Purpose

Subject to voter approval, amends the pension clause of the Arizona Constitution to provide an exception for certain adjustments to the Corrections Officer Retirement Plan (CORP).

Background

CORP is a special retirement system created by the State Legislature for certain full time correctional officers, probation officers and dispatchers in the state of Arizona. The Plan provides a uniform, consistent and equitable statewide retirement program to these CORP personnel. The Plan is designed to meet the special needs of personnel engaged in inmate contact.

CORP is a governmental retirement plan qualified under 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code. It is a defined benefit plan, which means that pensions are determined by a formula, versus the amount of money in the member’s account. In addition, CORP is an agent multiple-employer retirement plan, which means that separate accounts are kept for each employer in the Plan and benefit payment costs are not shared by all employers in the Plan. Monies are pooled for investment purposes, but benefits and refunds are paid from each employer's separate account in the CORP.

There is no anticipated fiscal impact to the state General Fund associated with this legislation.

Provisions

1. Provides that public retirement system benefits shall not be diminished or impaired, except that certain adjustments to CORP may be made as provided in S.B. 1442, as enacted by the Fifty-third Legislature, First Regular Session.

2. Becomes effective if approved by the voters and on proclamation of the Governor.

Amendments Adopted by Committee

- Filled in the blank with bill number
Senate Action

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Prepared by Senate Research
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CS/jn