
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 1844 (Pacheco) - Judges' Retirement System II: beneficiaries

Version: June 11, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: August 13, 2026

Policy Vote: L., P.E. & R. 5 - 0

Mandate: No

Consultant: Robert Ingenito

Bill Summary: AB 1844 would (1) allow a judge in the Judges' Retirement System II (JRS II) to name a non-spouse beneficiary to receive an optional settlement benefit allowance upon the judge's death, (2) eliminate the limitation that an active judge must have served for 20 years for a survivor's allowance benefit to apply to a judge who dies in office, and (3) permit a judge to name a class of beneficiaries to receive the optional settlement benefit.

***** ANALYSIS ADDENDUM – SUSPENSE FILE *****

The following information is revised to reflect amendments
adopted by the committee on August 13, 2026

Fiscal Impact:

- The California Employees Retirement System (CalPERS) indicates that implementation costs would be minor and absorbable.
- This bill would increase state costs by expanding eligibility for survivor benefits and eliminating certain actuarial gains currently recognized by the Judges' Retirement System II (JRS II). According to CalPERS' most recent actuarial cost analysis, the bill would increase JRS II's accrued liability by approximately \$3 million, from \$2.802 billion to \$2.805 billion, and reduce the system's funded status by 0.1 percentage point, from 106.5 percent to 106.4 percent. The bill would also increase the total normal cost rate by 0.07 percentage point, from 34.01 percent to 34.08 percent, resulting in a corresponding increase in the employer normal cost rate from 22.96 percent to 23.03 percent. This increase would result in additional annual employer costs of approximately \$297,000 (Judges' Retirement System II Fund). The PEPRAs member contribution rate would remain unchanged at 16.75 percent.

Author Amendments: Make technical changes.

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