

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 337 (HB 43)

2023 Regular Session

Firment

Survivor Benefits

Existing law provides for payment of benefits to surviving spouses of deceased firefighters who are members of the Firefighters' Retirement System (FRS).

New law allows a surviving spouse to designate a portion of his benefit for payment to a dependent minor child or child with a disability.

New law requires the surviving spouse to furnish medical documentation to the board of trustees to determine the existence and medical certainty of a permanent disability.

New law provides that the decision to designate a minor child or child with a disability as a recipient of a benefit is irrevocable.

New law provides that payments to a minor child cease upon the child reaching the age of majority or upon his getting married, whichever occurs first. However, if an unmarried minor child graduates from high school and attends an institute of higher education as a full-time student, his benefit will continue while he is enrolled and unmarried for four additional years or until he turns 22 years old.

New law provides that if a disabled child predeceases the surviving spouse, the spouses's benefit is increased, less any actuarial reduction related to the period for which the child was alive.

New law provides that if an eligible spouse predeceases a designated child, and the child passes away before receiving a benefit, the benefit reverts to any other designated child.

Nonrecurring lump-sum payment

New law grants a one-time nonrecurring lump-sum supplemental payment for the following FRS retirees and beneficiaries:

- (1) Any retiree who has received a benefit for at least one year on June 30, 2023.
- (2) Any nonretiree beneficiary if the retiree or beneficiary or both combined have received a benefit for at least one year on June 30, 2023.

New law provides that the supplemental payment is payable no later than Aug. 1, 2023.

New law provides that each retiree or beneficiary to whom new law applies shall receive a nonrecurring lump-sum supplemental payment in an amount that is equal to the lesser of:

- (1) The retiree or beneficiary's current monthly benefit.
- (2) \$2,500.00.

New law provides that the supplemental payment is to be funded with additional employer contributions.

Effective June 12, 2023.

(Adds R.S. 11:2256(H) and 2256.3)