



Office of the State Auditor

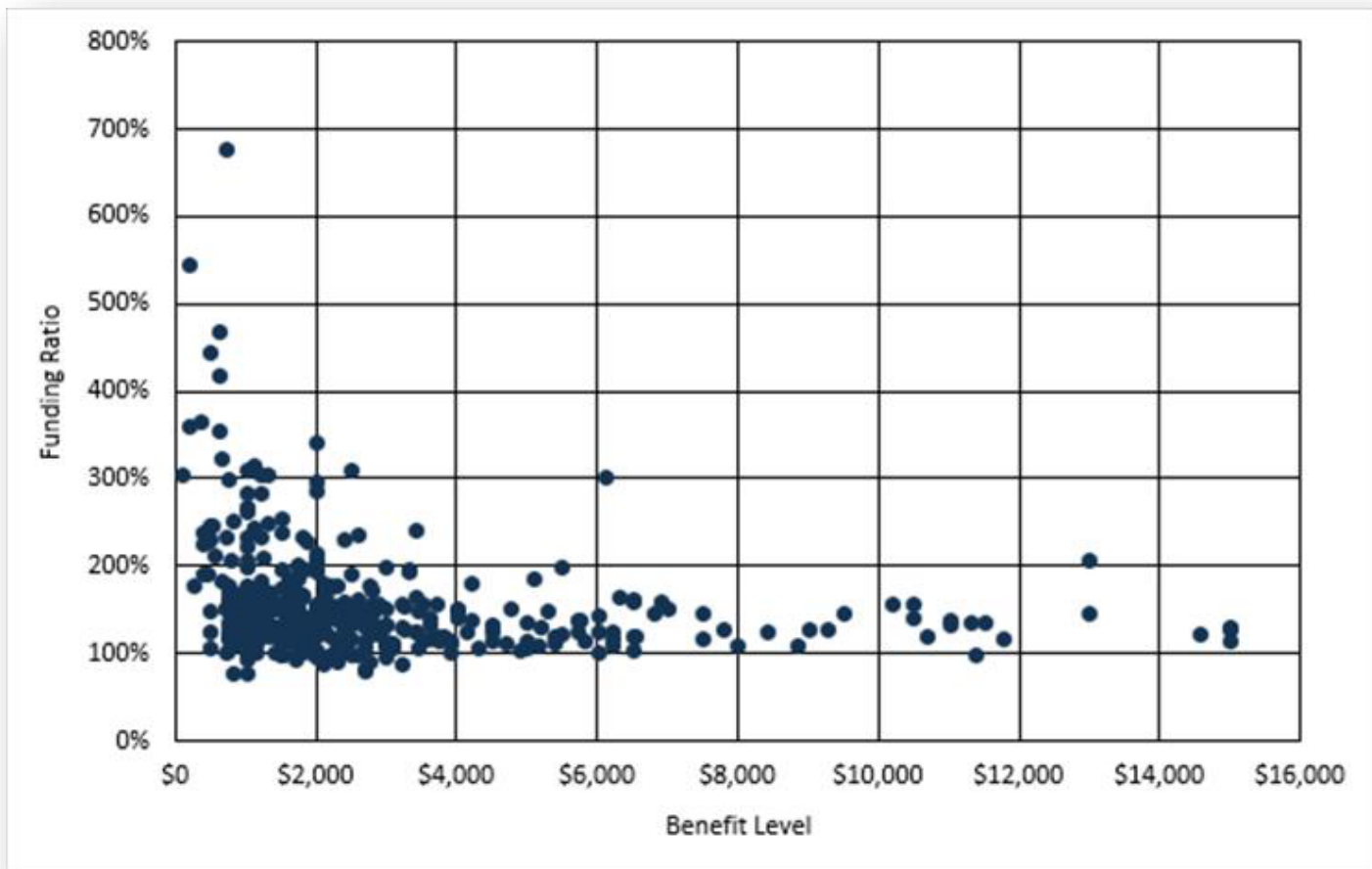
**State Auditor's
Fire Relief
Association
Working Group**

RELIEF ASSOCIATION DATA (12/31/2024)

- Assets = \$699.5 Million
- Liabilities = \$556.4 Million
- Average Funding Ratio = 157.2%
- Average Rate of Return = 12.5%
- Invested with SBI = 33.6% of Relief Associations
- State Aid = \$29.9 Million
- Municipal Contributions = \$5.2 Million (only 17% was mandated by statute)
- Average Benefit Level = \$2,756



RELIEF ASSOCIATION DATA (12/31/2024)



WHAT IS A RELIEF ASSOCIATION?

- Governmental entities that also are nonprofits
- Governed by state law and local bylaws
- Provide retirement benefits to over 14,000 volunteer and paid on-call firefighters



WHAT IS A RELIEF ASSOCIATION?

CONTINUED



- Run by elected, local boards of trustees
- File annual reports with the OSA and meet statutory requirements to qualify for Fire State Aid
- Primary source of non-investment revenue



FIRE RELIEF ASSOCIATION WORKING GROUP

- Established by the OSA in 2004
- Consider and vet proposed legislative changes
- Only those with unanimous support put forward
- Members are relief association members, fire chiefs, and city and town officials



- Update definition of “firefighting service” to include duties performed by volunteer EMS
- Make corresponding updates to additional definitions so they reference “firefighting service”

WHAT'S IN THE BILL?



SECTIONS 1-4



- Creates a new Section 424A.012 containing reorganized and clarified provisions for firefighters who return to active service after a break in service (subd. 1) or after receipt of a pension or benefit (subd. 2)

WHAT'S IN THE BILL?



SECTION 5



- Increases the audit threshold to \$1 million in assets or liabilities, which is in line with local government audit thresholds
- Allows a relief association to revert to the agreed-upon procedures CPA engagement (instead of the audit) if assets and liabilities fall below the threshold

WHAT'S IN THE BILL?



SECTION 6



Make technical corrections that:

- Updates a statutory reference,
- Removes unnecessary language, and
- Clarifies authorized disbursements when monthly benefits are replaced with annuities

WHAT'S IN
THE BILL?



SECTIONS 7-9





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