## **DIGEST**

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HB 11 Engrossed

2017 Regular Session

**Barras** 

**Abstract:** Allows surviving spouses of retirement-eligible members of the Assessors' Retirement Fund (the fund) to participate in Back-DROP.

<u>Present law</u> grants survivor benefits to the surviving spouse of a member of the fund who was eligible to but had not retired on his date of death. <u>Proposed law</u> retains <u>present law</u>.

<u>Present law</u> allows certain members to elect to participate in the Back-Deferred Retirement Option Program (Back-DROP) upon retirement. The Back-DROP program provides a retired member with an additional monthly retirement benefit and a lump-sum benefit based on the number of months selected by the member as the Back-DROP period. The duration of the Back-DROP period shall not exceed the lesser of 36 months or the number of months of creditable service accrued after the member first attained eligibility for normal retirement. <u>Proposed law</u> retains <u>present law</u>.

<u>Proposed law</u> allows surviving spouses of members who had not yet entered retirement but were eligible for retirement to elect to collect the survivor benefit they are entitled to under <u>present law</u> in the same manner that Back-DROP benefits would be administered if the deceased member had elected to retire and participate in Back-DROP on the day following his date of death. <u>Proposed law</u> allows the surviving spouse to select the Back-DROP period not to exceed the <u>present law</u> statutory limits.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 11:1441(E))