

2007 Legislative Changes

No major benefit legislation was enacted by the General Assembly during the 2007 session. However, some significant pieces of legislation were enacted. Here is a summary of the relevant legislation:

S672/H5215 SUBSTITUTE A

This act amended Rhode Island General Law (RIGL) § 45-21.2-9 relating to police and fire retirement on accidental disability. The act made two amendments: The first reduced the amount of time from the date of the accident that an application for accidental disability benefits can be made from either an alleged accident or a re-injury or aggravation of the accident. Prior to its passage, members were required to file an application for disability within five years of the alleged accident. The change now reduces the time to 18 months. The second change made by S 672/H5215 was to provide a definition of the words "re-injury" and "aggravation." The act affects members filing for accidental disability after July 6, 2007.

S43/H5062 SUBSTITUTE A

This bill amends multiple laws for Judges' contributions, making them consistent with state employees, teachers and municipal employees.

This act provides that whenever any Judge dies before retirement with no surviving spouse or minor child(ren), the accumulated contributions would be credited to a judicial retirement benefits account to be distributed to a designated beneficiary or to the estate.

S405/H5519 SUBSTITUTE A

This bill also amends multiple laws for Judges' retirement. This act provides that whenever a Judge, Justice or Magistrate would be granted a leave of absence without pay, such absence would not be credited towards active service time for the purposes of retirement.

S963SUBSTITUTE A

S963 amends RIGL § 45-21.2-5 and creates § 45-21.2-6.3. Both acts make changes to the number of years of service required for a retirement allowance to police officers in the town of Richmond.