

CHAPTER 210**(SB 87)**

AN ACT relating to retirement.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

Section 1. KRS 16.505 is amended to read as follows:

As used in KRS 16.510 to 16.652, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (1) "System" means the State Police Retirement System created by KRS 16.510 to 16.652;
- (2) "Board" means the board of trustees of the Kentucky Retirement Systems;
- (3) "Employer" or "State Police" means the Department of State Police, or its successor;
- (4) "Current service" means the number of years and completed months of employment as an employee subsequent to July 1, 1958, for which creditable compensation was paid by the employer and employee contributions deducted except as otherwise provided in KRS 61.555;
- (5) "Prior service" means the number of years and completed months of employment as an employee prior to July 1, 1958, for which creditable compensation was paid to the employee by the Commonwealth. Twelve (12) months of current service in the system are required to validate prior service;
- (6) "Service" means the total of current service and prior service;
- (7) "Accumulated contributions" at any time means the sum of all amounts deducted from the compensation of a member and credited to his individual account in the member's contribution account, including employee contributions picked up after August 1, 1982, pursuant to KRS 16.545(4), together with interest credited on such amounts as provided in KRS 16.510 to 16.652, and any other amounts the member shall have contributed, including interest credited;
- (8) "Creditable compensation" means all salary and wages paid to the employee as a result of services performed for the employer which are includable on the member's federal form W2 wage and tax statement, including employee contributions picked up after August 1, 1982, pursuant to KRS 16.545(4); living allowances, expense reimbursements, payments received after the date of termination of employment for accrued vacation leave, and other items determined by the board shall be excluded. Creditable compensation shall also include amounts which are not includable in the member's gross income by virtue of the member having taken a voluntary salary reduction provided for under applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code;
- (9) "Final compensation" at any time means the creditable compensation of a member during the three (3) fiscal years he was paid at the highest average monthly rate divided by the number of months of service credit during the three (3) year period, multiplied by twelve (12); the three (3) years may be fractional and need not be consecutive. If the number of months of service credit during the three (3) year period is less than **twenty-four (24)**~~twenty-eight (28)~~, one (1) or more additional fiscal years shall be used;
- (10) "Final rate of pay" means the actual rate upon which earnings of a member were calculated during the twelve (12) month period immediately preceding the member's effective retirement date, including employee contributions picked up after August 1, 1982, pursuant

to KRS 16.545(4). The rate shall be certified to the system by the employer and the following equivalents shall be used to convert the rate to an annual rate: two thousand eighty (2,080) hours for eight (8) hour workdays, one thousand nine hundred fifty (1,950) hours for seven and one-half (7-1/2) hour workdays, two hundred sixty (260) days, fifty-two (52) weeks, twelve (12) months, or one (1) year;

- (11) "Retired member" means any former member receiving a retirement allowance or any former member who has filed the necessary documents for retirement benefits and is no longer contributing to the retirement system;
- (12) "Retirement allowance" means the retirement payments to which a retired member is entitled;
- (13) "Actuarially equivalent benefits" means benefits which are of equal value when computed upon the basis of actuarial tables adopted by the board, except that, in case of disability retirement, the options authorized by KRS 61.635 shall be computed by adding ten (10) years to the age of the member. No disability retirement option shall be less than the same option computed under early retirement;
- (14) "Authorized leave of absence" means any time during which a person is absent from employment but retained in the status of an employee in accordance with the personnel policy of the Department of State Police;
- (15) "Normal retirement date" means the first day of the month following a member's fifty-fifth birthday, except that for members over age fifty-five (55) on July 1, 1958, it shall mean January 1, 1959. A member of the State Police Retirement System, a member of the County Employees Retirement System, or a member of the Kentucky Employees Retirement System covered by this section with twenty (20) or more years of service credit, at least fifteen (15) of which are current, may declare his "normal retirement date" to be some date prior to his fifty-fifth birthday;
- (16) "Disability retirement date" means the first day of the month following total and permanent disability or hazardous disability;
- (17) "Dependent child" means a child en ventre sa mere and a natural or legally adopted child of the member who has neither attained age eighteen (18) nor married or who is an unmarried full-time student who has not attained age twenty-two (22);
- (18) "Optional allowance" means an actuarially equivalent benefit elected by the member in lieu of all other benefits provided by KRS 16.510 to 16.652;
- (19) "Act in line of duty" means an act occurring or a thing done, which, as determined by the board, was required in the performance of the duties specified in KRS 16.060. For employees in hazardous positions under KRS 61.592, an "act in line of duty" shall mean an act occurring which was required in the performance of the principal duties of the position as defined by the job description;
- (20) "Early retirement date" means the retirement date declared by a member who is not less than fifty (50) years of age and has fifteen (15) years of service;
- (21) "Member" means any officer included in the membership of the system as provided under KRS 16.520 whose membership has not been terminated under KRS 61.535;
- (22) "Regular full-time officers" means the occupants of positions as set forth in KRS 16.010;

- (23) "Hazardous disability" as used in KRS 16.510 to 16.652 means a disability which results in an employee's total incapacity to continue as an employee in a hazardous position, but the employee is not necessarily deemed to be totally and permanently disabled to engage in other occupations for remuneration or profit;
- (24) "Current rate of pay" means the member's actual hourly, daily, weekly, biweekly, monthly, or yearly rate of pay converted to an annual rate as defined in final rate of pay. The rate shall be certified by the employer;
- (25) "Beneficiary" means the person, persons, estate, trust, or trustee designated by the member in accordance with KRS 61.542 or 61.705 to receive any available benefits in the event of the member's death. As used in KRS 61.702, "beneficiary" does not mean an estate, trust, or trustee;
- (26) "Recipient" means the retired member, the person or persons designated as beneficiary by the member and drawing a retirement allowance as a result of the member's death, or a dependent child drawing a retirement allowance. An alternate payee of a qualified domestic relations order shall be considered a recipient only for purposes of KRS 61.691;
- (27) "Person" means a natural person;
- (28) "Retirement office" means the Kentucky Retirement Systems office building in Frankfort;
- (29) "Delayed contribution payment" means an amount paid by an employee for current service obtained under KRS 61.552. The amount shall be determined using the same formula adopted by the board for purchase of service under KRS 61.552(9), except the employee shall pay a single payment of fifty percent (50%) of the total cost of the service with no cost to the employer, and the payment shall not be picked up by the employer. A delayed contribution payment shall be deposited to the member's contribution account and considered as accumulated contributions of the individual member;
- (30) "Last day of paid employment" means the last date employer and employee contributions are required to be reported in accordance with KRS 16.543, 61.543, or 78.615 to the retirement office in order for the employee to receive current service credit for the month;
- (31) "Objective medical evidence" means medical histories; reports of examinations or treatments; medical signs which are anatomical, physiological, or psychological abnormalities that can be observed; psychiatric signs which are medically demonstrable phenomena indicating specific abnormalities of behavior, affect, thought, memory, orientation, or contact with reality; or laboratory findings which are anatomical, physiological, or psychological phenomena that can be shown by medically acceptable laboratory diagnostic techniques, including, but not limited to, chemical tests, electrocardiograms, electroencephalograms, X-rays, and psychological tests;
- (32) "Fiscal year" of the system means the twelve (12) months from July 1 through the following June 30, which shall also be the plan year; and
- (33) "Participating" means an employee is currently earning service credit in the system as provided in KRS 16.543.

Section 2. KRS 61.510 is amended to read as follows:

As used in KRS 61.515 to 61.705, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (1) "System" means the Kentucky Employees Retirement System created by KRS 61.515 to

61.705;

- (2) "Board" means the board of trustees of the system as provided in KRS 61.645;
- (3) "Department" means any state department or board or agency participating in the system in accordance with appropriate executive order, as provided in KRS 61.520. For purposes of KRS 61.515 to 61.705, the members, officers, and employees of the General Assembly and any other body, entity, or instrumentality designated by executive order by the Governor, shall be deemed to be a department, notwithstanding whether said body, entity, or instrumentality is an integral part of state government;
- (4) "Examiner" means the medical examiners as provided in KRS 61.665;
- (5) "Employee" means the members, officers, and employees of the General Assembly and every regular full-time, appointed or elective officer or employee of a participating department, including the Department of Military Affairs. The term does not include persons engaged as independent contractors, seasonal, emergency, temporary, and part-time workers. In case of any doubt, the board shall determine if a person is an employee within the meaning of KRS 61.515 to 61.705;
- (6) "Employer" means a department or any authority of a department having the power to appoint or select an employee in the department, including the Senate and the House of Representatives, or any other entity, the employees of which are eligible for membership in the system pursuant to KRS 61.525;
- (7) "State" means the Commonwealth of Kentucky;
- (8) "Member" means any employee who is included in the membership of the system or any former employee whose membership has not been terminated under KRS 61.535;
- (9) "Service" means the total of current service and prior service as defined in this section;
- (10) "Current service" means the number of years and months of employment as an employee, on and after July 1, 1956, except that for members, officers, and employees of the General Assembly this date shall be January 1, 1960, for which creditable compensation is paid and employee contributions deducted, except as otherwise provided in KRS 61.552(7) and 61.555, and each member, officer, and employee of the General Assembly shall be credited with a month of current service for each month he occupies the position during a legislative biennium subsequent to January 1, 1960;
- (11) "Prior service" means the number of years and completed months, expressed as a fraction of a year, of employment as an employee, prior to July 1, 1956, for which creditable compensation was paid; except that for members, officers, and employees of the General Assembly, this date shall be January 1, 1960. An employee shall be credited with one (1) month of prior service only in those months he received compensation for at least one hundred (100) hours of work; provided, however, that each member, officer, and employee of the General Assembly shall be credited with a month of prior service for each month he occupied the position during a legislative biennium prior to January 1, 1960. Twelve (12) months of current service in the system are required to validate prior service; except that for an employee participating in any of the three (3) systems administered by the Kentucky Retirement Systems whose prior service was in a position in an office of a Commonwealth's attorney the prior service may be validated by at least twelve (12) months of current service in the Kentucky Employees Retirement System or by at least fifteen (15) years of current service in

the County Employees Retirement System. An employee participating in any of the three (3) systems administered by the Kentucky Retirement Systems who wishes to validate prior service in a position in an office of a Commonwealth's attorney with fifteen (15) years of County Employees Retirement System service shall notify the Kentucky Retirement Systems of his or her eligibility for the service prior to January 1, 1999;

- (12) "Accumulated contributions" at any time means the sum of all amounts deducted from the compensation of a member and credited to his individual account in the members' contribution account, including employee contributions picked up after August 1, 1982, pursuant to KRS 61.560(4), together with interest credited on such amounts and any other amounts the member shall have contributed thereto, including interest credited thereon;
- (13) "Creditable compensation" means all salary, wages, tips to the extent the tips are reported for income tax purposes, and fees paid to the employee as a result of services performed for the employer which are includable on the member's federal form W-2 wage and tax statement, including employee contributions picked up after August 1, 1982, pursuant to KRS 61.560(4), except that for members of the General Assembly, it shall mean an assumed salary of twenty-seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$27,500) per annum which shall include per diem and expense payments authorized by KRS Chapter 6. The creditable compensation of members, officers, and employees of the General Assembly shall be calculated as having been received in equal amounts for each month of the biennium. In cases where compensation includes maintenance and other perquisites, the board shall fix the value of that part of the compensation not paid in money. Creditable compensation shall also include amounts which are not includable in the member's gross income by virtue of the member having taken a voluntary salary reduction provided for under applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code;
- (14) "Final compensation" of a member means:
- (a) *For a member who is not employed in a hazardous position, as provided in Section 3 of this Act*, the creditable compensation of the member during the five (5) fiscal years he was paid at the highest average monthly rate divided by the number of months of service credit during that five (5) year period multiplied by twelve (12), except that for members of the General Assembly who retire pursuant to KRS 61.600, or who die in office, "final compensation" shall be twenty-seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$27,500). The five (5) years may be fractional and need not be consecutive. If the number of months of service credit during the five (5) year period is less than fortyeight (48), one (1) or more additional fiscal years shall be used;
- (b) *For a member who is employed in a hazardous position, as provided in Section 3 of this Act, the creditable compensation of the member during the three (3) fiscal years he was paid at the highest average monthly rate divided by the number of months of service credit during that three (3) year period multiplied by twelve (12). The three (3) years may be fractional and need not be consecutive. If the number of months of service credit during the three (3) year period is less than twenty-four (24), one (1) or more additional fiscal years shall be used;*
- (15) "Final rate of pay" means the actual rate upon which earnings of an employee were calculated during the twelve (12) month period immediately preceding the member's effective retirement date, including employee contributions picked up after August 1, 1982, pursuant to KRS 61.560(4). In the case of members of the General Assembly, the "final rate of pay" shall be

the creditable compensation. The rate shall be certified to the system by the employer and the following equivalents shall be used to convert the rate to an annual rate: two thousand eighty (2,080) hours for eight (8) hour workdays, nineteen hundred fifty (1,950) hours for seven and one-half (7-1/2) hour workdays, two hundred sixty (260) days, fifty-two (52) weeks, twelve (12) months, one (1) year;

- (16) "Retirement allowance" means the retirement payments to which a member is entitled;
- (17) "Actuarial equivalent" means a benefit of equal value when computed upon the basis of the actuarial tables that are from time to time adopted by the board, except in cases of disability retirement, the options authorized by KRS 61.635 shall be computed by adding ten (10) years to the age of the member. No disability retirement option shall be less than the same option computed under early retirement;
- (18) "Normal retirement date" means the sixty-fifth birthday of a member, unless otherwise provided in KRS 61.515 to 61.705;
- (19) "Fiscal year" of the system means the twelve (12) months from July 1 through the following June 30, which shall also be the plan year;
- (20) "Officers and employees of the General Assembly" means the occupants of those positions enumerated in KRS 6.150 and the assistants if employed by the General Assembly for at least six (6) legislative bienniums;
- (21) "Regular full-time positions," as used in subsection (5) of this section, shall mean all positions that average one hundred (100) or more hours per month determined by using the number of months actually worked within a calendar or fiscal year, including all positions except:
 - (a) Seasonal positions, which although temporary in duration, are positions which coincide in duration with a particular season or seasons of the year and which may recur regularly from year to year, the period of time shall not exceed nine (9) months;
 - (b) Emergency positions which are positions which do not exceed thirty (30) working days and are nonrenewable;
 - (c) Temporary positions which are positions of employment with a participating department for a period of time not to exceed nine (9) months; and
 - (d) Part-time positions which are positions which may be permanent in duration, but which require less than a calendar or fiscal year average of one hundred (100) hours of work per month, determined by using the number of months actually worked within a calendar or fiscal year, in the performance of duty;
- (22) "Delayed contribution payment" means an amount paid by an employee for current service obtained under KRS 61.552. The amount shall be determined using the same formula adopted by the board for purchase of service under KRS 61.552(9), except the employee shall pay a single payment of fifty percent (50%) of the total cost of the service with no cost to the employer, and the payment shall not be picked up by the employer. A delayed contribution payment shall be deposited to the member's contribution account and considered as accumulated contributions of the individual member. In determining payments under this subsection, the formula found in this subsection shall prevail over the one found in KRS 212.434;
- (23) "Parted employer" means a department, portion of a department, board, or agency, such as

Outwood Hospital and School, which previously participated in the system, but due to lease or other contractual arrangement is now operated by a publicly held corporation or other similar organization, and therefore is no longer participating in the system;

- (24) "Retired member" means any former member receiving a retirement allowance or any former member who has filed the necessary documents for retirement benefits and is no longer contributing to the retirement system;
- (25) "Current rate of pay" means the member's actual hourly, daily, weekly, biweekly, monthly, or yearly rate of pay converted to an annual rate as defined in final rate of pay. The rate shall be certified by the employer;
- (26) "Beneficiary" means the person or persons or estate or trust or trustee designated by the member in accordance with KRS 61.542 or 61.705 to receive any available benefits in the event of the member's death. As used in KRS 61.702, "beneficiary" does not mean an estate, trust, or trustee;
- (27) "Recipient" means the retired member or the person or persons designated as beneficiary by the member and drawing a retirement allowance as a result of the member's death or a dependent child drawing a retirement allowance. An alternate payee of a qualified domestic relations order shall be considered a recipient only for purposes of KRS 61.691;
- (28) "Level-percentage-of-payroll amortization method" means a method of determining the annual amortization payment on the unfunded past service liability as expressed as a percentage of payroll over a set period of years. Under this method, the percentage of payroll shall be projected to remain constant for all years remaining in the set period and the unfunded past service liability shall be projected to be fully amortized at the conclusion of the set period;
- (29) "Increment" means twelve (12) months of service credit which are purchased. The twelve (12) months need not be consecutive. The final increment may be less than twelve (12) months;
- (30) "Person" means a natural person;
- (31) "Retirement office" means the Kentucky Retirement Systems office building in Frankfort;
- (32) "Last day of paid employment" means the last date employer and employee contributions are required to be reported in accordance with KRS 16.543, 61.543, or 78.615 to the retirement office in order for the employee to receive current service credit for the month;
- (33) "Objective medical evidence" means medical histories; reports of examinations or treatments; medical signs which are anatomical, physiological, or psychological abnormalities that can be observed; psychiatric signs which are medically demonstrable phenomena indicating specific abnormalities of behavior, affect, thought, memory, orientation, or contact with reality; or laboratory findings which are anatomical, physiological, or psychological phenomena that can be shown by medically acceptable laboratory diagnostic techniques, including, but not limited to, chemical tests, electrocardiograms, electroencephalograms, X-rays, and psychological tests; and
- (34) "Participating" means an employee is currently earning service credit in the system as provided in KRS 61.543.

Section 3. KRS 61.592 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) "Hazardous position" means any position whose principal duties involve active law enforcement, including the positions of probation and parole officer and Commonwealth detective, active fire suppression or prevention, or other positions, including, but not limited to, pilots of the Transportation Cabinet and paramedics and emergency medical technicians, with duties that require frequent exposure to a high degree of danger or peril and also require a high degree of physical conditioning. Hazardous positions shall include positions in the Department of Corrections in state correctional institutions and the Kentucky Correctional Psychiatric Center with duties that regularly and routinely require face-to-face contact with inmates.
- (2) Each employer may request of the board hazardous duty coverage for those positions as defined in subsection (1) of this section, but a county, narrowly defined as one (1) of Kentucky's one hundred and twenty (120) counties, the provisions of KRS 78.510(3) notwithstanding, shall request hazardous duty coverage for its full-time paid firefighters. Upon request, each employer shall certify to the system, in the manner prescribed by the board, the names of all employees working in a hazardous position as defined in subsection (1) of this section for which coverage is requested. The certification of the employer shall bear the approval of the agent or agency responsible for the budget of the department or county indicating that the required employer contributions have been provided for in the budget of the employing department or county. The system shall determine whether the employees whose names have been certified by the employer are working in positions meeting the definition of a hazardous position as provided by subsection (1) of this section.
- (3)
 - (a) An employee participating in the Kentucky Employees Retirement System who is determined by the system to be working in a hazardous position in accordance with subsection (2) of this section shall contribute, for each pay period for which he receives compensation, **eight percent (8%)**~~{seven percent (7%)}~~ of his creditable compensation. An employee participating in the County Employees Retirement System who is determined by the system to be working in a hazardous duty position in accordance with subsection (2) of this section shall contribute, for each pay period for which he receives compensation, eight percent (8%) of his creditable compensation;
 - (b) Each employer shall pay employer contributions based on the creditable compensation of the employees determined by the system to be working in a hazardous position at the employer contribution rate as determined by the board. The rate shall be determined by actuarial methods consistent with the provisions of KRS 61.565;
 - (c) If the employer participated in the system prior to electing hazardous duty coverage, the employer may pay to the system the cost in order that the nonhazardous service be credited as hazardous service, or the employer may establish a payment schedule for payment of the cost of the hazardous service above that which would be funded within the existing employer contribution rate. The employer may extend the payment schedule to a maximum of thirty (30) years. Payments made by the employer under this subsection shall be deposited to the retirement allowance account of the proper retirement system and these funds shall not be considered accumulated contributions of the individual members. If the employer elects not to make the additional payment, the employee may make the lump-sum payment in his own behalf or may pay by increments. Payments made by the employee under this subsection shall not be picked up, as described in KRS 61.560(4), by the employer. If neither the employer nor

employee makes the payment, the service prior to hazardous coverage shall remain nonhazardous.

- (4) ~~Except for the employee contribution by members of the Kentucky Employees Retirement System,~~ The normal retirement age, retirement allowance, other benefits, eligibility requirements, rights, and responsibilities of a member in a hazardous position, as prescribed by subsections (1), (2), and (3) of this section, and the responsibilities, rights, and requirements of his employer shall be as prescribed for a member and employer participating in the State Police Retirement System as provided for by KRS 16.510 to 16.652. ~~The employee contribution for a member of the Kentucky Employees Retirement System shall be seven percent (7%).~~
- (5) Any person employed in a hazardous position after July 1, 1972, shall be required to undergo a thorough medical examination by a licensed physician, and a copy of the medical report of the physician shall be retained on file by the employee's department or county and made available to the system upon request.
- (6) If doubt exists regarding the benefits payable to a hazardous position employee under this section, the board shall determine the benefits payable under KRS 61.515 to 61.705, or 78.520 to 78.852, or 16.510 to 16.652.

Section 4. KRS 78.510 is amended to read as follows:

As used in KRS 78.520 to 78.852, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (1) "System" means the County Employees Retirement System;
- (2) "Board" means the board of trustees of the system as provided in KRS 78.780;
- (3) "County" means any county, or nonprofit organization created and governed by a county, counties, or elected county officers, sheriff and his employees, county clerk and his employees, circuit clerk and his deputies, former circuit clerks or former circuit clerk deputies, or political subdivision or instrumentality, including school boards, charter county government, or urban-county government participating in the system by order appropriate to its governmental structure, as provided in KRS 78.530, and if the board is willing to accept the agency, organization, or corporation, the board being hereby granted the authority to determine the eligibility of the agency to participate;
- (4) "School board" means any board of education participating in the system by order appropriate to its governmental structure, as provided in KRS 78.530, and if the board is willing to accept the agency or corporation, the board being hereby granted the authority to determine the eligibility of the agency to participate;
- (5) "Examiner" means the medical examiners as provided in KRS 61.665;
- (6) "Employee" means every regular full-time appointed or elective officer or employee of a participating county and the coroner of a participating county, whether or not he qualifies as a regular full-time officer. The term shall not include persons engaged as independent contractors, seasonal, emergency, temporary, and part-time workers. In case of any doubt, the board shall determine if a person is an employee within the meaning of KRS 78.520 to 78.852;
- (7) "Employer" means a county, as defined in subsection (3) of this section, the elected officials of a county, or any authority of the county having the power to appoint or elect an employee to office or employment in the county;

- (8) "Member" means any employee who is included in the membership of the system or any former employee whose membership has not been terminated under KRS 61.535;
- (9) "Service" means the total of current service and prior service as defined in this section;
- (10) "Current service" means the number of years and months of employment as an employee, on and after July 1, 1958, for which creditable compensation is paid and employee contributions deducted, except as otherwise provided in KRS 61.552(7), 61.555, and 78.530;
- (11) "Prior service" means the number of years and completed months, expressed as a fraction of a year, of employment as an employee, prior to July 1, 1958, for which creditable compensation was paid. An employee shall be credited with one (1) month of prior service only in those months he received compensation for at least one hundred (100) hours of work. Twelve (12) months of current service in the system shall be required to validate prior service;
- (12) "Accumulated contributions" means the sum of all amounts deducted from the compensation of a member and credited to his individual account in the members' contribution account, including employee contributions picked up after August 1, 1982, pursuant to KRS 78.610(4), together with interest credited on the amounts, and any other amounts the member shall have contributed thereto, including interest credited thereon;
- (13) "Creditable compensation" means all salary, wages, and fees paid to the employee as a result of services performed for the employer which are includable on the member's federal form W-2 wage and tax statement, including employee contributions picked up after August 1, 1982, pursuant to KRS 78.610(4). If compensation includes maintenance and other perquisites, the board shall fix the value of that part of the compensation not paid in money. Creditable compensation shall also include amounts that are not includable in the member's gross income by virtue of the member having taken a voluntary salary reduction provided for under applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code;
- (14) "Final compensation" means:
 - (a) For a member who is employed in a nonhazardous position, as provided in KRS 61.592, the creditable compensation of the member during the five (5) fiscal years he was paid at the highest average monthly rate divided by the number of months of service credit during that five (5) year period multiplied by twelve (12). The five (5) years may be fractional and need not be consecutive. If the number of months of service credit during the five (5) year period is less than forty-eight (48), one (1) or more additional fiscal years shall be used;
 - (b) For a member who is employed in a hazardous position, as provided in KRS 61.592, the creditable compensation of the member during the three (3) fiscal years he was paid at the highest average monthly rate divided by the number of months of service credit during that three (3) year period multiplied by twelve (12). The three (3) years may be fractional and need not be consecutive. If the number of months of service credit during the three (3) year period is less than *twenty-four (24)*~~twenty-eight (28)~~, one (1) or more additional fiscal years shall be used;
- (15) "Final rate of pay" means the actual rate upon which earnings of an employee were calculated during the twelve (12) month period immediately preceding the member's effective retirement date, and shall include employee contributions picked up after August 1,

1982, pursuant to KRS 78.610(4). The rate shall be certified to the system by the employer and the following equivalents shall be used to convert the rate to an annual rate: two thousand eighty (2080) hours for eight (8) hour workdays, nineteen hundred fifty (1950) hours for seven and one-half (7-1/2) hour workdays, two hundred sixty (260) days, fifty-two (52) weeks, twelve (12) months, one (1) year;

- (16) "Retirement allowance" means the retirement payments to which a member is entitled;
- (17) "Actuarial equivalent" means a benefit of equal value when computed upon the basis of the actuarial tables as are from time to time adopted by the board, except in case of disability retirement, the options authorized by KRS 61.635 shall be computed by adding ten (10) years to the age of the member. No disability retirement option shall be less than the same option computed under early retirement;
- (18) "Normal retirement date" means the sixty-fifth (65th) birthday of a member unless otherwise provided in KRS 78.520 to 78.852;
- (19) "Fiscal year" of the system means the twelve (12) months from July 1 through the following June 30, which shall also be the plan year;
- (20) "Agency reporting official" means the person designated by the participating agency who shall be responsible for forwarding all employer and employee contributions and a record of the contributions to the system and for performing other administrative duties pursuant to the provisions of KRS 78.520 to 78.852;
- (21) "Regular full-time positions," as used in subsection (6) of this section, shall mean all positions that average one hundred (100) or more hours per month, determined by using the number of hours actually worked in a calendar or fiscal year, or eighty (80) or more hours per month in the case of noncertified employees of school boards, determined by using the number of hours actually worked in a calendar or school year, unless otherwise specified, except:
 - (a) Seasonal positions, which although temporary in duration, are positions which coincide in duration with a particular season or seasons of the year and that may recur regularly from year to year, in which case the period of time shall not exceed six (6) months in any event;
 - (b) Emergency positions that are positions that do not exceed thirty (30) working days and are nonrenewable;
 - (c) Temporary, also referred to as probationary, positions that are positions of employment with a participating agency for a period of time not to exceed twelve (12) months and not renewable; or
 - (d) Part-time positions that are positions that may be permanent in duration, but that require less than a calendar or fiscal year average of one hundred (100) hours of work per month, determined by using the number of months actually worked within a calendar or fiscal year, in the performance of duty, except in case of noncertified employees of school boards, the school term average shall be eighty (80) hours of work per month, determined by using the number of months actually worked in a calendar or school year, in the performance of duty;
- (22) "Alternate participation plan" means a method of participation in the system as provided for by KRS 78.530(3);

- (23) "Retired member" means any former member receiving a retirement allowance or any former member who has on file at the retirement office the necessary documents for retirement benefits and is no longer contributing to the system;
- (24) "Current rate of pay" means the member's actual hourly, daily, weekly, biweekly, monthly, or yearly rate of pay converted to an annual rate as defined in final rate of pay. The rate shall be certified by the employer;
- (25) "Beneficiary" means the person, persons, estate, trust, or trustee designated by the member in accordance with KRS 61.542 or 61.705 to receive any available benefits in the event of the member's death. As used in KRS 61.702, beneficiary shall not mean an estate, trust, or trustee;
- (26) "Recipient" means the retired member, the person or persons designated as beneficiary by the member and drawing a retirement allowance as a result of the member's death, or a dependent child drawing a retirement allowance. An alternate payee of a qualified domestic relations order shall be considered a recipient only for purposes of KRS 61.691;
- (27) "Person" means a natural person;
- (28) "School term or year" means the twelve (12) months from July 1 through the following June 30;
- (29) "Retirement office" means the Kentucky Retirement Systems office building in Frankfort;
- (30) "Delayed contribution payment" means an amount paid by an employee for current service obtained under KRS 61.552. The amount shall be determined using the same formula adopted by the board for purchase of service under KRS 61.552(9), except the employee shall pay a single payment of fifty percent (50%) of the total cost of the service with no cost to the employer, and the payment shall not be picked up by the employer. A delayed contribution payment shall be deposited to the member's contribution account and considered as accumulated contributions of the individual member. In determining payments under this subsection, the formula found in this subsection shall prevail over the one found in KRS 212.434; and
- (31) "Participating" means an employee is currently earning service credit in the system as provided in KRS 78.615.

Section 5. KRS 61.637 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) A retired member who is receiving monthly retirement payments under any of the provisions of KRS 61.515 to 61.705 and 78.520 to 78.852 and who is reemployed as an employee by a participating agency shall have his retirement payments suspended for the duration of reemployment, except as provided in subsection (7) of this section. Monthly payments shall not be suspended for a retired member who is reemployed if he anticipates that he will receive less than the maximum permissible earnings as provided by the Federal Social Security Act in compensation as a result of reemployment during the calendar year. The payments shall be suspended at the beginning of the month in which the reemployment occurs.
- (2) Employer and employee contributions shall be made as provided in KRS 61.515 to 61.705 and 78.520 to 78.852 on the compensation paid during reemployment, except where monthly payments were not suspended as provided in subsection (1) of this section or would not increase the retired member's last monthly retirement allowance by at least one dollar (\$1), and the member shall be credited with additional service credit.

- (3) In the month following the termination of reemployment, retirement allowance payments shall be reinstated under the plan under which the member was receiving payments prior to reemployment.
- (4) (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, the payments suspended in accordance with subsection (1) of this section shall be paid retroactively to the retired member, or his estate, if he does not receive more than the maximum permissible earnings as provided by the Federal Social Security Act in compensation from participating agencies during any calendar year of reemployment;
- (b) If the retired member is paid suspended payments retroactively in accordance with this section, employee contributions deducted during his period of reemployment, if any, shall be refunded to the retired employee, and no service credit shall be earned for the period of reemployment;
- (c) If the retired member is not eligible to be paid suspended payments for his period of reemployment as an employee, his retirement allowance shall be recomputed under the plan under which the member was receiving payments prior to reemployment as follows:
1. The retired member's final compensation shall be recomputed using creditable compensation for his period of reemployment; however, the final compensation resulting from the recalculation shall not be less than that of the member when his retirement allowance was last determined;
 2. If the retired member initially retired on or subsequent to his normal retirement date, his retirement allowance shall be recomputed by using the formula in KRS 61.595(1);
 3. If the retired member initially retired prior to his normal retirement date, his retirement allowance shall be recomputed using the formula in KRS 61.595(2), except that the member's age used in computing benefits shall be his age at the time of his initial retirement increased by the number of months of service credit earned for service performed during reemployment;
 4. The retirement allowance payments resulting from the recomputation under this subsection shall be payable in the month following the termination of reemployment in lieu of payments under subparagraph 3. The member shall not receive less in benefits as a result of the recomputation than he was receiving prior to reemployment or would receive as determined under KRS 61.691;
 5. Any retired member who was reemployed prior to March 26, 1974, shall begin making contributions to the system in accordance with the provisions of this section on the first day of the month following March 26, 1974.
- (5) A retired member, or his estate, shall pay to the retirement fund the total amount of payments which are not suspended in accordance with subsection (1) of this section if the member received more than the maximum permissible earnings as provided by the Federal Social Security Act in compensation from participating agencies during any calendar year of reemployment, except the retired member or his estate may repay the lesser of the total amount of payments which were not suspended or fifty cents (\$0.50) of each dollar earned

over the maximum permissible earnings during reemployment if under age sixty-five (65), or one dollar (\$1) for every three dollars (\$3) earned if over age sixty-five (65).

- (6) (a) "Reemployment" or "reinstatement" as used in this section shall not include a retired member who has been ordered reinstated by the Personnel Board under authority of KRS 18A.095; and
 - (b) A retired member who has been ordered reinstated by the Personnel Board under authority of KRS 18A.095 or by court order or by order of the Human Rights Commission and accepts employment by an agency participating in the Kentucky Employees Retirement System or County Employees Retirement System shall void his retirement by reimbursing the system in the full amount of his retirement allowance payments received.
- (7) If a member is retired from a hazardous position, as defined by KRS 61.592, the member shall be permitted to seek and hold an elected city or county office under the provisions of this subsection:
 - (a) The member may receive the pay for the elected city or county office but shall not contribute to, receive benefits from, or otherwise participate in the office's retirement system; and
 - (b) The member's pension and benefits received because of retirement from the hazardous position shall not be affected if he holds an elected city or county office.
- (8) Effective August 1, 1998, the provisions of subsections (1) to (4) of this section shall no longer apply to a retired member who is reemployed in a position covered by the same retirement system from which the member retired. Reemployed retired members shall be treated as new members upon reemployment. Any retired member whose reemployment date preceded August 1, 1998, who does not elect, within sixty (60) days of notification by the retirement systems, to remain under the provisions of subsections (1) to (4) of this section shall be deemed to have elected to participate under this subsection.
- (9) *Any former recipient of a disability retirement allowance from the Kentucky Retirement Systems who had at least two hundred forty (240) months of service credit and whose disability retirement allowance was terminated September 1, 1998, who is reemployed as of the effective date of this Act shall be treated under the provisions of subsections (1) to (4) of this section, except that the maximum permissible earnings as used in subsection (1) shall be the maximum permissible earnings under the Federal Social Security Act for calendar year 1998.*

Approved March 29, 2000