

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2001**

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HOUSE BILL 27

Short Title: Increase Firemen and Rescue Squad Pensions. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Dedmon; Alexander, Allred, Barefoot, Buchanan, Cole, Crawford, Davis, Gillespie, Insko, Justus, Luebke, Shubert, Smith, Wainwright, Warner, Warwick, and Womble.

Referred to: Pensions and Retirement.

February 1, 2001

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO INCREASE THE MONTHLY PENSION FOR MEMBERS OF THE
2 FIREMEN'S AND RESCUE SQUAD WORKERS' PENSION FUND.
3

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 58-86-55 reads as rewritten:

6 "**§ 58-86-55. Monthly pensions upon retirement.**

7 Any member who has served 20 years as an "eligible fireman" or "eligible rescue
8 squad worker" in the State of North Carolina, as provided in G.S. 58-86-25 and G.S.
9 58-86-30, and who has attained the age of 55 years is entitled to be paid a monthly
10 pension from this fund. The monthly pension shall be in the amount of ~~one hundred~~
11 ~~fifty one dollars (\$151.00)~~ one hundred sixty-one dollars (\$161.00) per month. Any
12 retired fireman receiving a pension shall, effective July 1, 2000, receive a pension of
13 ~~one hundred fifty one dollars (\$151.00)~~ one hundred sixty-one dollars (\$161.00) per
14 month.

15 Members shall pay ten dollars (\$10.00) per month as required by G.S. 58-86-35 and
16 G.S. 58-86-40 for a period of no longer than 20 years. No "eligible rescue squad
17 member" shall receive a pension prior to July 1, 1983. No member shall be entitled to a
18 pension hereunder until the member's official duties as a fireman or rescue squad
19 worker for which the member is paid compensation shall have been terminated and the
20 member shall have retired as such according to standards or rules fixed by the board of
21 trustees.

22 A member who is totally and permanently disabled while in the discharge of the
23 member's official duties as a result of bodily injuries sustained or as a result of extreme
24 exercise or extreme activity experienced in the course and scope of those official duties
25 and who leaves the fire or rescue squad service because of this disability shall be
26 entitled to be paid from the fund a monthly benefit in an amount of ~~one hundred fifty-~~

1 ~~one dollars (\$151.00)~~ one hundred sixty-one dollars (\$161.00) per month beginning the
2 first month after the member's fifty-fifth birthday. All applications for disability are
3 subject to the approval of the board who may appoint physicians to examine and
4 evaluate the disabled member prior to approval of the application, and annually
5 thereafter. Any disabled member shall not be required to make the monthly payment of
6 ten dollars (\$10.00) as required by G.S. 58-86-35 and G.S. 58-86-40.

7 A member who is totally and permanently disabled for any cause, other than line of
8 duty, who leaves the fire or rescue squad service because of this disability and who has
9 at least 10 years of service with the pension fund, may be permitted to continue making
10 a monthly contribution of ten dollars (\$10.00) to the fund until the member has made
11 contributions for a total of 240 months. The member shall upon attaining the age of 55
12 years be entitled to receive a pension as provided by this section. All applications for
13 disability are subject to the approval of the board who may appoint physicians to
14 examine and evaluate the disabled member prior to approval of the application and
15 annually thereafter.

16 A member who, because his residence is annexed by a city under Part 2 or Part 3 of
17 Article 4 of Chapter 160A of the General Statutes, or whose department is closed
18 because of an annexation by a city under Part 2 or Part 3 of Article 4 of Chapter 160A
19 of the General Statutes, and because of such annexation is unable to perform as a
20 fireman of any status, and if the member has at least 10 years of service with the
21 pension fund, may be permitted to continue making a monthly contribution of ten
22 dollars (\$10.00) to the fund until the member has made contributions for a total of 240
23 months. The member upon attaining the age of 55 years and completion of such
24 contributions shall be entitled to receive a pension as provided by this section. Any
25 application to make monthly contributions under this section shall be subject to a
26 finding of eligibility by the Board of Trustees upon application of the member.

27 The pensions provided shall be in addition to all other pensions or benefits under any
28 other statutes of the State of North Carolina or the United States, notwithstanding any
29 exclusionary provisions of other pensions or retirement systems provided by law."

30 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2001.