

2018 Legislation

April 2018

Summary of VRS Bills



This summary provides an overview of bills passed during the 2018 session of the General Assembly that affect the Virginia Retirement System (VRS).

Select the bill number to link to the bill on the Legislative Information System (LIS). From each bill's summary page, select the link to the PDF version beside "Governor: Acts of Assembly Chapter text."

2018 Bills

[House Bill 846](#) **VRS Administration**

[Senate Bill 248](#)

Makes clarifications to Title 51.1 of the *Code of Virginia* pertaining to Pensions, Benefits, and Retirement. The legislation clarifies:

- That medical boards may be composed of not only physicians but also "other health care professionals."
 - *Medical boards make determinations on disability retirement applications as well as Line of Duty Act benefits.*
- That only "full-time" federal civilian service is eligible to be purchased as credit in VRS retirement plans.
 - *All other similar categories of service eligible for purchase already specify that such service must be full-time. The only part-time prior service eligible for purchase is with a VRS-participating employer.*
- That the Board shall maintain and administer long-term care coverage or "similar benefit program" for any state employee working an average of at least 20 hours per week, and for any other person who has five or more years of creditable service with any retirement plan administered by VRS.
 - *With the addition of "similar benefit," the legislation adds flexibility to the VRS long-term care coverage program in light of the changing environment in the group long-term care market.*

[House Bill 1599](#) **Definitions of Law Enforcement Officer**

Adds members of the investigations unit designated by the State Inspector General to investigate allegations of criminal behavior affecting the operations of a state or non-state agency, and employees of the Department of Corrections or the Department of Juvenile Justice with internal investigations authority to the definition of law-enforcement officer. Such members and employees would not be eligible for Line of Duty Act benefits.

Final Budget* The proposed 2019-20 budget funds 100 percent of the [VRS-certified employer and OPEB contribution rates](#).

*Passage is pending final legislative and executive branch negotiations.