

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

As Engrossed: S3/19/13

A Bill

SENATE BILL 137

5 By: Senator B. Sample
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO ADDRESS MEMBER DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS IN THE
9 ARKANSAS LOCAL POLICE AND FIRE RETIREMENT SYSTEM; TO
10 ADDRESS TECHNICAL CHANGES IN THE ARKANSAS LOCAL
11 POLICE AND FIRE RETIREMENT SYSTEM; TO EXTEND THE
12 DEFERRED RETIREMENT OPTION PLAN IN THE ARKANSAS LOCAL
13 POLICE AND FIRE RETIREMENT SYSTEM; TO ADDRESS COST OF
14 LIVING INCREASES FOR CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE ARKANSAS
15 LOCAL POLICE AND FIRE RETIREMENT *SYSTEM; TO DECLARE*
16 *AN EMERGENCY; AND* FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

19
20 TO ADDRESS MEMBER DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS,
21 TECHNICAL CHANGES, COST OF LIVING
22 INCREASES, AND THE DEFERRED RETIREMENT
23 OPTION PLAN IN THE ARKANSAS LOCAL POLICE
24 AND FIRE RETIREMENT SYSTEM.
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27 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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29 *SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 24-10-407(d), concerning income-expense*
30 *accounts, is amended to read as follows:*

31 *(d)(1)(A) At the end of each system fiscal year, the board shall*
32 *credit each member's individual account in the members' deposit account with*
33 *regular interest on the average balance in the account for the fiscal year.*

34 *(B) Beginning July 1, 2013, the board shall cease awarding*
35 *interest to each member's deposit account.*

36 *(2) At the end of each system fiscal year, the board shall*



1 credit to each account in the employer accumulation account regular interest
2 on the average balance in the account for the fiscal year and similarly shall
3 credit regular interest to the retirement reserve account.

4 (3) The regular interest shall be transferred from the income-
5 expense account.

6
7 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 24-10-506(a)(1), concerning other local
8 police and fire service, is amended to read as follows:

9 (a) ~~Any~~ An active member of the Arkansas Local Police and Fire
10 Retirement System shall be entitled to purchase credited service in the
11 system equivalent to a period not to exceed fifteen (15) years if the member:

12 (1)(A) Has at least five (5) years of actual service with the
13 system~~+~~.

14 (B) A member hired on or after July 1, 2013, shall accrue
15 ten (10) years of actual service in order to be eligible for purchase under
16 this section;

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18 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 24-10-508 is amended to read as follows:
19 24-10-508. Service credit.

20 (a) ~~Any~~ An active member of the Arkansas Local Police and Fire
21 Retirement System who has at least five (5) years of actual service and who
22 has service in an Arkansas law enforcement agency or fire department and who
23 has been employed as a public safety or law enforcement officer in any agency
24 not covered by the system or any other system that is reciprocal to the
25 system shall receive credited service for that service.

26 (b) A member hired on or after July 1, 2013, shall accrue ten (10)
27 years of actual service in order to be eligible under this section.

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29 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 24-10-510(a), concerning service credit for
30 former military personnel, is amended to read as follows:

31 (a) ~~Any~~ An active member of the Arkansas Local Police and Fire
32 Retirement System may purchase credited service in the system equivalent to a
33 period not to exceed five (5) years for service rendered by the member while
34 on active duty in the armed forces of the United States before the member's
35 employment covered by the system, if the member:

36 (1) Received an honorable discharge from the armed forces;

1 (2)(A) Has at least five (5) years of actual service in the
2 ~~system; and.~~

3 (B) A member hired on or after July 1, 2013, shall accrue
4 ten (10) years of actual service in order to be eligible for purchase under
5 this section; and

6 (3)(A) Contributes to the system an amount that is the actuarial
7 equivalent of the value of the credited service to be purchased.

8 (B) The actuarial equivalent is of the time of the
9 purchase of the credited service and shall be determined by the actuary for
10 the system.

11
12 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 24-10-604(a), concerning voluntary
13 retirement application, is amended to read as follows:

14 (a)(1) ~~Any~~ A member in covered employment may retire with an annuity
15 provided for in § 24-10-602 upon his or her written application to the Board
16 of Trustees of the Arkansas Local Police and Fire Retirement System setting
17 forth at what time, ~~not less than~~ at least thirty (30) days ~~nor~~ but not more
18 than ninety (90) days subsequent to the execution and filing of his or her
19 application, he or she desires to be retired, but only if, at the time of his
20 or her separation from employment and at the time so specified for his or her
21 retirement, the member shall have attained his or her normal retirement age
22 and have five (5) years of credited service in force.

23 (2) A member hired on or after July 1, 2013, shall accrue ten
24 (10) years of actual service in order to be eligible under this section.

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26 SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 24-10-607(a), concerning disability
27 retirement, is amended to read as follows:

28 (a)(1)(A)(i) ~~Any~~ An active member with five (5) years of credited
29 service, including credited service for seventy-five percent (75%) of the two
30 (2) years immediately preceding his or her disability, who while an active
31 member becomes totally and permanently physically or mentally incapacitated
32 for any suitable duty as an employee as a result of a personal injury or
33 disease may be retired by the Board of Trustees of the Arkansas Local Police
34 and Fire Retirement System upon written application filed with the board by
35 or on behalf of the member or former member.

36 (ii) A member hired on or after July 1, 2013, shall

1 accrue ten (10) years of actual service in order to be eligible for
2 retirement.

3 (B) The employee shall be retired only if, after a medical
4 examination of the member or former member made by or under the direction of
5 a physician or physicians designated by the board, the physician reports to
6 the ~~plan~~ board in writing that the member or former member is physically or
7 mentally totally incapacitated for the further performance of any suitable
8 duty, that the incapacity will probably be permanent, and that the member or
9 former member should be retired.

10 (2) A written application to the board by the member or former
11 member or on behalf of the member shall be filed with the board not later
12 than one (1) year after the termination of active membership.

13 (3) The disability annuity shall be effective the first day of
14 the calendar month next following the later of:

15 (A) His or her termination of active membership; or

16 (B) Six (6) months before the date the written application
17 is filed with the board.

18
19 SECTION 7. Arkansas Code § 24-10-609, concerning the death of a member
20 in volunteer service, is amended to add an additional subsection to read as
21 follows:

22 (e) A member hired on or after July 1, 2013, shall accrue ten (10)
23 years of actual service in order to be eligible for benefits under this
24 section.

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26 SECTION 8. Arkansas Code § 24-10-611(a)(1), concerning termination of
27 covered employment, is amended to read as follows:

28 (a) A member who terminates covered employment before attaining his or
29 her normal retirement age, for a reason other than death, early retirement,
30 or disability retirement, shall be entitled to an annuity computed in
31 accordance with the provisions of this section, as it provides at the time of
32 the last termination of covered employment, subject to the member's
33 satisfying all of the following conditions:

34 (1)(A) The member has five (5) years of credited service~~+~~.

35 (B) A member hired on or after July 1, 2013, shall accrue
36 ten (10) years of actual service in order to be eligible for retirement;

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2 SECTION 9. Arkansas Code § 24-10-613(a), concerning disposition of
3 accumulated contributions, is amended to read as follows:

4 (a)(1) If On or after July 1, 2013, if a retirant and his or her
5 eligible beneficiary, if any, both die before they have received in annuity
6 payments a total amount equal to the accumulated contributions, ~~including any~~
7 ~~interest credits~~ standing to the retirant's credit in the Arkansas Local
8 Police and Fire Retirement System at the time of his or her retirement, the
9 difference between the accumulated contributions and the total amount of
10 annuities received by them shall be paid to the persons the retirant
11 nominated by written designation duly executed and filed with the Board of
12 Trustees of the Arkansas Local Police and Fire Retirement System.

13 (2) If no designated person survives the retirant and his or her
14 beneficiary, the difference shall be paid to the estate of the survivor of
15 the retirant and his or her beneficiary.
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17 SECTION 10. Arkansas Code § 24-10-704, concerning the rate of return
18 on benefits, is amended to add an additional subsection to read as follows:

19 (c)(1) When a member has reached year six (6) of participation in the
20 Local Police and Fire Deferred Retirement Option Plan under § 24-10-706, the
21 amount of the benefit calculated at the time of enrollment in the plan shall
22 be redetermined consistent with § 24-10-602.

23 (2) The redetermined amount shall be the amount of the benefit
24 as of the immediately preceding July 1 increased by three percent (3%).

25 (3) The redetermined amount shall be payable only when the
26 member elects to cease employment and receive a service retirement and shall
27 not be added to the plan account.
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29 SECTION 11. Arkansas Code § 24-10-706 is amended to read as follows:
30 24-10-706. Duration.

31 (a) The duration of participation in the Local Police and Fire
32 Deferred Retirement Option Plan for active paid service police officers and
33 firefighters shall not exceed ~~five (5)~~ seven (7) years.

34 (b) At the conclusion of a member's participation in the plan, the
35 member shall terminate employment with the employer and shall start receiving
36 the member's monthly retirement benefit that would have been received if the

1 member had retired at the time the member elected to participate in the plan.

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3 SECTION 12. Arkansas Code § 24-12-109(c)(1), concerning investments,
4 is amended to read as follows:

5 (c)(1) In those nonuniformed employees' pension and relief funds in
6 which assets exceed one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000), the board of
7 trustees may employ:

8 (A) An investment advisor ~~as defined in § 24-10-402(a)(2)(A)(ii)~~
9 to invest the assets, subject to the terms, conditions, limitations, and
10 restrictions imposed by law upon the Arkansas ~~Local Police and Fire~~
11 ~~Retirement System, as provided by § 24-10-401 et seq.~~ Public Employees'
12 Retirement System; and

13 (B) A trustee or custodian to hold the assets.

14 (2) The investments shall not be limited to interest-bearing bonds.

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16 SECTION 13. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
17 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the local police and fire
18 retirement systems provide economic security for eligible citizens of
19 Arkansas; that the statutes need amending to update and clarify existing law;
20 and that these changes need to be made immediately. Therefore, an emergency
21 is declared to exist and this act being immediately necessary for the
22 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become effective
23 on July 1, 2013.

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25 /s/B. Sample
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