

1 State of Arkansas
2 89th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2013
4

As Engrossed: S2/13/13

A Bill

SENATE BILL 105

5 By: Senator J. Key
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 *AN ACT TO AMEND STATE EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT LAW; TO*
9 *CLARIFY DEFINITIONS; TO REQUIRE THE TERMINATION OF*
10 *QUALIFIED EMPLOYMENT PRIOR TO THE PAYMENT OF AN*
11 *ANNUITY; TO REQUIRE EMPLOYERS PARTICIPATING IN THE*
12 *ARKANSAS PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM TO*
13 *PROVIDE INFORMATION; TO DETERMINE ELIGIBILITY*
14 *REQUIREMENTS OF AN EMPLOYEE TO RECEIVE DISABILITY*
15 *BENEFITS; TO CLARIFY THAT AN EMPLOYEE'S FAILURE TO*
16 *TERMINATE EMPLOYMENT DOES NOT REVOKE THE EMPLOYEE'S*
17 *RETIREMENT ELECTION; TO REPEAL THE LAW CONCERNING THE*
18 *CONVERSION OF AN EMPLOYEE FROM A CONTRIBUTORY TO A*
19 *NONCONTRIBUTORY MEMBER OF THE SYSTEM; TO DEFINE WHO*
20 *MAY BE A MEMBER OF THE SYSTEM; TO MAKE TECHNICAL*
21 *CORRECTIONS; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER*
22 *PURPOSES.*

Subtitle

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24
25 *TO DETERMINE DISABILITY BENEFITS; TO*
26 *CLARIFY WHO MAY BE A MEMBER; TO REPEAL*
27 *THE CONVERSION FROM CONTRIBUTORY TO*
28 *NONCONTRIBUTORY; AND TO DECLARE AN*
29 *EMERGENCY.*
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33 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
34

35 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 24-4-101(28)(A), concerning the definition
36 of normal retirement age, is amended to read as follows:



1 (A) Age sixty (60) and with twenty (20) or more years of
2 actual service commencing before January 1, 1978, for a contributory member;
3 or

4
5 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 24-4-101(34)(A), concerning the definition
6 of a public safety member, is amended to read as follows:

7 (34)(A) "Public safety member" means, except public safety
8 members covered under § 24-4-1004, a ~~noncontributory~~ member whose covered
9 employment:

10 (i) ~~is~~ is for personal services as a police officer
11 or firefighter; and

12 (ii) ~~his or her employment commenced prior to~~ Began
13 before July 1, 1997, ~~except as provided for public safety members covered~~
14 ~~under § 24-4-1004.~~

15
16 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 24-4-101(34)(B)(i) and (ii), concerning the
17 definition of a police officer, is amended to read as follows:

18 (B)(i)(a) "Police officer" means ~~any regular or a~~
19 permanent employee whose primary duty is law enforcement of a municipal
20 police department, a county sheriff's office, or the Department of Arkansas
21 State Police, including a probationary police ~~officers~~ officer.

22 (b) "Police officer" includes a wildlife
23 ~~officers~~ officer of the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission, a drug
24 enforcement ~~officers~~ officer of a judicial drug taskforce, a civilian
25 ~~firefighters~~ firefighter of the State Military Department covered under § 24-
26 4-1004, and all officers and the ~~Director~~ Chief of the State Capitol Police
27 within the office of the Secretary of State.

28 (c) "Police officer" does not include a person
29 who has not satisfied the training requirements to be a police officer
30 established by the Arkansas Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and
31 Training under § 12-9-106.

32 (ii) ~~An~~ A police officer who, although assigned to
33 administrative duties, is still subject to call for service at patrol duty or
34 duty in the field or is subject to call for duties in emergency situations
35 requiring the officer to be armed with a firearm shall be considered to have
36 the primary duty of law enforcement for the purpose of this subdivision

1 (34)(B).

2

3 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 24-4-101(39), concerning the definition of
4 a retirant, is amended to read as follows:

5 (39) "Retirant" means a person who: ~~receiving a plan annuity by~~
6 ~~reason of having been a member of the Arkansas Public Employees' Retirement~~
7 ~~System;~~

8 (A) Is a vested member of the Arkansas Public Employees'
9 Retirement System;

10 (B) Has filed an effective retirement application with the
11 system that has not been cancelled; and

12 (C) Is entitled to a plan annuity upon properly
13 terminating employment under § 24-4-520;

14

15 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 24-4-101(40)(B), concerning the definition
16 of retirement, is repealed.

17 ~~(B) Failure to meet termination requirements shall not~~
18 ~~operate to revoke a member's retirement election;~~

19

20 SECTION 6. Arkansas Code Title 24, Chapter 4, Subchapter 1, is amended
21 to add an additional section to read as follows:

22 24-4-110. Failure to terminate - Commencement of annuity payments -
23 Election to retire.

24 A retirant shall not begin receiving annuity payments until all
25 requirements for terminating qualified employment are satisfied.

26

27 SECTION 7. Arkansas Code Title 24, Chapter 4, Subchapter 1, is amended
28 to add an additional section to read as follows:

29 24-4-111. Failure to meet termination requirements - Member's
30 retirement election.

31 The failure to meet termination requirements does not revoke a member's
32 retirement election.

33

34 SECTION 8. Arkansas Code § 24-4-202, concerning a public employer's
35 contribution to the Arkansas Public Employees' Retirement System, is amended
36 to add an additional subsection to read as follows:

1 (g) A participating public employer shall promptly upon request by the
 2 Arkansas Public Employees' Retirement System provide all information
 3 requested concerning the status of an employee to the system.
 4

5 SECTION 9. Arkansas Code § 24-4-511(a)(2), concerning the eligibility
 6 requirements to receive disability benefits, is amended to read as follows:

7 (2) Upon filing the proper application and meeting the
 8 requirements stated in this section, the disability annuity shall be
 9 effective the first day of the calendar month ~~next~~ following the ~~later of~~
 10 ~~either the member's termination of active membership or the onset date of the~~
 11 ~~qualifying disability~~ Arkansas Public Employees' Retirement System's approval
 12 of the disability application.
 13

14 SECTION 10. Arkansas Code § 24-4-523 is repealed.

15 ~~24-4-523. Conversion from contributory to noncontributory plan—~~
 16 ~~Extension of time.~~

17 ~~Any person who, under § 24-3-101 et seq. [repealed], or any other act,~~
 18 ~~was authorized to convert from the contributory plan of the Arkansas Public~~
 19 ~~Employees' Retirement System to the noncontributory plan of the Arkansas~~
 20 ~~Public Employees' Retirement System prior to January 1, 1985, may convert~~
 21 ~~from the contributory plan to the noncontributory plan at any time.~~
 22

23 SECTION 11. Arkansas Code § 24-4-749(a)(1), concerning the purchase of
 24 out-of-state governmental service, is amended to read as follows:

25 (1) The member has at least+

26 ~~(A) Five~~ five (5) years of credited service at the
 27 time of application; ~~or~~

28 ~~(B) Two (2) years of actual service with the Arkansas~~
 29 ~~Public Employees' Retirement System, at least seven (7) years of actual~~
 30 ~~service credit with a retirement system outside of the State of Arkansas, and~~
 31 ~~is at least sixty five (65) years of age;~~
 32

33 SECTION 12. Arkansas Code § 24-4-1101 is amended to read as follows:

34 24-4-1101. Membership.

35 ~~(a) All public employees~~ A public employee, as defined in § 24-4-
 36 101(17), first hired on or after July 1, 2005, ~~are~~ is subject to the benefit

1 provisions of this subchapter.

2 (b)(1)(A) ~~All public employees~~ A public employee ~~hired prior to July~~
3 ~~1, 2005, and who are~~ remains an active members member of the Arkansas Public
4 Employees' Retirement System ~~on July 1, 2009, shall have six (6) months from~~
5 ~~July 1, 2009, to~~ may elect coverage under the benefit provisions of this
6 subchapter.

7 (B) If the member elects contributory coverage, the
8 effective date of the member's contributory coverage shall be:

9 (i) The first payroll period that is paid and
10 reported ~~in January 2010~~ in the next month after the contributory election;
11 and

12 (ii) Prospective only.

13 (2) ~~No~~ A conversion or purchase of noncontributory service into
14 contributory service under this subchapter is not allowed.

15 (3) The election shall be made as directed by the Board of
16 Trustees of the Arkansas Public Employees' Retirement System and is
17 irrevocable.

18 ~~(c)(1)(A) A public employee hired prior to July 1, 2005, and who is an~~
19 ~~active member of the Arkansas Public Employees' Retirement System on July 1,~~
20 ~~2011, shall have six (6) months from July 1, 2011, to elect coverage under~~
21 ~~the benefit provisions of this subchapter.~~

22 ~~(B) If the member elects contributory coverage, the~~
23 ~~effective date of the member's contributory coverage shall be:~~

24 ~~(i) The first payroll period that is paid and~~
25 ~~reported in January 2012; and~~

26 ~~(ii) Prospective only.~~

27 ~~(2) Conversion or purchase of noncontributory service into~~
28 ~~contributory service under this subchapter is prohibited.~~

29 ~~(3) The election shall be made as directed by the Board of~~
30 ~~Trustees of the Arkansas Public Employees' Retirement System and is~~
31 ~~irrevocable.~~

32 ~~(d)(c)~~ Noncontributory members who terminate covered service for a
33 period of more than six (6) months and subsequently return to covered service
34 will be subject to the provisions of this subchapter.

35

36 SECTION 13. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the

1 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that it is vital that the Arkansas
2 Public Employees' Retirement System be permitted to immediately implement
3 policies regarding the termination of employment, eligibility of employees to
4 receive benefits, availability of information, and when to pay interest on
5 employee contributions; and to clarify the meaning of terms in the Arkansas
6 Code of 1987 Annotated to avoid the undue consumption of the system's
7 resources. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being
8 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and
9 safety shall become effective on:

10 (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

11 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,
12 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the
13 bill; or

14 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is
15 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

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17 */s/J. Key*
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20 **APPROVED: 03/14/2013**
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