



# ILLINOIS FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

*Dedicated to excellence in the Fire Service*

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October 28, 2019

The Honorable Governor JB Pritzker

The Illinois Fire Chiefs Association, an organization representing Chief Fire Officers throughout Illinois, has watched with great interest the efforts to address pension concerns in our State. As an organization, we are wholeheartedly behind the stabilization of the pension benefits many of our members, and those they lead, have earned. For many years, we have insisted that any pension change be both thoughtful and comprehensive. To this end, we eagerly anticipated the report you commissioned through the Pension Consolidation Task Force.

Reviewing the report, we see several positive aspects to the consolidation of these funds. We believe this will significantly benefit the smaller funds. We believe that the change to the Tier 2 survivor's benefit is the right thing to do. We believe that the changes to Tier 2 benefit calculation, while increasing liabilities, are necessary. All of this we support.

However, at this moment as the six day veto session begins, we have yet to see any official form of legislation. Purported copies of draft legislation are sloppy, error prone and do not answer key questions. The transition, if not properly administered, could have a negative effect on our members, even the funds that are successful today. Assurances that the funds will remain separate from State funds is the key point to any fund consolidation. The lack of confidence in the State to properly conduct a fund consolidation and to assure the security of what has already been established by the current funds is, unfortunately, a reality.

As much as we would like to support a fund consolidation, failure to publish the enacting legislation has exacerbated the apprehensions of an already concerned membership. Without the ability to have an adequate review, we must join the significant chorus of other organizations demanding that consideration of this legislation slow down and follow the due process granted during the regular session. We trust that you understand our distress that such a monumental step will be taken without the opportunity to effectively comment.

We look forward to working with your administration during the regular session to assure that the recommendations of the task force are applied in a way that will benefit the residents of Illinois.

Illinois Fire Chiefs Association