



VERMONT LEGISLATIVE Joint Fiscal Office

1 Baldwin Street • Montpelier, VT 05633-5701 • (802) 828-2295 • <https://jfo.vermont.gov>

Fiscal Note

March 24, 2026

Chris Rupe, Associate Fiscal Officer

H.519 – An act relating to the Vermont State Employees’ Retirement System Group G membership

As passed by the House of Representatives¹

Bill Summary

This bill would provide for the transition of municipal law enforcement officers employed by towns in the Vermont State Employees’ Retirement System (VSERS) from Group F to Group G of that System.

This bill is expected to have a de minimis impact to the VSERS pension system.

Fiscal Impact

The bill is expected to have a de minimis impact to the VSERS system.

Background and Details

There are three municipalities that participate in VSERS Group F – Randolph, Bethel, and Danville. The Town of Randolph is the only one of the three that employs active law enforcement members. Municipalities that participate in VSERS pay for the employer share of pension costs for their employees – these costs are not paid by State government.

Currently, a newly hired municipal law enforcement officer in Group F receives a pension benefit calculated with a 1.67% multiplier and a normal retirement eligibility of age 65 with 5 years of service, or when age plus years of service total 87. In contrast, law enforcement in Group C (State law enforcement), Group G (certain sheriff’s deputies), and the Vermont Municipal Employees’ Retirement System (VMERS) Group D all receive a pension calculated with a 2.5% multiplier and the ability to retire at age 55 (or earlier) with at least 20 years of service. Law enforcement officers in Group F must have 30 years of service to earn a pension equal to 50% of their average final compensation, whereas law enforcement officers in these other groups earn that level of benefit with 20 years of service.

This bill would provide the opportunity for existing municipal law enforcement officers in the three impacted towns to make a one-time irrevocable election to switch from Group F to Group G on or before December 1, 2026. Municipal law enforcement officers first hired on or after January 1, 2027 would be enrolled in Group G by default. Officers hired between those dates would have an opportunity to join Group G as soon as possible but within 30 days of hire. These provisions would only apply to members who are employed by a municipal employer that participates in VSERS, has attained Level II or III law enforcement officer certification, and is required to perform law enforcement duties as the primary function of their employment.

¹ *The Joint Fiscal Office (JFO) is a nonpartisan legislative office dedicated to producing unbiased fiscal analysis – this fiscal note is meant to provide information for legislative consideration, not to provide policy recommendations.*

Act 130 (2024) previously transitioned sheriffs and deputy sheriffs from Group F to Group G in a similar manner to address this inequity in pension benefits among law enforcement personnel. Group G allows for a 2.5% multiplier and the ability to retire at age 55 with 20 years of service. Group G was designed to be “cost neutral” to the employer, therefore the members in Group G pay for the added cost of this benefit through a higher employee contribution rate (4.68% more than they would have paid in Group F).

Since members of Group G pay for the added cost of the Group G benefit, and this bill addresses a very small subset of VSERS members (fewer than 5), this bill is expected to have a de minimis impact to the VSERS pension system.

ⁱ The full fiscal note history is available on the fiscal tab of the bill page on the General Assembly website and can be pulled up through a bill number search on the JFO page.