



OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Bill Analysis

Kailey M. Henry

S.B. 151

132nd General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Sen. Hite

BILL SUMMARY

- Permits, rather than requires, the School Employees Retirement Board to grant annual cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) to recipients of retirement allowances, disability benefits, or survivor benefits from the School Employees Retirement System (SERS).
 - If the SERS Board grants a COLA, changes the annual COLA amount to any percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index, not exceeding 2.5% (from the current automatic 3%).
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CONTENT AND OPERATION

The bill changes the authority of the School Employees Retirement Board regarding an annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) by permitting the Board to grant the COLA, rather than requiring it to do so. The COLA is granted to School Employees Retirement System (SERS) retirement allowance, disability benefit, and survivor benefit recipients who have received an allowance or benefit for at least one year. Under current law, the SERS Board is required to provide an annual 3% COLA to SERS allowance and benefit recipients.

Under the bill, if the Board grants a COLA, it will be an amount equal to any percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI), not exceeding 2.5%, for the 12-month period ending June 30 of the preceding year. No COLA can be granted in any year in which the CPI did not increase during that preceding period.¹

¹ R.C. 3309.374.

A COLA is granted each year and continues as long as the allowance or benefit it is based on continues. The bill will not affect any COLA that has already been granted. A benefit recipient who has already been granted one or more COLAs will continue to receive those COLAs. Only future COLAs are affected by the bill. The Board will have discretion regarding whether to grant future COLAs, but once granted those COLAs will also continue as long as the benefits they are based on continue.

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	05-17-17

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