PUBLIC NOTICE

(NOTICE OF INTENTION TO INTRODUCE RETIREMENT BILL - HLS 24RS-115)

Public notice is hereby given, as provided by Section 29(C), Article X of the Constitution of Louisiana, that there will be introduced at the forthcoming session of the Legislature of Louisiana, to be convened on March 11, 2024, a bill or bills relative to the Municipal Police Employees' Retirement System (MPERS); to provide that employees of certain municipalities must be enrolled as members unless they execute and file an affidavit with MPERS opting out of MPERS membership on or before a certain date; to provide with regard to the definition of employee for membership purposes; to provide relative to reemployment of retirees; to provide for the payment of retirement benefits during reemployment; to provide relative to reemployment of retirees; to provide for the payment of retirement benefits during reemployment; to provide regarding compensation and contributions during reemployment; to provide regarding application and eligibility for benefits; to extend the participation period for the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP); to provide with regard to eligibility for maintaining balances within the DROP; to create the Back-DROP once the outstanding balance of the currently existing oldest positive amortization base is paid off; to provide with regard to early retirement eligibility; to mandate a list of specific documents that employers must provide upon enrollment and provide a financial penalty for employers that do not timely provide such documents to MPERS; to provide a financial penalty for employers that do not timely submit employee physical examinations to MPERS; to permit elected trustees to be able to complete their terms if there is a change in their status when they only have a limited period of time left in their terms, provided that they remain either a member or retiree; to permit the board of trustees to appoint a trustee to fill certain vacant trustee positions in certain circumstances; to provide with regard to employers or former employers that fully or partially dissolve their police departments; to require all municipalities with a police department to transmit, monthly, a contributions report setting forth necessary compensation and deduction information; to provide for failure-to-file penalties for municipalities that do not timely submit monthly contribution reports; to provide that any employer that submits a contributions report that is in error as to the earnable compensation of any member and such error results in overpayment of benefits by MPERS, the employer shall be liable to MPERS for the amount of the overpayment if MPERS is unable to recover the full amount through reduction of the members benefits; to provide with regard to employers liability for employee contributions if such contributions are not paid to MPERS within a certain time period; to provide that, if a municipality does not file a contributions report, MPERS shall estimate the amount of contributions due and assess that amount as due (with interest, penalties, etc.), with the amount estimated being considered prima facie correct and with the burden on the municipality to prove to the contrary; and to provide for related matters.

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