

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**SENATE BILL 5542**

61st Legislature  
2009 Regular Session

Passed by the Senate March 7, 2009  
YEAS 42 NAYS 0

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**President of the Senate**

Passed by the House April 8, 2009  
YEAS 98 NAYS 0

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**Speaker of the House of Representatives**

Approved

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**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Thomas Hoemann, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SENATE BILL 5542** as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

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**Secretary**

FILED

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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**SENATE BILL 5542**

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Passed Legislature - 2009 Regular Session

**State of Washington                      61st Legislature                      2009 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Franklin, Delvin, and Kohl-Welles; by request of LEOFF Plan 2 Retirement Board

Read first time 01/26/09. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

1            AN ACT Relating to members of the law enforcement officers' and  
2 firefighters' retirement system plan 2 who were disabled in the line of  
3 duty before January 1, 2001; and amending RCW 41.26.470.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5            **Sec. 1.** RCW 41.26.470 and 2006 c 39 s 1 are each amended to read  
6 as follows:

7            (1) A member of the retirement system who becomes totally  
8 incapacitated for continued employment by an employer as determined by  
9 the director shall be eligible to receive an allowance under the  
10 provisions of RCW 41.26.410 through 41.26.550. Such member shall  
11 receive a monthly disability allowance computed as provided for in RCW  
12 41.26.420 and shall have such allowance actuarially reduced to reflect  
13 the difference in the number of years between age at disability and the  
14 attainment of age fifty-three, except under subsection (7) of this  
15 section.

16            (2) Any member who receives an allowance under the provisions of  
17 this section shall be subject to such comprehensive medical  
18 examinations as required by the department. If such medical  
19 examinations reveal that such a member has recovered from the

1 incapacitating disability and the member is no longer entitled to  
2 benefits under Title 51 RCW, the retirement allowance shall be canceled  
3 and the member shall be restored to duty in the same civil service  
4 rank, if any, held by the member at the time of retirement or, if  
5 unable to perform the duties of the rank, then, at the member's  
6 request, in such other like or lesser rank as may be or become open and  
7 available, the duties of which the member is then able to perform. In  
8 no event shall a member previously drawing a disability allowance be  
9 returned or be restored to duty at a salary or rate of pay less than  
10 the current salary attached to the rank or position held by the member  
11 at the date of the retirement for disability. If the department  
12 determines that the member is able to return to service, the member is  
13 entitled to notice and a hearing. Both the notice and the hearing  
14 shall comply with the requirements of chapter 34.05 RCW, the  
15 Administrative Procedure Act.

16 (3) Those members subject to this chapter who became disabled in  
17 the line of duty on or after July 23, 1989, and who receive benefits  
18 under RCW 41.04.500 through 41.04.530 or similar benefits under RCW  
19 41.04.535 shall receive or continue to receive service credit subject  
20 to the following:

21 (a) No member may receive more than one month's service credit in  
22 a calendar month.

23 (b) No service credit under this section may be allowed after a  
24 member separates or is separated without leave of absence.

25 (c) Employer contributions shall be paid by the employer at the  
26 rate in effect for the period of the service credited.

27 (d) Employee contributions shall be collected by the employer and  
28 paid to the department at the rate in effect for the period of service  
29 credited.

30 (e) State contributions shall be as provided in RCW 41.45.060 and  
31 41.45.067.

32 (f) Contributions shall be based on the regular compensation which  
33 the member would have received had the disability not occurred.

34 (g) The service and compensation credit under this section shall be  
35 granted for a period not to exceed six consecutive months.

36 (h) Should the legislature revoke the service credit authorized  
37 under this section or repeal this section, no affected employee is  
38 entitled to receive the credit as a matter of contractual right.

1 (4)(a) If the recipient of a monthly retirement allowance under  
2 this section dies before the total of the retirement allowance paid to  
3 the recipient equals the amount of the accumulated contributions at the  
4 date of retirement, then the balance shall be paid to the member's  
5 estate, or such person or persons, trust, or organization as the  
6 recipient has nominated by written designation duly executed and filed  
7 with the director, or, if there is no such designated person or persons  
8 still living at the time of the recipient's death, then to the  
9 surviving spouse, or, if there is neither such designated person or  
10 persons still living at the time of his or her death nor a surviving  
11 spouse, then to his or her legal representative.

12 (b) If a recipient of a monthly retirement allowance under this  
13 section died before April 27, 1989, and before the total of the  
14 retirement allowance paid to the recipient equaled the amount of his or  
15 her accumulated contributions at the date of retirement, then the  
16 department shall pay the balance of the accumulated contributions to  
17 the member's surviving spouse or, if there is no surviving spouse, then  
18 in equal shares to the member's children. If there is no surviving  
19 spouse or children, the department shall retain the contributions.

20 (5) Should the disability retirement allowance of any disability  
21 beneficiary be canceled for any cause other than reentrance into  
22 service or retirement for service, he or she shall be paid the excess,  
23 if any, of the accumulated contributions at the time of retirement over  
24 all payments made on his or her behalf under this chapter.

25 (6) A member who becomes disabled in the line of duty, and who  
26 ceases to be an employee of an employer except by service or disability  
27 retirement, may request a refund of one hundred fifty percent of the  
28 member's accumulated contributions. Any accumulated contributions  
29 attributable to restorations made under RCW 41.50.165(2) shall be  
30 refunded at one hundred percent. A person in receipt of this benefit  
31 is a retiree.

32 (7) A member who becomes disabled in the line of duty shall be  
33 entitled to receive a minimum retirement allowance equal to ten percent  
34 of such member's final average salary. The member shall additionally  
35 receive a retirement allowance equal to two percent of such member's  
36 average final salary for each year of service beyond five.

37 (8) A member who became disabled in the line of duty before January  
38 1, 2001, and is receiving an allowance under RCW 41.26.430 or

1 subsection (1) of this section shall be entitled to receive a minimum  
2 retirement allowance equal to ten percent of such member's final  
3 average salary. The member shall additionally receive a retirement  
4 allowance equal to two percent of such member's average final salary  
5 for each year of service beyond five, and shall have the allowance  
6 actuarially reduced to reflect the difference in the number of years  
7 between age at disability and the attainment of age fifty-three. An  
8 additional benefit shall not result in a total monthly benefit greater  
9 than that provided in subsection (1) of this section.

10 (9) A member who is totally disabled in the line of duty is  
11 entitled to receive a retirement allowance equal to seventy percent of  
12 the member's final average salary. The allowance provided under this  
13 subsection shall be offset by:

14 (a) Temporary disability wage-replacement benefits or permanent  
15 total disability benefits provided to the member under Title 51 RCW;  
16 and

17 (b) Federal social security disability benefits, if any;  
18 so that such an allowance does not result in the member receiving  
19 combined benefits that exceed one hundred percent of the member's final  
20 average salary. However, the offsets shall not in any case reduce the  
21 allowance provided under this subsection below the member's accrued  
22 retirement allowance.

23 A member is considered totally disabled if he or she is unable to  
24 perform any substantial gainful activity due to a physical or mental  
25 condition that may be expected to result in death or that has lasted or  
26 is expected to last at least twelve months. Substantial gainful  
27 activity is defined as average earnings in excess of eight hundred  
28 sixty dollars a month in 2006 adjusted annually as determined by the  
29 director based on federal social security disability standards. The  
30 department may require a person in receipt of an allowance under this  
31 subsection to provide any financial records that are necessary to  
32 determine continued eligibility for such an allowance. A person in  
33 receipt of an allowance under this subsection whose earnings exceed the  
34 threshold for substantial gainful activity shall have their benefit  
35 converted to a line-of-duty disability retirement allowance as provided  
36 in subsection (7) of this section.

37 Any person in receipt of an allowance under the provisions of this

1 section is subject to comprehensive medical examinations as may be  
2 required by the department under subsection (2) of this section in  
3 order to determine continued eligibility for such an allowance.

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