

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 645

92ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR KENNEDY.

Read 1st time February 27, 2003, and 1,000 copies ordered printed.

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

1854S.01I

AN ACT

To repeal sections 86.251, 86.253, and 86.280, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof three new sections relating to police relief and pension systems.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Sections 86.251, 86.253, and 86.280, RSMo, are repealed and three new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 86.251, 86.253, and 86.280, to read as follows:

86.251. 1. The board of trustees may develop and establish a deferred retirement option plan (DROP) in which members who are eligible for retirement but who have not terminated employment as police officers and who have not actually retired may participate. The DROP shall be designed to allow members with at least twenty years of creditable service or who have attained the age of fifty-five who have achieved eligibility for retirement and are entitled to a service retirement allowance and other benefits to postpone actual retirement, continue active employment and accumulate a deferred receipt of the service retirement allowance. No one shall participate in the DROP for a period exceeding five years.

2. Any member who has at least twenty years of creditable service or has attained the age of fifty-five may elect in writing before retirement to participate in the DROP. A member electing to participate in the DROP shall postpone actual retirement, shall continue in active employment and shall not receive any direct retirement allowance payments or benefits during the period of participation.

3. Upon the start of the participation in the DROP, the member shall cease to make any mandatory contributions to the system. No contribution shall be required by the city into the

EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

DROP account. During the period of participation in the DROP, the amount that the member would have received as a service retirement allowance if the member had actually retired instead of entering DROP shall be deposited monthly in the member's DROP account which shall be established in the member's name by the board of trustees. The member's service retirement allowance shall not be adjusted for any cost-of-living increases for any period prior to the member's termination of employment as a police officer and actual retirement. Cost-of-living increases, if any, for any period following the member's termination of employment as a police officer and actual retirement shall be applied only to monthly service retirement payments made following termination of employment as a police officer and actual retirement. Service earned during the period of participation in the DROP shall not be creditable service and shall not be counted in determination of any service retirement allowance or surviving spouse's or dependents' benefits. Compensation paid during the period of participation in the DROP shall not be earnable compensation and shall not be counted in the determination of any service retirement allowance or surviving spouse's or dependent's benefits. The member's service retirement allowance shall be frozen as of the date the member enters DROP. Except as specifically provided in sections 86.200 to 86.366, the member's frozen service retirement allowance shall not increase while the member is participating in DROP or after the member's participation in DROP ends, and the member shall not share in any benefit improvement that is enacted or that becomes effective while such member is participating in the DROP.

4. A member shall cease participation in the DROP upon the termination of the member's employment as a police officer and actual retirement, or at the end of the five-year period commencing on the first day of the member's participation in the DROP, or as of the effective date, but in no event prior to October 1, 2001, of the member's election to return to active participation in the system, whichever occurs first. A member's election to return to active participation in the system before the end of the five-year period commencing on the first day of participation in the DROP shall be made and shall become effective in accordance with procedures established by the board of trustees, but in no event prior to October 1, 2001. Upon the member's termination of employment as a police officer and actual retirement, the member shall elect to receive the value of the member's DROP account, in one of the following forms of payment:

- (a) A lump sum payment; or
- (b) Equal monthly installments over a ten-year period.

Either form of payment should begin within thirty days after the member's notice to the board of trustees that the member has selected a particular option.

5. If a member who is participating in the DROP elects to return to active participation in the system or if a member who is participating in the DROP does not terminate employment **and actually retires** as a police officer in the city for which the retirement system was

established pursuant to sections 86.200 to 86.366 [and actually retires] at the end of the five-year period commencing on the first day of the member's participation in the DROP, the member shall return to active participation in the system and shall resume making mandatory contributions to the system effective as of the day after participation in the DROP ends or, if later, October 1, 2001. The board of trustees shall notify the police commissioners to begin deducting mandatory contributions from the member's salary and the member's employment period shall count as creditable service beginning as of the day the member returns to active participation.

6. In no event shall a member whose participation in DROP has ended for any reason be eligible to participate in DROP again.

7. Upon the member's termination of employment as a police officer and actual retirement, the member's mandatory contributions to the retirement system shall be paid to the member pursuant to subsection 4 of section 86.253.

8. If a member dies prior to termination of employment as a police officer and actual retirement while participating in the DROP or before the member has received full withdrawal of the amount in the member's DROP account under the installment optional payment form, the remaining balance of the member's DROP account shall be payable to the member's surviving spouse; or, if the member is then unmarried, to the member's dependent children in equal shares; or, if none, to the member's dependent mother or father; or, if none, to the member's designated beneficiary or, if no such beneficiary is then living, to the member's estate. Payment shall be made in a lump sum within sixty days after receipt by the board of trustees of evidence and proof of the death of a member. In addition, the member's mandatory contributions, if any, that were not already paid to the member pursuant to subsection 4 of section 86.253 shall be paid to the member's surviving spouse pursuant to section 86.288.

9. If a member [has elected to participate in the DROP and during such participation period] applies for and receives benefits for an accidental disability retirement allowance pursuant to the provisions of section 86.263, the member shall forfeit all rights, claims or interest in the member's DROP account and the member's benefits shall be calculated as if the member has continued in employment and had not elected to participate in the DROP. Any portion of a DROP account that has been forfeited as provided in this subsection shall be a general asset of the system.

10. A member's DROP account shall earn interest equal to the rate of return earned by the system's investment portfolio on a market value basis, including realized and unrealized gains and losses, net of investment expense, as certified by the system's actuary. As of the last day of each plan year beginning after DROP participation begins, the member's DROP account balance, determined as of the last day of the prior plan year, shall be credited with interest at the investment rate earned by the assets of the retirement system for such prior plan year. If distribution of the member's DROP account balance is made in a lump sum under subsection 4

or 8 of this section, interest for the plan year of distribution shall be credited on the ending balance for the prior plan year at the investment rate earned on the assets of the retirement system for the prior plan year, in proportion to the part of the plan year preceding the date of the member's termination of employment or death, whichever is earlier. If the member's DROP account is paid in equal monthly installments pursuant to subsection 4 of this section, interest during the installment period shall be credited as of the last day of each plan year ending after installment payment begins on the account balance as of the first or last day of the plan year, whichever is lower, at the investment rate earned by the assets of the system for the prior plan year. Interest for the year in which the final installment is paid shall be credited on the balance remaining after the final installment is paid, at the investment rate earned on the assets of the system for the prior plan year, in proportion to the part of the plan year preceding payment of the final installment. Any interest credited to the DROP account during the installment period shall be paid as soon as reasonably possible after the final monthly installment. No interest shall be credited on amounts, if any, added to the member's DROP account during the year in which the distribution of the account is completed.

11. The board of trustees shall not incur any liability individually or on behalf of other individuals for any act or omission, made in good faith in relation to the DROP or assets credited to DROP accounts established by this section. The provisions of the Internal Revenue Code and regulations promulgated thereunder shall supersede any provision of this section if there is any inconsistency with the Internal Revenue Code or regulation.

12. Upon the receipt by the board of trustees of evidence and proof that the death of a member resulted from an event occurring while the member was in the actual performance of duty, and if the member is participating in the DROP, the member's surviving spouse or, if the member is then unmarried, the member's unmarried dependent children, may elect within thirty days after the member's death to have the amount in the member's DROP account paid in the form of a monthly survivor annuity. Payment of the survivor annuity shall begin within sixty days after the election is received. Payment to the member's surviving spouse shall continue until the surviving spouse's death; payment to the member's unmarried dependent children shall be made while any child qualifies as an unmarried dependent child pursuant to section 86.280. The survivor annuity shall be the actuarial equivalent of the member's DROP account as of the date of the member's death. In no event shall the total amount paid pursuant to this subsection be less than the member's DROP account balance as of the date of the member's death.

86.253. 1. Upon termination of employment as a police officer and actual retirement for service, a member shall receive a service retirement allowance which shall be an amount equal to two percent of the member's average final compensation multiplied by the number of years of the member's creditable service, up to twenty-five years, plus an amount equal to four percent

of the member's average final compensation for each year of creditable service in excess of twenty-five years but not in excess of thirty years; plus an additional five percent of the member's average final compensation for any creditable service in excess of thirty years. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the service retirement allowance of a member who does not earn any creditable service after August 11, 1999, shall not exceed an amount equal to seventy percent of the member's average final compensation, and the service retirement allowance of a member who earns creditable service on or after August 12, 1999, shall not exceed an amount equal to seventy-five percent of the member's average final compensation; provided, however, that the service retirement allowance of a member who is participating in the DROP pursuant to section 86.251 on August 12, 1999, who returns to active participation in the system pursuant to section 86.251, and who terminates employment as a police officer and actually retires for reasons other than death or disability before earning at least two years of creditable service after such return shall be the sum of (1) the member's service retirement allowance as of the date the member entered DROP and (2) an additional service retirement allowance based solely on the creditable service earned by the member following the member's return to active participation. The member's total years of creditable service shall be taken into account for the purpose of determining whether the additional allowance attributable to such additional creditable service is two percent, four percent or five percent of the member's average final compensation.

2. If, at any time since first becoming a member of the retirement system, the member has served in the armed forces of the United States, and has subsequently been reinstated as a policeman within ninety days after the member's discharge, the member shall be granted credit for such service as if the member's service in the police department of such city had not been interrupted by the member's induction into the armed forces of the United States. If earnable compensation is needed for such period in computation of benefits it shall be calculated on the basis of the compensation payable to the officers of the member's rank during the period of the member's absence. Notwithstanding any provision of sections 86.200 to 86.366 to the contrary, the retirement system governed by sections 86.200 to 86.366 shall be operated and administered in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994, as amended.

3. The service retirement allowance of each present and future retired member who terminated employment as a police officer and actually retired from service after attaining age fifty-five or after completing twenty years of creditable service **and the death benefit payable to each surviving spouse pursuant to subdivision (8) of section 86.280 and subdivision (8) of section 86.283** shall be increased annually at a rate not to exceed three percent as approved by the board of trustees beginning with the first increase in the **first month of the second [October following] plan year beginning after** the member's retirement **or death**, as

applicable, and subsequent increases in **the first month of each [October] plan year** thereafter, provided that each increase is subject to a determination by the board of trustees that the consumer price index (United States City Average Index) as published by the United States Department of Labor shows an increase of not less than the approved rate during the latest twelve-month period for which the index is available at the date of determination; and provided further, that if the increase is in excess of the approved rate for any year, such excess shall be accumulated as to any retired member and increases may be granted in subsequent years subject to a maximum of three percent for each **[full] such plan** year from October following the member's retirement but not to exceed a total percentage increase of thirty percent, **provided, however, effective October 1, 2006, the thirty percent limitation on the cost-of-living adjustment will no longer apply**. In no event shall the increase described under this subsection be applied to the amount, if any, paid to a member or surviving spouse of a deceased member for services as a special consultant under subsection 5 of this section **[or, if applicable, subsection 6 of this section]**. If the board of trustees determines that the index has decreased for any year, the benefits of any retired member that have been increased shall be decreased but not below the member's initial benefit. No annual increase shall be made of less than one percent and no decrease of less than three percent except that any decrease may be limited in amount by the initial benefit.

4. In addition to any other retirement allowance payable under this section and section 86.250, a member, upon termination of employment as police officer and actual service retirement, shall be repaid the total amount of the member's mandatory contributions to the retirement system without interest. The board shall pay the retired member such total amount of the member's mandatory contributions to the retirement system to be paid pursuant to this subsection within sixty days after such retired member's date of termination of employment as a police officer and actual retirement.

5. Any person who is receiving retirement benefits from the retirement system, upon application to the board of trustees, shall be made, constituted, appointed and employed by the board of trustees as a special consultant on the problems of retirement, aging and other matters, for the remainder of the person's life or, in the case of a deceased member's surviving spouse, until the earlier of the person's death or remarriage, and upon request of the board of trustees shall give opinions and be available to give opinions in writing or orally, in response to such requests, as may be required. For such services the special consultant shall be compensated monthly, in an amount which, when added to any monthly retirement benefits being received from the retirement system, including any cost-of-living increases under subsection 3 of this section, shall total six hundred fifty dollars a month. This employment shall in no way affect any person's eligibility for retirement benefits under this chapter, or in any way have the effect of reducing retirement benefits, notwithstanding any provisions of law to the contrary.

86.280. Upon the receipt of proper proofs of the death of a member in service, **including a member who is participating in DROP pursuant to section 86.251**, and provided no other benefits are payable under the retirement system, there shall be paid the following benefits:

(1) **Effective for deaths in service occurring on or after October 1, 2003, a pension to the surviving spouse for the one-year period immediately following the member's death or until the surviving spouse dies or remarries, whichever is earliest, equal to the greater of:**

(a) **The member's earnable compensation as in effect on the day prior to the member's death or;**

(b) **The total benefit payable to the surviving spouse and any dependent children pursuant to subdivision (2) or (3) of this section, whichever is applicable, and, if the surviving spouse is alive and unmarried at the end of such one-year period, the total benefit payable to the surviving spouse and any dependent children pursuant to subdivision (2) or (3) of this section, whichever is applicable, shall become payable.**

(2) Effective October 1, 1999, a pension to the surviving spouse until the surviving spouse dies or remarries, whichever is earlier, of forty percent of the deceased member's average final compensation plus fifteen percent of such compensation to, or for the benefit of, each unmarried dependent child of the deceased member, who is either under the age of eighteen, or who, regardless of age, is totally and permanently mentally or physically disabled and incapacitated from engaging in gainful occupation sufficient to support himself or herself, but not in excess of a total of three children;

[(2)] (3) Any surviving spouse or unmarried dependent child receiving benefits pursuant to the provisions of this section immediately prior to October 1, 1999, shall, upon application to the board of trustees, be made, constituted, appointed and employed by the board of trustees as a special consultant on the problems of retirement, aging and other matters while the surviving spouse or unmarried dependent child is receiving such benefits, and upon request of the board of trustees shall give opinions in writing or orally in response to such requests as may be required. Beginning October 1, 1999, for such services as may be required, the surviving spouse shall receive additional monthly compensation in an amount equal to fifteen percent of the deceased member's average final compensation, and there shall be payable an additional monthly compensation of one hundred dollars or five percent of the member's average final compensation, whichever is greater, for each unmarried dependent child of the member, but not in excess of a total of three children. The additional monthly compensation payable to a surviving spouse pursuant to this subdivision shall be adjusted for any cost-of-living increases that apply, pursuant to subdivision [(8)] (9) of this section, to the benefit the surviving spouse was receiving prior to October 1, 1999;

[(3)] (4) If no surviving spouse benefits are payable pursuant to [subdivisions (1) and

(2)] **subdivision (1), (2), or (3)** of this section, such total pension as would have been paid pursuant to [subdivisions (1) and (2)] **subdivision (1), (2), or (3)** of this section had there been a surviving spouse shall be divided among the unmarried dependent children under age eighteen and such unmarried dependent children, regardless of age, who are totally and permanently mentally or physically disabled and incapacitated from engaging in a gainful occupation sufficient to support themselves. The benefit shall be divided equally among the eligible dependent children, and the share of a child who is no longer eligible shall be divided equally among the remaining eligible dependent children; provided that not more than one-half of the surviving spouse's benefit shall be paid for one child;

[(4)] (5) If there is no surviving spouse or dependent children, the return of accumulated contributions to the designated beneficiary as set forth in section 86.293;

[(5)] (6) No benefits pursuant to this section shall be paid to a child over eighteen years of age who is totally and permanently disabled if such child is a patient or resident of a public-supported institution, nor shall such benefits be paid unless such disability occurred prior to such child reaching the age of eighteen;

[(6)] (7) Wherever any dependent child designated by the board of trustees to receive benefits pursuant to this section is in the care of the surviving spouse of the deceased member, such benefits may be paid to such surviving spouse for the child;

[(7)] (8) Any benefit payable to, or for the benefit of, a child or children under the age of eighteen years pursuant to subdivisions (1) to [(3)] (4) of this section shall continue to be paid beyond the age of eighteen years through the age of twenty-two years if the child is a full-time student at a regularly accredited college, business school, nursing school, school for technical or vocational training, or university, but such extended benefit shall cease whenever the child ceases to be a student. A college or university shall be deemed to be regularly accredited which maintains membership in good standing in a national or regional accrediting agency recognized by any state college or university;

[(8)] (9) The benefits payable pursuant to **subdivisions (2) to (4) of this section to or with respect to** the surviving spouse of a member who died in service after attaining the age of fifty-five or completing twenty years of creditable service shall be increased in the same percentages and pursuant to the same method as is provided in section 86.253 for adjustments in the service retirement allowance of a retired member.