COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT FORECASTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

PENSION IMPACT NOTE

101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

BILL NO: **SB 471, as amended by HA 1** May 21, 2020

SPONSOR (S): Lightford - Gillespie (Gordon-Booth - Cassidy)

SYSTEM(S): Chicago Police, Chicago Fire

FISCAL IMPACT: The fiscal impact of SB 471, as amended by HA 1, is not known as the number of COVID-related fatalities amongst the ranks of Chicago police officers and firefighters cannot be predicted.

SUBJECT MATTER: SB 471, as amended by HA 1, amends the Chicago Police and Fire articles of the Pension Code. The bill stipulates that the death of any police officer or firefighter as a result of exposure to and contraction of COVID-19 shall be "rebuttably presumed" to have occurred in the line of duty, and will thus entitle the surviving spouse to a duty-related survivor's annuity.

COMMENT: The foregoing rebuttable presumption of contraction of COVID-19 in the line of duty by Chicago police officers and firefighters applies during the period beginning on or after March 9, 2020 and ending on or before December 31, 2020. Under SB 471, as amended by HA 1, the date of contraction of the disease would be determined by the date the police officer or firefighter was either diagnosed with COVID-19 or was unable to work due to COVID symptoms that were diagnosed at a later date, whichever occurs earlier. Both systems pay a duty death benefit to the surviving spouse equal to 75% of the salary of the police officer/firefighter at the time of his or her death.

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