

HOUSE BILL NO. 346

INTRODUCED BY B. BECK

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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ALLOWING THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF A FIRE DEPARTMENT
5 RELIEF ASSOCIATION TO EXCEED THE EXISTING CAP ON A MONTHLY PENSION FOR A VOLUNTEER
6 FIREFIGHTER IF THE ASSOCIATION'S FUND IS SOUNDLY FUNDED OR ACTUARIALLY SOUND; AND
7 AMENDING SECTION 19-18-602, MCA."

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9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

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11 **Section 1.** Section 19-18-602, MCA, is amended to read:
12 **"19-18-602. Service pension.** (1) Each association shall pay, out of its disability and pension fund, a
13 service pension to ~~each of its members~~ a member who elects to retire from active service after having completed
14 20 years or more of active duty and who has reached ~~the age of 50 years~~ of age as a fully paid member of a paid
15 or partly paid and partly volunteer fire department of the city or town in which the association was formed. The
16 pension must be equal to one-half of the sum last received by the member as a monthly compensation, excluding
17 overtime and payments in lieu of sick leave and annual leave, for the member's services as an active member
18 of the fire department.

19 (2) Effective July 1, 1974, a member who completes 20 years of service and elects to serve additional
20 years must receive the pension provided for in subsection (1) increased at the rate of 1% a year for each
21 additional year of service completed, up to a maximum of 60% of the sum last received by the member as a
22 monthly compensation, excluding overtime and payments in lieu of sick leave and annual leave, for services as
23 an active member of the fire department. A member is not eligible to receive a service pension prior to attaining
24 ~~the age of 50 years~~ of age.

25 (3) (a) The monthly pension paid to members retiring on or after July 1, 1973, must be at least one-half
26 the regular monthly salary, excluding overtime and payments in lieu of sick leave and annual leave, paid to a
27 confirmed active firefighter of that city, as provided each year in the budget of that city. The monthly pension paid
28 to a member retiring prior to July 1, 1974, must be at least \$200.

29 (b) (i) ~~Except as provided in subsection (3)(b)(ii), in~~ the case of volunteer firefighters, the pension may
30 be set by the board of trustees of the association, but may not exceed \$225 a month.

