

LOPFI

LOCAL POLICE & FIRE RETIREMENT SYSTEM

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This is a summary of acts from the 2025 Legislative Session that may interest Members of LOPFI and the Local Fire and Police Pension Plans. An act number with an asterisk (*) means it was part of the LOPFI Board of Trustees or the Arkansas Fire and Police Pension Review Board's (PRB) legislative plan. If an act's effective date was known at the time of this memo, it is listed in the description. Acts without a stated date are generally effective 90 days after adjournment of the session. Acts may be viewed on the General Assembly's website accessible from the Links tab on the LOPFI-PRB website.

Act 151* (House Bill 1118, Warren/Hammer) Premium Tax Administration

This act, effective July 1, 2025, reassigns the administration of Premium Tax allocations from the PRB to the Department of Finance and Administration (DF&A). As the PRB's workload continues to decrease with each passing year, and recognizing that the PRB will ultimately be dissolved, identifying an entity to handle the Premium Tax allocation work is essential. The PRB worked closely with DF&A to develop the timing for the handoff of this work. This act does not change any allocations or formulas, it simply moves the managerial tasks from the PRB to the DF&A.

Act 152* (House Bill 1119, Warren/Hammer) Delinquency for Reporting Locations

This act, effective July 1, 2025, revised the delinquency section of LOPFI code for political subdivisions. Changes include reducing the grace period for reporting and payments from 10 to five calendar days and improving the certification of delinquencies to the state treasurer's office.

Act 178 (House Bill 1362, Multiple) Technical Changes

This act was brought forward at the request of Code Revision to correct/update various sections of retirement code. For LOPFI, language that focused on rule promulgation dated in 2004 was removed. For Local Police Plan code, language for vacation pay was removed since that topic is codified in ACA 14-52-106.

Act 390 (House Bill 1316, Multiple) Coverage for Lung Cancer Screenings

This act addresses lung cancer which is the leading cause of cancer deaths in Arkansas. The act states the lung cancer death rate in Arkansas is higher than the lung cancer death rate for the United States. Per this act, on or after January 1, 2026, health benefit plans shall provide coverage for lung cancer screenings and follow-up healthcare services according to American Cancer Society guidelines. Questions about this act should be directed to your health plan provider.

Act 398 (House Bill 1505, Wing)**Traumatic Event Counseling**

This act, effective March 25, 2025, updates the licensed counseling sessions provisions first enacted in 2023 for paid, full-time firefighters, police officers, fire academy instructors, and other public safety officials who have experienced an on-duty traumatic event. The public employer is required to pay for up to 12 licensed counseling sessions in a calendar year for eligible employees. Previously, statistics were required to be compiled and there was a sunset provision, both of which were removed by this current act.

Act 406 (Senate Bill 409, Multiple)**Investments and ESG Factors**

This act amends a provision for the divestment of certain public investments with financial services providers that discriminate against ammunition, firearms, and energy companies based on environmental, social justice, and other governance-related factors (ESG). This act adds “agricultural producer” to the list of goods or services that are protected from discrimination by financial service providers. An ESG Oversight Committee, created by Act 411 of 2023, is charged with maintaining a list of financial services providers that have discriminated against the above companies. The committee’s list is published on the Treasurer of State’s website at <https://artreasury.gov/>

Act 414 (House Bill 1293, Andrews/K. Hammer)**Public Employees Line of Duty Death**

This act increases the amount paid by the state to designated beneficiaries or survivors of a specified public employee killed in the line of duty. Benefits under this act are not administered by LOPFI, so questions about eligibility and the application process should be directed to the Arkansas State Claims Commission at <https://arclaimscommission.arkansas.gov/> or 501.682.1619

Act 415 (House Bill 1313, C. Cooper)**Health Insurance for Retired Firefighters**

This act expands the availability of health insurance coverage for certain retired firefighters of municipalities and counties. The retired firefighter is required to pay applicable premiums and may remain covered until he/she is Medicare-eligible. LOPFI does not administer these benefits, so interested persons should contact their fire department or applicable municipal/county agency for assistance. Note: Act 535 of 2023 provides the same health insurance availability for retired police officers.

Act 416 (House Bill 1322, Clowney/C. Tucker)**Duty Death Presumptive Cancer**

This act, effective July 1, 2025, is for LOPFI paid service duty deaths and allows payment of a monthly duty death benefit that resulted from a specified cancer that include Leukemia, lymphoma, mesothelioma, multiple myeloma, brain, urinary tract, liver, skin, breast, cervix, thyroid, prostate, testicle, colon, or digestive tract. The duty death benefit application will require the collection and submission of medical evidence to show the cancer was diagnosed while the person was an active LOPFI member and that the cause was not from factors other than retirement system covered employment.

Act 505 (Senate Bill 227, C. Tucker/Multiple)**Freedom of Information Act**

This act provides clarity to provisions of the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). All public entities should immediately consult their legal counsel to ensure full compliance with the FOIA. Changes in this act include, but not limited to:

- Definitions for “Deliberation,” “Governing body,” “Informal meeting,” “Public entity,” “Public meeting,” etc.
- Provisions to conduct remote meetings, including making sure Arkansas residents have reasonable access to the meetings. Remote meetings must, at all times, ensure the remote member of the governing body is easily identifiable and can be heard when speaking or voting.
- Provisions for a circuit court that determines there was a violation of the FOIA, to invalidate action of the governing body at an unlawful meeting or resulting from prohibited communication.

Act 522 (House Bill 1341, Warren)**Workers’ Compensation-LOPFI Service Credit**

This act ensures a LOPFI member who is away from their department due to a Workers’ Compensation covered event does not lose LOPFI service credit. For eligibility, the active member must provide the Workers’ Compensation payment to his/her employer. Once that occurs, the employer shall report the earnings to LOPFI. The reported earnings, though, can neither be inflated nor too low as compared to “normal” earnings. LOPFI will charge the applicable member and employer contributions against the reported pay and award LOPFI service credit for the month being reported. Note that this change is meant to ensure action by both the LOPFI-covered employee and their employer. If the employee chooses to hand over their Workers’ Compensation payment to their employer, the employer shall report the total pays to LOPFI. (Many employers already handle Workers’ Compensation cases in this manner.)

Act 686 (House Bill 1808, A. Collins/C. Tucker)**Firefighter Bill of Rights**

This act provides a framework for negotiating personnel matters for municipalities that choose to adopt an ordinance establishing a Bill of Rights for their firefighters. Arkansas code already contains this provision for police officers (ACA 14-52-301 et. seq.), so this act brings parity to the municipal firefighter community.

Act 937 (House Bill 1352, Multiple)**Prohibit Investments in Chinese Companies**

This act prohibits a public investment entity from investing in a Chinese company. The act provides the requirements for the mandatory divestment of any prohibited investment. Each public investment entity is required to publish a report within six (6) months of the effective date of this act, and then at least annually each year before July 1, that lists all Chinese companies or restricted investment products in which it currently has investments. If the public investment entity determines it does not have any prohibited investments, the report shall indicate that fact.

-Summary Concluded-