

HOUSE BILL NO. 687
INTRODUCED BY B. NEWMAN

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT INCREASING THE DISABILITY RETIREMENT BENEFIT OF A MEMBER OF THE HIGHWAY PATROL OFFICERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM IF THE MEMBER'S DISABILITY IS A DIRECT RESULT OF ANY SERVICE TO THE MONTANA HIGHWAY PATROL IN THE LINE OF DUTY; AMENDING SECTION 19-6-601, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

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

Section 1. Section 19-6-601, MCA, is amended to read:

"19-6-601. Disability retirement benefit. (1) In the case of the disability of a member, a disability retirement benefit must be granted the member that is the actuarial equivalent of the service retirement benefit under 19-6-502 standing to the member's credit at the time of the member's disability retirement. If the disability is a direct result of any service to the Montana highway patrol in the line of duty, then the member who is disabled must be retired on a disability retirement benefit equal to 80% of ~~one-half~~ the member's highest average compensation regardless of the member's length of service.

(2) Upon the death of a retired member receiving a disability retirement benefit as provided in subsection (1), the benefit must be paid to the member's surviving spouse or dependent child, if there is a spouse or child, in the same manner as provided for in 19-6-505(2) and (3)."

NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2003.

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