

INDIANA

FIREFIGHTER

SPRING 2021

2021 LEGISLATIVE EDITION



PFFUI President Tom Hanify

Brothers and Sisters,

This is our first ever special edition newsletter dedicated to the Indiana General Assembly. One of the most important functions the PFFUI has is representing you when our lawmakers consider bills that have an effect on our lives and our livelihoods. From making sure that occupational cancers are recognized as Line of Duty, to protecting the pensions that we retire on, every year there are hundreds of bills that we read, follow and testify on.

2021 has been exceptionally hard due to Covid. Access to the legislators has been more challenging: For the first half of the session we weren't allowed in any committee meeting and had to do everything via video. We managed, and I have not heard of any covid outbreaks at the statehouse this session, especially since vaccinees became more available. I'm looking forward to next year being able to get back to having normal interactions with legislators in the place known as the people's house.

Despite these challenges, we have had another outstanding year moving the firefighter, EMS and public safety agenda forward. Bills that passed included removing mileage restrictions for firefighter and police officer residency and SB232, which protects our members families if a member gets Covid. Please review Vice President Mike Whited's report in this newsletter for a full list of bills that may affect you. If you have any questions, please call Mike or myself.

5th District VP Tony Murray has been registered as a lobbyist and in addition to assisting VP Whited and myself, he has been working on tracking EMS and Healthcare issues. He has put together a report on those bills.

In addition, VP Whited put together an overview of some of the most important legislative action by the PFFUI in the last decade. One that has been useful in several instances recently is Meet and Confer. This has been an invaluable tool for some of our smaller Locals to open a dialogue and eventually get written agreements with their local political leadership.

As you read over these bills, take note of the bill authors. Firefighters are supported by both democrats and republicans, conservatives and liberals. And we support

people on both sides of the aisle, based not on their views of unrelated issues but solely on their willingness to listen and work with us. Please remember, whatever your personal political beliefs, our work at the statehouse, city hall, town hall or the township board is all about relationships and conducting ourselves professionally whether we are in fire gear or coats and ties.

We have many friends in the General Assembly, too many to list here. However, I would like to highlight that representative Randy Frye has been an author or house sponsor in about a third of those bills. Incidentally, Randy is a retired firefighter whom I worked with for many years on IFD. This is what happens when you elect one of your own who stays true to values of doing the right things to fix the problems in front of them. No different than when Randy showed up on a scene as a firefighter, his mission as a legislator is to solve the problems in front of him.

Of course, supporting our friends takes money. NONE of your dues money goes to political activity. Our political donations are all funded by voluntary contributions into our PAC. Please look at Secretary Treasurer Michael Pinkham's report on the PAC. We have been working to enhance that fund and it appears to have plateaued.

It's time for each of you to consider getting your Local to do a State PAC drive. Of course, charity starts at home: If your Local doesn't have a Local PAC or you're not a member, please consider starting or joining. If your Local doesn't have a PAC, Secretary Treasurer Pinkham has put together an easy way to get started. You can contact him for more information.

Finally, we are looking forward to the convention in Lafayette. Local 472 President Trent Richter and his members are hard at work preparing to welcome all the delegates. Downtown Lafayette has made great improvements in the last several years and we look forward to a productive and enjoyable convention. We will also be hosting a workshop for Local leadership and pension secretaries to review SB396. Please make sure your leaderships signs up.

If there is something good that your Local has done recently, whether it's hosting a fire ops like Winchester or firefighters giving vaccines in Hamilton County, please send us an article or photographs so we can share on social media and the newsletter.

Fraternally,

Tom Hanify



Secretary-Treasurer Mike Pinkham

Brothers
and
Sisters,

tives each and every year.

This year's legislative session has concluded and once again the bills enacted will positively benefit our membership including protecting our retirement and disability system and eliminating residency restrictions by employers.

Our continued success in recent years is directly attributable to your support of our Indiana Firefighters Political Action Committee. Your financial contributions are critical to the success of our legislative initia-

We created the Indiana Firefighters PAC twenty years ago to expand our influence in the statewide political arena and from those humble beginnings with literally no funds available we now enjoy annual cash flows of just over \$110,000 per year - meaning we enjoy roughly \$110,000 in voluntary contributions from your memberships, and we spend roughly \$110,000 in political expenditures each year.

Our Indiana Firefighters PAC is a separate organization from the PFFUI and relies completely upon voluntary contributions for revenues. While we have certainly grown tremendously from our beginnings, these contributions have leveled off in the last five years and not every Local has developed a means of contributing.

With a current membership of 75 Local Affiliated Unions representing nearly 6,700 active and 1,250 retired-active firefighters from around the state we can do better. Nearly 90% of our annual PAC revenues come from just 15 Locals.

Special recognition is due those Locals who have been with us contributing every year since our start – Brazil L1453, Fort Wayne L0124, Kokomo L0396, Muncie L1348, and Valparaiso L1124.

This list has of course grown to include many other Locals who have taken the initiative to develop a means locally to solicit and collect voluntary member contributions via payroll deductions, piggy-backed dues deductions, or direct ACH automatic individual's bank account transfers.

Some of our members reading this article may question why we have a PAC and of course we all realize how divisive politics can be, but it is pretty simple – we are employed by governmental units and our working conditions, pay, and benefits are all controlled by politicians or politically appointed individuals. State laws severely restrict the amount of funds unions may spend on political activities and contributions to candidates. There are no restrictions on political expenditures of registered PAC's.

As PAC's go, we are a minor financial player in the Indiana political arena, and we need to grow that ability with your support. Our greatest asset is our membership and our mission. As firefighters and emergency medical providers responding to every nature of emergency, we enjoy a measure of respect in the halls of the General Assembly, but that is not enough to get legislation adopted or defeated.

Pension systems have been under assault for years now in many states across the country and even though we have a nearly fully funded and reasonable benefit system in place there have been initiatives put forth here which would not be beneficial to our members and their families. We need to be politically active, and we need to be able to broaden our political influence to protect our retirement, disability, and survivor benefits.

Many of your Locals have their own PAC's focusing on local political races affecting your wages and benefits and working conditions where you actually work, and we can help your representatives manage those

PAC's properly or assist them through our Local Affiliate PAC Participation Program.

In the past twenty years our Indian Firefighters PAC has collectively brought in \$1.4 million in contributions, and we have expended nearly the same amount in political expenditures. Again, that's over twenty years, some large lobbyist PAC's spend that much in one year in our state. We are spending just over \$100,000 each year.

Please encourage your Local leaderships to participate in securing regularly scheduled voluntary PAC contributions and if your Local already has that means please encourage them to broaden that program and solicit increased participation. Our District Vice-Presidents are available to schedule visits with your membership to increase understanding of our Indiana Firefighters PAC and the many other services we can offer your Local.

The financial reports of the Indiana Firefighters PAC are a matter of public record and are available for inspection on the Indiana Campaign Finance web site and detailed reports are regularly provided to the PF-FUI Executive Board.

Invest in your future. Support the Indiana Firefighters PAC.

[PayPal.Me/INFFPAC](https://www.paypal.com/INFFPAC)

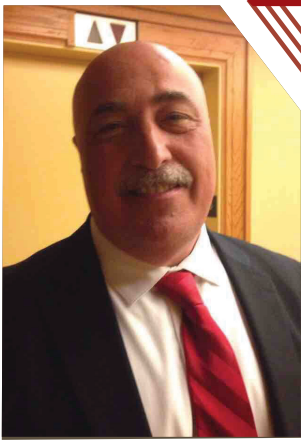
Fraternally,

Michael Pinkham



Contribute to PAC

PFFUI Vice President Mike Whited



Brothers
and
Sisters,

Despite having the 2021 Indiana General Assembly legislative session during a worldwide pandemic, the PFFUI had another great session. Lobbying at the General Assembly this year was unlike any session I had ever attended. Not only did we have limited access to legislators during this session but when we testified in committee hearings on legislation, we were in a separate room from the committee mem-

bers. This made it very difficult to read the room to get a feel on how our testimony was being received by those in committee. However, as the 2021 session comes to a close, we have helped pass some great legislation that will benefit our members. This year President Hanify and myself were watching over 80 bills making sure some kept moving while trying to keep others from getting passed. Below is a partial list of the beneficial bills that have passed this session. If you have any questions, please let President Hanify or myself know.

Fraternally,

Mike Whited

HB1002 CIVIL IMMUNITY RELATED TO COVID-19 (TORR J) . IC 16-31-6-1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY1, 2021];Sec. 1.(a) A certified emergency medical responder, a certified emergency medical technician, a certified advanced emergency medical technician, or a licensed paramedic who provides emergency medical services to an emergency patient is not liable for an act or omission in providing those services unless the act or omission constitutes **gross** negligence or willful misconduct. If the certified emergency medical technician services provider is not liable for an act or omission, no other person incurs liability by reason of an agency relationship with the certified emergency medical technician. services provider

Current Status: Going to the Governor

HB1033 RESIDENCY OF POLICE OFFICERS AND FIREFIGHTERS (FRYE R) Revises residency requirements for members of police and fire departments to require that members: (1) have adequate means of transportation into the jurisdiction served by the member's department; and (2) maintain

Current Status: SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

HB1115 INTERFERING WITH PUBLIC SAFETY (MILLER D) Provides that a person who enters a marked off area after having been denied entry by a firefighter commits interfering with public safety. (Under current law, the offense is committed only if the person is denied entry by an emer-

Current Status: Going to the Governor

HB1118 MOBILE INTEGRATED HEALTHCARE PROGRAMS AND SAFETY PLANS (SCHAIBLEY D) Specifies that an individualized mental health safety plan includes information concerning a patient's physical health. Allows a mobile integrated healthcare program or a mental health community paramedicine program to provide certain services to help facilitate the patient's safe transition back into the community upon disclosure of a patient's individualized mental health safety plan. Allows a representative of a mobile integrated healthcare program or a representative

Current Status: SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

HB1230 SAFE HAVEN 911 (LAUER R) Provides that due to extenuating circumstances, if a child's parent or a person is unable to give up custody of a child under the procedure set forth in Indiana's safe haven law, the child's parent or the person may request that an emergency medical services provider (provider) take custody of the child by: (1) dialing the 911 emergency call number; and (2) staying with the child until a provider arrives to take custody of the child. Provides that the emergency medical dispatch agency or the provider shall inform the child's parent or the person

Current Status: SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

HB1270 DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (FRYE R) Establishes a fire chief executive training program (executive training program). Provides that after January 1, 2022, a newly appointed fire chief of a political subdivision must successfully complete the executive training program within one year of appointment. Provides that a volunteer fire chief is not required to complete the executive training program. Provides that the department of homeland security may allow any of the following individuals to enroll in the executive training program if there is available space in the course: (1) A chief officer. (2) Management level personnel. (3) A volunteer fire chief. (4) A volunteer chief officer. (5) Volunteer management level personnel. Provides that schools

Current Status: Going to the Governor

SB77 PEER SUPPORT SERVICES AND CISM SERVICES (CRIDER M) Provides, with certain exceptions, that written or oral communications concerning the provision of peer support services and critical incident stress management services (CISM services) to a first responder are confidential and may not be disclosed without the first responder's consent. (Current law provides that communications concerning CISM services to an emergency responder are confidential.) Provides that a first responder's communication is not confidential and may be disclosed: (1) to prevent the first responder from committing a crime or fraud that the provider of CISM services or peer support services reasonably believes is likely to result in death, substantial bodily harm, or substantial economic injury to another; (2) if it conveys information regarding spousal abuse; (3) if the provider of CISM services or the peer support services was a witness or a party to the incident

Current Status: SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

SB232 EXPOSURE RISK DISEASES (FORD J) Adds any variant of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), including coronavirus disease (COVID-19), to the list of diseases considered an exposure risk disease for purposes of emergency and public safety employee death and disability presumed in the line of duty. Adds probation and community corrections officers to the list of employees eligible for a line of duty death benefit. Repeals a provision that provides a presumption of disability or death incurred in the line of duty to an employee if the employee receives a

Current Status: Going to the Governor

SB396 1977 PENSION AND DISABILITY FUND (BOOTS P) Amends the definition of "salary of a first class patrolman or first class firefighter" for the purpose of benefits paid from and contributions made to the 1977 police officers' and firefighters' pension and disability fund (fund). Establishes certain requirements if an employer certifies a new salary under IC 36-8-8-6.5. Changes the maximum age for an applicant to a police department from 35 to 39 years of age. Requires an employer that participates in the fund and provides longevity increases to pay an amount greater than or equal to the longevity increase paid in the previous year. Requires employers to provide reports or records requested by the system board, and permits the system board to fine the employer for

Current Status: SIGNED BY GOVERNOR



Indiana Professional Firefighters PAC

Supporting those who support us



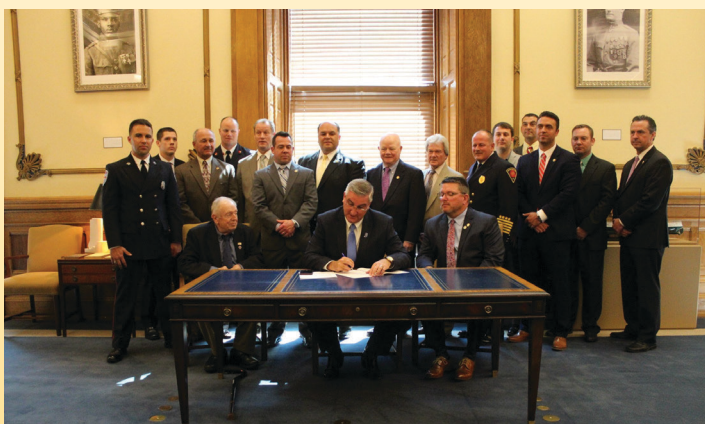
The Indiana Professional Firefighters Political Action Committee desperately needs your support.

The successes we achieve in the Indiana General Assembly to protect and enhance our pensions and other benefits could not be realized without participation in the political process.

Elected state officials have the ultimate say on statutes governing virtually every aspect of our careers, particularly our disability and retirement benefits. The state officials we lobby cross all party lines and we are bipartisan in our support of elected lawmakers who support professional firefighters and municipal EMS professionals.

These individuals control your disability, retirement, and survivor benefits, and write the statewide statutes governing merit systems, collective bargaining, residency requirements, disciplinary procedures, and countless other issues affecting you and your family as an active or retired Professional Firefighter or Municipal EMS Professional.

The Indiana Professional Firefighters PAC relies solely upon voluntary contributions and is requesting that each member dedicate a minimum of \$1.00 per paycheck to build an effective political action committee.



Indiana Firefighters PAC Contribution Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Local _____ ☐ Active ☐ Retired

Shirt Size (circle one) XXXL XXL XL L M S

Check the box to indicate the level you are joining:

☐ **President Club Level**

\$200 or more per year
(\$8.00 per paycheck)

Receive an Indiana FIREPAC Windshirt

☐ **Capitol Club Level**

\$100 or more per year
(\$4.00 per paycheck)

Receive an Indiana FIREPAC
Polo Shirt

☐ **Leadership Level**

\$50 or more per year
(\$2.00 per paycheck)

Receive an Indiana FIREPAC T-shirt

☐ **Membership Level**

\$26 or more per year
(\$1.00 per paycheck)

Receive an Indiana FIREPAC
Car Decal



MAIL TO:

Indiana Firefighters PAC
P.O. Box 15735
Ft. Wayne, Indiana 46885-5735

These contributions are not deductible for income tax purposes. Fill out the form and mail it in today. Let us know we can count on your support.



Tony Murray
District Vice-President

Emergency Medical Services and Healthcare Bills

The PFFUI is an active participant in the legislative process at the Indiana General Assembly by monitoring, advocating or opposing bills when filed and proceed through the session. Included are bills that pertain to emergency medical services and certain healthcare matters. Our members are on the front lines of the healthcare delivery system in our state. Matters of law in this area are important to daily work our members perform, the manner by which our employers are able to be reimbursed for services rendered and the ability to adapt to the changing needs in our communities for healthcare delivery. The following bills represent these class of bills specifically monitored during this session.

HB 1118 – Mobile Integrated Healthcare Programs and Safety Plans was authored by Rep. Donna Schaibley and has successfully made it through the House concurrence process on amendments made in the Senate. Specifies that an individualized mental health safety plan includes information concerning a patient's physical health. Allows a mobile integrated healthcare program or a mental health community paramedicine program to provide certain services to help facilitate the patient's safe transition back into the community upon disclosure of a patient's individualized mental health safety plan. Allows a representative of a mobile integrated healthcare program or a representative of a mental health community paramedicine program to request a patient's individualized mental health safety plan from a psychiatric crisis center, psychiatric inpatient unit, or psychiatric residential treatment provider if certain conditions are met.

HB 1057 – EMS Immunity was authored by Rep. Jerry Torr and originated from concern brought to discussion by Carmel Local 4444 as current law for EMS providers in Indiana differed from neighboring states on the issue of provider liability. At issue is emergency responders, emergency medical technicians (basic and intermediate) and paramedics are liable for negligence under the law whereas in surrounding states, liability is defined by gross negligence. Although the bill did not receive a hearing in committee,

subsequently creating a dead bill, the language proposed in the bill was included in a committee amendment in the senate to be included in HB 1002 as amended. Currently the bill has passed House concurrence. HB 1002 amendment includes: Medical responders. Adds: (1) certified emergency medical responders; (2) certified advanced emergency medical technicians; and (3) licensed paramedics; to certain statutes concerning negligence and emergency medical services. Provides that a certified emergency medical technician who provides certain emergency medical services (EMS) to an emergency patient is not liable for an act or omission in providing those services unless the act or omission constitutes gross negligence or willful misconduct. Provides that a certified emergency medical responder who uses an automatic or a semiautomatic defibrillator on an emergency patient according to certain procedures is immune from civil liability for acts or omissions when rendering those services unless the act or omission constitutes gross negligence or willful misconduct. Provides that an act or omission of a licensed paramedic or a certified advanced emergency medical technician done or omitted in good faith while providing advanced life support to a patient or trauma victim does not impose liability upon the paramedic or advanced emergency medical technician, the authorizing physician, the hospital, or the officers, members of the staff, nurses, other employees of the hospital, or the local governmental unit unless the act or omission constitutes gross negligence or willful misconduct.

HB 1425 – Liability for Emergency Medical Services is a dead bill and was monitored in the committee process. The intent of this bill is largely reflected in the amendment to HB 1002 (above).

HB 1454 – Non-Emergency Ambulance Service and Physician Order, authored by Rep. Barid is a bill that PFFUI monitored through the legislative process and is currently in conference committee. Requires hospitals to establish protocols for within the hospital concerning the issuance of orders for nonemergency transportation. Requires a physician to issue an order for nonemergency ambulance services when a patient needs transportation by an ambulance. Specifies contents of an order. Allows for certification of a physician's order by certain providers if certain conditions are met.

Respectfully,

Tony Murray

“What does the Union do for me?”

My first legislative session was in 2010 and since then, President Hanify and I have tracked thousands of bills affecting Fire, EMS, and Public Safety. At the Statehouse we look to pass legislation that will not only increase and protect fire fighter rights but to protect fire fighter’s health and safety. That way you can go home to your family after a shift and have a decent retirement to look forward to. What follows is just some of the PFFUI’s legislation since 2010 that was passed or, sometimes more importantly, that didn’t pass.

These bills have included being able to live outside the City limits where you work, job rights for municipal EMS workers, putting into law the ability to bargain for wages and benefits and pension enhancements while still keeping our pension funded for future generations. Our most important job has been protecting and improving the pension.

Almost every year going back to 2010 you can see the threat of changing our pension and other State-run pensions from a defined benefit fund into a defined contribution pension. The 1977 Police and Fire Pension Fund is a well-funded defined benefit contribution pension plan. In my first few sessions, our pension was under an attack to switch to a 401K type pension every session. President Hanify and I have worked hard to educate legislators on why our pension, which also provides for line of duty deaths and injuries, is different from other pensions. The work of protecting our pensions is year-round.

Please read over the attached bill list and remember them the next time you wonder “What does the union do for me?”

Stay Safe,

Mike Whited
Vice President, PFFUI

NOTABLE BILLS IN THE LAST DECADE

2010

PASSED

PURCHASE OF OUT-OF-STATE SERVICE CREDIT (Soliday, E) - Allows a member of the 1977 police officers’ and firefighters’ pension and disability fund (1977 fund) to purchase at full actuarial cost service earned out of state in a position for which the 1977 fund would give credit if the service were earned in Indiana.

PASSED

POLICE OFFICERS’ AND FIREFIGHTERS’ 1977 PENSION AND DISABILITY FUND (Crouch, S) - Allows a member of the 1977 police officers’ and firefighters’ pension and disability fund (1977 fund) to designate one or more beneficiaries to receive the 1977 fund member’s contributions plus interest if the 1977 fund member dies without receiving retirement or disability benefits and without a spouse, child, or parent entitled to receive survivor benefits. Provides that, if the member does not designate a beneficiary, the member’s contributions and accumulated interest shall be refunded to the member’s estate. Specifies that for purposes of receiving a survivor benefit a parent is wholly dependent on a member of the 1977 fund if the 1977 fund member claimed the parent as a dependent on the federal income tax return filed by the 1977 fund member in the year before the year in which the 1977 fund member died.

PASSED

1977 FUND PURCHASE OF SERVICE CREDIT (Goodin, T) - Allows a member of the 1977 police officers' and firefighters' pension and disability fund (1977 fund) to purchase at full actuarial cost prior service in certain public retirement funds.

PASSED

PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER LAYOFF AND REINSTATEMENT (Tyler, D) - Provides that the reinstatement rights of a laid off member of a city police or fire department, or a laid off member of a sheriff's department, terminates five years (instead of three years) after the day on which the member's layoff begins.

PASSED - Gives certain job rights to municipal EMS

SUSPENSIONS OR TERMINATIONS OF EMS PERSONNEL (Tallian, K) - Provides that a medical director of a police or fire department or a volunteer fire department must provide a written explanation to an individual who is a member of the department, and as a condition of employment or appointment, holds a certification to provide emergency medical services, if the medical director refuses or fails to supervise or attest to the competency of the individual to provide emergency medical services or suspends the individual from performing emergency medical services. Provides that, before a department takes any employment or appointment related action against the individual, the individual is entitled to a hearing and appeal of the medical director's refusal, failure, or suspension. Requires the board or commission hearing the appeal to consult with an independent medical expert who must have certain qualifications in order to determine whether the individual followed the applicable emergency medical services protocol, if the medical director's action that is the subject of the appeal is based on a health care decision made by the individual in performing emergency medical services.

PASSED

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (Wyss, T) - Includes fire protection districts and fire protection territories as units for purposes of participation in the statewide emergency mutual aid program under certain circumstances. Provides that a county, municipality, township, fire protection district, or fire protection territory that participates in the program and that receives disaster assistance from another participating unit shall reimburse the assisting unit for certain expenses to the extent the expenses are not covered by reimbursements.

DEAD

FIRE DEPARTMENT AND LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICE FEES (Paul, A) - Prohibits a township, a municipality, or the fire departments of these units (excluding a volunteer fire department) from imposing, collecting, or entering into a contract for the collection of an accident response service fee from:

PASSED

RETURN OF 1977 FUND MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS (Becker, V) - Allows a member of the 1977 police officers' and firefighters' pension and disability fund to designate one or more beneficiaries to receive the member's contributions plus interest if the member dies without receiving retirement or disability benefits and without a spouse, child, or parent entitled to receive survivor benefits. Provides that, if the member does not designate a beneficiary, the member's contributions and accumulated interest shall be refunded to the member's estate. Specifies that, for purposes of receiving a survivor benefit, a parent is wholly dependent on a member if the member claimed the parent as a dependent on the member's federal income tax return for the year before the year in which the member died.

2011

PASSED

PUBLIC PENSION FUNDS (Niezgodski, D) - Makes the following changes: (1) Allows a member of the 1977 police officers' and firefighters' pension and disability fund (1977 fund) (or survivor of a member) who applied for disability prior to 1990 and is receiving a disability benefit to apply to a local board for a recommendation as to whether the member's disability occurred in the line of duty. Provides that the local board shall make

a recommendation of its findings to the 1977 fund advisory committee (committee). Provides that the committee shall make an initial determination of whether the member's disability occurred in the line of duty. Provides that if the committee fails to timely provide an initial determination, the default determination will be made by the public employees' retirement fund (PERF) medical authority. Provides that the PERF board makes a final determination of whether the member's disability occurred in the line of duty. Establishes procedures to appeal: (A) a recommendation by the local board; (B) an initial determination by the committee; or (C) an initial default determination made by the PERF medical authority. Requires that a member or survivor apply to the local board within two years of the receipt of a PERF board's notice that the PERF board has received a favorable ruling from the Internal Revenue Service. (2) Provides that an active member of the 1977 fund who has entered the deferred retirement option plan (DROP) before July 1, 2011, may elect to exit the DROP and receive a partial lump sum distribution. Provides that a 1977 fund member who enters the DROP after June 30, 2011, may not elect to receive a partial lump sum distribution.

PASSED - Gave us, for the first time, a representative on the INPRS Board of Trustees

PERF BOARD MEMBERSHIP (Niezgodski, D) - Adds a police officer or firefighter as a member of the board of trustees of the public employees' retirement fund (PERF).

DEAD- Another bill to switch to a defined contribution

PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN (Waltz, B) - Requires the board of trustees (board) of the public employees' retirement fund (PERF) and the Indiana state teachers' retirement fund (TRF) to establish, for individuals who, after June 30, 2011, become full-time employees of the state, a participating political subdivision, or a school corporation, a defined contribution plan (plan) using the PERF and TRF annuity savings accounts, or as a separate fund.

DEAD Gives townships and volunteer fire departments a cut off the top

PUBLIC SAFETY LOIT DISTRIBUTIONS (Hershman, B) - Provides that a fire department, volunteer fire department, or emergency medical services provider that provides fire protection or emergency medical services within the county and is operated by or serves a political subdivision that is not entitled to receive a distribution of the public safety LOIT tax revenue may apply to the county council (in a CAGIT county) or the county income tax council (in a COIT county) for a distribution of the tax revenue.

2012

PASSED - We had a hand in drafting this bill to protect firefighters right to run

NEPOTISM; CONFLICT OF INTEREST (Mahan, K) - Provides that a full-time paid firefighter or a volunteer firefighter may not assume or hold a position on the executive, legislative, or fiscal body of a unit that receives fire protection services from the department in which the firefighter serves. Specifies that the restriction does not prevent an elected officer from serving on a board, commission, or committee of the unit. Provides that the restriction does not prohibit an employee (including a full-time paid firefighter) or a volunteer firefighter from holding an elected office of another unit. Allows an employee (including a full-time paid firefighter) or a volunteer firefighter who assumes or holds an elected office on January 1, 2013, to continue to hold the office and be employed by the unit or serve as a volunteer firefighter until the expiration of the term of office. Provides that relatives may not be employed by a unit in positions that result in one relative being in the direct line of supervision of the other relative. Provides that an individual who is employed by a unit on July 1, 2012, is not subject to the provisions regarding nepotism unless the individual has a break in employment with the unit. Provides that an individual who is employed by a unit on the date the individual's relative begins serving a term of an elected office of the unit: (1) may remain employed by the unit and maintain the individual's position or rank even if the individual would be in the direct line of supervision of the individual's relative; and (2) may not be promoted to a position or, in the case of an individual who is a member of a merit police department or merit fire department, promoted to a position that is not within the merit ranks, if the new position would place the individual in the direct line of supervision of the individual's relative.

DEAD- Another bill to switch to a defined contribution

PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN (Waltz, B) - Requires an individual who, after the effective date of the public employees' defined contribution plan (plan), becomes a full-time employee of the state in a position that would otherwise be eligible for membership in the public employees' retirement fund to become a member of the plan. State civil service system. Makes the following changes as the result of the enactment of SECTION 56 of HEA 1001(P.L.229-2011)

PASSED - Original bill included local units of government until we were removed

Concerning the state civil service system: (1) Removes responsibility for public employee collective bargaining from the budget agency. (2) Removes references to a state employee who is a party to a collective bargaining agreement or an employment contract, prohibited belonging to a union or paying union dues

2013

PASSED

FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICTS (Mayfield, P) - Allows a fire protection district to purchase (with the approval of the county council) firefighting apparatus and equipment for the district on an installment conditional sale or mortgage contract running for a period not exceeding 15 years. (Under current law, the 15 year duration for such a contract applies only to a fire protection district with assessed value of \$60,000,000 or less.)

PASSED - Allowed unilateral transfers with departments in the 1977 Fund

1977 FUND MEMBERSHIP (Harman, T) - Permits a police officer or firefighter who: (1) is an active member of the 1977 police officers' and firefighters' pension and disability fund (1977 fund) with an employer that participates in the 1977 fund; (2) separates from that employer; and (3) becomes employed as a full-time police officer or firefighter with a second employer that participates in the 1977 fund not later than 180 days after separation from the first employer; is a member of the 1977 fund without meeting for a second time the age limitations and the physical and mental requirements for admission to the 1977 fund. Exempts from the 180 day limitation a member of the 1977 fund who is eligible for reinstatement with a police or fire department following a layoff for financial reasons. Provides that a police officer or firefighter who has been employed as a full-time police officer or firefighter with more than one employer that participates in the 1977 fund is entitled to receive credit for all years of 1977 fund covered service as a police officer or firefighter with all employers that participate in the 1977 fund.

2014

PASSED

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PROVIDER DISABILITY BENEFITS (Boots, P) - Authorizes a municipal corporation to provide programs of disability insurance (programs) to its emergency medical services providers who become disabled as the result of an injury or illness: (1) that is not covered by worker's compensation or occupational diseases compensation; or (2) for which worker's compensation or occupational diseases compensation has been exhausted. Provides that the elimination or waiting period before a benefit begins may not be greater than: (1) 30 days, for a short term disability program; or (2) 120 days, for a long term disability program. Allows a municipal corporation to provide the programs by purchasing policies of group insurance or establishing a self-insurance program. Requires the fiscal body of a municipal corporation to approve the establishment of a self-insurance program. Allows the programs to exclude part-time employees and individuals who provide services to the municipal corporation under a contract. (The introduced version of this bill was prepared by the pension management oversight commission.)

DEAD: Would allow local units to opt out of the 1977 fund

PUBLIC PENSIONS (Charbonneau, E) - Provides that, after June 30, 2014, a political subdivision that is eligible to participate in the public employees' retirement fund (PERF) shall provide retirement, disability, and survivor benefits using PERF to its employees employed in positions covered by PERF. Permits a political subdivision that established a pension or retirement system before July 1, 2014, to continue that pension or

retirement plan for employees who are participants in the pension or retirement plan on July 1, 2014. Requires an individual who becomes a state employee after June 30, 2014, in a position that would otherwise be eligible for membership in PERF to become a member of the defined contribution (ASA only) plan (plan).

2015

PASSED

EMS PROVIDER DEATH BENEFIT (Macer, K) - Provides a public safety officer special death benefit to an emergency medical services provider who, after June 30, 2015, dies as a direct result of personal injury or illness resulting from the provider's performance of duties under a contract entered into by the provider's employer to provide emergency medical services for a political subdivision if the provider's employer purchases coverage if the employer purchases coverage for all eligible emergency medical services providers of the employer. Provides that the cost of the coverage is \$100 per year and that an employer may purchase the coverage by making quarterly payments on dates prescribed by the board of trustees of the Indiana public retirement system.

PASSED

FIRE TRAINING ACADEMY (Frye, R) - Increases the board of firefighting personnel standards and education from 11 to 13 members. Allows the division of fire and building safety (division) of the Indiana department of homeland security (IDHS) to establish a fire and public safety academy training system to create and conduct programs to train public safety personnel. Allows the division to develop the programs in cooperation with other agencies, organizations, or educational institutions.

PASSED

PURCHASE OF SERVICE CREDIT (Kruse, D) - Permits a member of the public employees' retirement fund (PERF) to purchase at full actuarial cost the member's prior service in the 1977 police officers' and firefighters' pension and disability fund (1977 fund). Requires the board of trustees of the Indiana public retirement system to transfer from the 1977 fund to PERF the member's contributions and the present value of the unreduced benefit payable upon retirement that is attributable to the member. Requires the transferred amounts to be credited against the contributions required to purchase the member's prior 1977 fund service. Permits the member's employer to pay all or a part of the member's contributions required for the purchase of the member's prior 1977 fund service. Provides that credit in the 1977 fund for the service that is purchased is waived.

2016

PASSED - Changed the LOIT system to the new LIT

LOCAL INCOME TAX (Thompson, J) - Updates various laws to conform them to the new local income tax (LIT) law. Adds provisions concerning Lake, LaPorte, and Porter counties concerning the northwest Indiana regional development authority.

DEAD- Would hurt our firefighters that are not in the 1977 fund

EARLY RETIREMENT (Culver, W) - Replaces the "rule of 85" with a "rule of 95" for determining a member's eligibility to retire from the following public retirement plans after June 30, 2016: (1) The public employees' retirement fund.

PASSED

EMPLOYMENT OF VETERANS AS PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS; 1977 FUND RETIREMENT AGE (Morris, R) - Waives the maximum hiring age restrictions that apply to the appointment and hiring of police officers and firefighters for an individual who is a veteran of the armed forces and who meets certain requirements. Provides that an individual who is appointed as a police officer or a firefighter as the result of a waiver is eligible to become a member of the 1977 police officers' and firefighters' pension and disability fund (1977 fund). Requires a member of the 1977 fund to retire at 70 years of age.

DEAD- Another bill to switch to a defined contribution

DEFAULT PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT PLAN (Culver, W) - Provides that after June 30, 2017, an individual who becomes a full-time employee of the state for the first time becomes a member of the public employees' defined contribution plan (plan)

PASSED

CRITICAL INCIDENT STRESS MANAGEMENT SERVICES (Wesco, T) - Provides confidentiality protection to communications that emergency responders make to critical incident stress management personnel or records that are generated by critical incident stress management personnel after providing critical incident stress management services to emergency responders following a critical incident. Provides that critical incident stress management personnel are immune from liability for any acts, errors, or omissions committed in providing critical incident stress management services to emergency responders, unless the act, error, or omission constitutes wanton, willful, or intentional misconduct.

PASSED - First time getting job rights for firefighters in Indiana code

DISCIPLINARY PROCESS FOR FIREFIGHTERS (Mahan, K) - Establishes minimum rights for a full-time, paid, nonprobationary member of a fire department to be represented in a meeting at which the chief of the fire department (chief) notifies the firefighter: (1) of the firefighter's termination or demotion with cause; or (2) that the chief is recommending the firefighter's termination or demotion with cause to the safety board. Provides that the firefighter's meeting with the chief concerning the firefighter's termination or demotion with cause may not proceed until the firefighter is provided at least 72 hours to obtain the requested representation. Excludes from these provisions: (1) a member of the fire department who holds an upper level policy making position; (2) a member of the fire department who holds a position in the fire department: (A) that is not an upper level policy making position; and (B) to which the member was appointed by the chief; and (3) a fire department with a merit system established under IC~36-8-3.5.

DEAD- Would hurt our firefighters that are not in the 1977 fund

EARLY RETIREMENT OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES (Culver, W) - Provides that for new hires of: (1) the public employees' retirement fund; eligibility for early retirement according to the "rule of 85" is incrementally changed to a "rule of 95" over the period beginning July 1, 2017, and ending July 1, 2034.

PASSED

1977 FUND DISABILITY BENEFITS (Speedy, M) - Provides that a member of the 1977 police officers' and firefighters' pension and disability fund (1977 fund) who has a permanent and total disability that is the direct result of a catastrophic physical personal injury that occurs in the line of duty after July 1, 2008, and that permanently prevents the 1977 fund member from performing any gainful work receives, after July 1, 2017, for the remainder of the individual's life a disability benefit equal to the monthly salary of a first class patrolman or firefighter at the commencement of the disability. Provides that the 1977 fund member's disability benefit increases at a rate equal to the increases in the monthly salary of a first class patrolman or firefighter. Provides for an exemption from the payment of tuition and regularly assessed fees at a state supported college, university, or technical school for a qualifying child or spouse of a 1977 fund member who has a permanent and total disability that is the direct result of a catastrophic physical personal injury that occurs in the line of duty after July 1, 2008, and that permanently prevents the 1977 fund member from performing any gainful work.

PASSED

DEFERRED RETIREMENT OPTION PLAN DISABILITY BENEFIT (Boots, P) - Revises, for a member of the 1925 police pension fund, the 1937 firefighters' pension fund, the 1953 police pension fund, or the 1977 police officers' and firefighters' pension and disability fund who retires after June 30, 2017, because of a disability at least 12 months after the date the member enters the deferred retirement option plan (DROP), the calculation of the retirement benefit paid to the member. Allows a member who retired after January 1, 2015,

and before July 1, 2017, because of a disability at least 12 months after the date the member entered the DROP to elect to have the member's retirement benefit recalculated under the new provision.

2018

DEAD Would hurt our firefighters that are not in the 1977 fund

EARLY RETIREMENT OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES (Culver, W) - Provides that for new hires of the: (1) public employees' retirement fund; eligibility for early retirement according to the "rule of 85" is incrementally changed to a "rule of 95" over the period beginning July 1, 2018, and ending July 1, 2036.

DEAD- Another bill to switch to a defined contribution

DEFAULT RETIREMENT PLANS (Culver, W) - Provides that after June 30, 2018, an individual who becomes a full-time employee of the state for the first time becomes a member of the public employees' defined contribution plan

DEAD- Was amended to change(eliminate) health insurance coverage to widows of LOD

SURVIVOR HEALTH COVERAGE (Macer, K) - Provides that, if the employer of a public safety officer who dies in the line of duty after June 30, 2018, offers health coverage for active employees, the employer shall offer to provide and pay for health coverage under the plan covering active employees for the surviving spouse and each natural child, stepchild, and adopted child of the public safety officer. Provides that health coverage for a surviving child continues: (1) until the child becomes 18 years of age; (2) until the child becomes 23 years of age, if the child is: (A) enrolled in and regularly attending a secondary school; or (B) a full-time student at an accredited college or university; or (3) during the entire period of the child's physical or mental disability; whichever period is longer.

PASSED

EMT USE OF INJECTABLE EPINEPHRINE (Mahan, K) - Requires the emergency medical services commission to establish training and certification standards for the administration of epinephrine through a prefilled syringe and a syringe and ampule by an emergency medical technician (EMT). Allows an EMT who has been certified to administer epinephrine through an auto-injector, a prefilled syringe, and a syringe and ampule.

PASSED

1977 FUND NEW UNIT CREDITS FOR PRIOR SERVICE (Boots, P) - Provides, in the case of a unit (county, city, town, or township) that begins participation in the 1977 police officers' and firefighters' pension and disability fund (1977 fund), that the unit and the member (firefighter, police officer, or emergency medical technician) may agree how to share the cost of acquiring credit in the 1977 fund for the member's prior service as a firefighter, police officer, or emergency medical technician.

PASSED

1977 FUND PURCHASE OF SERVICE (Grooms, R) - Allows a member of the 1977 police officers' and firefighters' pension and disability fund (1977 fund) to purchase service performed in Indiana as a full-time, fully paid police officer or firefighter for an employer that does not participate in the 1977 fund.

PASSED - our firefighter safety notification bill

SAFETY NOTICE OF ADVANCED STRUCTURAL BUILDINGS (Eckerty, D) - Requires an individual applying for a building permit issued by a city, town, or county for a Class 1 or Class 2 structure after June 30, 2018, to disclose the use of advanced structural components on the building permit application. Requires the city, town, or county building commissioner to notify the local fire department and local 911 call center of a Class 1 or Class 2 structure's use of advanced structural components not later than 90 days after issuing a building permit. Directs a 911 telephone call center to maintain and relay information contained in a

qualifying property's notification and received by the 911 telephone call center. Prohibits the fire prevention and building safety commission (commission) or a state agency from adopting rules requiring the installation of an automatic fire sprinkler system. Prohibits a political subdivision from adopting an ordinance or other regulation requiring the installation of an automatic fire sprinkler system. Requires that the commission adopt rules to replace the current statewide residential code before January 1, 2020. Provides that if the commission uses a national code as part of the adoption of the statewide residential code, the commission shall amend the national code as a condition of the adoption of the code. Requires the commission to submit a report to the general assembly by January 1, 2019 regarding the commission's work related to the adoption of a replacement statewide residential code.

2019

PASSED - Put into law contract language for municipal firefighters

PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS (Mahan, K) - Requires a county, city, town, or township (unit) that does not have a procedure for resolution of an impasse in contract negotiations through alternative dispute resolution with an employee organization for the unit's police or fire department employees, to include in a written agreement entered into with the employee organization after June 30, 2019 that: (1) the parties to submit to nonbinding mediation if they fail to agree to a new agreement within one year after the existing agreement expires. (2) the agreement continue without any change in its terms and conditions until the earlier of the following: (A) The parties fail to reach an agreement after mediating the dispute, at which time the written agreement no longer binds the parties. (B) The date the parties execute a new written agreement.

PASSED

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (Frye, R) - Allows members of police and fire departments to reside within a county that is noncontiguous to the county where the police or fire department is located but is not more than 50 miles from the closest boundary of the city, town, or township where the police or fire department is located. Includes an emergency management worker and a division fire investigator in the definition of "public safety officer" to qualify the person for the special death benefit for a public safety officer who dies in the line of duty.

DEAD- Would require firefighters to live in the City limits

RESIDENCY OF PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS (Hatcher, R) - Provides that a city or town (municipality) may adopt an ordinance requiring a member of the police or fire department (department) to reside within the municipality within a period of time specified in the ordinance, but not sooner than six months after the date the ordinance is adopted or the member is hired by the department.

PASSED - First time ever (42 years) a monetary pension benefit increase

1977 FUND RETIREMENT AND SURVIVING SPOUSE BENEFITS (Ford, J) - Increases the basic monthly pension benefit payable to a member of the 1977 police officers' and firefighters' pension and disability fund (1977 fund) who retires after June 30, 2019, with 20 years of service from 50% to 52% of the monthly salary of a first class patrolman or firefighter in the year the member ended active service. Increases from 60% to 70% of the member's monthly benefit the monthly benefit paid to a surviving spouse of a 1977 fund member who dies after June 30, 2019, other than in the line of duty.

PASSED

SURVIVOR HEALTH COVERAGE (Crider, M) - Provides that, if the employer of a public safety officer who dies in the line of duty after June 30, 2019, offers health coverage for active employees, the employer shall offer to provide and pay for health coverage under the plan covering active employees for the surviving spouse and each natural child, stepchild, and adopted child of the public safety officer. Provides that health coverage for a surviving child continues: (1) until the child becomes 18 years of age; (2) until the child becomes 23 years of age, under certain circumstances; or (3) during the entire period of the child's physical or mental disabili-

ty; whichever period is longest. Changes the application date from a death occurring after June 30, 2019, to a death occurring after December 31, 2017. Requires the department of local government finance to establish a state address confidentiality form to be used to restrict access to the home address of certain persons. Adds to the definition of “covered person” the surviving spouse of a covered person if the person is killed in the line of duty. Provides that the state address confidentiality form may be used when applying for address confidentiality.

PASSED

MOBILE INTEGRATION HEALTHCARE (Tallian, K) - Provides that the office of the secretary of family and social services may reimburse certain emergency medical services provider agencies for covered services provided to a Medicaid recipient as part of a mobile integration healthcare program. Amends the definition of “emergency medical services” to include transportation services, acute care, chronic condition services, or disease management services as part of a mobile integration healthcare program. Provides that the emergency medical services commission (commission), in consultation with the state department of health, may develop a mobile integration healthcare program and approve mobile integration healthcare program applications. Sets forth requirements of the commission concerning the mobile integration healthcare program. Provides that the commission may establish and administer a mobile integration healthcare grant and establishes the mobile integration healthcare grant fund.

2020

PASSED - More rights for firefighters in the Indiana code

RIGHTS OF PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS (Pressel, J) - Provides that a full-time, paid, nonprobationary firefighter has certain minimum protections in addition to any protections provided by contract or other law with regard to the following: (1) The conduct of an interview of the firefighter by the fire department (department) regarding a complaint or internal investigation. (2) The giving of notice by the department to the firefighter of a personnel reassignment, personnel action, or disciplinary action. (3) The disclosure of the firefighter’s personal financial information for purposes of a personnel assignment or action. (4) The firefighter’s engagement in or refusal to engage in political activity. (Currently these statutes apply only to police officers and police departments.) Repeals a provision that makes the provisions applicable only to police officers.

PASSED

INTERFERING WITH PUBLIC SAFETY (Miller, D) - Renames the offense of “interfering with law enforcement” to “interfering with public safety”, and provides that a person who enters a marked off area after having been denied entry by an emergency medical services provider commits interfering with public safety. (Under current law, the offense is only committed if the person is denied entry by a law enforcement officer.)

PASSED

PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER DEATH BENEFITS (Goodrich, C) - Increases, from \$150,000 to \$225,000, the special death benefit for certain public safety officers, certain motor carrier inspectors, certain special police employees, members of the 1925 police pension fund, the 1937 firefighters’ pension fund, the 1953 police pension fund, and the 1977 police officers’ and firefighters’ pension and disability fund who die in the line of duty after June 30, 2020. Provides that the board shall determine contributions and contribution rates for individual employers or for a group of employers necessary to adequately maintain the special death benefit fund. Provides that, for certain police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical services providers, the cost of the coverage is in addition to the contribution determined by the board.

PASSED

USE OF FIREFIGHTING FOAM CONTAINING PFAS (Mayfield, P) - Prohibits the use of Class B firefighting foam containing an intentionally added PFAS chemical: (1) for training purposes; and (2) for testing purposes, unless the testing facility has implemented appropriate measures to prevent releases of the firefighting foam to the environment.

PASSED

REIMBURSEMENT FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (Kirchhofer, C) - Requires the state employee health plan, Medicaid, policies of accident and sickness insurance, and health maintenance organization contracts that provide coverage for emergency medical services to reimburse for emergency medical services that are: (1) rendered by an emergency medical services provider organization; (2) within the emergency medical services provider organization's scope of practice; (3) performed or provided as advanced life support services; and (4) performed or provided during a response initiated through the 911 system.

DEAD - Would require firefighters to live in the City limits

RESIDENCY OF PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS (Hatcher, R) - Provides that a city or town (municipality) may adopt an ordinance requiring a member of the police or fire department (department) to reside within the municipality within a period of time specified in the ordinance, but not sooner than six months after the date the ordinance is adopted or the member is hired by the department.

PASSED

MENTAL HEALTH DISABILITY REVIEW PANELS (Boots, P) - Establishes mental health disability review panels (review panel) for evaluation of members of the 1977 police officers' and firefighters' pension and disability fund (1977 fund) who have been determined to have an impairment for mental illness. Includes mental illness in the description of "occupational diseases" for purposes of determining whether a 1977 fund member has an impairment. Makes the final determination of an impairment for a mental illness provisional for two years: (1) beginning July 1, 2020, for a final determination made after December 31, 2012, and before July 1, 2020; or (2) from the date of the final determination, for a final determination made after June 30, 2020. Requires that, during that time, the 1977 fund member participate in a mental health treatment plan, at the employer's cost, and at the end of the two year period, requires the review panel to evaluate the 1977 fund member to determine if the 1977 fund member: (1) is medically able to return to duty; or (2) may continue for another two year provisional disability period. Requires that, at the end of the second provisional period, the review panel evaluate the 1977 fund member to determine if the 1977 fund member: (1) is medically able to return to duty; or (2) has a permanent impairment. Provides that the evaluations conducted by the mental health disability review panels are confidential. Provides that the board of trustees of the Indiana public retirement system may suspend a 1977 fund member's disability benefits if the member fails to comply with reasonable requests for information by the mental health disability review panel.

PASSED - Redefines hurt on duty

CARE OF CITY POLICE OFFICERS AND FIREFIGHTERS (Brown, L) - Provides that a city shall pay for the care of a police officer or firefighter who suffers an injury while performing the person's duty or while the person is on duty or who contracts illness caused by the performance of the person's duty.

PASSED

SURVIVOR BENEFITS (Garten, C) - Provides that if a public safety officer enters a deferred retirement option plan (DROP) for the public safety officer's respective pension plan and the public safety officer dies before the public safety officer's DROP exit date, the benefit options for the public safety officer's survivors are made similar, as applicable, to the DROP disability benefit options in: (1) the DROP applicable to the state excise police, gaming agent, gaming control officer, and conservation enforcement officers' retirement plan; and (2) the DROP applicable to the 1925 police pension fund, the 1937 firefighters' pension fund, the 1953 police pension fund (Indianapolis), and the 1977 police officers' and firefighters' pension and disability fund.



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Indiana Firefighters PAC Achievements

- Expanded firefighter residency
- Heart, Lung, Cancer, and Parkinson's presumption legislation
- Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP)
- Law change to allow widows of the 1937 plan to remarry without losing pension
- LODD Benefits
 - \$150,000 death benefit
 - Paid health insurance to spouse and dependents
 - Free in-state college tuition to minor dependents
- Starting and maintaining the 1977 pension fund with continued oversight
- Meet and confer law
- Municipal EMS job rights
 - \$150,000 death benefit for municipal EMS LODD
 - Gained ability for Municipal EMS to purchase long-term and short-term disability
- Federal tax exemption for line of duty disability pensions
- Paid medical for firefighters hurt on duty
- 100% pension relief to local units for 1937 pension fund
- Firefighter Safety Notification law



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President Hanify testifying on SB396 on behalf of the PFFUI, Fire Chiefs Association, Police Chiefs, and FOP



Brother Frye

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VP Mike Whited testifying to the Veterans Affairs and Public Safety Committee, which is chaired by Representative Randy Frye





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