



HOUSE BILL 477: Retirement Death Benefits Rewrite.

2025-2026 General Assembly

Committee: Senate Rules and Operations of the Senate	Date: May 21, 2025
Introduced by: Reps. Carson Smith, Wheatley	Prepared by: Jessica Boney
Analysis of: Fifth Edition	Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: House Bill 477 would (i) recodify and standardize the laws related to the Death Benefit Plan within the Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System (TSERS), the Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System (LGERS), the Consolidated Judicial Retirement System (CJRS), and the Legislative Retirement System (LRS), and (ii) create a separate fund for line of duty death benefits.

BILL ANALYSIS:

Death Benefits Statute Rewrite:

Part I of the bill would recodify and standardize the Death Benefit Plan for members of TSERS.

Part II of the bill would recodify and standardize the Death Benefit Plan for members of LGERS.

Part III of the bill would standardize the Death Benefit Plan for members of CJRS.

Part VI of the bill would standardize the Death Benefit Plan for members of LRS.

Part V would make further technical and conforming changes related to the recodification and standardization.

Parts I to Part V would not make substantive changes to the laws governing the Death Benefit Plan and would only provide technical changes.

Funding for Line of Duty Death Benefits:

BACKGROUND: State employers currently contribute 0.13% of salaries toward the Death Benefit Fund.

Part VII would create a separate fund for line of duty death benefits.

Section 16(a) permits the Board of Trustees to deposit up to 0.04% of the State's employer contribution rate from the Death Benefit Fund into a separate fund to pay line of duty death benefits. The separate fund funds would only be used to pay line of duty death benefits, and only if appropriated funds for that purposes were fully expended. Unused funds within the separate fund would revert to the Death Benefit Fund at the end of the fiscal year.

This section would be effective July 1, 2025.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Except as otherwise provided, this act would be effective when it became law.

Kara McCraw
Director



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Legislative Analysis
Division
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