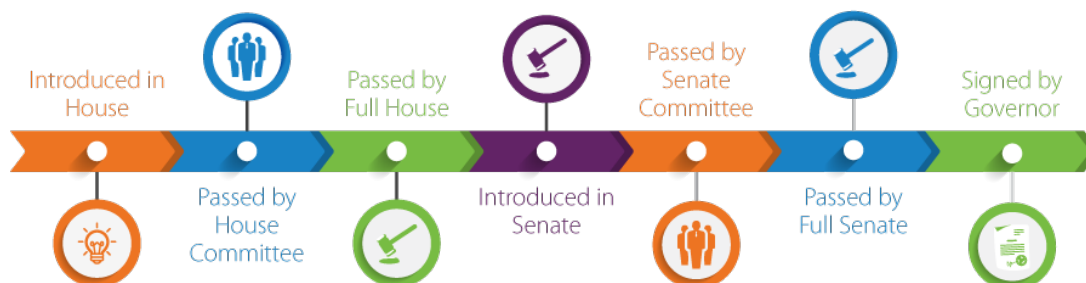


2021 Legislative Session | KPERS Bill Recap

House Bill 2063: Michael Wells Memorial Act KP&F Tier II Spousal and Dependent Children Benefits

Where It's At



Quick Look

HB 2063 adds an option for spouses and dependent children of KP&F Tier II members to receive the greater of two benefit options in the event of a service-connected death of a member who is disabled.

Hearings

April 2 – Signed into Law
 March 18 – Pass Full Senate 35-0
 March 11 – Recommended favorable for passage by Senate Financial Institutions and Insurance
 February 10 – Passed Full House 125-0
 February 1 – Passed House Committee as Amended
 January 25 – House Insurance and Pensions

The Fine Print

Currently, there is no difference in the benefit structure for service-connected or non-service-connected disability benefits.

When a KP&F Tier II member is disabled, the member receives a disability benefit equal to 50% of their final average salary at the time of disability.

If the disabled KP&F Tier II member dies before reaching eligibility for the KP&F retirement benefit, their spouse receives a lump-sum payment equal to 50% of the member's final average salary at the time of disability and a monthly benefit equal to 50% of the member's disability benefit. If there is no spouse, the benefit goes to any dependent children in equal shares.

If HB 2063 is enacted, it will add a different benefit option for disabled members who pass away due to service-connected causes. The new benefit is the greater of either:

- A monthly benefit equal to 50% of the members final average salary at the time of disability, plus 10% for each dependent child up to a 75% maximum; or
- If there are no dependent children, the retirement benefit the member would have received if the member had retired.

This change applies to any member deaths since January 1, 2017 and going forward.