**65.156 Actuarial evaluation requirement for local government pension systems -- Exemptions -- Copy to Legislative Research Commission -- Contributions by cities, municipal agencies, urban-county governments, or consolidated local governments -- Payment of lawful expenses -- Prohibition against creation or maintenance of defined benefit retirement system susceptible of unfunded liability -- Exceptions.**

(1) The governing board of any local government retirement system created pursuant to KRS 67A.320, 67A.340, 67A.360 to 67A.690, 79.080, 90.400, 90.410, 95.290, 95.520 to 95.620, 95.621 to 95.629, 95.767 to 95.784, 95.851 to 95.884, or KRS Chapter 96 shall submit the retirement system to an actuarial evaluation at least once every three (3) years, if the system provides a defined benefit. The evaluation shall be prepared by an actuary who is a fellow of the Society of Actuaries, a member of the American Academy of Actuaries, or an enrolled actuary under the Employees' Retirement Income Security Act of 1975. The board shall send a copy of the most recent evaluation to the librarian of the Legislative Research Commission by September 1, 1982, and thereafter the board shall send a copy of each new evaluation within ten (10) days of receipt.

(2) Actuaries performing evaluations pursuant to this section shall use the entry age normal cost funding method. Their reports shall include a definition of each actuarial term and an explanation of each actuarial assumption used. Assumptions shall be reasonably related to the experience of the system and represent the actuary's best estimate of anticipated experience.

(3) Any city or municipal agency with a retirement system created pursuant to KRS 79.080, 90.400, 90.410, 95.520 to 95.620, 95.621 to 95.629, 95.767 to 95.784, 95.851 to 95.884, or KRS Chapter 96 which is closed to new members pursuant to KRS 78.530, 95.520, 95.621, or 95.852 shall, if its local pension system provides a defined benefit, contribute annually to the pension system, for the benefit of the retirees of the system and the active participants who choose to remain in the system, and in cities of the second class for the benefit of members who have completed at least twenty (20) years' service and withdrawn from service pursuant to KRS 95.857, an amount equal to that which would be required pursuant to the funding standards of KRS 95.868, plus so much of the principal amount of any unfunded prior service liability as the actuary states is necessary to maintain cash flow adequate to pay retiree and beneficiary payments until financial obligations to all retirees and beneficiaries are fully satisfied.

(4) All lawful expenses for general administration, performance bonds, medical, actuarial, accounting, auditing, legal, and investment services of a retirement system listed in subsection (1) of this section shall be paid from the pension fund. Actuaries performing evaluations pursuant to this section shall include estimates of the expenses in their recommendations for pension system funding, and local governments shall add payments for the expenses to their annual contributions to their respective retirement systems.

(5) A city or city agency, consolidated local government, or urban-county government may, pursuant to KRS 67A.340, 79.080, 90.410, or KRS Chapter 96 as applicable, provide for the retirement security of its employees through

the creation of a money purchase or defined contribution plan qualified under Section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 as amended. City employee deferred compensation plans created pursuant to KRS 18A.270, or money purchase or defined contribution plans, qualified under Section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 as amended, which by their nature cannot have an unfunded liability, shall not be subject to the actuarial evaluation requirements of this section, and shall not be subject to termination for purposes of employee entry into the County Employees Retirement System, as required by KRS 78.530, 79.080, 90.410, and 96.180.

(6) No city or county, except an urban-county, or special district, nor any agency or instrumentality of a city or county or special district shall create or maintain for its officers or employees a defined benefit retirement system, which by its nature can have an unfunded liability. The provisions of this subsection shall not preclude employer contributions for city managers or other appointed local government executives who participate, pursuant to KRS 78.540, in a retirement system which operates in more than one (1) state, nor the continuation of a local government defined benefit retirement system which has been closed to new members but which must fulfill its obligations to current active members, retirees, and beneficiaries. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, the provisions of this subsection shall not apply to length of service awards programs established for the benefit of volunteer firefighters and volunteer life squad and volunteer rescue personnel.

(7) Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, any city or county may establish awards programs that recognize the length of service to the community by volunteer firefighters, volunteer life squads, and volunteer rescue personnel.

**Effective:** July 15, 2002

**History:** Amended 2002 Ky. Acts ch. 346, sec. 23, effective July 15, 2002. -- Amended 1998 Ky. Acts ch. 328, sec. 1, effective July 15, 1998. -- Amended 1992 Ky. Acts ch. 238, sec. 1, effective July 14, 1992. -- Amended 1988 Ky. Acts ch. 11, sec. 2, effective July 15, 1988. -- Amended 1984 Ky. Acts ch. 24, sec. 1, effective July 13, 1984; and ch. 177, sec. 14, effective July 13, 1984. -- Created 1982 Ky. Acts ch. 297, sec. 1, effective July 15, 1982.