

**85th LEGISLATIVE SESSION:
BILLS PASSED THAT AFFECT THE TEXAS MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM and
TEXAS PUBLIC PENSION PLANS**

Updated 6/28/2017

Bills Amending the TMRS Act					
Bill No.	Author / Sponsor	Last Action	Companion	*Bill Summary / Comments	Bill Caption/Link to Text
HB 3056	Meyer	Signed by the Governor 6/15/2017; Earliest effective date 9/1/2017		HB 3056 allows a city with a population with less than 200,000 in a county with a population between 2 million and 4 million that administers a retirement plan pursuant to the Texas Local Fire Fighters Retirement Act (TLFFRA) to adopt an ordinance and complete other steps before October 1, 2018 to enroll new fire fighters (hired after all steps are complete) as new employees in TMRS. Additional steps to follow the city's adoption of an ordinance include approval at an election of the fire fighters in the TLFFRA plan and subsequent revision of TLFFRA plan documents.	Relating to the participation in the Texas Municipal Retirement System of certain employees of certain municipalities subject to the Texas Local Fire Fighters Retirement Act. http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=85R&Bill=HB3056

Bills Affecting Texas' Statewide Retirement Systems					
Bill No.	Author / Sponsor	Last Action	Companion	Bill Summary / Comments	Bill Caption/Link to Text
HB 89	King	Signed by the Governor 5/2/2017; Earliest effective date 9/1/2017	SB 29 SB 134	HB 89 prohibits statewide retirement systems, including TMRS, from certain investments, such as buying stocks, in companies that boycott Israel. It also prohibits certain governmental entities, as defined in Government Code Section 2251.001, from procuring services from those companies.	Relating to state contracts with and investments in companies that boycott Israel. http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=85R&Bill=HB89

Texas Municipal Retirement System

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SB 252	V. Taylor	Signed by the Governor 5/27/2017; Earliest effective date 9/1/2017	HB 1142 (Identical)	SB 252 prohibits governmental entities, as defined by Section 2252.001 of the Government Code, from entering into procurement contracts with companies engaged in business with Iran, Sudan or foreign terrorist organizations. The Comptroller of Public Accounts is already required to prepare lists of companies that do business with Sudan and the Pension Review Board prepares a similar list for Iran. Under this bill, the Comptroller will prepare and make available a list of companies known to have contracts with or provide supplies and services to Sudan, Iran or a foreign terrorist organization. The requirements of the Act would only apply to contracts or purchases made by governmental entities after the effective date of the Act.	Relating to prohibiting governmental contracts with a company doing business with Iran, Sudan, or a foreign terrorist organization. http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=85R&Bill=SB252
SB 253	V. Taylor	Filed Signed by the Governor 5/23/2017; Earliest effective date 5/23/2017	HB 1143 (Identical)	SB 253 combines the existing Sudan Divestiture statutory requirements (Chapter 806, Government Code) and Iran Divestiture statutory requirements (Chapter 807, Government Code) and adds new divestiture provisions regarding "foreign terrorist organizations" into a single new chapter (Chapter 2270, Government Code). The bill also changes the scope of the entities that are covered by the divestiture provisions.	Relating to investment prohibitions and divestment requirements for certain investments of public money. http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=85R&Bill=SB253

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				<i>(Affects all statewide retirement systems)</i>	
SB 301	Watson	Signed by the Governor 6/9/2017; Earliest effective date 9/1/2017	HB 2459 (Identical)	<p>SB 301 reauthorizes the Employees Retirement System and requires a sunset review every 12 years. Some of the proposed changes to ERS' governing statute include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • requiring trustees to receive a certain amount of training after their appointment before they can vote, deliberate, or be counted as a member in attendance at a meeting; • require the board to develop a policy to encourage the use of negotiated rulemaking and alternative dispute resolution, • adopt mortality tables at least once every four years, • conduct an actuarial experience study at least once every four years, instead of every five years, • track and report any sharing of investment profits, and • require the Board to approve of any alternative investment over .6 percent of the total system assets. 	<p>Relating to the operations and functions of the Employees Retirement System of Texas and the sunset review date for, financial management of, and programs administered by the agency.</p> <p>http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/BillLookup/Text.aspx?LegSess=85R&Bill=SB301</p>
SJR 34	Birdwell	Filed with Secretary of State 5/25/2017;		SJR 34 modifies the duration of the terms of gubernatorial appointees to boards and commissions, If passed by the voters in	Proposing constitutional amendment limiting the service of certain officeholders after the expiration of the person's term of office.

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		Election date 11/07/2017		<p>November 2017, the bill will allow an appointee to continue to serve in their appointed position until their successor is duly qualified, with the following qualifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • if an appointee's term expires when the legislature is not in session, they would perform their duties until the end of the next regular session, and • if their term expires while the legislature is in session, they would continue to perform their duties until the end of that session. 	http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=85R&Bill=SJR34

Bills Affecting All Public Employee Retirement Systems (PERS)					
Bill No.	Author / Sponsor	Last Action	Companion	Bill Summary / Comments	Bill Caption/Link to Text
SB 500	Taylor	Signed by the Governor 6/6/2017; Earliest effective date 6/6/2017	HB 500 (Identical) HB 1273 (Duplicate)	SB 500 stipulates that retirement system members, including those in TMRS, who hold elected office and who are convicted of certain felonies while in office related to their official duties, would be ineligible to receive an annuity. This only affects elected officials who commit a qualifying felony after June 6, 2017, the effective date of the bill.	<p>Relating to the effect of certain felony convictions of public elected officers.</p> <p>http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=85R&Bill=SB500</p>
SB 1735	Hughes	Filed without signature by the Governor;		SB 1735 will repeal a number of obsolete and outdated pension-related statutes.	Relating to the repeal of certain obsolete laws governing state pensions and other similar benefits.

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Bills Affecting All Public Employee Retirement Systems (PERS)					
Bill No.	Author / Sponsor	Last Action	Companion	Bill Summary / Comments	Bill Caption/Link to Text
		Earliest effective date 6/12/2017			http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/BillLookup/Text.aspx?LegSess=85R&Bill=SB1735

Bills Affecting Local Employee Retirement Systems (PERS)					
Bill No.	Author / Sponsor	Last Action	Companion	Bill Summary / Comments	Bill Caption/Link to Text
HB 3158	Flynn	Signed by the Governor 5/31/2017; Earliest effective date 5/31/2017		HB 3158 was passed to help alleviate the issues being experienced by the Dallas Police & Fire Retirement Systems.	Relating to the retirement systems for and the provision of other benefits to police and fire fighters in certain municipalities. http://www.legis.state.tx.us/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=85R&Bill=HB3158
SB 2190	Huffman	Signed by the Governor 5/31/2017; Earliest effective date 7/1/2017	Similar to HB 43 and HB 4238	SB 2190 was passed to help alleviate the issues being experienced by the Houston Firefighters' Relief and Retirement Fund, the Houston Police Officer's Pension System, and the Houston Municipal Employees Pensions System.	Relating to the public retirement systems of certain municipalities. http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/BillLookup/Text.aspx?LegSess=85R&Bill=SB2190