

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1995

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HOUSE BILL 1218\*

Short Title: Fire Pensions Increased.

(Public)

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Sponsors: Representatives Mercer; Adams, Alexander, Baker, Barbee, Barnes, Beall, Black, Blue, Braswell, W. Brown, Buchanan, Church, Cocklereece, Culp, Culpepper, Cunningham, Davis, Earle, Eddins, Ellis, Fitch, Fox, Grady, Hackney, Hensley, Hightower, Hill, Hunt, H. Hunter, R. Hunter, Hurley, Justus, Lee, Locke, Luebke, McAllister, McCombs, McCrary, McMahan, Michaux, G. Miller, Mitchell, Nichols, Nye, Oldham, Owens, Pate, Preston, Pulley, Ramsey, Rayfield, Redwine, J. Robinson, Rogers, Sexton, Sharpe, Shaw, Sutton, Thompson, Tolson, Wainwright, Warner, Weatherly, Wilkins, G. Wilson, Womble, Wood, Wright, and Yongue.

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Referred to: Appropriations.

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May 17, 1996

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO INCREASE THE MONTHLY PENSION PAYMENTS FOR QUALIFIED  
FIREMEN AND ELIGIBLE RESCUE SQUAD WORKERS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. G.S. 58-86-55 reads as rewritten:

**"§ 58-86-55. Monthly pensions upon retirement.**

Any member who has served 20 years as an 'eligible fireman' or 'eligible rescue squad worker' in the State of North Carolina, as provided in G.S. 58-86-25 and G.S. 58-86-30, and who has attained the age of 55 years is entitled to be paid a monthly pension from this fund. The monthly pension shall be in the amount of one hundred ~~thirty-five dollars (\$135.00)~~ forty dollars (\$140.00) per month. Any retired fireman receiving a pension of one hundred ~~ten dollars (\$110.00)~~ thirty-five dollars (\$135.00) per month shall, effective

1 July 1, ~~1995, 1996,~~ receive a pension of one hundred ~~thirty-five dollars (\$135.00)~~ forty  
2 dollars (\$140.00) per month.

3 Members shall pay ten dollars (\$10.00) per month as required by G.S. 58-86-35 and  
4 G.S. 58-86-40 for a period of no longer than 20 years. No 'eligible rescue squad member'  
5 shall receive a pension prior to July 1, 1983. No member shall be entitled to a pension  
6 hereunder until the member's official duties as a fireman or rescue squad worker for  
7 which the member is paid compensation shall have been terminated and the member shall  
8 have retired as such according to standards or rules fixed by the board of trustees.

9 A member who is totally and permanently disabled while in the discharge of the  
10 member's official duties as a result of bodily injuries sustained or as a result of extreme  
11 exercise or extreme activity experienced in the course and scope of those official duties  
12 and who leaves the fire or rescue squad service because of this disability shall be entitled  
13 to be paid from the fund a monthly benefit in an amount of one hundred ~~thirty-five dollars~~  
14 ~~(\$135.00)~~ forty dollars (\$140.00) per month beginning the first month after the member's  
15 fifty-fifth birthday. All applications for disability are subject to the approval of the board  
16 who may appoint physicians to examine and evaluate the disabled member prior to  
17 approval of the application, and annually thereafter. Any disabled member shall not be  
18 required to make the monthly payment of ten dollars (\$10.00) as required by G.S. 58-86-  
19 35 and G.S. 58-86-40.

20 A member who is totally and permanently disabled for any cause, other than line of  
21 duty, who leaves the fire or rescue squad service because of this disability and who has at  
22 least 10 years of service with the pension fund, may be permitted to continue making a  
23 monthly contribution of ten dollars (\$10.00) to the fund until the member has made  
24 contributions for a total of 240 months. The member shall upon attaining the age of 55  
25 years be entitled to receive a pension as provided by this section. All applications for  
26 disability are subject to the approval of the board who may appoint physicians to examine  
27 and evaluate the disabled member prior to approval of the application and annually  
28 thereafter.

29 A member who, because his residence is annexed by a city under Part 2 or Part 3 of  
30 Article 4 of Chapter 160A of the General Statutes, or whose department is closed because  
31 of an annexation by a city under Part 2 or Part 3 of Article 4 of Chapter 160A of the  
32 General Statutes, and because of such annexation is unable to perform as a fireman of any  
33 status, and if the member has at least 10 years of service with the pension fund, may be  
34 permitted to continue making a monthly contribution of ten dollars (\$10.00) to the fund  
35 until the member has made contributions for a total of 240 months. The member upon  
36 attaining the age of 55 years and completion of such contributions shall be entitled to  
37 receive a pension as provided by this section. Any application to make monthly  
38 contributions under this section shall be subject to a finding of eligibility by the Board of  
39 Trustees upon application of the member.

40 The pensions provided shall be in addition to all other pensions or benefits under any  
41 other statutes of the State of North Carolina or the United States, notwithstanding any  
42 exclusionary provisions of other pensions or retirement systems provided by law."

43 Sec. 2. This act becomes effective July 1, 1996.