

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

(First Draft, 5/21/2024)

[Charter Amendment - Per Diem Nurse Retirement Credit and Public Safety Communications Personnel Retirement Plan]

Describing and setting forth a proposal to the voters at an election to be held on November 5, 2024, to amend the Charter of the City and County of San Francisco to allow registered nurses, who are or become members of the San Francisco Employees' Retirement System and have worked an average of 32 hours or more per week for at least one year, to purchase up to three years of service credit for time previously worked as per diem nurses; and to move public safety communications personnel (911 dispatchers, supervisors, and coordinators) from the miscellaneous retirement plans to the miscellaneous safety retirement plan, for compensation earned on and after January 1, 2025.

Existing Law

Per Diem Nurse Retirement System Credit

Under Charter Sec. A8.506-4, per diem nurses have not been members of the San Francisco Employees' Retirement System (SFERS) as of January 1, 1988. Therefore, they do not receive pension credit for hours they work in that classification. Per diem nurses do receive pension credit for time worked before January 1, 1988, unless they exercised an irrevocable option to exclude compensation for per diem nursing as compensation for all Retirement System purposes.

Public Safety Communications Personnel

Currently, public safety communications personnel employed by the Department of Emergency Management – which includes 911 dispatchers, supervisors, and coordinators – are members of the miscellaneous retirement plans set forth in Charter Sections A8.509, A8.587, A8.600 and A8.603.

Amendments to Current Law

Per Diem Nurse Retirement System Credit

The proposed measure would amend the Charter so that registered nurses who are members of SFERS and have worked 32 regularly-scheduled hours or more in a job classification that qualifies them for SFERS membership for at least one calendar year may purchase up to three years retirement service credit for time previously worked solely as P103 per diem nurses. The employing department must certify that a registered nurse meets the hours and schedule requirement in the year before the retirement credit purchase. Nurses cannot purchase retirement credit for any time period in which they worked concurrently as a per diem nurse and in a classification that is within SFERS. In addition, the amendment does not permit any time worked as a per diem nurse to establish membership in SFERS.

Public Safety Communications Personnel

The proposed measure would amend the Charter so that on and after January 1, 2025, public safety communications personnel will be part of the miscellaneous safety retirement plan set forth in Charter Section A8.610 for time they receive compensation on and after January 1, 2025, subject to additional terms in Charter Section A8.611. Time for which public safety communications personnel received compensation before January 1, 2025 remains in the miscellaneous plans.

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