

1 State of Arkansas
2 92nd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2019
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1345

5 By: Representative Clowney
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING DISABILITY
9 RETIREMENT ELIGIBILITY UNDER THE ARKANSAS PUBLIC
10 EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM AND THE ARKANSAS LOCAL
11 POLICE AND FIRE RETIREMENT SYSTEM; AND FOR OTHER
12 PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

15 TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING DISABILITY
16 RETIREMENT ELIGIBILITY UNDER THE ARKANSAS
17 PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM AND
18 THE ARKANSAS LOCAL POLICE AND FIRE
19 RETIREMENT SYSTEM.
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23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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25 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 24-4-511(a)(1)(A), concerning eligibility
26 for benefits and disability retirement under the Arkansas Public Employees'
27 Retirement System, is amended to read as follows:

28 (a)(1)(A)(i) Except for members of the General Assembly who need at
29 least ten (10) years of actual service, any active member with five (5) or
30 more years of actual service, including actual service for at least eighteen
31 (18) of the twenty-four (24) calendar months immediately preceding his or her
32 disability, who becomes totally and permanently physically or mentally
33 incapacitated for any suitable job or position as an employee as a result of
34 a personal injury or disease may be retired by the Board of Trustees of the
35 Arkansas Public Employees' Retirement System upon written application filed
36 with the board by or on behalf of the member.



1 (ii)(a) As used in subdivision (a)(1)(A)(i) of this
 2 section, "disease" includes without limitation cancer that a firefighter or
 3 volunteer firefighter is diagnosed with while he or she is in the line of
 4 duty.

5 (b) A finding that a firefighter or volunteer
 6 firefighter was diagnosed with cancer while he or she was in the line of duty
 7 may be rebutted by a preponderance of the evidence.

8 (iii) As used in subdivision (a)(1)(A)(ii) of this
 9 section, "cancer" means:

10 (a) Leukemia, lymphoma, mesothelioma, or
 11 multiple myeloma;

12 (b) Cancer of the brain, urinary tract, liver,
 13 skin, breast, cervix, thyroid, prostate, testicle, colon, or digestive tract;
 14 or

15 (c) A cancer that has been found by research
 16 and statistics to show higher instances of occurrence in firefighters than in
 17 the general population, if the firefighter was exposed to a known carcinogen,
 18 as determined by the Department of Health with consideration to the findings
 19 of the International Agency for Research on Cancer, while in the official
 20 line of duty.

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 22 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 24-10-607(a)(1)(A), concerning disability
 23 retirement under the Arkansas Local Police and Fire Retirement System, is
 24 amended to read as follows:

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

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

36 (iii)(a) As used in subdivision (a)(1)(A)(i) of this

1 section, "disease" includes without limitation cancer that a firefighter or
 2 volunteer firefighter is diagnosed with while he or she is in the line of
 3 duty.

4 (b) A finding that a firefighter or volunteer
 5 firefighter was diagnosed with cancer while he or she was in the line of duty
 6 may be rebutted by a preponderance of the evidence.

7 (iv) As used in subdivision (a)(1)(A)(iii) of this
 8 section, "cancer" means:

9 (a) Leukemia, lymphoma, mesothelioma, or
 10 multiple myeloma;

11 (b) Cancer of the brain, urinary tract, liver,
 12 skin, breast, cervix, thyroid, prostate, testicle, colon, or digestive tract;
 13 or

14 (c) A cancer that has been found by research
 15 and statistics to show higher instances of occurrence in firefighters than in
 16 the general population, if the firefighter was exposed to a known carcinogen,
 17 as determined by the Department of Health with consideration to the findings
 18 of the International Agency for Research on Cancer, while in the official
 19 line of duty.

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