

COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT FORECASTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

PENSION IMPACT NOTE

101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

BILL NO: **HB 2451**

March 5, 2019

SPONSOR (S): Martwick

SYSTEM(S): Chicago Fire

FISCAL IMPACT: HB 2451 proposes to implement a 3% non-compounded cost of living adjustment (COLA) for firefighters who attain age 55 with 20 years of service, regardless of date of birth. An actuarial cost study would be needed to assess the increase in accrued liabilities that would result from this increase in the annual cost of living adjustment.

SUBJECT MATTER: HB 2451 removes the birthdate restrictions currently in statute for firefighters to begin receiving the annual 3% non-compounded COLA at age 55. The 3% non-compounded COLA would be paid to those retired firefighters who met the requisite age and service requirements, as described below.

COMMENT: Under current law, firefighters born before January 1, 1966 with at least 20 years of service receive an annual non-compounded increase of 3% on or after the age of 55, not subject to a 30% increase maximum. Those born after January 1, 1966 receive 1.5% increases on or after the age of 60 with at least 20 years of service, subject to a maximum of 30% (hence, after 15 years of retirement, no annual increases are payable). This bill removes the birthdate restriction and sets the annual increase to 3% non-compounded for all retirees at least 55 years of age with 20 years of service. The bill further stipulates that firefighters who were not eligible for the 3% increase prior to the effective date of the bill will receive a 3% increase for each year the firefighter would have otherwise been eligible had the firefighter not received any increase.

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