

## **HB 1193 — RETIREMENT**

by Rep. Plakon and others (SB 1932 by Senator Altman)

The bill creates the “Adam Pierce Act,” which revises the definition of “special risk member” to provide that any Florida Retirement System (FRS) member employed in the categories of law enforcement, firefighting, and criminal detention positions that suffers a disability in the line of duty through a qualifying injury may continue membership in the FRS Special Risk Class, even if employed in a position which would not otherwise qualify for Special Risk membership, if such member continues to work for the same employer for whom they were working when they sustained the qualifying injury. Members benefiting from this change are not eligible for Special Risk Administrative Support Class membership.

In addition, this bill expands circumstances in which a firefighter’s employer must pay an additional accidental death benefit to the firefighter’s beneficiary to include payment when a firefighter’s death is due to participation in a training exercise. This bill also expands circumstances in which a firefighter’s employer must pay an additional death benefit by requiring payment when a firefighter is injured by an unlawful and intentional act of another person in the performance of his or her duties and dies as a result of such injury. Both benefit payments are annually adjusted based on the Consumer Price Index.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect immediately and apply to firefighter deaths occurring on or after November 1, 2003.

*Vote: Senate 38-0; House 118-0*