

OKLAHOMA STATE SENATE  
CONFERENCE  
COMMITTEE REPORT

May 21, 2024

Mr. President:

Mr. Speaker:

The Conference Committee, to which was referred

SB453

By: Garvin and Stephens of the Senate and Moore and Hays of the House

Title: Oklahoma Firefighters Pension and Retirement System; increasing monthly benefit for volunteer firefighters; modifying compensation determination. Effective dates. Emergency.







together with Engrossed House Amendments thereto, beg leave to report that we have had the same under consideration and herewith return the same with the following recommendations:

1. By restoring the title as follows:

“An Act relating to the Oklahoma Firefighters Pension and Retirement System; amending 11 O.S. 2021, Sections 49-101 and 49-101.2, as amended by Sections 3 and 4, Chapter 232, O.S.L. 2022 (11 O.S. Supp. 2023, Sections 49-101 and 49-101.2), which relate to volunteer firefighter pension amounts; modifying volunteer firefighter pension amount; modifying compensation determination; amending 62 O.S. 2021, Section 3103, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 306, O.S.L. 2022 (62 O.S. Supp. 2023, Section 3103), which relates to the Oklahoma Pension Legislation Actuarial Analysis Act; modifying definition; updating statutory language; updating statutory references; providing effective dates; and declaring an emergency.”

Respectfully submitted,

SENATE CONFEREES:

 _____ Garvin	 _____ Daniels
 _____ Pemberton	 _____ Paxton
 _____ Jett	 _____ Matthews

HOUSE CONFEREES:

Conference Committee on Banking, Financial Services and Pensions

Senate Action \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ House Action \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**HOUSE CONFEREES**

Caldwell, Chad

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Fugate, Andy

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Kane, John

*John B. Kane*

Manger, Robert

*Robert Manger*

Maynard, Cody

*Cody Maynard*

Stinson, Preston

*Preston Stinson*

Ford, Ross

---

Hays, Neil

*Neil Hays*

Lepak, Mark

*Mark Lepak*

May, Stan

---

Schreiber, Suzanne

*Suzanne Schreiber*

1 ENGROSSED HOUSE AMENDMENT  
TO

2 ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 453

By: Garvin and Stephens of the  
Senate

3

and

4

Moore of the House

5

6

7 An Act relating to the Oklahoma Firefighters Pension  
and Retirement System; amending 11 O.S. 2021,  
8 Sections 49-101 and 49-101.2, as amended by Sections  
3 and 4, Chapter 232, O.S.L. 2022 (11 O.S. Supp.  
9 2023, Sections 49-101 and 49-101.2), which relate to  
volunteer firefighter pension amounts; modifying  
10 volunteer firefighter pension amount; modifying  
compensation determination; amending 62 O.S. 2021,  
11 Section 3103, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter  
306, O.S.L. 2022 (62 O.S. Supp. 2023, Section 3103),  
12 which relates to the Oklahoma Pension Legislation  
Actuarial Analysis Act; modifying definition;  
13 updating statutory language; updating statutory  
references; providing effective dates; and declaring  
14 an emergency.

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17 AUTHOR: Add the following House Coauthor: Hays

18 AMENDMENT NO. 1. Page 1, lines 6 through 13, strike the title to  
read:

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20 "[ Oklahoma Firefighters Pension and Retirement  
21 System - volunteer firefighter pension amounts -  
22 compensation determination - Oklahoma Pension  
23 Legislation Actuarial Analysis Act - definition -

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effective dates -

emergency ]"

Passed the House of Representatives the 15th day of April, 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Presiding Officer of the House of  
Representatives

Passed the Senate the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Presiding Officer of the Senate

1 ENGROSSED SENATE  
2 BILL NO. 453

By: Garvin and Stephens of the  
Senate

3 and

4 Moore of the House

5  
6 An Act relating to the Oklahoma Firefighters Pension  
7 and Retirement System; amending 11 O.S. 2021,  
8 Sections 49-101 and 49-101.2, as amended by Sections  
9 3 and 4, Chapter 232, O.S.L. 2022 (11 O.S. Supp.  
10 2023, Sections 49-101 and 49-101.2), which relate to  
11 volunteer firefighter pension amounts; modifying  
12 volunteer firefighter pension amount; modifying  
13 compensation determination; amending 62 O.S. 2021,  
14 Section 3103, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter  
15 306, O.S.L. 2022 (62 O.S. Supp. 2023, Section 3103),  
16 which relates to the Oklahoma Pension Legislation  
17 Actuarial Analysis Act; modifying definition;  
18 updating statutory language; updating statutory  
19 references; providing effective dates; and declaring  
20 an emergency.

21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

22 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 11 O.S. 2021, Section 49-101, as  
23 amended by Section 3, Chapter 232, O.S.L. 2022 (11 O.S. Supp. 2023,  
24 Section 49-101), is amended to read as follows:

Section 49-101. A. All retired volunteer firefighters who  
qualify for retirement shall be entitled to a monthly pension. The  
monthly pension of a volunteer firefighter who retires prior to the  
effective date of this act shall be in the amount retired volunteer  
firefighters are receiving at the time the volunteer firefighter  
begins to receive a pension for each year of credited service not to

1 exceed thirty (30) years. Volunteer firefighters who retire on and  
2 after the effective date of this act shall receive a monthly pension  
3 in the amount of Ten Dollars (\$10.00) for each year of credited  
4 service not to exceed thirty (30) years. In determining the number  
5 of years of credited service, a fractional year of six (6) months or  
6 more shall be counted as one (1) full year and a fractional year of  
7 less than six (6) months shall not be counted in such determination.  
8 Retired volunteer firefighters of a municipality shall receive a  
9 pension of not less than that which retired volunteer firefighters  
10 of such municipality were receiving on June 30, 1985.

11 B. A volunteer firefighter who terminates service after  
12 completing ten (10) years of credited service, but less than twenty  
13 (20) years of credited service, shall be entitled to receive a  
14 vested benefit commencing on the date the firefighter reaches fifty  
15 (50) years of age or the date the firefighter would have had twenty  
16 (20) years of credited service had the firefighter's service  
17 continued uninterrupted, whichever is later. The monthly amount of  
18 such retirement benefit shall be the amount being paid to volunteer  
19 firefighters at the time the member vests multiplied by the number  
20 of years of credited service. Credited service must be established  
21 at the time of the volunteer firefighter's termination. If a  
22 volunteer firefighter who terminated employment and elected, or was  
23 eligible to elect, a vested benefit dies prior to being eligible to  
24 receive benefits, the volunteer firefighter's beneficiary, as

1 defined in paragraph 16 of Section 49-100.1 of this title, shall be  
2 entitled to the volunteer firefighter's normal monthly retirement  
3 benefit on the date the deceased volunteer firefighter would have  
4 been eligible to receive the benefit.

5 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 11 O.S. 2021, Section 49-101.2, as  
6 amended by Section 4, Chapter 232, O.S.L. 2022 (11 O.S. Supp. 2023,  
7 Section 49-101.2), is amended to read as follows:

8 Section 49-101.2. Any member serving as an active volunteer  
9 firefighter who receives annual compensation from the fire  
10 department the firefighter is enrolled in as a member of the  
11 Oklahoma Firefighters Pension and Retirement System for services  
12 related to firefighting, other than reimbursement of expenses in  
13 excess of ~~five and one-half (5 1/2) times the annual pension benefit~~  
14 ~~paid by the System to a retired volunteer firefighter with twenty~~  
15 ~~(20) years credited service~~ Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty-nine  
16 Dollars and sixty-nine cents (\$9,939.69), shall be considered a paid  
17 firefighter and must meet the physical and agility requirements  
18 pursuant to Section 49-116 of this title to continue as an active  
19 member of the System. Credited service earned as a paid firefighter  
20 pursuant to this section shall not be considered actual experience  
21 as a paid firefighter for purposes of meeting the qualifications of  
22 a paid fire chief as provided in Section 29-102 of this title. No  
23 fire department of a participating municipality shall employ a  
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1 volunteer firefighter from another fire department to perform  
2 services relating to firefighting for any compensation of any kind.

3 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 62 O.S. 2021, Section 3103, as  
4 last amended by Section 1, Chapter 306, O.S.L. 2022 (62 O.S. Supp.  
5 2023, Section 3103), is amended to read as follows:

6 Section 3103. As used in the Oklahoma Pension Legislation  
7 Actuarial Analysis Act:

8 1. "Amendment" means any amendment, including a substitute  
9 bill, made to a retirement bill by any committee of the House of  
10 Representatives or Senate, any conference committee of the House or  
11 Senate or by the House or Senate;

12 2. "RB number" means that number preceded by the letters "RB"  
13 assigned to a retirement bill by the respective staffs of the  
14 ~~Oklahoma State~~ Senate and the ~~Oklahoma~~ House of Representatives when  
15 the respective staff office prepares a retirement bill for a member  
16 of the Legislature;

17 3. "Legislative Actuary" means the firm or entity that enters  
18 into a contract with the Legislative Service Bureau pursuant to  
19 Section 452.15 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes to provide the  
20 actuarial services and other duties provided for in the Oklahoma  
21 Pension Legislation Actuarial Analysis Act;

22 4. "Nonfiscal amendment" means an amendment to a retirement  
23 bill having a fiscal impact, which amendment does not change any  
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1 factor of an actuarial investigation specified in subsection A of  
2 Section 3109 of this title;

3 5. "Nonfiscal retirement bill" means a retirement bill:

4 a. which does not affect the cost or funding factors of a  
5 retirement system,

6 b. which affects such factors only in a manner which does  
7 not:

8 (1) grant a benefit increase under the retirement  
9 system affected by the bill,

10 (2) create an actuarial accrued liability for or  
11 increase the actuarial accrued liability of the  
12 retirement system affected by the bill, or

13 (3) increase the normal cost of the retirement system  
14 affected by the bill,

15 c. which authorizes the purchase by an active member of  
16 the retirement system, at the actuarial cost for the  
17 purchase as computed pursuant to the statute in effect  
18 on the effective date of the measure allowing such  
19 purchase, of years of service for purposes of reaching  
20 a normal retirement date in the applicable retirement  
21 system, but which cannot be used in order to compute  
22 the number of years of service for purposes of  
23 computing the retirement benefit for the member,  
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- 1 d. which provides for the computation of a service-  
2 connected disability retirement benefit for members of  
3 the Oklahoma Law Enforcement Retirement System  
4 pursuant to Section 2-305 of Title 47 of the Oklahoma  
5 Statutes if the members were unable to complete twenty  
6 (20) years of service as a result of the disability,
- 7 e. which requires membership in the defined benefit plan  
8 authorized by Section 901 et seq. of Title 74 of the  
9 Oklahoma Statutes for persons whose first elected or  
10 appointed service occurs on or after November 1, 2018,  
11 if such persons had any prior service in the Oklahoma  
12 Public Employees Retirement System prior to November  
13 1, 2015,
- 14 f. which provides for a one-time increase in retirement  
15 benefits if the increase in retirement benefits is not  
16 a permanent increase in the gross annual retirement  
17 benefit payable to a member or beneficiary, occurs  
18 only once pursuant to a single statutory authorization  
19 and does not exceed:
- 20 (1) the lesser of two percent (2%) of the gross  
21 annual retirement benefit of the member or One  
22 Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) and requires that  
23 the benefit may only be provided if the funded  
24 ratio of the affected retirement system would not

1 be less than sixty percent (60%) but not greater  
2 than eighty percent (80%) after the benefit  
3 increase is paid,

4 (2) the lesser of two percent (2%) of the gross  
5 annual retirement benefit of the member or One  
6 Thousand Two Hundred Dollars (\$1,200.00) and  
7 requires that the benefit may only be provided if  
8 the funded ratio of the affected retirement  
9 system would be greater than eighty percent (80%)  
10 but not greater than one hundred percent (100%)  
11 after the benefit increase is paid,

12 (3) the lesser of two percent (2%) of the gross  
13 annual retirement benefit of the member or One  
14 Thousand Four Hundred Dollars (\$1,400.00) and  
15 requires that the benefit may only be provided if  
16 the funded ratio of the affected retirement  
17 system would be greater than one hundred percent  
18 (100%) after the benefit increase is paid, or

19 (4) the greater of two percent (2%) of the gross  
20 annual retirement benefit of the volunteer  
21 firefighter or One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) for  
22 persons who retired from the Oklahoma  
23 Firefighters Pension and Retirement System as  
24 volunteer firefighters and who did not retire

1 from the Oklahoma Firefighters Pension and  
2 Retirement System as a paid firefighter.

3 As used in this subparagraph, "funded ratio" means the  
4 figure derived by dividing the actuarial value of  
5 assets of the applicable retirement system by the  
6 actuarial accrued liability of the applicable  
7 retirement system,

8 g. which modifies the disability pension standard for  
9 police officers who are members of the Oklahoma Police  
10 Pension and Retirement System as provided by Section 3  
11 ~~of this act~~ 50-115 of Title 11 of the Oklahoma  
12 Statutes,

13 h. which provides a cost-of-living benefit increase  
14 pursuant to the provisions of:

15 (1) Section 49-143.7 of Title 11 of the Oklahoma  
16 Statutes,

17 (2) Section 50-136.9 of Title 11 of the Oklahoma  
18 Statutes,

19 (3) Section 1104K of Title 20 of the Oklahoma  
20 Statutes,

21 (4) Section 2-305.12 of Title 47 of the Oklahoma  
22 Statutes,

23 (5) Section 17-116.22 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma  
24 Statutes, or

1 (6) Section 930.11 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma  
2 Statutes, ~~or~~

- 3 i. which modifies the computation of the line-of-duty  
4 disability benefit pursuant to the provisions of this  
5 ~~act~~ section and Sections 50-101 and 50-115 of Title 11  
6 of the Oklahoma Statutes, or
- 7 j. which provides for a benefits increase for volunteer  
8 firefighters pursuant to Sections 49-101 and 49-101.2  
9 of Title 11 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

10 A nonfiscal retirement bill shall include any retirement bill that  
11 has as its sole purpose the appropriation or distribution or  
12 redistribution of monies in some manner to a retirement system for  
13 purposes of reducing the unfunded liability of such system or the  
14 earmarking of a portion of the revenue from a tax to a retirement  
15 system or increasing the percentage of the revenue earmarked from a  
16 tax to a retirement system;

17 6. "Reduction-in-cost amendment" means an amendment to a  
18 retirement bill having a fiscal impact which reduces the cost of the  
19 bill as such cost is determined by the actuarial investigation for  
20 the bill prepared pursuant to Section 3109 of this title;

21 7. "Retirement bill" means any bill or joint resolution  
22 introduced or any bill or joint resolution amended by a member of  
23 the ~~Oklahoma~~ Legislature which creates or amends any law directly  
24 affecting a retirement system. A retirement bill shall not mean a

1 bill or resolution that impacts the revenue of any state tax in  
2 which a portion of the revenue generated from such tax is earmarked  
3 for the benefit of a retirement system;

4 8. "Retirement bill having a fiscal impact" means any  
5 retirement bill creating or establishing a retirement system and any  
6 other retirement bill other than a nonfiscal retirement bill; and

7 9. "Retirement system" means the Teachers' Retirement System of  
8 Oklahoma, the Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System, the  
9 Uniform Retirement System for Justices and Judges, the Oklahoma  
10 Firefighters Pension and Retirement System, the Oklahoma Police  
11 Pension and Retirement System, the Oklahoma Law Enforcement  
12 Retirement System, or a retirement system established after January  
13 1, 2006.

14 SECTION 4. Sections 1 and 2 of this act shall become effective  
15 in accordance with the provisions of Section 58 of Article V of the  
16 Oklahoma Constitution.

17 SECTION 5. Section 3 of this act shall become effective July 1,  
18 2024.

19 SECTION 6. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
20 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby  
21 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
22 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.  
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1 Passed the Senate the 14th day of March, 2024.

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3 \_\_\_\_\_  
4 Presiding Officer of the Senate

5 Passed the House of Representatives the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_,  
6 2024.

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8 \_\_\_\_\_  
9 Presiding Officer of the House  
10 of Representatives