

New Educational Training Requirements for Trustees and Administrators 83rd Texas Legislature

Educational Training Program

Summary

Section 2 of HB 13 added section 801.2011 to the Government Code related to public retirement system educational training program. The section directs the Pension Review Board (PRB) to develop and administer an educational training program for trustees and administrators by September 1, 2014. The PRB is further directed to:

- a) Establish minimum training requirements by September 1, 2014;
- b) Develop a system to track compliance with requirements by January 1, 2015;
- c) Issue a report on compliance in the PRB Biennial Report by November 30, 2016;
- d) Accredite other training programs;
- e) Make training reasonably accessible over the internet; and
- f) The PRB may adopt reasonable fees to cover costs incurred.

Bill Text (from HB 13 by Callegari)

Section 801.211. PUBLIC RETIREMENT SYSTEM EDUCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM. (a) The board shall develop and administer an educational training program for trustees and system administrators.

(b) The curriculum of the educational training program must include minimum training requirements for trustees and system administrators. The board shall develop a system to track compliance with the minimum training requirements by trustees and system administrators and shall report the level of compliance in the biennial report required by Section 801.203.

(c) The curriculum of the educational training program under this section may include optional training classes for trustees, system administrators, and other employees of public retirement systems.

(d) To the extent practicable, the board shall make training classes reasonably accessible to trustees and system administrators of public retirement systems on an Internet website maintained for that purpose.

(e) The board may adopt rules and appropriate fees to administer and provide educational training programs under this section. The fees set by the board must be reasonable to pay the actual costs incurred by the board to conduct the training classes. The fees must be paid from a source considered appropriate by the governing body of the public retirement system. A public retirement system may provide its own educational training to its trustees and system administrators if the board determines that the system's training meets or exceeds the minimum training requirements established by the board. A trustee or system administrator who participates in that approved educational training fulfills the minimum training requirements established by the board.

SECTION 8. (b) The State Pension Review Board shall adopt rules to implement the educational training program required by Section 801.211, Government Code, as added by this Act, as soon as practicable after the effective date of this Act, but not later than necessary to begin providing training classes on or before September 1, 2014.

(c) For purposes of reporting the level of compliance with the minimum training requirements of the educational training program as required by Section 801.211(b), Government Code, as added by

this Act, the State Pension Review Board may only evaluate compliance with the minimum training requirements by trustees and administrators of public retirement systems on or after January 1, 2015.

TLFFRA-specific Training

Summary

Section 2.01 of SB 220 added Section 18B of the Texas Local Firefighters Retirement Act (TLFFRA) related to technical assistance, training, and information to TLFFRA boards. The section requires the PRB to provide training designed to meet the specific needs of TLFFRA trustees, including small-to-medium-sized plans.

Bill Text (from SB 220 by Birdwell)

Section 18B. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, TRAINING, AND INFORMATION FOR BOARDS OF TRUSTEES. (a) The State Pension Review Board shall provide technical assistance, training, and information to members of the boards of trustees established under this Act. The training required by this section must be designed to meet the specific needs of members of boards of trustees administering benefit plans for local fire fighters, including small-to-medium-sized benefit plans.

(b) To the extent resources are available, the board shall designate one person who specializes in providing the technical assistance, training, and information required under Subsection (a).