

- SUBJECT:** Amending provisions of the Employees Retirement System of Texas
- COMMITTEE:** Pensions, Investments, and Financial Services — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 8 ayes — Truitt, Anderson, Flynn, Hernandez, Hopson, Parker, Veasey, Woolley
0 nays
1 absent — Anchia
- WITNESSES:** For — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Sally Velasquez, Texas Probation Association)
Against — None
On — Ann Fuelberg, Employees Retirement System; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Martin McCaulay, Texas Pension Review Board)
- BACKGROUND:** The Employees Retirement System of Texas (ERS) was created in 1947 and provides a service retirement program. ERS also administers the Texas Employees Group Benefits Program, provides a 401(k) and 457 deferred compensation program through its TexaSaver program, and the TexFlex program to assist with medical expenses.
- DIGEST:** HB 2559 would amend several sections of the Government and Insurance codes to make administrative changes concerning the Employees Retirement System of Texas (ERS), including:
- establishing Travis County as the venue for any litigation and a statute of limitations of two years for ERS claims;
 - clarifying the subpoena authority of ERS to include investigative subpoenas;
 - allowing for unclaimed benefits to be reverted back to the retirement system if no claim had been made in four years;
 - allowing surviving spouses and dependents to enroll in group health plans upon the death of a member; and

- allowing an option for 75 percent of the reduced annuity to be payable to the beneficiary in the case of a member's retirement.

The bill also would conform the code to current practice and repeal sections of the code that no longer are relevant.

NOTES:

The companion bill, SB 1404 by Duncan, has been referred to the Senate State Affairs Committee.