

**GAO**

Report to Officials of Congress and the  
District of Columbia

March 1987

**DISTRICT'S  
WORKFORCE**

Annual Report  
Required by the  
District of Columbia  
Retirement Reform Act



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**United States  
General Accounting Office  
Washington, D.C. 20548**

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**General Government Division**

**B-208412**

March 18, 1987

The Honorable James C. Wright, Jr.  
Speaker of the House of Representatives

The Honorable John C. Stennis  
President pro tempore  
United States Senate

The Honorable John Glenn  
Chairman, Committee on Governmental Affairs  
United States Senate

The Honorable Ronald V. Dellums  
Chairman, Committee on the  
District of Columbia  
House of Representatives

The Honorable John C. Stennis  
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate

The Honorable Jamie L. Whitten  
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations  
House of Representatives

The Honorable Marion S. Barry, Jr.  
Mayor of the District of Columbia

The Council of the District of Columbia  
Washington, D.C.

In accordance with subsection 145(b) of the District of Columbia Retirement Reform Act (Public Law 96-122, as amended by Public Law 98-104), we are sending you our comments on the enclosed report prepared by Ms. Mary Riebold, of William M. Mercer-Meidinger, Inc., on the disability retirement rate of District of Columbia police officers and firefighters. The act provides for annual federal payments to the District of Columbia Police Officers and Fire Fighters' Retirement Fund. These payments, however, are to be reduced when the disability retirement rate exceeds an established limit. The purpose of making the payments subject to a reduction was to encourage the District government to control disability retirement costs.

Ms Riebold, an enrolled actuary, was engaged by the District of Columbia Retirement Board to (1) determine the 1986 disability retirement rate for District police officers and firefighters hired before February 15, 1980, (2) determine if that rate exceeded eight-tenths of 1 percentage point; and (3) prepare the annual report required by the act.

Subsection 145(a) of the act, as amended, established a "trigger mechanism" for determining whether the annual federal payment of \$34,170,000 to the District of Columbia Police Officers and Fire Fighters' Retirement Fund (authorized under subsection 144(a)(1) of the act) is to be reduced. The Comptroller General is required by the act to make this determination each year on the basis of a review of the disability retirement rate computed by the enrolled actuary. We have reviewed the actuary's report and other relevant data and concluded that no reduction is required in the fiscal year 1988 federal payment to the District's police and firefighters retirement fund

## Basis for Our Determination

As defined by subsection 145(a)(2) of the act, as amended, the disability retirement rate is a fraction, the numerator of which is the number of District of Columbia police officers and firefighters hired before February 15, 1980, who retired on disability during the applicable calendar year. The denominator is the total number of police officers and firefighters hired before February 15, 1980, who were on active duty as of January 1 of the applicable calendar year. A disability retirement rate greater than eight-tenths of 1 percentage point triggers a reduction in the next annual federal payment. Thus, the trigger mechanism governing the fiscal year 1988 payment is based on members retiring on disability in calendar year 1986 (the numerator) and members on board on January 1, 1986, (the denominator). The enrolled actuary must report the determinations made under the law, along with related documentation, to the Retirement Board and to the Comptroller General no later than March 1 of each year.

Our comments must include a statement as to whether the determinations made by the enrolled actuary fairly present, in all material respects, the requirements of the law. The law also requires that we make a determination as to the amount, if any, by which the annual federal payment is to be reduced. A reduction in the federal payment would amount to 1-1/2 percent for each whole tenth of a percentage point by which the disability retirement rate is greater than eight-tenths of 1 percentage point.

We have reviewed the enclosed report from the actuary which shows that 30 members who were hired before February 15, 1980, retired on disability in 1986. On January 1, 1986, there were 3,994 police officers and firefighters on active duty who had been hired before February 15, 1980. Thus, the actuary determined the disability rate to be 0.751 percent. Since this rate is less than eight-tenths of 1 percentage point, no reduction is required in the fiscal year 1988 payment to the District's police and firefighters retirement fund.

In our opinion, the determination made by the enrolled actuary meets, in all material respects, the requirements of the law.

We are sending a copy of this report to the District of Columbia Retirement Board. Copies will be made available to other interested parties upon request.



William J. Anderson  
Assistant Comptroller General

# Actuary's Report

WILLIAM M.  
**MERCER** - *Meldinger*  
IS A CORPORATION

February 20, 1987

Mr. Charles A. Bowsher  
Comptroller General of the United States  
General Accounting Office  
441 G Street NW  
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Mr. Bowsher:

Disability Retirement Rate for 1986 Calendar Year  
District of Columbia Police Officers and Fire Fighters'  
Retirement Fund

Public Law 98-104 requires that the enrolled actuary determines the disability retirement rate and report on the disability retirement rate by March 1 of each year, with respect to the rate for the preceding calendar year.

The following employee data and disability retirement data was made available to me:

1. Number of active police officers as of January 1, 1986, hired on or before February 14, 1980: 3000
2. Number of active fire fighters as of January 1, 1986, hired on or before February 14, 1980: 994
3. Numbers of disability retirements among employees hired on or before February 14, 1980: 30 (22 police, 8 fire)

Based on this data, the disability retirement rate for 1986 as defined in Public Law 98-104 amending subsection 145 (a) paragraphs (1) and (2) of the District of Columbia Retirement Reform Act, is 0.751%.

This disability retirement rate is not greater than 0.8%, i.e. eight-tenths of a percentage point.

Sincerely,



Mary S. Riebold, F.S.A.  
Principle

MSR/clz  
cc: Mr. William Stanton  
Mr. Jorge Morales  
Mr. Tom Eickmeyer  
Mr. James W. Dyke

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