



Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund

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Member Services Representatives 1-800-ASK-IMRF

www.imrf.org

GENERAL MEMORANDUM

Number: 617

Date: August 15, 2011

To: All Authorized Agents

Subject: Recent Public Acts signed into law: P.A. 97-0272, P.A. 97-0273

Executive Summary

On August 8, 2011, the governor signed House Bill 3253 (Public Act 97-0272) and House Bill 3332 (Public Act 97-0273) into law.

- Closes the Elected County Official plan to new members. Current ECO members may remain in the plan.
- Sheriff's Law Enforcement Personnel (SLEP) plan members who first join SLEP on or on or after August 8, 2011, may no longer upgrade Regular service credit to SLEP.
- Provides a brief window during which active IMRF members can transfer up to 10 years of local police pension fund service into IMRF.

Dear Authorized Agent:

On August 8, 2011, the governor signed House Bill 3253 (Public Act 97-0272) and House Bill 3332 (Public Act 97-0273) into law. The new provisions are explained below:

- **Elected County Official (ECO) Plan**

Closes the Elected County Official (ECO) plan to new members. Elected county officials may not elect the ECO plan; counties may not adopt the ECO plan.

Effective date: August 8, 2011

Applies to counties and to all elected county officials

Old Law: A member participating as an elected county official could elect to participate in the Elected County Official (ECO) Plan if his/her county adopted the program by resolution.

New Law: If a current elected county official has not elected to participate in ECO, he/she no longer has the option to do so. Future elected county officials may not elect ECO. If a county has not adopted the ECO plan, it no longer has the option to do so.

Elected County Officials currently participating in ECO remain in the plan. However, if after August 8, 2011, an ECO member is elected to a different office:

- In the **same** county, he or she can participate in ECO.
- In a **different** county, he or she is not eligible for ECO in that new county.

Members participating in the Original ECO plan are not affected by this provision, as long as they have not revoked their ECO participation.

- **SLEP Plan**

Sheriff's Law Enforcement Personnel (SLEP) plan members may no longer upgrade Regular service credit to SLEP.

Effective date: August 8, 2011

Applies to members first beginning SLEP participation on or after August 8, 2011

Old Law: SLEP members could convert up to 10 years of Regular plan service credit to SLEP service. The Regular service must have been earned before the member's SLEP service.

New Law: Members who join the SLEP plan on or after August 8, 2011, are not eligible to upgrade Regular service credit to SLEP. SLEP members who began participating in SLEP before August 8, 2011, remain eligible to convert up to 10 years of Regular plan service credit to SLEP service.

- **Transfer of local police pension fund service into IMRF**

Provides a brief window during which active IMRF members can transfer up to 10 years of local police pension fund service into IMRF.

Effective date: August 8, 2011

Applies to active members

Old Law: Reciprocity does not exist between IMRF and local police pension funds. If a member has both IMRF and local police pension fund service credit, that service cannot be combined to calculate a pension.

New Law: Provides a brief window during which active members of IMRF can transfer up to 10 years of local police pension fund service to IMRF. Applications must be received no later than October 6, 2011. The cost to the member for this transfer is the difference between how much money is transferred from the member's local police pension fund to IMRF and the contributions that would have been required (and interest that would have been credited) had the service been earned in IMRF. (If more money is received than would have been required, no refund is payable.)

Current IMRF members can transfer their local police pension fund service to IMRF by completing IMRF Form 6.95, "Article 3 Police Pension Fund Transfer to IMRF Under Public Act 97-0273." The form can be downloaded from the IMRF website. Members without web access can request the form by calling 1-800-ASK-IMRF (1-800-275-4673). **IMRF must receive the member's application no later than October 6, 2011.**

Current IMRF members who took a refund of their local police pension fund service may repay the refund, reinstate the service, and transfer the service to IMRF. The member should contact the local police pension fund to begin the reinstatement process.

Questions?

If you have any questions, please call an IMRF Member Services Representative at 1-800-ASK-IMRF (1-800-275-4673), 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Sincerely,



Louis W. Kosiba
Executive Director