

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 997 Florida Retirement System
SPONSOR(S): Bilirakis
TIED BILLS: None **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** SB 1626

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR
1) Governmental Operations Committee		Williamson	Everhart
2) Criminal Justice Committee			
3) Fiscal Council			
4) State Administration Council			
5) _____			

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

The Florida Retirement System (FRS) is a multi-employer, non-contributory pension plan providing retirement income benefits to Florida government employees. The active membership of the FRS is divided into five membership classes, one of which is the Senior Management Service Class. In 2000, Capital Collateral Regional Counsels were added to the Senior Management Service Class; however, they were not given the authority to designate additional positions in the regional offices for membership in the Senior Management Service Class.

The bill authorizes the capital collateral regional counsel to designate additional positions in the regional offices for membership in the Senior Management Service Class, provided certain criteria are met. The benefit authorized by the bill is retroactive to January 1, 1994.

Current figures were not available; however, FRS employers would pay an increased retirement contribution rate for their FRS employees who are affected by the bill. The fiscal impact on the FRS Trust Fund could be significant since it appears that membership in the Senior Management Service Class is retroactive.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. HOUSE PRINCIPLES ANALYSIS:

Ensure lower taxes – Though agency contributions to the Florida Retirement System could increase as a result of this bill; however, it does not appear to create a need to increase taxes in order to cover the proposed retirement benefit.

B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Background

Florida Retirement System

The Florida Retirement System (FRS) is a multi-employer, non-contributory pension plan providing retirement income benefits to more than 630,000 active and 226,000 retired members and beneficiaries of its more than 800 government employers.¹ The active membership of the FRS is divided into five membership classes: Regular Class; Special Risk Class; Special Risk Administrative Support Class; Elected Officers' Class; and Senior Management Service Class. Each class is separately funded based upon the costs attributable to the members of that class.

Senior Management Service Class

The Senior Management Service Class consists of members who serve in a managerial capacity, for example, community college presidents and school superintendents. Contribution rates for the Senior Management Service Class are 11.64 percent versus 9.98 percent for the Regular Class.

In 2000, Capital Collateral Regional Councils were added to the Senior Management Service Class; however, they were not given the authority to designate additional positions in the regional offices for membership in the Senior Management Service Class.²

Capital Collateral Regional Councils

There are three regional offices of capital collateral counsel that are located in the northern, middle, and southern regions of the state.³ Each capital collateral regional counsel (counsel) is appointed for a term of three years.⁴ The counsel represents each person convicted and sentenced to death in Florida. The purpose is to institute and prosecute collateral actions challenging the legality of the judgment and sentence imposed against each person.⁵

Effect of Bill

The bill authorizes the capital collateral regional counsel to designate additional positions in the regional offices for membership in the Senior Management Service Class. Notice of intent to designate the positions must be published once a week for two consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the affected counties. One nonelective full-time position may be designated; however, if the counsel's office has 200 or more regularly established positions, then additional designations can be made so long as the designations do not exceed 0.5 percent of the regularly established positions

¹ Department of Management Services 2005 Substantive Bill Analysis, HB 215, January 27, 2005, at 4.

² Section 19, chapter 2000-169, L.O.F.; s. 121.055(1)(h), F.S.

³ Section 27.701(1), F.S.

⁴ Section 27.701(2), F.S.

⁵ Section 27.702(1), F.S.

within the counsel's office. Each position designated by the counsel must be a managerial or policymaking position.

The benefit authorized by the bill is retroactive to January 1, 1994.

C. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1 amends s. 121.055, F.S., relating to the Senior Management Service Class.

Section 2 provides a July 1, 2005, effective date.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None. The bill does not create, modify, amend, or eliminate a state revenue source.

2. Expenditures:

Unknown. Current figures were not available; however, FRS employers would pay an increased retirement contribution rate for their FRS employees who are affected by the bill.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None. The bill does not create, modify, amend, or eliminate a local revenue source.

2. Expenditures:

None. The bill does not create, modify, amend, or eliminate a local expenditure.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

This bill does not regulate the conduct of persons in the private sector.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

The fiscal impact on the FRS Trust Fund could be significant since it appears that membership in the Senior Management Service Class is retroactive; however, current figures were not available.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

The bill does not appear to: require the counties or cities to spend funds or take an action requiring the expenditure of funds; reduce the authority that cities or counties have to raise revenues in the aggregate; or reduce the percentage of a state tax shared with cities or counties.

2. Other:

Because current figures were not available, it is unclear whether this bill complies with, or is in violation of, Art. X, s. 14 of the Florida Constitution.

Article X, s. 14, Florida Constitution

Since 1976, the Florida Constitution has required that retirement benefit increases under public pension plans in the state of Florida must be concurrently funded on a sound actuarial basis, as set forth below:

SECTION 14. State retirement systems benefit changes.--A governmental unit responsible for any retirement or pension system supported in whole or in part by public funds shall not after January 1, 1977, provide any increase in the benefits to the members or beneficiaries of such system unless such unit has made or concurrently makes provision for the funding of the increase in benefits on a sound actuarial basis.

Part VII of chapter 112, F.S.

Article X, s. 14 of the Florida Constitution is implemented by statute under part VII of chapter 112, F.S., the "Florida Protection of Public Employee Retirement Benefits Act," which establishes minimum standards for the operation and funding of public employee retirement systems and plans in the State of Florida. The key provision of this act states the legislative intent to "prohibit the use of any procedure, methodology, or assumptions the effect of which is to transfer to future taxpayers any portion of the costs which may reasonably have been expected to be paid by the current taxpayers."

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

IV. AMENDMENTS/COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE & COMBINED BILL CHANGES

Not applicable.