

CHAPTER 7

(HB 278)

AN ACT relating to retirement.

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

SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS 61.510 TO 61.705 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

- (1) *Notwithstanding any provision of any statutes to the contrary, effective June 1, 2000, any employee participating in one (1) of the state-administered retirement systems who is not in a hazardous duty position, as defined in KRS 61.592, shall be eligible for minimum benefits equal to the benefits payable under this section or Section 2 of this Act if the employee dies or becomes disabled as a result of a duty-related injury.*
- (2) (a) *For purposes of this section, "duty-related injury" means:*
 1. a. *A single traumatic event that occurs while the employee is performing the duties of his position; or*
 - b. *A single act of violence committed against the employee that is found to be related to his job duties, whether or not it occurs at his job site; and*
 2. *The event or act of violence produces a harmful change in the human organism evidenced by objective medical findings.*
- (b) *Duty-related injury does not include the effects of the natural aging process, a communicable disease unless the risk of contracting the disease is increased by nature of the employment, or a psychological, psychiatric, or stress-related change in the human organism unless it is the direct result of a physical injury.*
- (3) (a) *If the employee dies as a result of a duty-related injury and is survived by a spouse, the surviving spouse shall be the beneficiary, and this shall supersede the designation of all previous beneficiaries of the deceased employee's retirement account.*
- (b) *The surviving spouse may elect to receive the benefits payable under KRS 61.640 or other applicable death benefit statutes, or may elect to receive a lump-sum payment of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) and a monthly payment equal to twenty-five percent (25%) of the member's monthly final rate of pay beginning in the month following the member's death and continuing each month until death or until the spouse remarries, whichever occurs first.*
- (4) *If the employee is determined to be disabled as provided in KRS 61.600, or other applicable disability statutes in any other state-administered retirement system, as the result of a duty-related injury, the employee may elect to receive benefits determined under the provisions of KRS 61.605, or other applicable disability statutes in any other state-administered retirement system, except that the monthly retirement allowance shall not be less than twenty-five percent (25%) of the employee's monthly final rate of pay. For purposes of determining disability, the service requirement in KRS 61.600(1)(a), or other applicable statutes in any other state-administered retirement system, shall be waived.*
- (5) *In the period of time following a member's death or disability during which dependent children survive, a monthly payment shall be made for each dependent child who is alive*

which shall be equal to ten percent (10%) of the deceased or disabled member's monthly final rate of pay; however, total maximum dependent children's benefits shall not exceed forty percent (40%) of the deceased or disabled member's monthly final rate of pay at the time any particular payment is due. The payment shall commence in the month following the date of death or disability of the member and shall be payable to the beneficiaries, or to a legally appointed guardian, or as directed by the system. Benefits for death as a result of a duty-related injury shall be payable under this subsection notwithstanding an election by a beneficiary to withdraw the deceased member's accumulated contributions as provided in KRS 61.625 or benefits under any other provisions of KRS 61.515 to 61.705 or other applicable death benefit statutes in any other state-administered retirement system.

(6) This section shall be known as "The Fred Capps Memorial Act."

Section 2. KRS 61.702 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) (a) The board of trustees of Kentucky Retirement Systems shall arrange by appropriate contract or on a self-insured basis to provide a group hospital and medical insurance plan for present and future recipients of a retirement allowance from the Kentucky Employees Retirement System, County Employees Retirement System, and State Police Retirement System. The board shall also arrange to provide health care coverage by health maintenance organizations, as defined in KRS 18A.225, as an alternative to group hospital and medical insurance for any person eligible for hospital and medical benefits under this section. Any person who chooses coverage by a health maintenance organization shall pay, by payroll deduction from the retirement allowance or by another method, the difference in premium between the cost of health maintenance organization coverage and the benefits to which he would be entitled under this section. The board may authorize present and future recipients of a retirement allowance from any of the three (3) retirement systems to be included in the state employees' group for hospital and medical insurance and shall provide benefits for recipients equal to those provided to state employees having the same Medicare hospital and medical insurance eligibility status. Notwithstanding the provisions of any other statute, recipients shall be included in the same class as current state employees in determining medical insurance policies and premiums.
- (b) For recipients of a retirement allowance who are not eligible for the same level of hospital and medical benefits as recipients living in Kentucky having the same Medicare hospital and medical insurance eligibility status, the board shall provide a medical insurance reimbursement plan as described in subsection (7) of this section.
- (2) Each employer participating in the State Police Retirement System as provided for in KRS 16.510 to 16.652, each employer participating in the County Employees Retirement System as provided in KRS 78.510 to 78.852, and each employer participating in the Kentucky Employees Retirement System as provided for in KRS 61.510 to 61.705 shall contribute to the Kentucky Retirement Systems insurance fund the amount necessary to provide hospital and medical insurance as provided for under this section. Such employer contribution rate shall be developed by appropriate actuarial method as a part of the determination of each respective employer contribution rate to each respective retirement system determined under KRS 61.565.
- (3) (a) The premium required to provide hospital and medical benefits under this section shall be paid:

1. Wholly or partly from funds contributed by the recipient of a retirement allowance, by payroll deduction, or otherwise;
2. Wholly or partly from funds contributed by the Kentucky Retirement Systems insurance fund;
3. Wholly or partly from funds contributed by another state-administered retirement system under a reciprocal arrangement, except that any portion of the premium paid from the Kentucky Retirement Systems insurance fund under a reciprocal agreement shall not exceed the amount that would be payable under this section if all the member's service were in one (1) of the systems administered by the Kentucky Retirement Systems;
4. Partly from subparagraphs 1., 2., or 3., except that any premium for hospital and medical insurance over the amount contributed by the Kentucky Retirement Systems insurance fund or another state-administered retirement system under a reciprocal agreement shall be paid by the recipient. If the board provides for cross-referencing of insurance premiums, the employer's contribution for the working member or spouse shall be applied toward the premium, and the Kentucky Retirement Systems insurance fund shall pay the balance, not to exceed the monthly contribution.
5. In full from the Kentucky Retirement Systems insurance fund for all recipients of a retirement allowance from any of the three (3) retirement systems where such recipient is a retired former member of one (1) or more of the three (3) retirement systems (not a beneficiary or dependent child receiving benefits) and had two hundred and forty (240) months or more of service upon retirement. Should such recipient have less than two hundred forty (240) months of service but have at least one hundred eighty (180) months of service, seventy-five percent (75%) of such premium shall be paid from the insurance fund provided such recipient agrees to pay the remaining twenty-five percent (25%) by payroll deduction from his retirement allowance or by another method. Should such recipient have less than one hundred eighty (180) months of service but have at least one hundred twenty (120) months of service, fifty percent (50%) of such premium shall be paid from the insurance fund provided such recipient agrees to pay the remaining fifty percent (50%) by payroll deduction from his retirement allowance or by another method. Should such recipient have less than one hundred twenty (120) months of service but have at least forty-eight (48) months of service, twenty-five percent (25%) of such premium shall be paid from the insurance fund provided such recipient agrees to pay the remaining seventy-five percent (75%) by payroll deduction from his retirement allowance or by another method. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this subsection, ~~an~~~~[a State Police Retirement System member or a hazardous position]~~ *employee participating in one (1) of the retirement systems administered by the Kentucky Retirement Systems*~~[, as defined in KRS 61.592,]~~ who becomes disabled in the line of duty as defined in KRS 16.505(19) *or Section 1 of this Act*, shall have his premium paid in full as if he had two hundred forty (240) months or more of service. Further, ~~an~~~~[a State Police Retirement System member, or a hazardous position]~~ *employee participating in one (1) of the retirement systems administered by the Kentucky Retirement Systems*~~[as~~

~~defined in KRS 61.592,]~~ who is killed in the line of duty as defined in KRS 16.505(19) *or Section 1 of this Act*, shall have the premium for the beneficiary, if the beneficiary is the member's spouse, and for each dependent child paid so long as they individually remain eligible for a monthly retirement benefit. "Months of service" as used in this section shall mean the total months of combined service used to determine benefits under any or all of the three (3) retirement systems, except service added to determine disability benefits shall not be counted as "months of service."

- (b) For a member electing insurance coverage through the Kentucky Retirement Systems, "months of service" shall include, in addition to service as described in paragraph (a) of this subsection, service credit in one of the other state-administered retirement plans.
 - 1. Effective August 1, 1998, the Kentucky Retirement Systems shall compute the member's combined service, including service credit in another state-administered retirement plan, and calculate the portion of the member's premium to be paid by the insurance fund, according to the criteria established in paragraph (a) of this subsection. Each state-administered retirement plan annually shall pay to the insurance fund the percentage of the system's cost of the retiree's monthly contribution for single coverage for hospital and medical insurance which shall be equal to the percentage of the member's number of months of service in the other state-administered retirement plan divided by his total combined service. The amounts paid by the other state-administered retirement plans and the insurance fund shall not be more than one hundred percent (100%) of the monthly contribution adopted by the respective boards of trustees.
 - 2. A member may not elect coverage for hospital and medical benefits under this subsection through more than one (1) of the state-administered retirement plans.
 - 3. A state-administered retirement plan shall not pay any portion of a member's monthly contribution for medical insurance unless the member is a recipient or annuitant of the plan.
- (4) (a) Group rates under the hospital and medical insurance plan shall be made available to the spouse, dependents, and disabled children, regardless of the disabled child's age, of a recipient who is a former member or the beneficiary, if the premium for the spouse, dependent, disabled child, or beneficiary hospital and medical insurance is paid by payroll deduction from the retirement allowance or by another method. A child shall be considered disabled if he has been determined to be eligible for federal Social Security disability benefits.
- (b) The other provisions of this section notwithstanding, the insurance fund shall pay a percentage of the monthly contribution for the spouse and dependents of a recipient who was a member of the General Assembly and is receiving a retirement allowance based on General Assembly service, of the Kentucky Employees Retirement System and determined to be in a hazardous position, of the County Employees Retirement System, and determined to be in a hazardous position or of the State Police Retirement System, or the beneficiary of the member, if the member designated only one (1) person as beneficiary. The percentage of the monthly contribution paid for the spouse

and dependents of a recipient who was in a hazardous position shall be based solely on the member's service with the State Police Retirement System or service in a hazardous position using the formula in subsection (3)(a) of this section, except that for any recipient of a retirement allowance from the County Employees Retirement System who was contributing to the system on January 1, 1998, for service in a hazardous position, the percentage of the monthly contribution shall be based on the total of hazardous service and any nonhazardous service as a police or firefighter with the same agency, if that agency was participating in the County Employees Retirement System but did not offer hazardous duty coverage for its police and firefighters at the time of initial participation.

- (c) The insurance fund shall continue the same level of coverage for a recipient who was a member of the County Employees Retirement System after the age of sixty-five (65) as before the age of sixty-five (65), if the recipient is not eligible for Medicare coverage. If the insurance fund provides coverage for the spouse or dependents or beneficiary of a former member of the County Employees Retirement System, the insurance fund shall continue the same level of coverage for the spouse or dependent or beneficiary after the age of sixty-five (65) as before the age of sixty-five (65), if the spouse or dependent or beneficiary is not eligible for Medicare coverage.
- (5) After July 1, 1998, notwithstanding any other provision to the contrary, a member who holds a judicial office but did not elect to participate in the Judicial Retirement Plan and is participating instead in the Kentucky Employees Retirement System, the County Employees Retirement System, or the State Police Retirement System, as provided in KRS 61.680, and who has at least twenty (20) years of total service, one-half (1/2) of which is in a judicial office, shall receive the same hospital and medical insurance benefits, including paid benefits for spouse and dependents, as provided to persons retiring under the provisions of KRS 21.427. The Administrative Office of the Courts shall pay the cost of the medical insurance benefits provided by this subsection.
- (6) Premiums paid for hospital and medical insurance coverage procured under authority of this section shall be exempt from any premium tax which might otherwise be required under KRS Chapter 136. The payment of premiums by the insurance fund shall not constitute taxable income to an insured recipient. No commission shall be paid for hospital and medical insurance procured under authority of this section.
- (7) The board shall promulgate an administrative regulation to establish a medical insurance reimbursement plan to provide reimbursement for hospital and medical insurance premiums of recipients of a retirement allowance who are not eligible for the same level of hospital and medical benefits as recipients living in Kentucky and having the same Medicare hospital and medical insurance eligibility status. An eligible recipient shall file proof of payment for hospital and medical insurance at the retirement office. Reimbursement to eligible recipients shall be made on a quarterly basis. The recipient shall be eligible for reimbursement of substantiated medical insurance premiums for an amount not to exceed the total monthly premium determined under subsection (3) of this section. The plan shall not be made available if all recipients are eligible for the same coverage as recipients living in Kentucky.

Section 3. KRS 78.545 is amended to read as follows:

The following matters shall be administered in the same manner subject to the same limitations and requirements as provided for the Kentucky Employees Retirement System as follows:

- (1) Cessation of membership, conditions, as provided for by KRS 61.535;
- (2) Statement of member and employer, as provided for by KRS 61.540;
- (3) Beneficiary to be designated by member, change, rights, as provided for by KRS 61.542;
- (4) Service credit determination, as provided for by KRS 61.545;
- (5) Cessation of membership, loss of benefits, as provided for by KRS 61.550;
- (6) Service credit, Armed Forces, as provided for by KRS 61.555;
- (7) Normal and early retirement eligibility requirements, as provided for by KRS 61.559;
- (8) Retirement allowance increases as provided for by KRS 61.691;
- (9) Retirement application procedure, effective retirement date, as provided for by KRS 61.590;
- (10) Disability retirement, conditions, as provided for by KRS 61.600;
- (11) Disability retirement, allowance, as provided for by KRS 61.605;
- (12) Medical examination after disability retirement, as provided for by KRS 61.610;
- (13) Disability retirement allowance, reduction, as provided for by KRS 61.615;
- (14) Determination of retirement allowance, as provided for by KRS 61.595;
- (15) Refund of contributions, conditions, as provided for by KRS 61.625;
- (16) Refund of contributions, death after retirement, as provided for by KRS 61.630;
- (17) Optional retirement plans, as provided for by KRS 61.635;
- (18) Suspension of retirement payments on reemployment, reinstatement, as provided for by KRS 61.637;
- (19) Death before retirement, beneficiary's options, as provided for by KRS 61.640;
- (20) Board of trustees, conflict of interest, as provided for by KRS 61.655;
- (21) Custodian of funds, payments made, when, as provided for by KRS 61.660;
- (22) Medical examiners and hearing procedures, as provided for by KRS 61.665;
- (23) Actuarial bases, as provided for by KRS 61.670;
- (24) Employer's administrative duties, as provided for by KRS 61.675;
- (25) Correction of errors in records, as provided for by KRS 61.685;
- (26) Exemptions of retirement allowances, as provided for by KRS 61.690;
- (27) Credit for service prior to membership date, as provided for by KRS 61.526;
- (28) Creditable compensation of fee officers, as provided for by KRS 61.541;
- (29) Transfer of dormant accounts, as provided for by KRS 61.626;
- (30) Members' account, confidential, as provided for by KRS 61.661;
- (31) Retirement plan for employees determined to be in a hazardous position, as provided for by KRS 61.592;
- (32) Maximum disability benefit, as provided for by KRS 61.607;

- (33) Consent of employees to deductions and reciprocal arrangement between systems, as provided for by KRS 61.680;
- (34) Employer contributions, as provided for by KRS 61.565;
- (35) Recontribution and delayed contribution payments, purchase of service credit, interest, and installment payments, as provided for by KRS 61.552;
- (36) Hospital and medical insurance plan, as provided by KRS 61.702;
- (37) Death benefit, as provided by KRS 61.705;
- (38) Reinstated employee, contributions on creditable compensation, as provided for by KRS 61.569;
- (39) Statement to be made under oath, good faith reliance, as provided for in KRS 61.699;
- (40) Disability procedure for members in hazardous positions as provided for in KRS 16.582;~~{ and }~~
- (41) Direct deposit of recipient's retirement allowance as provided for in KRS 61.623;
- (42) *Death or disability from a duty-related injury as provided in Section 1 of this Act; and***
- (43) *Purchase of service credit effective July 1, 2001, as provided in Section 6 of this Act.***

Section 4. KRS 164.2841 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) (a) Any person whose parent or any nonmarried widow or widower whose spouse was a resident of the Commonwealth of Kentucky upon becoming a law enforcement officer, firefighter, or volunteer firefighter and who was killed while in active service or training for active service or who died as a result of a service-connected disability shall not be required to pay any matriculation or tuition fee upon admission to any state-supported university, community college, or vocational training institution. The provisions of this subsection shall apply to any firefighter or volunteer firefighter who is killed or dies under the conditions covered in this subsection on July 1, 1989, or thereafter.
- (b)~~{(2)}~~ In order to obtain the benefits conferred by ***paragraph (a) of this*** subsection~~{(1) of this section}~~, the parent-child relationship shall be shown by birth certificate, adoption papers, or other documentary evidence. The spousal relationship shall be shown by a marriage certificate or other documentary evidence. The parent's or spouse's service and the cause of death shall be evidenced by certification from the records of the Kentucky Justice Cabinet, the appropriate city or county law enforcement agency which employed the deceased, the administrative agency for the fire department or fire protection district recognized for funding under KRS 95A.262, or the administrative agency having jurisdiction over any paid firefighters of all counties and cities of all classes.
- (2) (a) ***Any person whose parent or any nonmarried widow or widower whose spouse was an employee participating in a state-administered retirement system, and not otherwise covered by subsection (1) of this section, and who died as a result of a duty-related injury as described in Section 1 of this Act shall not be required to pay any matriculation or tuition fee upon admission to any state-supported university, community college, or vocational training institution.***

- (b) *In order to obtain the benefits conferred by paragraph (a) of this subsection, the parent-child relationship shall be shown by birth certificate, adoption papers, or other documentary evidence. The spousal relationship shall be shown by a marriage certificate or other documentary evidence. The parent's or spouse's service and the cause of death shall be evidenced by certification from the records of the employing agency or the appropriate retirement system.***
- (3) If one so admitted to a state-supported university, community college, or vocational training institution under the provisions of this section shall have obtained a cash scholarship paid or payable to the institution, from whatever source, the amount of the scholarship shall be applied to the credit of the applicant in the payment of incidental expenses of his attendance at the institution, and any balance, if the terms of the scholarship permit, shall be returned to the applicant.

Section 5. KRS 164.2842 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) (a) The spouse, regardless of age, and any child of a permanently and totally disabled law enforcement officer, firefighter, or volunteer firefighter injured while in active service or in training for active service, who is over the age of seventeen (17) and under the age of twenty-three (23) shall not be required to pay any matriculation or tuition fee upon his admission to any state-supported university, community college, or vocational training institution for a period not in excess of thirty-six (36) months in order to obtain a diploma, nor in excess of the lesser number of months required for a certificate of completion.
- ~~(b)(2)~~ For the spouse or child to be entitled to benefits under this section, the disabled law enforcement officer, firefighter, or volunteer firefighter shall be rated permanently and totally disabled for pension purposes or one hundred percent (100%) disabled for compensation purposes by the Kentucky Justice Cabinet, the appropriate city or county law enforcement agency which employed the disabled, the administrative agency for the fire department or fire protection district recognized for funding under KRS 95A.262, or the administrative agency having jurisdiction over any paid firefighters of all counties and cities of all classes, or if deceased, the claim to benefits is to be based on the rating held by the law enforcement officer, firefighter, or volunteer firefighter at the time of death. The parent's or spouse's service and rating shall be evidenced by certification from the records of the Kentucky Justice Cabinet, the appropriate local law enforcement agency, the administrative agency for the fire department or fire protection district recognized for funding under KRS 95A.262, or the administrative agency having jurisdiction over any paid firefighters of all counties and cities of all classes.
- ~~(c)(3)~~ In the absence of certification of permanent and total disability by the Kentucky Department of Workers' Claims, the Kentucky Justice Cabinet, the appropriate local law enforcement agency, the administrative agency for the fire department or fire protection district recognized for funding under KRS 95A.262, or the administrative agency having jurisdiction over any paid firefighters of all counties and cities of all classes, medical evidence showing permanent and total disability or the existence of permanent and total disability for a period of at least thirty (30) days immediately prior to death may be accepted, if this evidence is signed by a physician licensed to practice or an official of an accredited medical hospital.

~~(d)~~~~(4)~~ The parent-child relationship shall be shown by birth certificate, legal adoption papers, or other documentary evidence. The spousal relationship shall be shown by a marriage certificate or other documentary evidence.

~~(e)~~~~(5)~~ To entitle a spouse or child to benefits under this section the disabled law enforcement officer, firefighter, or volunteer firefighter shall have been a resident of the Commonwealth of Kentucky upon becoming a law enforcement officer, firefighter, or volunteer firefighter.

(2) (a) *The spouse, regardless of age, and any child of a person who was an employee participating in a state-administered retirement system and not otherwise covered by subsection (1) of this section and who was disabled as a result of a duty-related injury as described in Section 1 of this Act, who is over the age of seventeen (17) and under the age of twenty-three (23) shall not be required to pay any matriculation or tuition fee upon his admission to any state-supported university, community college, or vocational training institution for a period not in excess of thirty-six (36) months in order to obtain a diploma, nor in excess of the lesser number of months required for a certificate of completion.*

(b) *The parent-child relationship shall be shown by birth certificate, legal adoption papers, or other documentary evidence. The spousal relationship shall be shown by a marriage certificate or other documentary evidence.*

~~(3)~~~~(6)~~ The marriage of an eligible child shall not serve to deny full entitlement to the benefits provided in this section.

SECTION 6. A NEW SECTION OF KRS 61.510 TO 61.705 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

(1) *Effective July 1, 2001, purchase of service under the provisions of KRS 16.505 to 16.652, KRS 61.510 to 61.705, and KRS 78.510 to 78.852, except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, shall be determined by multiplying the higher of the employee's current rate of pay, final rate of pay, or final compensation as of the end of the month in which the purchase is made times the actuarial factor times the number of years of service being purchased.*

(2) *This provision shall not apply to KRS 61.552(1) and (24), or KRS 61.592(3)(c).*

Section 7. 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, 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, including payments for compensatory time, paid to the employee as a result of services performed for the employer or for time during which the member is on paid leave, which are includable on the member's federal form W-2 wage and tax statement under the heading "wages, tips, other compensation," 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. A lump-sum bonus, severance pay, or employer provided payment for purchase of service credit shall be included as creditable compensation but shall be averaged over the employee's service with the employer. 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. 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;
- (14) "Final compensation" of a member means:
- (a) For a member who is not employed in a hazardous 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), 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 forty-eight (48), one (1) or more additional fiscal years shall be used; *or*
 - (b) *For a member who is not employed in a hazardous position, as provided in KRS 61.592, whose effective retirement date is between August 1, 2001, and January 1, 2009, and whose total service credit is at least twenty-seven (27) years and whose age and years of service total at least seventy-five (75), final compensation means the creditable compensation of the member during the three (3) fiscal years the member was paid at the highest average monthly rate divided by the number of months of service credit during that three (3) years 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. Notwithstanding the provision of KRS 61.565, the funding for this paragraph shall be provided from existing funds of the retirement allowance; or*
 - (c) 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), 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;
 - (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; and
 - (e) Interim positions which are positions established for a one-time or recurring need not to exceed nine (9) months;

- (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. Last day of paid employment does not mean a date the employee receives payment for accrued leave, whether by lump sum or otherwise, if that date occurs twenty-four (24) or more months after previous contributions;

- (33) "Objective medical evidence" means 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;
- (34) "Participating" means an employee is currently earning service credit in the system as provided in KRS 61.543; and
- (35) "Month" means a calendar month.

Section 8. 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;
- (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, including payments for compensatory time, paid to the employee as a result of services performed for the employer or for time during which the member is on paid leave, which are includable on the member's federal form W-2 wage and tax statement under the heading "wages, tips, other compensation", including employee contributions picked up after August 1, 1982, pursuant to KRS 78.610(4). A lump-sum bonus, severance pay, or employer-provided payment for purchase of service credit shall be included as creditable compensation but shall be averaged over the employee's service with the employer. If compensation includes maintenance and other perquisites, the board shall fix the value of that part of the compensation not paid in money. Living allowances, expense reimbursements, payments received after the date of termination of employment for accrued vacation leave, sick leave except as provided in KRS 78.616(5), and other items determined by the board shall be excluded. 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; *or*
- (b) *For a member who is not employed in a hazardous position, as provided in KRS 61.592, whose effective retirement date is between August 1, 2001, and January 1, 2009, and whose total service credit is at least twenty-seven (27) years and whose age and years of service total at least seventy-five (75), final compensation means the creditable compensation of the member during the three (3) fiscal years the member 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. Notwithstanding the provision of KRS 61.565, the funding for this paragraph shall be provided from existing funds of the retirement allowance; or

- (c) 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), 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 (2,080) hours for eight (8) hour workdays, one thousand nine hundred fifty (1,950) hours for seven and one-half (7.5) 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 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;
 - (31) "Participating" means an employee is currently earning service credit in the system as provided in KRS 78.615; and
 - (32) "Month" means a calendar month.

Section 9. KRS 16.645 is amended to read as follows:

The following subjects shall be administered in the same manner subject to the same limitations and requirements as provided for the Kentucky Employees Retirement System as follows:

- (1) Cessation of membership, as provided for by KRS 61.535;
- (2) Medical examiners and hearing procedures, as provided for by KRS 61.665;
- (3) Actuarial bases, as provided for by KRS 61.670;
- (4) Duties of the employer, as provided for by KRS 61.675;
- (5) Exemption of benefits of the system for taxation, as provided for by KRS 61.690;
- (6) Retirement allowance increase, as provided for by KRS 61.691;
- (7) Calculation of retirement allowance, as provided for by KRS 61.595(3) and (4);
- (8) Beneficiaries to be designated by member, change, rights, as provided for by KRS 61.542;
- (9) Year of service credit, as provided for by KRS 61.545;
- (10) Refund of contributions, death after retirement, as provided by KRS 61.630;
- (11) Custodian of fund, payments made, when, as provided for by KRS 61.660;
- (12) Credit for service prior to membership date, as provided for by KRS 61.526;
- (13) Transfer of dormant accounts, as provided for by KRS 61.626;
- (14) Member's account, confidential, as provided for by KRS 61.661;
- (15) Cessation of membership, loss of benefits, as provided for by KRS 61.550;
- (16) Correction of errors in records, as provided for by KRS 61.685;
- (17) Maximum disability benefit, as provided for by KRS 61.607;
- (18) Retirement application procedure, effective retirement date, as provided for by KRS 61.590;
- (19) Employer contributions, as provided for by KRS 61.565;
- (20) Reinstatement of lost service credit, purchase of service credit, interest paid, delayed contribution and installment payments, as provided for by KRS 61.552;
- (21) Reciprocal arrangement between systems, as provided by KRS 61.680;
- (22) Refund of contributions, conditions, as provided by KRS 61.625;
- (23) Hospital and medical insurance plan, as provided by KRS 61.702;
- (24) Death benefit, as provided by KRS 61.705;
- (25) Disability retirement allowance, reduction, discontinuance, as provided by KRS 61.615;
- (26) Service credit, Armed Forces, as provided by KRS 61.555;
- (27) Reinstated employee, contributions on creditable compensation, as provided for by KRS 61.569;
- (28) Statement to be made under oath, good faith reliance, as provided for in KRS 61.699;
- (29) Retirement of persons in hazardous positions, as provided for by KRS 61.592;~~and~~
- (30) Direct deposit of recipient's retirement allowance as provided in KRS 61.623; *and*

(31) Purchase of service credit effective July 1, 2001, as provided in Section 6 of this Act.

Approved March 15, 2001