Government Code, as amended by this Act, rather than as that section existed immediately before the effective date of this Act; or

(2)  a public retirement system's associated governmental entity is required to formulate a revised funding soundness restoration plan under Section 802.2016(d), Government Code, as that section existed immediately before the effective date of this Act, the associated governmental entity shall formulate the plan under Section 802.2016(e), Government Code, as amended by this Act, rather than as that section existed immediately before the effective date of this Act.

SECTION 6.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

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