

Existing law authorizes the Firefighters' Retirement System (FRS) board of trustees to award disability benefits to eligible members who have been officially certified as disabled by the State Medical Disability Board. Authorizes a retired member or a Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) participant who becomes disabled for any reason to apply for conversion of a service retirement to a service connected disability retirement.

Existing law provides that in order to receive a service connected disability retirement, the applicant must demonstrate by clear and convincing evidence that the conditions causing the disability occurred during active employment as a firefighter, even though the actual physical disability may not have become manifest until after the effective date of either commencement of participation in DROP or commencement of retirement.

Existing law provides that the actuarial cost of any service connected disability benefit granted to a person may not exceed the actuarial cost of the same person's service retirement and that any option selected with regard to the receipt of his service retirement shall not change.

Prior law provided that the authority of a retired member or a DROP participant to convert from a service retirement to a service connected disability retirement terminated on July 1, 2011. New law provides for termination of this authority on July 1, 2016.

Existing law requires the Public Retirement Systems' Actuarial Committee to publish a report as part of the actuarial valuation of the system which includes the results of a study of the actuarial impact of all such conversions. Prior law required that the reports cover conversions occurring between July 1, 2001, and July 1, 2006, and between July 1, 2006, and July 1, 2011. New law requires an additional study covering conversions between July 1, 2011, and July 30, 2016.

Effective July 1, 2011.

(Amends R.S. 11:2258(B)(2)(d))