

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5219

As Passed Senate, March 11, 1997

Title: An act relating to transferring prior service in the law enforcement officers' and fire fighters' pension system plan I.

Brief Description: Transferring law enforcement officers' and fire fighters' retirement system plan I service.

Sponsors: Senators Winsley, Long, Fraser, Bauer and Franklin; by request of Joint Committee on Pension Policy.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Ways & Means: 2/5/97, 2/6/97 [DP].
Passed Senate, 3/11/97, 48-0.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

Majority Report: Do pass.

Signed by Senators West, Chair; Deccio, Vice Chair; Strannigan, Vice Chair; Bauer, Brown, Fraser, Hochstatter, Kohl, Long, McDonald, Roach, Rossi, Schow, Sheldon, Spanel, Swecker, Thibaudeau, Winsley and Zarelli.

Staff: Debrah Kime (786-7454)

Background: Current law regarding portability provisions does not cover Law Enforcement Officers and Fire Fighters Retirement System (LEOFF) Plan I members. If a former LEOFF I member receives a pension from LEOFF I and from another state retirement system, then each pension is based on the service credit and salary earned in each system separately.

Summary of Bill: Former members of LEOFF Plan I who are currently in the Public Employees Retirement System, Teachers Retirement System, or State Patrol are allowed to transfer their service in LEOFF I into their current retirement system plan. Members who have withdrawn contributions from LEOFF I are given an opportunity to restore their contributions prior to transferring to their current retirement system. All ties with LEOFF I are severed, including post-retirement medical benefits, upon transfer.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 20, 1997.

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

Testimony For: The testimony centered around the portability feature the LEOFF Plan I would now have.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: Ian Wallace, WSCSTC (pro); John Brinsmead, Washington State Gambling Commission (pro).