

**Association of Managerial Employees  
in the Connecticut State Service, Inc.**

760 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut 06106



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**An Act Concerning Retirement Benefit Options for Spouses of Certain Deceased  
State Employees.**

**Labor and Public Employees Committee**

**February 6, 2007 Public Hearing**

Senate Bill 1050 effects the surviving spouses of state employees who, at the time of their death, were in state service and had not yet retired but either had been eligible to retire or had completed at least 25 years of state service. Senate Bill 1050 also effects the surviving spouses of retired state employees whose state employee retirement benefits, at that time of their death, were not yet being paid.

Senate Bill 1050 would repeal the current law with respect to retirement benefits for surviving spouses of such employees. Instead, this proposal would allow those surviving spouses to choose between two retirement income options, as if the deceased state employee had retired before such member's death and had made the choice that the surviving spouse would be eligible to make. The first option (under section 5-165(a)(2)) would pay a reduced amount to the surviving spouse for his or her lifetime. The second option (under section 5-165(a)(3)) would pay a reduced amount for a certain time period (either 10 or 20 years) following the date the retirement income commences.

The following example best illustrates the effect of this proposed legislation. An employee, who has more than 25 years of state service, dies before retiring from state services. At the time of the employee's death, such member's spouse is fifty-five years of age. The employee's retirement income would have been \$30,000 if such member had retired on the date of death and had benefits been paid under the option specified in section 5-165 (a)(4)(a). Under the current law, the surviving spouse would receive an annual retirement income of \$10,936. Under the first option in the proposed law, the surviving spouse would receive an annual retirement income of \$25,368. Under the second option in the proposed law, the surviving spouse would receive either \$29,400 annually for ten years or \$27,489 annually for twenty years.

AMECSS estimates that, on average, less than one employee, who are in state service and have not yet retired but either are eligible to retire or have completed at least 25 years of state service, die annually.

Thank you for your consideration of AMECSS' view on Senate Bill 1050. We urge passage of this bill.