

Senate Bill 480

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**CHAPTER 405**

**AN ACT** to create chapter 155, laws of 1937, section 59.137 and chapter 201, laws of 1937, sections 21 and 22, relating to retirement systems and benefit funds for the employes of counties having a population of 500,000 or more.

*The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. Chapter 155, laws of 1937, section 59.137 is created to read:

(Chapter 155, laws of 1937) 59.137 PENSION STUDY COMMISSION. (1) For the purpose of best protecting the employes subject to this act by granting supervisory authority over each benefit fund created hereunder to the governmental unit most involved therewith, it is declared to be the legislative policy that the future operation of each such benefit fund is a matter of local affair and government and shall not be construed to be a matter of state-wide concern. Each county which is required to establish and maintain a benefit fund pursuant to this act is hereby empowered by county ordinance, to make any changes in such benefit fund which hereafter may be deemed necessary or desirable for the continued operation of such benefit fund, but no such change shall operate to diminish or impair the annuities, benefits or other rights of any person who is a member of such benefit fund prior to the effective date of any such change.

(2) For the further purpose of safeguarding the stability of benefit funds in counties having a population of 500,000 or more, a pension study commission is created in each such county to have jurisdiction over all proposed changes in such benefit funds. The commission shall advise the county board as to the actuarial effect and the cost implications of all proposed changes. No change in a benefit fund shall be considered by the county board until it has been referred to the commission established hereunder and until said commission has submitted a written report on

the proposed change. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 59.031 (2) (c) of the statutes, the commission shall consist of 5 members appointed by the chairman of the county board, subject to confirmation by the county board. Three shall be members of the county board and 2 shall be public members who are residents of the county, but not elected officials or employes of the county. Terms shall be for 5 years or for an unexpired term, except that the initial terms of the first 5 members so appointed shall be for 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 years, respectively.

SECTION 2. Chapter 201, laws of 1937, sections 21 and 22 are created to read:

(Chapter 201, laws of 1937) Section 21. For the purpose of best protecting the employes subject to this act by granting supervisory authority over each retirement system created hereunder to the governmental unit most involved therewith, it is declared to be the legislative policy that the future operation of each such retirement system is a matter of local affair and government and shall not be construed to be a matter of state-wide concern. Each county which is required to establish and maintain a retirement system pursuant to this act is hereby empowered, by county ordinance, to make any changes in such retirement system which hereafter may be deemed necessary or desirable for the continued operation of such retirement system, but no such change shall operate to diminish or impair the annuities, benefits or other rights of any person who is a member of such retirement system prior to the effective date of any such change.

Section 22. For the further purpose of safeguarding the stability of retirement systems in counties having a population of 500,000 or more, a pension study commission is created in each such county to have jurisdiction over all proposed changes in such retirement systems. The commission shall advise the county board as to the actuarial effect and the cost implications of all proposed changes. No change in a retirement system shall be considered by the county board until it has been referred to the commission established hereunder and until said commission has submitted a written report on the proposed change. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 59.031 (2) (c) of the statutes, the commission shall consist of 5 members appointed by the chairman of the county board, subject to confirmation by the county board. Three shall be members of the county board and 2 shall be public members who are residents of the county, but not elected officials or employes of the county. Terms shall be for 5 years or for an unexpired term, except that the initial terms of the first 5 members so appointed shall be for 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 years, respectively. At the discretion of the county board, the pension study commission established hereunder may consist of the same members as the commission established pursuant to chapter 155, laws of 1937, section 59.137 (2).

Approved November 23, 1965.