

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas
2 83rd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2001
4
5 By: Senator J. Jeffress

As Engrossed: S3/6/01 S3/22/01

A Bill

Act 1297 of 2001

SENATE BILL 26

8 For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS CODE 24-4-510 TO REDUCE
10 THE EARLY RETIREMENT PENALTIES FOR MEMBERS OF THE
11 PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM; TO DECLARE
12 AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

14 Subtitle

15 TO REDUCE THE EARLY RETIREMENT PENALTIES
16 FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES'
17 RETIREMENT SYSTEM.

20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

22 *SECTION 1. Arkansas Code 24-4-510(a)(2), as amended by Act 151 of 2001,
23 concerning early and deferred annuities in the Public Employees' Retirement
24 System, is amended to read as follows:*

25 *(2)(A) Upon early retirement, a member shall receive a certain
26 percentage of an annuity for life provided for in § 24-4-601, which percentage
27 shall be one hundred percent (100%) reduced by one-half of one percent (0.5%)
28 multiplied by the number of months by which his age at early retirement is
29 younger than his normal retirement age, using what his normal retirement age
30 would have been under the provisions of § 24-4-508 if he had continued covered
31 employment from the time of early retirement.*

32 *(B) However, if the member or former member has at least
33 twenty-five (25) years of actual service, but less than twenty-eight (28)
34 years of actual service, and has not reached age sixty-five (65), then upon
35 early retirement, the member shall receive a percentage of a life annuity as
36 provided in § 24-4-601, which percentage shall be one hundred percent (100%)*

1 reduced by one percent (1%) multiplied by the number of months by which the
2 time of early retirement precedes the earlier of either the completion of
3 twenty-eight (28) years of actual service or the attainment of age sixty five
4 (65). If the reduction set forth under this subdivision (a)(2)(B) is greater
5 than the reduction that would have otherwise been imposed except for this
6 subdivision (a)(2)(B), then the lesser reduction shall apply.

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8 SECTION 2. [THE ARKANSAS CODE REVISION COMMISSION IS NOT REQUIRED TO
9 CODYFY THIS SECTION.] No benefit enhancement provided for by this act shall
10 be implemented if it would cause the publicly supported retirement system's
11 unfunded actuarial accrued liabilities to exceed a thirty (30) year
12 amortization. No benefit enhancement provided for by this act shall be
13 implemented by any publicly supported system which has unfunded actuarial
14 accrued liabilities being amortized over a period exceeding thirty (30) years
15 until the unfunded actuarial accrued liability is reduced to a level less than
16 the standards prescribed by Arkansas Code, Title 24.

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18 SECTION 3. Emergency Clause. It is hereby found and determined by the
19 Eighty-third General Assembly that early retirement penalties for the Public
20 Employees' Retirement System are overly harsh, that incentives for public
21 employees to retire will improve staff morale and the working environment, and
22 that the beginning of the fiscal year is the most advantageous time to
23 implement benefit changes with the Public Employees' Retirement System.
24 Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist and this act being immediately
25 necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety shall
26 become effective on July 1, 2001.

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/s/ J. Jeffress

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APPROVED: 4/5/2001

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