

By Senator Saunders

25-884-00

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to special risk membership in  
3           the Florida Retirement System; amending s.  
4           121.0515, F.S.; extending membership in the  
5           special risk class to certain helicopter pilots  
6           and supervisory personnel of emergency medical  
7           technicians and paramedics; providing a finding  
8           of important state interest; providing an  
9           effective date.

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11 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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13           Section 1. Subsection (2) of section 121.0515, Florida  
14 Statutes, is amended to read:

15           121.0515 Special risk membership; criteria;  
16 designation and removal of classification; credits for past  
17 service and prior service; retention of special risk normal  
18 retirement date.--

19           (2) CRITERIA.--A member, to be designated as a special  
20 risk member, must meet the following criteria:

21           (a) The member must be employed as a law enforcement  
22 officer and be certified, or required to be certified, in  
23 compliance with s. 943.1395; however, sheriffs and elected  
24 police chiefs shall be excluded from meeting the certification  
25 requirements of this paragraph. In addition, the member's  
26 duties and responsibilities must include the pursuit,  
27 apprehension, and arrest of law violators or suspected law  
28 violators; or the member must be an active member of a bomb  
29 disposal unit whose primary responsibility is the location,  
30 handling, and disposal of explosive devices; or the member  
31 must be the supervisor or command officer of a member or

1 members who have such responsibilities; provided, however,  
2 administrative support personnel, including, but not limited  
3 to, those whose primary duties and responsibilities are in  
4 accounting, purchasing, legal, and personnel, shall not be  
5 included;

6 (b) The member must be employed as a firefighter and  
7 be certified, or required to be certified, in compliance with  
8 s. 633.35 and be employed solely within the fire department of  
9 the employer or agency of state government. In addition, the  
10 member's duties and responsibilities must include on-the-scene  
11 fighting of fires or direct supervision of firefighting units,  
12 or the member must be the supervisor or command officer of a  
13 member or members who have such responsibilities; provided,  
14 however, administrative support personnel, including, but not  
15 limited to, those whose primary duties and responsibilities  
16 are in accounting, purchasing, legal, and personnel, shall not  
17 be included;

18 (c) The member must be employed as a correctional  
19 officer and be certified, or required to be certified, in  
20 compliance with s. 943.1395. In addition, the member's  
21 primary duties and responsibilities must be the custody, and  
22 physical restraint when necessary, of prisoners or inmates  
23 within a prison, jail, or other criminal detention facility,  
24 or while on work detail outside the facility, or while being  
25 transported; or the member must be the supervisor or command  
26 officer of a member or members who have such responsibilities;  
27 provided, however, administrative support personnel,  
28 including, but not limited to, those whose primary duties and  
29 responsibilities are in accounting, purchasing, legal, and  
30 personnel, shall not be included; however, superintendents and  
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1 assistant superintendents shall participate in the Special  
2 Risk Class; ~~or~~

3 (d) The member must be employed by a licensed Advance  
4 Life Support (ALS) or Basic Life Support (BLS) employer as an  
5 emergency medical technician or a paramedic and be certified  
6 in compliance with s. 401.27. In addition, the member's  
7 primary duties and responsibilities must include on-the-scene  
8 emergency medical care or direct supervision of emergency  
9 medical technicians and paramedics, or the member must be the  
10 supervisor or command officer of one or more members who have  
11 such responsibilities. However, administrative support  
12 personnel, including, but not limited to, those whose primary  
13 responsibilities are in accounting, purchasing, legal, and  
14 personnel, shall not be included; ~~or-~~

15 (e) The member must be employed as a Federal Aviation  
16 Administration-licensed helicopter pilot by a municipal,  
17 county, or state agency authorized to provide law enforcement,  
18 fire protection, or emergency medical services. In addition,  
19 the member's duties must include piloting the aircraft for the  
20 purpose of rescue, surveillance, or pursuit or the movement of  
21 personnel of any such agency. However, administrative support  
22 personnel, including, but not limited to, those whose primary  
23 responsibilities are in accounting, purchasing, legal, and  
24 personnel, shall not be included.

25 Section 2. The Legislature finds that a proper and  
26 legitimate state purpose is served when employees and retirees  
27 of the state and of its political subdivisions and the  
28 dependents, survivors, and beneficiaries of such employees and  
29 retirees, are extended the basic protections afforded by  
30 governmental retirement systems that are managed,  
31 administered, and funded in an actuarially sound manner, as

1 required by s. 14, Article X of the State Constitution and  
2 part VII of chapter 112, Florida Statutes. Therefore, the  
3 Legislature hereby determines and declares that the provisions  
4 of this act fulfill an important state interest.

5 Section 3. This act shall take effect October 1, 2000.

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8 SENATE SUMMARY

9 Extends membership in the special risk class of the  
10 Florida Retirement System to helicopter pilots employed  
11 by governmental law enforcement, firefighting, or  
12 emergency medical agencies and to persons who supervise  
13 emergency medical technicians or paramedics or who  
14 supervise the persons who supervise the emergency medical  
15 technicians or paramedics.  
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