

State of Connecticut

NANCY WYMAN
COMPTROLLER



MARK E. OJAKIAN
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER

March 10, 2010

Hartford

Deborah Blanchard
Senior Administrator
Judiciary Committee
L.O.B. Room 2500
Hartford, CT 06106

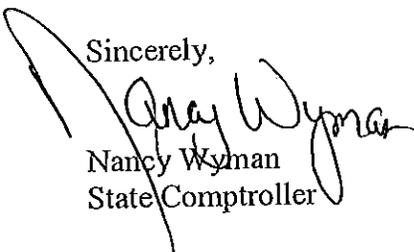
Dear Ms. Blanchard:

I am writing to offer the Committee a few observations regarding House Bill 5444, AN ACT CONCERNING RETIREMENT CREDIT FOR PRIOR STATE SERVICE FOR PROBATE JUDGES AND EMPLOYEES. The bill would allow any judge or employee of the probate court system to purchase previous state service from the State Retirement Commission after January 1, 2011. Judges and employees are already allowed to purchase previous service as a member of the General Assembly and military service. The combined amount of such purchases can not exceed three years.

I want to inform you of possible financial implications should this proposal be enacted. While it is difficult to determine the exact impact of this proposal on the Probate Judges and Employees Retirement System (PJERS), it does provide for a benefit not previously available to such members and as such would produce a further increase to the system's liability. I want to note that 2009 was the first year since 1999 that the results of the actuarial valuation of PJERS indicated that an employer contribution was required to continue the system on a sound financial basis. In addition, our actuaries analyzed the impact that PA-09-214(Probate Court Consolidation) would have on the system and advised that there was a potential for a large impact on the level of future employer contributions. Further, it should be noted that there is no reciprocal provision in the proposal for the State Employees Retirement System (SERS); a former probate judge or employee is not able to obtain credit in SERS for service during which time they participated in the Probate System.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have regarding this legislation.

Sincerely,


Nancy Wyman
State Comptroller