

KP&F Service-connected Benefits; Michael Wells Memorial Act; HB 2063

HB 2063 revises the benefits for members of the Kansas Police and Firemen's Retirement System (KP&F) who are Tier II members, meaning those employees hired since July 1, 1989, who are disabled and ultimately die due to a "service-connected" condition, as that term is defined by law. The bill will apply to deaths that occurred on and after January 1, 2017, and designates these amendments to law as the Michael Wells Memorial Act.

Assuming no death benefits are payable, the new benefit will be the greater of:

- A monthly benefit equal to 50.0 percent of the member's final average salary at the time of the disability, plus 10.0 percent for each dependent child who is under the age of either 18 years or 23 years, if a full-time student; or
- The retirement benefit the deceased member would have received if the member had been able to retire, if there are no dependent children.

The total amount of benefits payable can not exceed 75.0 percent of the member's final average salary.

Under the current benefit structure, when a Tier II KP&F member becomes disabled and later dies due to a service-connected condition before reaching eligibility, the spouse receives both a one-time, lump-sum payment equal to 50.0 percent of the member's final average salary, which is the average of the three highest of the previous five years of employment, and a monthly benefit equal to 50.0 percent of the member's disability benefit. If there is no spouse, dependent children receive the benefit in equal shares.