



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:
Randy Cheek
Director of Legislation
RPEA of CA
(916) 541-8988
rpeahq@rpea.com

**BILL SPONSORED BY THE RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION
IS SIGNED INTO LAW, RAISING THE MINIMUM RETIREMENT BENEFIT**

September 9, 2022 – The Governor of California, Gavin Newsom, has signed into law SB 1168, a law that raises the minimum statutory CalPERS postretirement benefit for local public agency employees from \$500 to \$2,000. This bill was carried by Senator Dave Cortese and sponsored by the Retired Public Employees' Association of California (RPEA). The bill establishes benefit parity and addresses the substantial erosion in the value of the CalPERS postretirement lump sum death benefit which the state originally intended to help pay for the retiree's funeral costs.

The legislature enacted the original \$300 lump sum postretirement death benefit for all CalPERS annuitants in 1945. That amount adjusted for inflation would be \$4,699 in 2022. Under current law, the benefit is set from \$500 to \$5,000 depending on the member's classification and employer.

"The reality is that the current CalPERS postretirement death benefit amount for most public employees is far below the actual cost of a funeral, putting survivors in difficult positions upon the death of a loved ones," says Senator Cortese. "SB 1168 will provide survivors with a little extra help during a hard time."

"We are proud to have sponsored this bill that will provide families across the state much needed comfort and support," says Rosemary Knox, president of the Retired Public Employees' Association of California. "This is a well-deserved win that shows appreciation and respect for those who have chosen careers of service in our state."

(more)

ABOUT RPEA of CA

Retired Public Employees' Association Of California (RPEA) is a non-profit association of retirees and active employees who are members of the California Public Retirement System (CalPERS). RPEA's mission is to:

- Represent all public employees - classified schools, public agencies, and state.
- Be a liaison between retirees and CalPERS.
- Protect beneficiaries of CalPERS.
- Fight to maintain current pension and health care benefits and improve these benefits every year.

RPEA has over 24,000 members; with 75 active chapters in California, Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, and Oregon. RPEA was founded in 1958 as an association to protect and enhance retirement benefits for all Public Employees who receive their pension or health benefits from the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS). RPEA is the only statewide association representing all PERS Retirees: State, Classified School and Public Agency. To learn more, visit www.rpea.com

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