

Executive

PENCD3 PERS law enforcement and public safety officers

R.C. 145.01, 145.334

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Allows a PERS member who, on the bill's effective date, is employed as an SFM law enforcement officer to elect to participate in the PERS law enforcement (PERS-LE) or PERS public safety (PERS-PS) division, rather than regular PERS, for the member's future service.

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Causes a PERS member who is employed full time by the SFM Fire and Explosion Investigation Bureau to be considered an SFM law enforcement officer if the following apply: (1) the SFM has appointed the member as an assistant fire marshal and designated the person to act as a law enforcement officer (a) for purposes of investigating fires and explosions in Ohio and arresting, or causing arrest, and charging a person with arson or a similar offense as a result of an investigation, and (b) to enforce criminal prohibitions relating to fire safety and fireworks; and (2) the SFM has appointed the member as a SFM law enforcement officer and the member has received a certificate attesting to satisfactory completion of the peace officer basic training program for arrest power purposes.

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Fiscal effect: Increases SFM's employer contribution costs paid to PERS. There are currently 30 eligible SFM employees. In calendar year (CY) 2025, public employers contribute 14% of employee payroll for each employee under the OPERS regular division and 18.1% of payroll for each employee under the PERS-PS or PERS-LE division. Allowing both a new SFM's law enforcement officer and reclassifying an OPERS member who is employed as a full-time as SFM law enforcement officer to elect from the OPERS regular division to PERS-PS or PERS- LE division would increase the required OPERS employer contribution by the difference, 4.1% of the associated payroll.

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PENCD1 Police and Fire Death Benefit Fund

Section: 361.20

Requires TOS to disburse quarterly the funds provided in GRF ALI 090575, Police and Fire Death Benefits, to the Board of Trustees of the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund (OP&F), which serves as trustee of the Ohio Public Safety Officers Death Benefit Fund. Requires TOS to certify such amounts quarterly to the OBM Director.

Temporarily removes a requirement that a person who has OP&F service credit and is a PERS law enforcement officer be in the active service of a police or fire department to purchase credit in OP&F for service under PERS, STRS, or SERS or have credit for that service transferred to OP&F.

PENCD2 PERS members - OP&F service credit

Section: 701.20

Temporarily allows certain PERS members to transfer or purchase certain OP&F service credit even if the member does not have more PERS service credit than the credit to be transferred or purchased.

Fiscal effect: No direct fiscal effect on the state or local governments.
