
SENATE BILL 5175

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By Senators Doumit, Roach, Haugen, Kohl-Welles, McAuliffe, Rasmussen,
T. Sheldon and Winsley

Read first time 01/17/2003. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

1 AN ACT Relating to monthly pensions for volunteer fire fighters and
2 reserve officers; amending RCW 41.24.185; reenacting and amending RCW
3 41.24.170; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 41.24.170 and 1999 c 148 s 15 and 1999 c 117 s 4 are
6 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

7 Except as provided in RCW 41.24.410, whenever any participant has
8 been a member and served honorably for a period of ten years or more as
9 an active member in any capacity, of any regularly organized fire
10 department or law enforcement agency of any municipality in this state,
11 and which municipality has adopted appropriate legislation allowing its
12 fire fighters or reserve officers to enroll in the retirement pension
13 provisions of this chapter, and the participant has enrolled under the
14 retirement pension provisions and has reached the age of sixty-five
15 years, the board of trustees shall order and direct that he or she be
16 retired and be paid a monthly pension from the principal fund as
17 provided in this section.

18 Whenever a participant has been a member, and served honorably for
19 a period of twenty-five years or more as an active member in any

1 capacity, of any regularly organized volunteer fire department or law
2 enforcement agency of any municipality in this state, and he or she has
3 reached the age of sixty-five years, and the annual retirement fee has
4 been paid for a period of twenty-five years, the board of trustees
5 shall order and direct that he or she be retired and such participant
6 be paid a monthly pension of (~~two hundred eighty~~) three hundred
7 dollars from the fund for the balance of that participant's life.

8 Whenever any participant has been a member, and served honorably
9 for a period of twenty-five years or more as an active member in any
10 capacity, of any regularly organized volunteer fire department or law
11 enforcement agency of any municipality in this state, and the
12 participant has reached the age of sixty-five years, and the annual
13 retirement fee has been paid for a period of less than twenty-five
14 years, the board of trustees shall order and direct that he or she be
15 retired and that such participant shall receive a minimum monthly
16 pension of (~~thirty~~) fifty dollars increased by the sum of ten dollars
17 each month for each year the annual fee has been paid, but not to
18 exceed the maximum monthly pension provided in this section, for the
19 balance of the participant's life.

20 No pension provided in this section may become payable before the
21 sixty-fifth birthday of the participant, nor for any service less than
22 twenty-five years: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That:

23 (1) Any participant, who is older than fifty-nine years of age,
24 less than sixty-five years of age, and has completed twenty-five years
25 or more of service may irrevocably elect a reduced monthly pension in
26 lieu of the pension that participant would be entitled to under this
27 section at age sixty-five. The participant who elects this option
28 shall receive the reduced pension for the balance of his or her life.
29 The reduced monthly pension is calculated as a percentage of the
30 pension the participant would be entitled to at age sixty-five. The
31 percentage used in the calculation is based upon the age of the
32 participant at the time of retirement as follows:

33	Age 60	Sixty percent
34	Age 61	Sixty-eight percent
35	Age 62	Seventy-six percent
36	Age 63	Eighty-four percent
37	Age 64	Ninety-two percent

1 (2) If a participant is age sixty-five or older but has less than
2 twenty-five years of service, the participant is entitled to a reduced
3 benefit. The reduced benefit shall be computed as follows:

4 (a) Upon completion of ten years, but less than fifteen years of
5 service, a monthly pension equal to twenty percent of such pension as
6 the participant would have been entitled to receive at age sixty-five
7 after twenty-five years of service;

8 (b) Upon completion of fifteen years, but less than twenty years of
9 service, a monthly pension equal to thirty-five percent of such pension
10 as the participant would have been entitled to receive at age sixty-
11 five after twenty-five years of service; and

12 (c) Upon completion of twenty years, but less than twenty-five
13 years of service, a monthly pension equal to seventy-five percent of
14 such pension as the participant would have been entitled to receive at
15 age sixty-five after twenty-five years of service.

16 (3) If a participant with less than twenty-five years of service
17 elects to retire after turning age sixty but before turning age sixty-
18 five, the participant's retirement allowance is subject:

19 (a) First to the reduction under subsection (2) of this section
20 based upon the participant's years of service; and

21 (b) Second to the reduction under subsection (1) of this section
22 based upon the participant's age.

23 **Sec. 2.** RCW 41.24.185 and 1989 c 91 s 7 are each amended to read
24 as follows:

25 Any monthly pension, payable under this chapter, which will not
26 amount to ((~~twenty-five~~)) fifty dollars may be converted into a lump
27 sum payment equal to the actuarial equivalent of the monthly pension.
28 The conversion may be made either upon written application to the state
29 board and shall rest at the discretion of the state board; or the state
30 board may make, on its own motion, lump sum payments, equal or
31 proportionate, as the case may be, to the value of the annuity then
32 remaining in full satisfaction of claims due. Any person receiving a
33 monthly payment of less than twenty-five dollars at the time of
34 September 1, 1979, may elect, within two years, to convert such
35 payments into a lump sum payment as ((~~herein~~)) provided in this
36 section.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act is necessary for the immediate
2 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
3 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
4 July 1, 2003.

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