



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 525

January Session, 2001

House Bill No. 6661

House of Representatives, April 30, 2001

The Committee on Education reported through REP. STAPLES of the 96th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT CONCERNING PENSIONS FOR MUNICIPAL
PARAPROFESSIONALS AND NONCERTIFIED SCHOOL PERSONNEL.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subdivision (5) of section 7-425 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 (5) "Member" means any regular employee or elective officer
4 receiving pay from a participating municipality, any paraprofessional,
5 as defined in section 10-155i, or other noncertified employee of a local
6 or regional board of education and any regular employee of a free
7 public library [which] that receives part or all of its income from
8 municipal appropriation, who has been included by such municipality
9 in the pension plan as provided in section 7-427, but shall not include
10 any person, except a paraprofessional, as defined in section 10-155i, or
11 other noncertified employee of a local or regional board of education,
12 who customarily works less than twenty hours a week if such person
13 entered employment after September 30, 1969, any police officer or

14 firefighter who will attain the compulsory retirement age after less
15 than ten years of continuous service in fund B, any teacher who is
16 eligible for membership in the state teachers retirement system, any
17 person eligible for membership in any pension system established by
18 or under the authority of any special act or of a charter adopted under
19 the provisions of chapter 99, or any person holding a position funded
20 in whole or in part by the federal government as part of any public
21 service employment program, on-the-job training program or work
22 experience program, provided persons holding such federally funded
23 positions on July 1, 1978, shall not be excluded from membership but
24 may elect to receive a refund of their accumulated contributions
25 without interest.

26 Sec. 2. (NEW) (a) On and after the effective date of this act, any
27 municipality that is not a member of the Municipal Employees
28 Retirement Fund B, but has its own defined benefit plan shall allow
29 any paraprofessional, as defined in section 10-155i of the general
30 statutes, and any other noncertified employee of a local or regional
31 board of education within the municipality to participate in such plan.
32 For purposes of this section, "defined benefit plan" means a pension
33 plan under which benefits are paid according to a preset formula.

34 (b) This section does not apply to any such municipality in which a
35 pension plan has been successfully negotiated for such
36 paraprofessionals and noncertified employees as of the effective date
37 of this act by the exclusive bargaining representative of such
38 paraprofessionals or noncertified employees and (1) such municipality,
39 or (2) the local or regional boards of education within such
40 municipality.

41 Sec. 3. (NEW) On and after the effective date of this act, any regional
42 educational service center, publicly funded interdistrict magnet school
43 or publicly funded local charter school that has its own defined benefit
44 plan shall allow any paraprofessional, as defined in section 10-155i of

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Affected Agencies: None

Municipal Impact: Cost, STATE MANDATE

Explanation

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities with defined benefit plans, which do not currently allow paraprofessionals and noncertified school personnel to participate in their plans, will be required to do so under the bill. No data is available regarding the existing coverage for these employees. Therefore, the number of municipalities impacted by the bill is not known at this time.

Affected municipalities will be required to make an employer contribution for each newly participating employee. The following example is provided for illustrative purposes. Based upon the 2.75% employer contribution in the Municipal Employees Retirement Fund B (MERF) for General Employees covered by Social Security and an average paraprofessional salary of approximately \$18,000, an employer would be required to contribute \$495 per individual.

OLR BILL ANALYSIS

HB 6661

AN ACT CONCERNING PENSIONS FOR MUNICIPAL PARAPROFESSIONALS AND NONCERTIFIED SCHOOL PERSONNEL.**SUMMARY:**

This bill requires municipalities with defined benefit plans, including those participating in the Municipal Employees Retirement Fund B (MERF), to allow paraprofessionals and other noncertified board of education employees, including those working less than 20 hours per week, to participate in their plans. The requirement does not apply to those municipalities in which defined benefit plans have already been provided to such employees prior to the passage of the bill through collective bargaining.

It also requires regional education service centers and publicly funded charter and magnet schools with defined benefit plans to allow paraprofessionals and other noncertified employees to participate in their plans.

“Defined benefit plans” are pension plans under which benefits are paid according to a preset formula.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND***Paraprofessionals***

Paraprofessionals are non-certified employees of local or regional boards of education who serve as instructional assistants.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Labor and Public Employees Committee

Joint Favorable Change of Reference
Yea 10 Nay 4

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Report
Yea 17 Nay 14