



IPERS Protected Status for All Public Safety Professionals

IPERS has enhanced benefits for those who serve Iowans in positions that put them in hazardous and exhausting situations. 911 and Emergency Management professionals are the first in line to protect the welfare of Iowans when disaster strikes.

We request the Iowa Legislature grant protected status under IPERS to 911 and Emergency Management professionals in Iowa. It's time to include ALL public safety professionals under protected status.

Emergency Managers and 911 Dispatchers Protect Iowans

- *The role of these professionals has evolved rapidly over the last decade which has put them on the front lines of emergency response.*
- *Emergency Managers are Iowa's disaster preparation and mitigation specialists.*
- *911 Dispatchers are the first call for Iowans whenever there is an emergency.*
- *The public depends on Emergency Managers and 911 dispatchers to respond to dangerous situations quickly, effectively, and accurately.*

***Iowa is ranked 4th
most impacted
state by natural
disasters.***

WalletHub



Since the major Derecho in 2020,

Governor Reynolds has declared 63 Disasters in Iowa

In 2021, over 1 million 911 calls were made in Iowa



MENTAL HEALTH EFFECTS LEAD TO HIGH TURNOVER RATES OF 15-20%



Emergency Management and 911 organizations struggle to retain workers due to the physical and mental burden of these essential public safety jobs. Enhanced benefits through IPERs will help attract and retain these professionals.

IPERS Protected Status Today

Current Protected Status Groups

- Sheriffs/Deputy Sheriffs
- Airport Firefighters
- Airport Safety Officers
- Airport Security Officers
- Conservation Peace Officers
- County Attorney Investigators
- County Jailers
- Dept. of Corrections Employees
- Marshals
- Police Officers
- Firefighters
- EMS Providers
- DOT Peace Officers
- Fire Prevention Inspectors Peace Officers
- Insurance Special Investigators
- National Guard Installation Security Officers
- Parole Peace Officers
- Psychiatric Security Specialists

Protected Status Benefits

- Vested after 4 years of service, instead of 7
- Retirement age of 55
- No early retirement penalty
- Increased benefit contributions and multiplier