



ISSUE BRIEF

House Bill 4459:

Sick Leave Credit – Regional Offices of Education

IMRF Position:
NEUTRAL

Sponsor:
Representative Yednock

Proposed Change in the Law

This bill would include Regional Offices of Education (ROE) to the list of educational employer types from which IMRF members use unused, unpaid sick leave from multiple employers. It also includes other, non-pension related changes applicable to ROEs.

Reasons for Position

Currently, unused, unpaid sick leave can be combined with other educational employers, but Regional Offices of Education are not included. For members participating with non-educational employers, unused, unpaid sick leave can be used only from the final employer.

This bill makes no change to the maximum amount of service credit that can be earned by converting unused, unpaid sick leave. It also makes no changes to the process or rules for how to convert the service.

The statute was changed in 2009 to allow members who were participating with a school district at retirement to combine unused, unpaid sick leave from other school districts. It was then updated in 2019 to include other educational employers. Because ROEs are included as participating employers in a different section of the IMRF Article than what was included in the 2019 legislation, it did not apply to those employers.

There are currently 22 ROEs participating in IMRF with 538 active members. The previous bills adding school districts and other educational employers were meant to mirror equivalent provisions in the Teachers' Retirement System, as is this bill. This would have a cost to the Fund, but it would be negligible and have no discernable effect on employer rates or funding status.

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