



February 13, 2019

Mr. Frank J. Wills, Deputy Director  
Arkansas Public Employees Retirement System  
One Union National Plaza  
124 West Capitol, Suite 400  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

**Re: House Bill 1345**

Dear Mr. Wills:

We are providing our analysis of House Bill (HB) 1345 as it relates to the Arkansas Public Employees Retirement System (APERS).

HB 1345 modifies section §24-4-511(a)(1)(A) of the Arkansas Code related to eligibility for benefits and disability retirement. The bill expands the definition of disease to include without limitation cancer that a firefighter or volunteer firefighter is diagnosed with while he or she is in the line of duty.

No explicit modeling of the proposed benefit change was performed. APERS staff has indicated that there are currently 64 firefighters participating in the System. We have no reason to believe that the number of firefighters that will be affected by this Bill is large. Any costs that may result from adopting this benefit provision will be small and emerge over time.

Please review this letter carefully to ensure that we have understood the bill properly. The analysis in this letter should not be relied upon if there is doubt about our understanding of the bill. Our analysis relates only to the plan changes described in this correspondence. In the event that other plan changes are being considered, it is very important to remember that the results of separate actuarial analyses cannot generally be added together to produce a total. The total can be considerably greater than the sum of the parts due to the interaction of various plan provisions with each other, and with the assumptions that must be used.

We did not review this bill for compliance with Federal, State, or local laws or regulations, and internal revenue code provisions nor did we attempt to determine whether these changes would contradict or negate other related State, or local laws. Such a review was not within the scope of our assignment.

Heidi G. Barry is a Member of the American Academy of Actuaries (MAAA) and meets the Qualification Standards of the American Academy of Actuaries to render the actuarial opinions contained herein.

Circular 230 Notice: Pursuant to regulations issued by the IRS, to the extent this communication (or any attachment) concerns tax matters, it is not intended or written to be used, and cannot be used, for the purpose of (i) avoiding tax-related penalties under the Internal Revenue Code or (ii) marketing or recommending to another party any tax-related matter addressed within. Each taxpayer should seek advice based on the individual's circumstances from an independent tax advisor.

This communication shall not be construed to provide tax advice, legal advice or investment advice.

Respectfully submitted,



David L. Hoffman



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DLH/HGB:sc

