

ACT 30, SIGNED INTO LAW ON APRIL 17, 2002, PROVIDES MANDATORY AND OPTIONAL BENEFIT ENHANCEMENT TO ACT 600 GOVERNED POLICE PENSION PLANS.

FOLLOWING ARE MAJOR BENEFIT CHANGES CONTAINED IN ACT 30:

Death Benefits for Retired and Eligible to be Retired Members' Spouses/Children

Act 600 allowed for an optional death benefit of 50% of the pension benefit the member was receiving or would have been entitled to receive had he been retired at the time of death payable to the spouse of the deceased retiree or deceased active member eligible for retirement. ***⇒Act 30 mandates this spousal death benefit and requires the benefit be no less than 50% of the member's pension.***

Act 600 defined death benefits as a continuation of benefits to the deceased police officer's widow, or if there is no widow, then to the deceased officer's child(ren) under the age of 18. ***⇒Act 30 changed the term "widow" to "surviving spouse" and expanded the definition of child to include age 18 to 23 if attending college.***

Act 600 required that any death benefit cease upon the remarriage of the surviving spouse. ***⇒Act 30 eliminated this "remarriage penalty" allowing the death benefit to continue to the surviving spouse even if he/she remarries.***

Service Connected Disability Benefit

Act 600 required a service connected disability benefit be provided for active participants in an amount determined by the governing body. ***⇒Act 30 mandates this service connected disability benefit be at least 50% of the member's salary at the time disability was incurred, offset by Social Security disability benefits received by the member.***

Killed-In-Service Benefit

Act 600 allowed for an *optional* killed-in-service benefit be provided for active participants in an amount determined by the governing body. ***⇒Act 30 mandates this killed-in-service benefit and states the benefit shall be 100% of the member's salary at the time of death.***

Elimination of Employee Contributions

Act 600 allowed for the elimination or reduction of member contributions as long as the reduction did not result in the need for a municipal contribution. ***⇒Act 30 eliminated this language thus allowing employee contributions to be reduced or eliminated even if the municipality must contribute to the plan.***