

**LIAISON MEMORANDUM  
NUMBER 18-18**

**To:** Agency Liaison Officers

**From:** Cindy Rougeou  
Executive Director

**Re:** 2018 Legislation on Retirement Issues

**Date:** June 13, 2018

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Several pieces of legislation passed during the 2018 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature that impact LASERS members.

**Act 595**, effective May 31, 2018, increases disability benefits to 100 percent of final average compensation for certain members in hazardous duty positions injured while in the line of duty by an intentional act of violence. This law applies to injuries that occur in the future, but also has a provision that allows the benefits of current retirees to be increased. If your Department has a disability retiree who you believe qualifies for this increase and you have not been contacted by LASERS, please let us know.

**Act 224** increases survivor benefits for members in hazardous duty positions killed while in the line of duty by an intentional act of violence. This change was effective May 15, 2018.

**Act 215** makes certain Firefighters in the Department of Agriculture and Forestry members of the Hazardous Duty Services Plan. In order to qualify, the Firefighter must respond to wildfires and qualify as Firefighter Type 2 or higher according to the National Wildfire Coordinating Group. The law applies to new hires as of June 30, 2018, and allows members currently in those positions to join the plan.

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Cindy Rougeou, Executive Director