

HB 234

Representative Hall

History of Emergency Dispatchers

1968

First 911 call
Haleyville,
Alabama

Second 911 call
Six days later in
Nome, Alaska



1975

A paramedic
filled in as a
dispatcher and
gave a mother
of a
non-breathing
baby survival
instructions

Henceforth,
this became
the new
standard



1979

The first formal
training
program for
dispatchers
began

The term
emergency
medical
dispatcher took
root



1980s

Job scope
expanded as
emergency
medical
dispatchers
began using
scripted
prearrival
instructions for
major calls,
including CPR,
choking, and
childbirth



1989

The medical
community
established a
new standard
that prearrival
instructions are
a mandatory
component of
every medical
dispatch center

What HB 234 Does

Defines emergency medical dispatcher as first responders trained as public safety telecommunicators.

Adds emergency response dispatchers to PERS benefits category “peace officers” or “firefighters” to include them with their first responder colleagues.

Sets the effective date to July 1, 2026

PERS DB Plan Tier III

PERS DB Plan Tier III	PERS DB Plan Tier III Fire/Police
All others contribute 6.75%	Police/fire contribute 7.5%
After vesting, retirement is 60, and early retirement is 55. All others can retire at any age after 30 years of service.	Police/Fire can retire at any age after 20 years of service.
Benefit calculation determined on the average high 5 consecutive years' salary.	Benefit calculation for Police/Fire is average high 3 consecutive years' salary.

PERS DCR Plan Tier IV

PERS DCR Plan Tier IV	PERS DCR Plan Tier IV Fire/Police
All contribute 8%	All contribute 8%
No retirement qualifications for accessing investment account. Taxes and penalties may apply if withdrawn before 59.5 years old	Police/Fire exempt from early withdrawal penalties IF they retire/separate at age 50 OR have at least 25 years of service.
Access to medical coverage is Medicare-eligible age (65) with 10 years of service or 30 years of service, must retire directly from plan.	Access to medical coverage at any age for Police/Fire with 25 years of service.

QUESTIONS?