



## 2005 ASSEMBLY BILL 575

July 21, 2005 - Introduced by Representatives GRIGSBY, FIELDS, BERCEAU, PARISI, POCAN, SINICKI and YOUNG, cosponsored by Senator COGGS. Referred to Joint Survey Committee on Retirement Systems.

1     **AN ACT** *to amend* 40.02 (48) (c); and *to create* 40.02 (17) (n), 40.02 (48) (bd) and  
2           40.65 (4w) of the statutes; **relating to:** providing for the classification of social  
3           workers as protective occupation participants under the Wisconsin Retirement  
4           System.

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### *Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau*

Under current law, participants under the Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) whose principal duties involve law enforcement or fire suppression or prevention and require frequent exposure to a high degree of danger or peril and a high degree of physical conditioning are classified as protective occupation participants. Current law specifically classifies police officers, fire fighters, and various other individuals as protective occupation participants. Under the WRS, the normal retirement age of a protective occupation participant is lower than that of other participants and the percentage multiplier used to calculate retirement annuities is higher for protective occupation participants than for other participants.

This bill authorizes a WRS participating employer to classify individuals employed as social workers as protective occupation participants for the purposes of the WRS.

This bill will be referred to the Joint Survey Committee on Retirement Systems for a detailed analysis, which will be printed as an appendix to the bill.

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For further information see the *state* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

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

1           **SECTION 1.** 40.02 (17) (n) of the statutes is created to read:

2           40.02 (17) (n) Notwithstanding par. (d), each participant who is employed as  
3 a social worker on or after the effective date of this paragraph .... [revisor inserts  
4 date], shall be granted creditable service as a protective occupation participant for  
5 all covered service as a social worker that was earned on or after the date on which  
6 the department of employee trust funds receives notification of the participant's  
7 name as provided in s. 40.06 (1) (d) and (dm), but may not be granted creditable  
8 service as a protective occupation participant for any covered service as a social  
9 worker that was earned before that date, unless that service was earned while the  
10 participant was classified under sub. (48) (a) and s. 40.06 (1) (d) as a protective  
11 occupation participant.

12           **SECTION 2.** 40.02 (48) (bd) of the statutes is created to read:

13           40.02 (48) (bd) "Protective occupation participant" includes any participant  
14 who is employed as a social worker if the participant's employer classifies the  
15 participant as a protective occupation participant and the department of employee  
16 trust funds receives notification of the participant's name as provided in s. 40.06 (1)  
17 (d) and (dm). Notwithstanding par. (a), an employer may classify a participant who  
18 is employed as a social worker as a protective occupation participant without making  
19 a determination that the principal duties of the participant involve active law  
20 enforcement or active fire suppression or prevention.

21           **SECTION 3.** 40.02 (48) (c) of the statutes is amended to read:

