

# GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA



Session 2009

## Legislative Actuarial Note

### RETIREMENT

**BILL NUMBER:** Senate Bill 34 (First Edition)

**SHORT TITLE:** Increase Fire and Rescue Benefits.

**SPONSOR(S):** Senator Hoyle

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** General Fund

**SYSTEM OR PROGRAM AFFECTED:** Firemen and Rescue Squad Workers' Pension Fund

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** July 1, 2009

**BILL SUMMARY:** Increases the monthly benefit for retirees and future retirees of the Firemen and Rescue Squad Workers' Pension Fund from \$170 to \$175.

**ESTIMATED IMPACT ON STATE:** Both the Fund's actuary, Buck Consultants and the General Assembly's actuary, Hartman & Associates, LLC, estimates the cost to be as follows:

	<u>2009-2010</u>	<u>2010-2011</u>	<u>2011-2012</u>	<u>2012-2013</u>	<u>2013-2014</u>
\$5 Benefit Increase	\$1,771,000	\$1,771,000	\$1,771,000	\$1,771,000	\$1,771,000

#### ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY:

##### Firemen and Rescue Squad Workers' Pension Fund

The cost estimates of the System's Actuary are based on the employee data, actuarial assumptions and actuarial methods used to prepare the June 30, 2008 actuarial valuation of the fund. The data included 36,160 active members, 10,509 retired members in receipt of annual pensions totaling \$21.4 million and actuarial value of assets equal to \$317 million. Significant actuarial assumptions used include (a) an investment return rate of 7.25%, (b) the 1974 George B. Buck Mortality Table for deaths after retirement and (c) rates of separation from active service based on Fund experience. The actuarial cost method used was the entry age method with open-end unfunded accrued liability and a frozen unfunded liquidation period of nine years. Detailed information concerning these assumptions and methods is shown in the actuary's report, which is available upon request from Stanley Moore.

**SOURCES OF DATA:** System Actuary – Buck Consultants  
General Assembly Actuary - Hartman & Associates, LLC

**TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS:** None

**FISCAL RESEARCH DIVISION: (919) 733-4910.** The above information is provided in accordance with North Carolina General Statute 120-114 and applicable rules of the North Carolina Senate and House of Representatives.

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**APPROVED BY:** Marilyn Chism, Director  
Fiscal Research Division

**DATE:** February 9, 2009



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