



HOUSE BILL 76: Increase Fire & Rescue Pension Benefit.

2017-2018 General Assembly

Committee:	House Pensions and Retirement. If favorable, re-refer to Appropriations	Date:	March 7, 2017
Introduced by:	Reps. K. Hall, Clampitt, Hardister, Strickland	Prepared by:	Tawanda N. Foster
Analysis of:	First Edition		Committee Counsel

OVERVIEW: House Bill 76 would increase the monthly benefits from the North Carolina Firefighters' and Rescue Squad Workers' Pension Fund from \$170.00 per month to \$175.00 per month.

CURRENT LAW: The North Carolina Firefighters' and Rescue Squad Workers' Pension Fund was established to provide pension allowances and other benefits for eligible firefighters and rescue squad workers in the State who elect to become members of the fund. Chapter 58, Article 86 of the General Statutes sets forth the operations of the pension fund. Current law provides eligible members may receive a pension of \$170.00 per month.

BILL ANALYSIS:

Section 1 increases the pension paid to a member with 20 years of service as an "eligible firefighter" or "eligible rescue squad worker" to \$175.00 per month. Conforming changes are included to increase the pension benefit to members who become totally or permanently disabled while in the line of duty or who are killed in the line of duty. The contribution amount of \$10.00 per month by members remains unchanged.

Section 2 increases the pension paid to a principal beneficiary when a member is killed in the line of duty and meets the requirements of Article 12A of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes to \$175.00 per month.

Section 3 changes the effective dates of S.L. 2016-108 as follows:

- Section 1(a) became effective June 1, 2016.
- Section 1(d) became effective June 1, 2016 and applies to benefits paid when a member is killed in the line of duty on or after June 1, 2016, but before July 1, 2018.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Section 1 becomes effective July 1, 2017, and applies to monthly benefits paid on or after that date. Section 2 becomes effective July 1, 2018, and applies to monthly benefits paid on or after that date. The remainder of this act is effective when it becomes law.

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Director



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BACKGROUND:

Recent Increases in the Fire and Rescue Pension

<u>Year</u>	<u>Monthly Pension</u>	<u>Increase Over Previous Pension</u>
1997	\$141	\$6/month
1998	\$146	\$5/month
2000	\$151	\$5/month
2002	\$156	\$5/month
2003	\$158	\$2/month
2004	\$161	\$3/month
2005	\$163	\$2/month
2006	\$165	\$2/month
2007	\$167	\$2/month
2008	\$170	\$3/month
2017	<i>\$175 proposed</i>	<i>\$5/month proposed</i>