GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2007

Legislative Actuarial Note

RETIREMENT

BILL NUMBER: Senate Bill 580 (Fourth Edition)

SHORT TITLE: State Treasurer/Local OPEB Investments.

SPONSOR(**S**): Senator Clodfelter

FUNDS AFFECTED: General Fund, Highway Fund, and Receipt Funds and local funds

SYSTEM OR PROGRAM AFFECTED: Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System and Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The month following adoption of factors by the Boards of Trustees

BILL SUMMARY: The amendment will allow state and local law enforcement officers to transfer the employer and employee contributions from the Supplemental Retirement Income Plan {401(k) Plan} to the retirement system. The retirement system will convert the funds to a single life annuity which will be paid to the member for life and then to a beneficiary if the member selected an option that leaves a benefit to a beneficiary.

ESTIMATED IMPACT: Both, Buck Consultants, the Retirement Systems' actuary, and Hartman & Associates, the General Assembly's actuary, agree that the changes would not be expected to produce a significant financial impact to the retirement systems.

ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY: Teachers' & State Employees' Retirement System. The cost estimates of the System's Actuary are based on the employee data, actuarial assumptions and actuarial methods used to prepare the December 31, 2005 actuarial valuation of the fund. The data included 321,513 active members with an annual payroll of \$11 billion, 134,719 retired members in receipt of annual pensions totaling \$2.5 billion and actuarial value of assets equal to \$49.7 billion. Significant actuarial assumptions used include (a) an investment return rate of 7.25%, (b) salary increase rate of 6.25%, (c) the George B. Buck Mortality Tables for deaths in service and after retirement and (d) rates of separation from active service based on System experience. The actuarial cost method used was the entry age normal method with open-end unfunded accrued liability and a frozen unfunded liquidation period of nine years. Detailed information concerning these assumptions and methods is shown in the actuary's report, which is available upon request from Stanley Moore.

Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System

The cost estimates of the System's Actuary are based on the employee data, actuarial assumptions and actuarial methods used to prepare the December 31, 2005 actuarial valuation of the fund. The data included 123,015 active members with an annual payroll of \$4.2 billion, 38,448 retired members in receipt of annual pensions totaling \$575 million and actuarial value of assets equal to \$14.4 billion. Significant actuarial assumptions used include (a) an investment return rate of 7.25%, (b) salary increase rate of 6.25%, (c) the 1979 George B. Buck Mortality Tables for deaths in service and after retirement and (d) rates of separation from active service based on System experience. The actuarial cost method used was the projected benefit method with aggregate level normal cost and frozen accrued liability. Detailed information concerning these assumptions and methods is shown in the actuary's report, which is available upon request from Stanley Moore.

SOURCES OF DATA: Buck Consultants

Hartman & Associates, LLC

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS: None

FISCAL RESEARCH DIVISION: (919) 733-4910. The above information is provided in accordance with North Carolina General Statute 120-114 and applicable rules of the North Carolina Senate and House of Representatives.

PREPARED BY: Stanley Moore

APPROVED BY: Lynn Muchmore, Director

Fiscal Research Division

DATE: July 31, 2007

Signed Copy Located in the NCGA Principal Clerk's Offices