State of Wisconsin
2025 - 2026 LEGISLATURE

LRB-0770/1
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2025 SENATE BILL 688

December 2, 2025 - Introduced by Senator MARKLEIN, cosponsored by Representatives NOVAK, BEHNKE, DITTRICH, KURTZ, MURSAU and ORTIZ-VELEZ. Referred to Committee on Government Operations, Labor and Economic Development.

AN ACT ***to amend*** 16.25 (3) (g) of the statutes; **relating to:** service award program.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

The service award program, administered by the Department of Administration, provides length-of-service awards to volunteer firefighters, volunteer emergency medical responders, and volunteer emergency medical services practitioners.

Under current law, vesting occurs once a volunteer firefighter, volunteer emergency medical responder, or volunteer emergency medical services practitioner attains 15 years of service for a municipality and reaches the age of 60. This bill changes the program so a volunteer firefighter, volunteer emergency medical responder, or volunteer emergency medical services practitioner is fully vested to receive a service award once he or she attains 20 years of service for a municipality and reaches the age of 53.

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

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

SECTION 1. 16.25 (3) (g) of the statutes is amended to read:

16.25 **(3)** (g) A volunteer fire fighter, emergency medical responder, or emergency medical services practitioner shall be paid a length of service award either in a lump sum or in a manner specified by rule, consisting of all municipal and state contributions made on behalf of the volunteer fire fighter, emergency medical responder, or emergency medical services practitioner and all earnings on the contributions, less any expenses incurred in the investment of the contributions and earnings, after the volunteer fire fighter, emergency medical responder, or emergency medical services practitioner attains ~~15~~ 20 years of service for a municipality and reaches the age of ~~60~~ 53. If a volunteer fire fighter, emergency medical responder, or emergency medical services practitioner has satisfied all vesting requirements under the program but has at least 10 but less than ~~15~~ 20 years of service for a municipality ~~or~~ and has reached the age of 53 ~~but has not reached the age of 60~~, the program shall provide for the payment of a length of service award either in a lump sum or in a manner specified by rule in an amount to be determined by the department, but less than the amount paid to a volunteer fire fighter, emergency medical responder, or emergency medical services practitioner who has attained ~~15~~ 20 years of service for a municipality and has reached the age of ~~60~~ 53. The department shall promulgate rules implementing this paragraph.

(END)