

**HB 2618**

**Relating to members of PERS employed by DHS at residential facilities**

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HB 2618 extends Public Employees Retirement System police and fire benefits to employees who work in the Stabilization and Crisis Unit within the Department of Human Services. Employees classified as police and fire under PERS statutes can retire at an earlier age and have a higher benefit factor used in calculating their retirement benefits.

The Subcommittee noted there should be a different way, other than modifying the police and fire statute, to address retirement needs for employees performing high-risk work.

The amendment clarifies the relationship between these employees and the residents they care for and addresses the fiscal impact of higher PERS rates by adding \$0.5 million General Fund and \$0.8 million Federal Funds to the DHS budget.

The Human Services Subcommittee recommends HB 2618 be amended by the -A4 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.