

HCS HB 971 -- DISABILITY BENEFITS

SPONSOR: Higdon

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Pensions by a vote of 10 to 1.

This bill allows members of the Missouri Department of Transportation and Highway Patrol Employees' Retirement System who are drawing disability benefits to be able to receive an annual increase in their disability benefits equal to 80% of the increase in the consumer price index, not to exceed 5%. This increase will also be used to calculate their retirement benefits when they become eligible for retirement benefits.

Members shall be eligible for this increase dating back to the original date of disability.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill will allow disabled members of the plan to receive annual increases in benefits while they are disabled and will also increase their retirement income once they retire. Currently, if a member goes out on disability they do not receive any type of increases like active employees do.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Higdon.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.