

SENATE LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 1367

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 21, 2022

The Senate Law and Public Safety Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 1367.

As amended and reported by the committee, this bill allows a member of PFRS who is a police chief or fire department chief to serve until age 67 under certain conditions.

Under current law, a member of the Police and Firemen's Retirement System of New Jersey (PFRS) is required to retire upon reaching age 65. Additionally, PFRS members hired prior to January 1, 1987 may remain a member of the system until the member attains 68 years of age or 25 years of creditable service, whichever comes first.

Under the amended bill only a member of the PFRS who:

(1) is serving as a police or fire chief on the bill's effective date; and

(2) will attain the age of 65 years during the period commencing on the bill's effective date and ending on the last day of the 24th calendar month following the bill's effective date may remain in the PFRS until the end of the calendar year in which the member attains the age of 67 years if the appointing authority approves, in writing, the retention and continued service after the age of 65 years of the police or fire chief as the chief.

As amended, the bill also requires the Board of Trustees of the PFRS to submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature on the effect of this bill on the retirement system. The report is required to include the number of members who were retained and continued to serve as the police or fire chief, the length of that service after the age of 65 years, and the impact of that extended service on the retirement system.

As amended and reported by the committee, this bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 2158 (1R).

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

The committee amended the bill to limit the ability of a police or fire chief to serve until age 67. Under the committee amendments, only a member of the PFRS who:

(1) is serving as a police or fire chief on the bill's effective date;
and

(2) will attain the age of 65 years during the period commencing on the bill's effective date and ending on the last day of the 24th calendar month following the effective date may remain in the PFRS until the end of the calendar year in which the member attains the age of 67 years if the appointing authority approves, in writing, the retention and continued service after the age of 65 years of the police or fire chief as the chief.

The committee amendments also require the Board of Trustees of the PFRS to submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature on the effect of this bill on the retirement system. The report must include the number of members who were retained and continued to serve as the police or fire chief, the length of that service after the age of 65 years, and the impact of that extended service on the retirement system.