

CHAPTER 41**(HB 13)**

AN ACT relating to retirement.

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

Section 1. 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 prior to August 1, 1998, 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.

- ~~(8)~~~~(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 July 14, 2000, 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.
- ~~(9)~~~~(10)~~ A retired member or his employer shall notify the retirement system if he has accepted employment with an agency that participates in the retirement system from which the member retired.
- ~~(10)~~~~(11)~~ If the retired member is under a contract, the member shall submit a copy of that contract to the retirement system, and the retirement system shall determine if the member is an independent contractor for purposes of retirement benefits.
- ~~(11)~~~~(12)~~ If a member is receiving a retirement allowance, or has filed the forms required for a retirement allowance, and is employed within one (1) month of the member's initial retirement date in a position that is required to participate in the same retirement system from which the member retired, the member's retirement shall be voided and the member shall repay to the retirement system all benefits received. The member shall contribute to the member account established for him prior to his voided retirement. The retirement allowance for which the member shall be eligible upon retirement shall be determined by total service and creditable compensation.
- ~~(12)~~~~(13)~~ (a) 1. A retired member of the Kentucky Employees Retirement System or the State Police Retirement System who, after initial retirement, is hired by an agency that participates in the Kentucky Employees Retirement System or the State Police Retirement System shall be considered to have been hired by the same employer.
2. If a member of the Kentucky Employees Retirement System retires from a department which participates in more than one (1) retirement system and is reemployed within one (1) month of his initial retirement date by the same department in a position participating in another retirement system, the retired member's retirement allowance shall be suspended for the first month of his retirement and the member shall repay to the retirement system all benefits received for the month.
- (b) A retired member of the County Employees Retirement System who after initial retirement is hired by the county from which the member retired shall be considered to have been hired by the same employer.
- ~~(13)~~~~(14)~~ (a) If a hazardous member who retired prior to age fifty-five (55), or a nonhazardous member who retired prior to age sixty-five (65), is reemployed within six (6) months of the member's initial retirement date by the same employer, the member shall obtain from his previous and current employers a copy of the job description established by the employers for the position and a statement of the duties performed by the member for the position from which he retired and for the position in which he has been reemployed.

- (b) The job descriptions and statements of duties shall be filed with the retirement office.
- ~~(14)~~~~(15)~~ If the retirement system determines that the retired member has been employed in a position with the same principal duties as the position from which the member retired:
- (a) The member's retirement allowance shall be suspended during the period that begins on the month in which the member is reemployed and ends six (6) months after the member's initial retirement date.
 - (b) The retired member shall repay to the retirement system all benefits that the member received after reemployment began.
 - (c) Upon termination, or subsequent to expiration of the six (6) month period from the date of initial retirement, the retired member's retirement allowance based on his initial retirement account shall no longer be suspended and the member shall receive the amount to which he is entitled, including an increase as provided by KRS 61.691.
 - (d) Except as provided in subsection (7) of this section, if the position in which a retired member is employed after initial retirement is a regular full-time position, the retired member shall contribute to a second member account established for him in the retirement system. Service credit gained after the member's date of reemployment shall be credited to the second member account.
 - (e) Upon termination, the retired member shall be entitled to benefits payable from his second retirement account.
- ~~(15)~~~~(16)~~ (a) If the retirement system determines that the retired member has not been reemployed in a position with the same principal duties as the position from which he retired, the retired member shall continue to receive his retirement allowance.
- (b) If the position is a regular full-time position, the member shall contribute to a second member account in the retirement system.
- ~~(16)~~~~(17)~~ (a) If a retired member is reemployed at least one (1) month after initial retirement in a different position, or at least six (6) months after initial retirement in the same position, and prior to normal retirement age, the retired member shall contribute to a second member account in the retirement system and continue to receive a retirement allowance from the first member account.
- (b) Service credit gained after reemployment shall be credited to the second member account. Upon termination, the retired member shall be entitled to benefits payable from the second member account.
- ~~(17)~~~~(18)~~ A retired member who is reemployed and contributing to a second member account shall not be eligible to purchase service credit under any of the provisions of KRS 16.510 to 16.652, KRS 61.515 to 61.705, or KRS 78.520 to 78.852 which he was eligible to purchase prior to his initial retirement.

SECTION 2. A NEW SECTION OF KRS 78.520 TO 78.852 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

Any other provision of law to the contrary notwithstanding, all retired hazardous members in an elected city or county office on the effective date of this Act shall contribute to the County Employees Retirement System unless they elect not to participate within sixty (60) days of the effective date of this Act. Members who begin participating under the provisions of this section may purchase credit for service in the elected city or county office between July 15, 1998, and

the effective date of this Act, by paying to the system one hundred percent (100%) of the cost of the service.

Approved March 15, 2001