

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 46th Legislature (1997)

HOUSE CONCURRENT  
RESOLUTION NO. 1049

By: Roberts of the House

and

Monson of the Senate

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution relating to retirement; describing intent; creating a Task Force; providing for study of the benefits paid by the Oklahoma Firefighters Pension and Retirement System; requiring report; and providing for membership and appointment.

WHEREAS, fire protection is a matter of statewide concern; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Oklahoma has a responsibility to all citizens of this state to ensure the availability of adequate and reliable fire protection; and

WHEREAS, the effective recruitment of qualified firefighters is significantly enhanced through the provisions of meaningful disability and pension benefits for all state firefighters; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Oklahoma has enacted laws authorizing cities to pension meritorious and disabled firefighters through the Oklahoma Firefighters Pension and Retirement System; and

WHEREAS, Oklahoma firefighters do not participate in Social Security coverage; and

WHEREAS, most public sector retirement systems provide some type of cost-of-living adjustment to employees after retirement; and

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Firefighters Pension and Retirement System has provided cost-of-living increases to retirees since the System's inception pursuant to ad hoc increases as authorized by the Legislature of the State of Oklahoma and pursuant to repealed Section 49-136 of Title 11 of the Oklahoma Statutes; and

WHEREAS, members of the Oklahoma Firefighters Pension and Retirement System who retired under the ad hoc increases have lost a significant portion of their purchasing power; and

WHEREAS, it is both prudent and responsible for meaningful lifetime benefits to be provided to meritorious and disabled firefighters and their survivors through the Oklahoma Firefighters Pension and Retirement System.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 46TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT there is hereby created the Oklahoma Firefighters Pension and Retirement System Pension Benefit Task Force. The purpose of the Task Force shall be to study the current and long-term effect on the purchasing power of benefits paid to retired and disabled firefighters and their survivors by the Oklahoma Firefighters Pension and Retirement System, and to advise the House of Representatives and the Senate on the alternatives to solving any related problems.

THAT the study shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. A review of retirees' current and future benefit levels which considers members' needs and concerns;
2. A review of the current legislative policy toward the maintenance of member benefit purchasing power; and
3. A review of the methods available for funding the current and future benefit requirements of the members and their survivors of the Oklahoma Firefighters Pension and Retirement System.

THAT the Task Force shall issue a report of their findings and recommendations to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate by February 2, 1998.

THAT the Task Force shall include eleven (11) members. Four of these members shall be members of the House of Representatives and shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Four of these members shall be members of the Senate and shall be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate. The remaining three members shall be the Chairman of the House Retirement Laws Committee, the Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Retirement and Employee Benefits, and the Executive Director of the Oklahoma State Firefighters Association. Appointments shall be made by September 1, 1997.

THAT the first meeting of the Task Force shall be no later than September 15, 1997. The chair of the Task Force shall be selected by agreement of the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate. The Task Force shall meet at such times and places as deemed necessary to perform its duties as specified in this resolution. Meetings shall be held at the call of the chair. Staffing for the Task Force shall be provided by the legislative staff of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

THAT the members of the Task Force shall receive no compensation for serving on the Task Force, but shall receive travel reimbursement as follows:

1. Legislative members of the Task Force shall be reimbursed for their necessary travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties in accordance with Section 456 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes from the legislative body which they serve;

2. The member of the Task Force who is not an officer or employee of the state shall be reimbursed by the Legislative Service Bureau in accordance with the State Travel Reimbursement Act, Section 500.1 et seq. of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

THAT the Oklahoma Firefighters Pension and Retirement System shall provide such staff support as is required by the Task Force.

THAT the Task Force may utilize consultant services to assist in fulfilling its duties and responsibilities as described in this resolution. As authorized by the Task Force, the Legislative Service Bureau shall contract for the services of an appropriate consultant or consulting firms which are experts in the relevant field to assist with completion of the study.

THAT the expenses incurred by the Task Force in conducting this study shall be paid out of the Legislative Service Bureau funds.

46-1-7639

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