

CHAPTER 52**(HB 309)**

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;
- (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, 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 16.545(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. Living allowances, expense reimbursements, *lump-sum* 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), 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;
- (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 *purchase of* current service~~[obtained under KRS 61.552]~~. The amount shall be determined using the same formula *in Section 24 of this Act*~~[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. 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;
- (31) "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;
- (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;
- (33) "Participating" means an employee is currently earning service credit in the system as provided in KRS 16.543; and

(34) "Month" means a calendar month.

Section 2. 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;

- (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 KRS 61.5525; *and*
- (32) *Payment of small amounts upon death of member, retiree, or recipient without formal administration of the estate as provided in Section 17 of this Act.*

Section 3. 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 serves in the position;
- (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 served in the position prior to January 1, 1960. Twelve (12) months of current service in the system are required to validate prior service;

- (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 year. 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, *lump-sum* 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) regular legislative sessions;
 - (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 *purchase of* current service~~[obtained under KRS 61.552]~~. The amount shall be determined using the same formula *in Section 24 of this Act*~~[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 4. KRS 61.545 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) The board shall determine by appropriate administrative regulations how much service in any year is the equivalent of a year of service credit and how much service in any calendar month is the equivalent of a month of service credit. It shall not allow credit for more than one (1) year of service for all service rendered in any period of twelve (12) consecutive months except as provided in KRS 61.546 and in subsection (2) of this section.
- (2) (a) Employees participating in one (1) of the state-administered retirement systems who are or have been employed by a school board participating in the County Employees Retirement System, a state-operated school under KRS Chapter 167, or a Kentucky institution of higher education which participates in the Kentucky Employees Retirement System, **and who receive service credit for**~~[to work]~~ less than twelve (12) months each year, may purchase the additional months of service credit needed to total one (1) year of service credit except the amount purchased shall not exceed three (3) months. The employee may purchase the service credit by paying the retirement system **a delayed contribution payment. Employees**~~[the member and employer contributions calculated on the average monthly rate multiplied by the number of months to be purchased. The payment shall be received by the retirement system by December 31 immediately following the school year in which the fractional year's service occurred. If the additional service credit is not purchased by December 31 following the close of each school year, the member shall pay interest on the cost of purchasing the credit at a rate established by the board of trustees. Members]~~ who have service credit prior to July 1, 1992, or their employers, the state-operated school under KRS Chapter 167, the Kentucky institution of higher education, or the school board may purchase service credit on behalf of the employee for previous years by paying the retirement system the **delayed contribution payment**~~[member and employer~~

~~contributions calculated on the average monthly rate, multiplied by the number of months to be purchased plus interest at the actuarial rate}.~~

- (b) The cost of service under this subsection may be paid by both the employer and employee. The employer shall pay *fifty percent (50%) of the cost*~~{the employer contributions plus interest}~~ and the employee shall pay *fifty percent (50%) of the cost*~~{the employee contributions plus interest}~~. The payment by the employer shall not be deposited to the member's account. Service credit shall not be credited to the member's account until both the employer's and employee's payment are received by the retirement system.
 - (c) *If the employee has purchased service credit under this subsection based on months reported by the employer for the fiscal year, and an audit of the employee's account reduces the number of months of service credit for which the employee is eligible to no fewer than nine (9) months, the employee shall retain credit for the months purchased unless the employee is ineligible for any service in the fiscal year. The employee shall be eligible to purchase the additional months under this subsection to total one (1) year.*
- (3) (a) An employee who is simultaneously eligible for membership in more than one (1) retirement system administered by the Kentucky Retirement Systems may, at his option, choose to participate in only one (1) of those systems. The choice, once made, shall remain in effect so long as the employee is eligible for membership in more than one (1) system.
 - (b) If the employee participates in more than one (1) of the retirement systems administered by the Kentucky Retirement Systems, the employee's service credit shall be divided between each system determined by dividing the employee's creditable compensation in each system by the employee's total creditable compensation in all systems.
 - (c) If the employee earns creditable compensation in both a hazardous position, as defined by KRS 61.592, and a nonhazardous position, the employee's service credit shall be divided between the employee's hazardous and nonhazardous positions determined by dividing the employee's creditable compensation in the hazardous and nonhazardous positions by the employee's combined hazardous and nonhazardous creditable compensation.

Section 5. KRS 61.552 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) Any employee participating in one (1) of the state-administered retirement systems who has been refunded his accumulated contributions under the provisions of KRS 16.645(22), 61.625, or 78.545(15), thereby losing service credit, may regain the credit by paying to the system from which he received the refund or refunds the amount or amounts refunded with interest at a rate determined by the board of the respective retirement system.~~{ If the participating employee dies before regaining lost service credit, the employee's beneficiary, as designated according to the requirements of the employee's retirement system, may regain the credit by paying the amount refunded with interest at a rate determined by the board of the respective retirement system. Thereafter the beneficiary shall be entitled to the benefits that are payable based upon the deceased employee's total service credit. The provisions of KRS 161.470 shall be met in order to regain the credit in the Teachers' Retirement System. KRS 21.460 shall govern with respect to regaining credit in the Judicial Retirement Plan or~~

~~Legislators' Retirement Plan. The beneficiary shall make the payment within one (1) year of the date of the employee's death.]~~ The payment, including interest as determined by the board, shall be deposited to the member's contribution account and considered as accumulated contributions of the individual member. The payments shall not be picked up, as described in KRS 61.560(4), by the employer.

- (2) Any employee participating in one (1) of the ~~[state-administered]~~ retirement systems *administered by Kentucky Retirement Systems* who did not elect membership in the County Employees Retirement System, as provided in KRS 78.540(2), may obtain credit in the County Employees Retirement System for prior service and for current service by paying to the County Employees Retirement System a delayed contribution payment for the service he would have received had he elected membership. The delayed contribution payment shall not be picked up, as described in KRS 61.560(4), by the employer. Payment may be by lump sum or the employee may pay by increments.
- (3) Any employee participating in one (1) of the ~~[state-administered]~~ retirement systems *administered by Kentucky Retirement Systems* who did not elect membership in the Kentucky Employees Retirement System, as provided in KRS 61.525(2), may obtain credit in the Kentucky Employees Retirement System for prior service and for current service by paying to the system a delayed contribution payment for the service he would have received had he elected membership. The delayed contribution payment shall not be picked up, as described in KRS 61.560(4), by the employer. Payment may be by lump sum or the employee may pay by increments.
- (4) An employee participating in one (1) of the ~~[state-administered]~~ retirement systems *administered by Kentucky Retirement Systems* may obtain credit in the Kentucky Employees Retirement System for current service between July 1, 1956, and the effective date of participation of his department by paying to the system a delayed contribution payment for the service he would have received had his department participated on July 1, 1956. The delayed contribution payment shall not be picked up, as described in KRS 61.560(4), by the employer. Payment may be by lump sum or the employee may pay by increments. ~~[Effective August 1, 1988, each employee of the Kentucky Racing Commission who was employed by the racing commission on the date that agency first participated in the Kentucky Employees Retirement System, whether or not the employee was eligible to participate in the retirement system on that date, shall receive current service credit for all employment with the racing commission from July 1, 1956, to the date the employee first began participating in the retirement system. The cost of the service credit shall be paid at the time of each member's retirement by the racing commission and shall be credited to the retirement allowance account.]~~
- (5)
 - (a) An employee participating in one (1) of the ~~[state-administered]~~ retirement systems *administered by Kentucky Retirement Systems* may obtain credit in the County Employees Retirement System for current service between July 1, 1958, and the effective date of participation of his county by paying to the County Employees Retirement System a delayed contribution payment for the service he would have received had his county participated on July 1, 1958. The delayed contribution payment shall not be picked up, as described in KRS 61.560(4), by the employer.
 - (b) An employee participating in *one (1) of the retirement systems administered by Kentucky Retirement Systems* ~~[the Kentucky Employees Retirement System or the County Employees Retirement System]~~, who has at least forty-eight (48) months of

service if age sixty-five (65) or at least sixty (60) months of service if under age sixty-five (65) **in the systems administered by Kentucky Retirement Systems** may obtain credit for the period of his service with an area development district created pursuant to KRS 147A.050 or with a business development corporation created pursuant to KRS 155.001 to 155.230 if that service was not covered by a state-administered retirement system. The member shall pay to the retirement system in which he participates **a delayed contribution payment**~~[the full cost of the service credit purchased]~~, as determined by the board's actuary. The employee may obtain credit for employment with a business development corporation only if the Kentucky Retirement Systems receives a favorable private letter ruling from the United States Internal Revenue Service or a favorable opinion letter from the United States Department of Labor. Payment may be by lump sum or the employee may pay by increments.

- (6) After August 1, 2000, service credit obtained under the subsections of this section which do not require the employee to have a minimum number of years of service credit to be eligible to make a purchase shall be disallowed and the recontribution of refund, including interest as determined by the board or other payment, if any, shall be paid to the member if the member does not obtain for service performed six (6) months' additional current service credit in one (1) of the state-administered retirement systems. The service requirement shall be waived if the member dies or becomes disabled as provided for by KRS 16.582 or 61.600.
- (7) The members shall not receive benefit of service for the same period of time in another public defined benefit retirement fund.
- (8) Any employee participating in one (1) of the ~~[state-administered]~~ retirement systems **administered by Kentucky Retirement Systems** who has at least forty-eight (48) months' service if age sixty-five (65) or at least sixty (60) months' service if under age sixty-five (65) ~~in [one (1) of]~~ the retirement systems administered by the Kentucky Retirement Systems, who formerly worked for a state university in a position which would have qualified as a regular full-time position had the university been a participating department, and who did not have the option to be covered at the university by a defined benefit retirement program, or did not participate in a retirement system which can be consolidated with other accounts pursuant to KRS 61.680(2), may obtain credit in the **employee's account in the** County Employees Retirement System, the Kentucky Employees Retirement System, or the State Police Retirement System for prior and current service by paying either retirement system a delayed contribution payment for the service he would have received had his period of university employment been covered by the County Employees, Kentucky Employees Retirement System, or State Police Retirement System. The delayed contribution payment shall not be picked up, as described in KRS 61.560(4), by the employer. Payment may be by lump sum, or the employee may pay by increments.
- (9) (a) Effective August 1, 1980, any county participating in the County Employees Retirement System may purchase current service, between July 1, 1958, and participation date of the county, for present employees of the county who have obtained coverage under KRS 78.540(2);
 - (b) Effective July 1, 1973, any department participating in the Kentucky Employees Retirement System may purchase current service between July 1, 1956, and participation date of the department, for present employees of the department who

were employees on the participation date of the department and elected coverage under KRS 61.525(2);

- (c) Cost of the service credit purchased under this subsection shall be determined by computing the discounted value of the additional service credit based on an actuarial formula recommended by the board's consulting actuary and approved by the board. A department shall make payment for the service credit within the same fiscal year in which the option is elected. The county shall establish a payment schedule subject to approval by the board for payment of the service credit. The maximum period allowed in a payment schedule shall be ten (10) years with interest at the rate actuarially assumed by the board; however, a shorter period is desirable and the board may approve any schedule provided it is not longer than a ten (10) year period;
 - (d) If a county or department elects the provisions of this subsection, any present employee who would be eligible to receive service credit under the provisions of this subsection and has purchased service credit under subsection (4) or (5) of this section shall have his payment for the service credit refunded with interest at the rate paid under KRS 61.575 or 78.640;
 - (e) Any payments made by a county or department 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.
- (10) Interest paid by a member of the Kentucky Employees Retirement System, County Employees Retirement System, or State Police Retirement System under this section or other similar statutes under KRS 16.510 to 16.652, KRS 61.515 to 61.705, or KRS 78.520 to 78.852 prior to June 19, 1976, shall be credited to the individual member's contribution account in the appropriate retirement system and considered as accumulated contributions of the member.
- (11) Employees who served as assistants to officers and employees of the General Assembly *who have at least forty-eight (48) months of service if age sixty-five (65) or at least sixty (60) months of service if under age sixty-five (65) in the systems administered by Kentucky Retirement Systems and* who were unable to acquire service under KRS 61.510(20) may purchase credit for the service performed after January 1, 1960~~, if the service purchased when added to other accumulated service will total at least forty eight (48) months~~. Service credit under this section shall be obtained by the payment of a delayed contribution which shall not be picked up by the employer as described in KRS 61.560(4).
- (12) (a) Effective August 1, 1988, any employee participating in one (1) of the ~~state-administered~~ retirement systems *administered by Kentucky Retirement Systems who has at least forty-eight (48) months of service if age sixty-five (65) or at least sixty (60) months of service if under age sixty-five (65) in the systems administered by Kentucky Retirement Systems* may purchase service credit for seasonal, emergency, or temporary employment or part-time employment averaging one hundred (100) or more hours of work per month on a calendar or fiscal year basis. If the average number of hours of work is less than one hundred (100) per month, the member shall be allowed credit only for those months he receives creditable compensation for one hundred hours of work. The cost will be determined *as a delayed contribution payment*~~by computing the member and employer contributions~~ for the period of time involved

~~plus interest compounded annually at the current actuarial rate~~], which shall not be picked up by the employer as described in KRS 61.560(4).

- (b) Any noncertified employee of a school board ***who has at least forty-eight (48) months of service if age sixty-five (65) or at least sixty (60) months of service if under age sixty-five (65) in the systems administered by Kentucky Retirement Systems*** may purchase service credit for part-time employment prior to the 1990-91 school year which averaged eighty (80) or more hours of work per month on a calendar or fiscal year basis by paying to the County Employees Retirement System a delayed contribution payment. The delayed contribution payment shall not be picked up, as described in KRS 78.610(4), by the employer. Payment may be by lump sum or the employee may pay by increments. If the average number of hours of work is less than eighty (80) per month, the noncertified employee of a school board shall be allowed credit only for those months he receives creditable compensation for eighty (80) hours of work. The cost will be determined ***as a delayed contribution payment***~~by computing the member and employer contributions for the period of time involved plus interest compounded annually at the current actuarial rate~~], which shall not be picked up by the employer as described in KRS 78.610(4).
- (13) A retired member, who is contributing to one (1) of the state-administered retirement programs ***under the provisions of subsections (1) to (4) of Section 10 of this Act*** and purchases service credit under this section in the system or systems from which he is retired, shall have his retirement allowance recomputed:
- (a) Upon termination from employment, if the member is contributing to the same system or systems from which he was retired; or
- (b) Upon completion of six (6) months' service credit as required under subsection (6) of this section, if the member is contributing to a system other than the system or systems from which he is retired.
- (14) Any employee participating in one (1) of the ~~state-administered retirement~~ systems ***administered by Kentucky Retirement Systems*** who has at least forty-eight (48) months of service if age sixty-five (65) or at least sixty (60) months of service if under age sixty-five (65) ***in the systems administered by Kentucky Retirement Systems*** may obtain credit for prior or current service for any period of approved educational leave, or for agency-approved leave to work for a work-related labor organization if the agency subsequently participated in the County Employees Retirement System, by paying to the respective retirement system a delayed contribution payment. The employee may also obtain credit for agency-approved leave to work for a work-related labor organization if the agency subsequently participated in the County Employees Retirement System, but only if the Kentucky Retirement Systems receives a favorable private letter ruling from the United States Internal Revenue Service or a favorable opinion letter from the United States Department of Labor. The delayed contribution payment shall not be picked up, as described in KRS 61.560(4), by the employer, and shall be deposited to the individual member's account.
- (15) Any employee participating in one (1) of the ~~state-administered~~ retirement systems ***administered by Kentucky Retirement Systems who has at least forty-eight (48) months of service if age sixty-five (65) or at least sixty (60) months of service if under age sixty-five (65) in the systems administered by Kentucky Retirement Systems*** may obtain credit for

prior or current service for any period of approved maternity leave, ***unpaid leave authorized under the federal Family and Medical Leave Act***, or for any period of approved sick leave without pay, by paying to the respective retirement system a delayed contribution payment. The delayed contribution payment shall not be picked up, as described in KRS 61.560(4), by the employer, and shall be deposited to the individual member's account.

- (16) Any employee participating in one (1) of the retirement systems administered by Kentucky Retirement Systems may purchase service credit under any of the provisions of KRS 16.510 to 16.652, 61.515 to 61.705, or 78.520 to 78.852 by making installment payments in lieu of a lump-sum payment.
- (a) The cost of the service shall be computed in the same manner as for a lump-sum payment which shall be the principal; and interest, at the actuarial rate in effect at the time the member elects to make the purchase compounded annually, shall be added for the period that the installments are to be made. Multiple service purchases may be combined under a single installment purchase; however, no employee may make more than one (1) installment purchase at the same time. Once multiple service purchases have been combined in an installment purchase, the employee may not separate the purchases or pay a portion of one (1) of the purchases. The employee may elect to stop the installment payments by notifying the retirement system; may have the installment purchase recalculated to add one (1) or more additional service purchases; or may pay by lump sum the remaining principal.
 - (b) ***One (1) year of***~~Twelve (12) consecutive monthly~~ installment payments shall be made for each one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or any part thereof of the total cost, except that the total ***period allowed for***~~number of~~ installments shall not be less than ***one (1) year***~~twelve (12)~~ and shall not exceed ***five (5) years***~~sixty (60)~~.
 - (c) The employee shall pay the installments by payroll deduction~~each pay period~~. Upon notification by the retirement system, the employer shall report the installment payments ***either monthly or semi-monthly continuously over each twelve (12) month period at the same time as, but*** separate from, regular employee contributions on the forms or by the computer format specified by the board. The payments made under this subsection shall be considered accumulated contributions of the member and shall not be picked up by the employer pursuant to KRS 61.560(4) and no employer contributions shall be paid on the installments.
 - (d) The retirement system shall determine how much of the total cost represents payment for one (1) month of the service to be purchased and shall credit one (1) month of service to the member's account each time this amount has been paid. The first service credited shall represent the first calendar month of the service to be purchased and each succeeding month of service credit shall represent the succeeding months of that service.
 - (e) If the employee elects to stop the installment payments~~, dies, retires, or does not continue employment in a position required to participate in the retirement system~~, the ***employee***~~member, or in the case of death, the beneficiary,~~ shall have sixty (60) days to pay the remaining principal of the purchase by lump sum. If the ***employee***~~member or beneficiary~~ does not pay the remaining cost ***or if the employee dies, retires, or does not continue employment in a position required to participate in the retirement system***, the retirement system shall refund to the member or the

beneficiary the payment, payments, or portion of a payment that does not represent a full month of service purchased.

- (f) If the employer does not report installment payments on an employee for sixty (60) days, *except in the case of employees on military leave or sick leave without pay*, the installment purchase shall cease and the retirement system shall refund to the employee the payment, payments, or portion of a payment that does not represent a full month of service purchased. *Installment payments of employees on military leave or sick leave without pay shall be suspended during the period of leave and shall resume without recalculation upon the employee's return from leave.*
- (g) If payments have ceased under paragraph (e) or (f) of this subsection and the member later becomes a participating employee in one (1) of the three (3) systems administered by Kentucky Retirement Systems, the employee may complete the adjusted original installment purchase by lump sum or installment payments. If the employee elects to renew the installment purchase, the cost of the remaining service shall be recalculated in accordance with paragraph (a) of this subsection. If the original installment purchase was for multiple service purchases, the employee may not separate those purchases under a new installment purchase.

~~(17)(14)~~ Any employee participating in one (1) of the retirement systems administered by Kentucky Retirement Systems may purchase service credit under any of the provisions of KRS 16.510 to 16.652, 61.515 to 61.705, or 78.520 to 78.852 by transferring funds *through a direct trustee-to-trustee transfer as permitted under the applicable sections of the Internal Revenue Code and any regulations or rulings issued thereunder, or through a direct rollover as contemplated by and permitted under* ~~[pursuant to the rules in] 26 U.S.C. sec. 401(a)(31) and any regulations or rulings issued thereunder~~ ~~[directly from a retirement plan or a deferred compensation arrangement maintained by his employer which is a qualified plan pursuant to 26 U.S.C. sec. 401(a)].~~ Service credit may also be purchased by a rollover of funds ~~[from a qualified retirement plan]~~ pursuant to *and permitted under* the rules specified in 26 U.S.C. sec. 402(c) *and 26 U.S.C. sec. 408(d)(3)*. The Kentucky Retirement Systems shall accept the transfer or rollover to the extent permitted under the rules specified in *the applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code and any regulations and rulings issued thereunder* ~~[26 U.S.C. secs. 402(c) and 401(a)(31)]~~. The amount shall be credited to the individual member's contribution account in the appropriate retirement system and shall be considered accumulated contributions of the member.

~~(18)(17)~~ After August 1, 1998, any employee participating in one (1) of the ~~[state-administered]~~ retirement systems *administered by Kentucky Retirement Systems* who is age sixty-five (65) or older and has forty-eight (48) *months of* ~~[months]~~ service credit ~~[in the Kentucky Employees Retirement System or the County Employees Retirement System]~~ or, if younger, who has sixty (60) *months of* ~~[months]~~ service credit in *systems administered by Kentucky Retirement Systems* ~~[the Kentucky Employees Retirement System or the County Employees Retirement System]~~ may purchase credit in the system in which the employee has the service credit for up to ten (10) years service in a regular full-time position that was credited to a state or local government-administered public defined benefit plan in another state other than a defined benefit plan for teachers. The employee shall pay *a delayed contribution payment* ~~[the full cost of the service as determined by the system]~~. Payment may be by lump sum, or the employee may pay by increments. The employee may transfer funds directly

from the other state's plan if eligible to the extent permitted under subsection (17)~~((16)(h))~~ of this section and to the extent permitted by the other state's laws and shall provide proof that he is not eligible for a retirement benefit for the period of service from the other state's plan.

- (19)~~((18))~~ After August 1, 1998, any employee participating in one (1) of the ~~state-administered~~ retirement systems **administered by Kentucky Retirement Systems**, who has sixty (60) or more months of service in the State Police Retirement System or in a hazardous position in the Kentucky Employees Retirement System or the County Employees Retirement System, may purchase credit in the system in which the employee has the sixty (60) months of service credit for up to ten (10) years of service in a regular full-time position that was credited to a defined benefit retirement plan administered by a state or local government in another state, if the service could be certified as hazardous pursuant to KRS 61.592. The employee shall pay **a delayed contribution payment**~~the full cost of the service credit as determined by the system~~. Payment may be by lump sum or by increments. The employee may transfer funds directly from the other unit of government's plan if eligible to the extent permitted under subsection (17)~~((16)(h))~~ of this section and to the extent permitted by the other state's laws, and the employee shall provide proof that he is not eligible for a retirement benefit for the period of service from the other unit of government's plan.
- (20)~~((19))~~ Any employee participating in one (1) of the ~~state-administered~~ retirement systems **administered by Kentucky Retirement Systems** who has at least forty-eight (48) months of service if age sixty-five (65) or at least sixty (60) months of service if under age sixty-five (65) **in the systems administered by Kentucky Retirement Systems and** who has completed service as a volunteer in the Kentucky Peace Corps, created by KRS 154.01-720, may purchase service credit for the time served in the corps by making delayed contribution payments.
- (21)~~((20))~~ An employee participating in any ~~state-administered~~ retirement system **administered by Kentucky Retirement Systems** who has at least forty-eight (48) ~~months of~~^{months'} service if age sixty-five (65), or at least sixty (60) ~~months of~~^{months'} service if under age sixty-five (65) **in the systems administered by Kentucky Retirement Systems**, and who was formerly employed in a regional community mental health and mental retardation services program, organized and operated under the provisions of KRS 210.370 to 210.480, which does not participate in a state-administered retirement system may obtain credit for the period of his service in the regional community mental health and mental retardation program, by paying to the state retirement system in which he participates **a delayed contribution payment**~~the full cost of the service credit purchased, as determined by the system~~. Payment to one (1) of the retirement systems administered by the Kentucky Retirement Systems may be made by lump sum or in increments.
- (22)~~((21))~~ An employee participating in **one (1) of the retirement systems administered by Kentucky Retirement Systems**~~any state-administered retirement system~~ who has at least forty-eight (48) ~~months of~~^{months'} service if age sixty-five (65) or at least sixty (60) ~~months of~~^{months'} service if under age sixty-five (65) **in the systems administered by the Kentucky Retirement Systems**, who was employed by a vocational technical school in a noncertified part-time position averaging eighty (80) or more hours per month, determined by using the number of months actually worked within a calendar or fiscal year, may purchase service credit in the Kentucky Employees Retirement System. The cost of the service shall be **a delayed contribution payment**~~determined by computing the member and~~

employer contributions for the period of time involved plus interest compounded annually at the current actuarial rate], which shall not be picked up by the employer as described in KRS 61.560(4).

~~[(22) Any employee participating in one (1) of the state administered retirement systems on June 30, 2000, may obtain credit for subsequent service with a parted employer from the Commonwealth operating for the purposes of KRS 163.475, by paying to the respective retirement system a delayed contribution payment if the respective retirement system receives a favorable private letter ruling from the United States Internal Revenue Service or a favorable opinion letter from the United States Department of Labor. The delayed contribution payment shall be deposited to the individual member's account. The delayed contribution payment shall not be picked up by the employer as described in KRS 61.560(4).~~

~~(23) Any employee participating in the County Employees Retirement System who has at least forty-eight (48) months of service if age sixty five (65) or at least sixty (60) months of service if under age sixty five (65) may purchase service credit for service with a city, county, or joint city county planning commission, if that service was not covered by a state-administered retirement system. Notwithstanding any statute to the contrary, the employee shall be entitled to a full month of service for each month or portion of month that the employee occupied the position whether or not the employee would have qualified, at the time of planning commission service, for the service under KRS 6.525. The employee shall pay to the retirement system the full cost of the service credit purchased, as determined by the board's actuary. The payment shall not be picked up, as described in KRS 78.610(4), by the employer and shall be deposited to the member's account. Payment may be by lump sum or in increments. The employee may obtain credit for service with a city, county, or joint city county planning commission only if the Kentucky Retirement Systems receives a favorable letter ruling from the United States Internal Revenue Service or a favorable opinion letter from the United States Department of Labor.]~~

~~(23)~~~~[(24)] (a) Any *person*~~[member or retired member of one (1) of the retirement systems administered by the Kentucky Retirement Systems]~~ who is entitled to service credit for employment which was not reported in accordance with KRS 16.543, 61.543, or KRS 78.615 may obtain credit for the service by paying the employee contributions due within six (6) months of notification by the system. No interest shall be added to the contributions. The service credit shall not be credited to the member's account until the employer contributions are received. If a retired member makes the payment within six (6) months, the retired member's retirement allowance shall be adjusted to reflect the added service after the employer contributions are received by the retirement system.~~

~~(b) Any employee participating in one (1) of the *state-administered* retirement systems~~[administered by Kentucky Retirement Systems]~~ who is entitled to service credit under paragraph (a) of this subsection and who has not repaid the employee contributions due within six (6) months of notification by the system may regain the credit after the six (6) months by paying to the system the employee contributions plus interest at the actuarially assumed rate from the date of initial notification under paragraph (a) of this subsection. Service credit shall not be credited to the member's account until the employer contributions are received by the retirement system. The payments shall not be picked up, as described in KRS 61.560(4), by the employer.~~

~~(24)~~~~[(25)] Any employee participating in one (1) of the ~~[state-administered]~~ retirement systems *administered by Kentucky Retirement Systems who has at least forty-eight (48) months of*~~

service if age sixty-five (65) or at least sixty (60) months of service if under age sixty-five (65) in the systems administered by the Kentucky Retirement Systems may purchase service credit for employment with a public agency that would have been eligible to participate under KRS 61.520 but which did not participate in the Kentucky Employees Retirement System or a political subdivision that would have been eligible to participate under KRS 78.530 but which did not participate in the County Employees Retirement System if the former public agency or political subdivision has merged with or been taken over by a participating department or county. The cost of the service shall be determined as a delayed contribution payment for the respective retirement system. Payment may be made by lump sum or in increments. The payment shall not be picked up, as described in KRS 61.560(4) or KRS 78.610(4), by the employer.

- (25)~~(26)~~ Any employee participating in one (1) of the retirement systems administered by the Kentucky Retirement Systems on or after August 1, 1998, who has at least *forty-eight (48) months of service if age sixty-five (65) or at least sixty (60) months of service if under age sixty-five (65) in the systems administered by the Kentucky Retirement Systems and who has total service in all state-administered retirement systems of at least* two hundred forty (240) months of service credit may purchase a combined maximum total of five (5) years of retirement service credit which is not otherwise purchasable under any of the provisions of KRS 16.510 to 16.652, KRS 61.510 to 61.705, and KRS 78.510 to 78.852. The purchase price for the retirement service credit shall be calculated and paid for *as a delayed contribution payment*~~[based on the full actuarial cost as determined by the system]~~. The payment shall not be picked up, as described in KRS 16.545(4), KRS 61.560(4), KRS 78.610(4), by the employer, and the employee's payment shall be paid into the individual member's contribution account in the appropriate retirement system and shall be considered accumulated contributions of the member. Payment by the member may be by lump sum or by increments.
- (26)~~(27)~~ An employee participating in one (1) of the ~~state-administered~~ retirement systems *administered by Kentucky Retirement Systems*, who has at least forty-eight (48) months of service if age sixty-five (65), or at least sixty (60) months of service if under age sixty-five (65), *in the systems administered by Kentucky Retirement Systems*, may obtain credit in the County Employees Retirement System for the period of that employee's service with a community action agency created under KRS 273.405 to 273.453 if that service was not covered by a state-administered retirement system. The member shall pay to the retirement system *a delayed contribution payment*~~[the full actuarial cost of the service credit purchased]~~. Payment may be made by lump sum or in increments. The payment shall not be picked up, as described in KRS 61.560(4) or 78.610(4), by the employer.
- (27) *Any employee participating in one (1) of the retirement systems administered by Kentucky Retirement Systems who has at least forty-eight (48) months of service if age sixty-five (65) or at least sixty (60) months of service if under age sixty-five (65) in the retirement systems administered by the Kentucky Retirement Systems may obtain current service credit for up to forty-eight (48) months for his or her period of service as a Domestic Relations Commissioner by paying to the retirement system a delayed contribution payment no later than December 31, 2002. Payment may be made by lump sum or under an installment agreement. The payment shall not be picked up, as described in KRS 61.560(4), by the employer, and shall be deposited to the individual member's account.*

Section 6. KRS 61.555 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) After August 1, 1998, any employee entering the Armed Forces of the United States after he first participates in the system, ***who joins the Armed Forces within three (3) months of the last day of paid employment***, being on leave of absence from service and not withdrawing his accumulated contributions, shall be ~~entitled to have~~ credited ***for retirement purposes with service credit and creditable compensation as provided in 38 U. S. C. sec. 4318*** ~~for~~~~as~~~~current service~~ his period of active military duty in the Armed Forces of the United States, not to exceed six (6) years, if his discharge therefrom is honorable and he returns to work with an employer participating in one (1) of the retirement systems administered by the Kentucky Retirement Systems within two (2) years after completion of the period of active military duty, or upon the subsequent termination of any total disability which existed at the expiration of the two (2) years after discharge.
- (2) After August 1, 1998, any employee who, prior to the date he first participated in the system, terminated his employment ***with an agency participating in one (1) of the systems administered by the Kentucky Retirement Systems and within three (3) months entered*** ~~in~~~~order to enter~~ the Armed Forces of the United States and who returns to work with an employer participating in one (1) of the retirement systems administered by the Kentucky Retirement Systems within two (2) years after completion of the period of active military duty, or upon the subsequent termination of any total disability which existed at the expiration of the two (2) years after discharge, shall be ~~entitled to have~~ credited ***for retirement purposes with service credit and creditable compensation as provided in 38 U. S. C. sec. 4318*** ~~for~~~~as~~~~prior service~~ his period of active military duty in the Armed Forces, not to exceed six (6) years.
- (3) Any National Guard technician involuntarily serving on active military duty during the period between January 26, 1968, and January 1, 1970, who completes his eight (8) years' service while on military duty during this period, shall have that portion of his active military duty, necessary to the completion of eight (8) years' current service, credited to his account, as current service without having to meet the reemployment criteria.
- (4) Any employee eligible for retirement as prescribed in KRS 61.559 or any employee upon completion of five (5) years of service shall receive current service credit for a maximum of four (4) years for his period of active military duty in the Armed Forces of the United States, if his discharge therefrom is honorable and he has not been credited with the service under subsections (1) to (3) of this section if he pays thirty-five percent (35%) of the cost of the service based on the formula adopted by the board. The payment by the member shall not be picked up by the employer, as described in KRS 61.560(4), and shall be deposited to his individual member's account. The remaining sixty-five percent (65%) shall be paid by the state from funds appropriated specifically for the purpose and these payments shall be deposited to the respective retirement allowance accounts. If no funds are available in the special appropriation account, the system shall not accept employee payments until funds are available in the account.
- (5) Any employee participating in one (1) of the ~~state-administered~~ retirement systems ***administered by Kentucky Retirement Systems*** eligible to purchase military service credit under subsection (4) of this section shall receive current service credit for active military duty as provided under subsection (4) of this section without payment of the current employee contribution ratio if the member was taken prisoner by a hostile power at any time during active military service.

- (6) (a) Any employee participating in one (1) of the ~~state-administered~~ retirement systems ***administered by Kentucky Retirement Systems*** age sixty-five (65) or older who has forty-eight (48) months of service, at least twelve (12) of which are current service, or if younger who has sixty (60) months of service, at least twelve (12) of which are current service shall receive current service for ~~a maximum of four (4) years for~~ his period of active military duty in the Armed Forces of the United States, if his discharge therefrom is ***not dishonorable*** ~~honorable~~ and he has not been credited with the service under subsections (1) to (4) of this section, by paying the retirement system a delayed contribution payment ~~as defined in KRS 61.510(22). Payment shall be by lump sum, except that members may pay by increments. The delayed contribution payment shall not be picked up, as described KRS 61.560(4), by the employer and shall be deposited to the individual member's account.~~
- ~~(b) After August 1, 2000, an employee who purchased the maximum period of active military duty described in paragraph (a) of this subsection may purchase any qualified active military duty time in excess of the maximum by paying the retirement system the full actuarial cost as determined by the system]. Payment may be made by lump sum or in increments. The payment shall not be picked up by the employer as described in KRS 16.545(4), 61.560(4), or 78.610(4) and shall be deposited in the member's individual retirement account.~~
- (b) Notwithstanding any other provision to the contrary, any employee participating in one (1) of the retirement systems administered by Kentucky Retirement Systems age sixty-five (65) or older who has at least one hundred eighty (180) months of service in the systems administered by Kentucky Retirement Systems shall receive current service for a maximum of four (4) years for his period of active military duty in the Armed Forces of the United States, if his discharge therefrom is not dishonorable and he has not been credited with the service under this section, by paying the retirement system fifty percent (50%) of the cost under Section 24 of this Act no later than December 31, 2002. Payment may be made by lump sum or under an installment agreement under Section 5 of this Act. The payment shall not be picked up by the employer as described in KRS 16.545(4), 61.560(4), or 78.610(4) and shall be deposited in the member's individual retirement account.***
- ~~(7) Effective July 1, 1978, no veteran shall be eligible to purchase military service credit under this section if he is receiving a military pension or is eligible for such pension in the future; but nothing in this section shall prohibit the purchase of credit if the military pension results from service primarily on inactive duty in a reserve component of the Armed Forces, or if the military pension is a disability pension, or is for a veteran sixty five (65) years of age or older who is considered permanently and totally disabled. Any veteran receiving a military disability pension who retired prior to July 15, 1986, who was unable to purchase military service credit pursuant to subsection (4) or subsection (6) of this section, may make the payment required by subsection (4) or subsection (6), and his retirement benefits shall be recalculated to apply to all retirement allowances and insurance benefits received after the date of the payment. Retiree payments pursuant to subsection (4) of this section shall not be accepted unless matching state funds are available in the special appropriation account.~~
- ~~(8) Any employee participating in one (1) of the retirement systems administered by the Kentucky Retirement Systems age sixty-five (65) or older who has forty-eight (48) months of service, at least twelve (12) of which are current service, or if younger who has sixty (60) months of service, at least twelve (12) of which are current service, shall receive one (1) month of current service for each six (6) months of service in the National Guard or the~~

military reserves of the United States, by paying the retirement system *a delayed contribution payment* ~~[the full actuarial cost as determined by the system]~~. The service shall be treated as service earned prior to participation in the system and shall not be included in the member's final compensation. Payment may be made by lump sum or in increments. The payment shall not be picked up by the employer, as described in KRS 16.545(4), 61.560(4), or 78.610(4) and shall be deposited in the member's individual retirement account.

Section 7. KRS 61.590 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) A member or beneficiary eligible to receive retirement benefits under any of the provisions of KRS 61.510 to 61.705, 78.510 to 78.852, and 16.510 to 16.652 shall have on file at the retirement office on the form prescribed by the board, notification of retirement, giving his name, address, Social Security number, last day of employment, and other information the system may require. The notification of retirement shall not be filed more than six (6) months before the member's effective retirement date.
- (2) Within ten (10) days of the receipt of the notification of retirement form submitted within two (2) months of the effective date of retirement, the system shall cause to be prepared an estimate of the amounts the member or beneficiary may expect to receive under the various plans available to the member or beneficiary. This information shall be recorded on a form entitled "Estimated Retirement Allowance" and forwarded to the member or beneficiary. If the member submits a notification of retirement form more than two (2) months prior to the effective retirement date, the system shall provide the estimated retirement allowance within forty-five (45) days of the member's effective retirement date.
- (3) The member or beneficiary shall file at the retirement office the form entitled "Estimated Retirement Allowance" after he has checked the plan of his choice, signed the document and had his signature witnessed. A member or beneficiary may not select a different plan after the first retirement allowance payment has been issued by the State Treasurer.
- (4) A member or beneficiary choosing a monthly payment plan shall have on file at the retirement office his birth certificate or other acceptable evidence of date of birth. If a survivorship plan is chosen, proof of dates of birth of the beneficiary and member shall be on file at the retirement office.
- (5) The effective date of normal retirement shall be the first month following the month in which employment was terminated from a regular full-time position. The effective date of disability retirement shall be the first month following the month in which the member's last day of paid employment in a regular full-time position occurred. The effective date of early retirement shall be the first month following the month the notification of retirement form is filed at the retirement office *or a future month designated by the member*, if employment in a regular full-time position has been terminated *and if the member files the "Estimated Retirement Allowance Form" no later than six (6) months following termination*.
- (6) The effective date of a deferred retirement option as provided under KRS 16.576(5) shall be the month following age sixty-five (65), or the month following written notification from the member that he wishes to begin receiving retirement payments. In the event of the death of a member who has deferred his retirement allowance, the effective date of retirement shall be the month following the member's death.
- (7) Notwithstanding the provisions of KRS 16.578 or 61.640, the effective date of a beneficiary's retirement allowance under normal, early, or disability retirement shall be as prescribed in subsection (5) or (6) of this section if the member dies before the first

retirement allowance has been issued by the State Treasurer and his beneficiary becomes eligible for payments under KRS 16.578 or 61.640.

Section 8. KRS 61.595 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) Effective July 1, 1990, upon retirement at normal retirement date or subsequent thereto, a member may receive an annual retirement allowance, payable monthly during his lifetime, which shall consist of an amount equal to two and two-tenths percent (2.2%) for the County Employees Retirement System and one and ninety-seven hundredths percent (1.97%) for the Kentucky Employees Retirement System of final compensation multiplied by the number of years of service credit, except that:
 - (a) Effective February 1, 1999, a member of the Kentucky Employees Retirement System who was participating in one of the state-administered retirement systems as of January 1, 1998, and continues to participate through January 1, 1999, shall receive an annual retirement allowance, payable monthly during his lifetime, which shall consist of an amount equal to two percent (2%) of final compensation multiplied by the number of years of service credit. Any Kentucky Employees Retirement System member whose effective date of retirement is between February 1, 1999, and January 31, 2009, and who has at least twenty (20) years of service credit in one of the state-administered retirement systems and who was participating in one of the state-administered retirement systems as of January 1, 1998, and continues to participate through January 1, 1999, shall receive an annual retirement allowance, payable monthly during his lifetime, which shall consist of an amount equal to two and two-tenths percent (2.2%) of final compensation multiplied by the number of years of service credit. Notwithstanding the provisions of KRS 61.565, the funding for this paragraph shall be provided from existing funds of the retirement allowance account;[-]
 - (b) The annual normal retirement allowance for members of the General Assembly, who serve during the 1974 or 1976 General Assembly, and will have eight (8) years or more of total legislative service as of January 6, 1978, shall not be less than two hundred forty dollars (\$240) multiplied by the number of years of service as a member of the General Assembly;
 - (c) The annual normal retirement allowance for members of the General Assembly who will have fewer than eight (8) years of service as of December 31, 1975, shall be as prescribed in Chapter 116, section 36(1), Acts of the 1972 General Assembly for legislative service prior to January 1, 1974;
 - (d) Former members of the General Assembly who have eight (8) or more years of legislative service prior to the 1976 Regular Session are eligible for an increased retirement allowance of two hundred forty dollars (\$240) times the years of legislative service, if the member pays to the Kentucky Employees Retirement System thirty-five percent (35%) of the actuarial cost of the higher benefit, as determined by the system, except that a former member with sixteen (16) or more years of legislative service, or his beneficiary, who is receiving a retirement allowance, also is eligible under this section and may apply for a recomputation of his retirement allowance. The employer's share of sixty-five percent (65%) of the computed actuarial cost shall be paid from the State Treasury to the Kentucky Employees Retirement System upon presentation of a properly documented claim to the Finance and Administration Cabinet. If any member

with sixteen (16) or more years of legislative service previously applied for and is receiving a retirement allowance, he may reapply and his retirement allowance shall be recomputed in accordance with this paragraph, and he shall thereafter be paid in accordance with the option selected by him at the time of the reapplication;

- (e) The annual normal retirement allowance for a member with ten (10) or more years of service, in the Kentucky Employees Retirement System, at least one (1) of which is current service, shall not be less than five hundred twelve dollars (\$512); and
 - (f) The annual retirement allowance for a member of the Kentucky employees retirement system or County Employees Retirement System shall not exceed the maximum benefit as set forth in the Internal Revenue Code.
- (2) (a) Upon service retirement prior to normal retirement date, a member may receive an annual retirement allowance payable monthly during his lifetime which shall be determined in the same manner as for retirement at his normal retirement date with years of service and final compensation being determined as of the date of his actual retirement, but the amount of the retirement allowance so determined shall be reduced to reflect the earlier commencement of benefits.
- (b) ~~There shall be no reduction in the retirement allowance of the member who has thirty (30) or more years of service credit, at least fifteen (15) of which are current service but~~ A member of the Kentucky Employees Retirement System or the County Employees Retirement System who has twenty-seven (27) or more years of service credit, at least fifteen (15) of which are current service, may retire with no reduction in the retirement allowance. A member who has earned vested service credit in a retirement system, other than the Teachers' Retirement System, sponsored by a Kentucky institution of higher education, *the Council on Postsecondary Education*, or the Higher Education Assistance Authority, may count the vested service toward attaining the necessary years of service credit as provided in KRS 61.559(2)(c) and (d) to qualify for a retirement allowance. The credit from a Kentucky institution of higher education, *the Council on Postsecondary Education*, or the Higher Education Assistance Authority shall not be used toward the minimum fifteen (15) years of current service required by KRS 61.559(2)(c) and (d) or to calculate his retirement allowance pursuant to this section. The provisions of this paragraph shall not be construed to limit the use of Teachers' Retirement System credit pursuant to KRS 61.680(2)(a).
- ~~(c) There shall be no reduction in the retirement allowance of the member who has twenty-six (26) years of service, sixteen (16) of which are current consecutive years of service as a cabinet secretary or administrative head of one (1) of the three (3) branches of government who has retired under the provisions of KRS 61.559(2)(e).~~
- (3) The retirement allowance shall be calculated by using the member's known creditable compensation prior to his last month's employment and an estimate of his creditable compensation during the last month he was employed. Based upon this calculation, the State Treasurer shall be requested to issue the initial retirement payment.
- (4) A new calculation shall be made when the official report has been received of the member's creditable compensation during his last month's employment. However, the retirement allowance determined in accordance with subsection (3) of this section shall be the official retirement allowance unless the new calculation derives an amount which is *two dollars*

~~(\$2) [one dollar (\$1)]~~ greater or less than the amount of the initial retirement payment. ***If the member or beneficiary chose an actuarial equivalent refund payment option, the amount of estimated retirement allowance shall be the official retirement allowance unless the new calculation produces an amount which is one hundred dollars (\$100) greater or less than the amount of the initial retirement payment.***

Section 9. KRS 61.635 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) Each member shall have the right to elect to have his retirement allowance payable under any one (1) of the options set forth in this section in lieu of the retirement allowance otherwise payable to him upon retirement under any of the provisions of KRS 16.510 to 16.652, KRS 61.515 to 61.705, and KRS 78.520 to 78.852. The amount of any optional retirement allowance shall be actuarially equivalent to the amount of retirement allowance otherwise payable to him.
- (2) Survivorship one hundred percent (100%). The member may elect to receive a decreased retirement allowance during his lifetime and have the retirement allowance continued after his death to his beneficiary during the lifetime of the person.
- (3) Survivorship sixty-six and two-thirds percent (66-2/3%). The member may elect to receive a decreased retirement allowance during his lifetime and have two-thirds (2/3) of the retirement allowance continue after his death to his beneficiary during the lifetime of the person.
- (4) Survivorship fifty percent (50%). The member may elect to receive a decreased retirement allowance during his lifetime and have one-half (1/2) of the retirement allowance continued after his death to his beneficiary during the lifetime of the person.
- (5) Life with ten (10) years certain. The member less than age seventy-six (76) may elect to receive a monthly retirement allowance during his lifetime which shall guarantee payments for one hundred twenty (120) months. If the member dies before receiving payments for one hundred twenty (120) months, his beneficiary shall receive the remaining payments monthly, for the duration of the one hundred twenty (120) months' period. However, if the ~~estate or~~ trust is designated as beneficiary, the ~~executor or administrator of the estate or~~ trustee of the trust may elect to receive a lump sum payment which shall be the actuarial equivalent to the remaining payments, or the ~~executor or administrator or~~ trustee may elect to continue the remaining monthly payments to the ~~estate or~~ trust of the member. ***If the estate is designated as beneficiary, the estate shall receive a lump-sum payment which shall be the actuarial equivalent to the remaining payments.***
- (6) Life with fifteen (15) years certain. The member less than age sixty-eight (68) may elect to receive a monthly retirement allowance during his lifetime which shall guarantee payments for one hundred and eighty (180) months. If the member dies before receiving payments for one hundred and eighty (180) months, his beneficiary shall receive the remaining payments monthly for the duration of the one hundred and eighty (180) months' period. However, if the ~~estate or~~ trust is designated as beneficiary, the ~~executor or administrator of the estate or~~ trustee of the trust may elect to receive a lump sum payment which shall be the actuarial equivalent to the remaining payments, or the ~~executor or administrator or~~ trustee may elect to continue the remaining payments to the ~~estate or~~ trust of the member. ***If the estate is designated as beneficiary, the estate shall receive a lump-sum payment which shall be the actuarial equivalent to the remaining payments.***

- (7) Life with twenty (20) years certain. The member less than age sixty-two (62) may elect to receive a monthly retirement allowance during his lifetime which shall guarantee payments for two hundred and forty (240) months. If the member dies before receiving payments for two hundred and forty (240) months, his beneficiary shall receive the remaining payments for the duration of the two hundred and forty (240) months period. However, if the ~~estate or~~ trust is beneficiary, the ~~executor or administrator of the estate or the~~ trustee of the trust may elect to receive a lump sum payment which shall be the actuarial equivalent to the remaining payments, or the ~~executor or administrator or~~ trustee may elect to continue the remaining payments to the ~~estate or~~ trust of the member. ***If the estate is designated as beneficiary, the estate shall receive a lump-sum payment which shall be the actuarial equivalent to the remaining payments.***
- (8) Social Security adjustment options. These options shall be available to any member who has not attained age sixty-two (62) as follows:
- (a) No survivor rights. The member may elect to receive an increased retirement allowance from his effective retirement date through the month he attains age sixty-two (62) at which time his retirement allowance shall be decreased for the remainder of his lifetime;
- (b) Survivor rights. The member may elect to receive an increased retirement allowance from his effective retirement date through the month he attains age sixty-two (62) based on the option payable under subsection (2) of this section, if the retirement allowance shall be decreased in the month following the month he attains age sixty-two (62), or the month following the month he would have attained age sixty-two (62), in event of his death, and have the retirement allowance continue after his death to his beneficiary during the lifetime of the person.
- (9) Beneficiary Social Security adjustment option. This option is available to the beneficiary of a deceased member if the beneficiary, who is a person, has not attained age sixty (60), and is eligible to receive Social Security payments at age sixty (60). The beneficiary may elect to receive during his lifetime an increased retirement allowance based on his annual benefit payable for life. The payment shall begin on his effective retirement date and continue through the month he attains age sixty (60) at which time his retirement allowance shall be decreased for the remainder of his lifetime.
- (10) Pop-up option. The member may elect to receive a decreased retirement allowance during his lifetime and have the retirement allowance continued after his death to his beneficiary during the lifetime of the person. If the beneficiary dies prior to the member, or if the beneficiary is the member's spouse and they divorce, the member's retirement allowance shall increase to the amount that would have been payable as a single life annuity.
- (11) Actuarial equivalent refund. The member may elect to receive a one (1) time lump-sum payment which shall be the actuarial equivalent of the amount payable for a period of sixty (60) months under KRS 61.595 (1).
- (12) ***Partial lump sum option.***
- (a) ***No survivor rights. The member may elect to receive a one-time lump-sum payment equal to twelve (12), twenty-four (24), or thirty-six (36) monthly retirement allowances payable under the applicable retirement formula for the system and receive a reduced monthly retirement allowance payable for his or her lifetime. The***

lump-sum payment shall be paid in the month the first monthly retirement allowance is payable.

- (b) *Survivor rights. The member may elect to receive a one-time lump-sum payment equal to twelve (12), twenty-four (24), or thirty-six (36) monthly retirement allowances payable under subsection (2) of this section and receive a reduced monthly retirement allowance payable for his or her lifetime. The lump-sum payment shall be paid in the month the first monthly retirement allowance is payable. The reduced retirement allowance shall be continued after the member's death to his beneficiary during the lifetime of the person.*
- (13) In addition to the optional forms of annuities permitted under this section, the board may establish additional optional forms of annuities. The additional forms of annuities shall be based on actuarial equivalent values, with due regard to selection against the fund.
- (14)~~(13)~~ The other provisions of this section notwithstanding, the beneficiary of a retired member of the General Assembly shall, after the member's death, receive sixty-six and two-thirds percent (66-2/3%) of the member's retirement allowance during his or her lifetime if the member of the General Assembly has elected this option and has made contributions in accordance with subsection (15)~~(14)~~ of this section and of KRS 61.560. The retirement allowance of the retired member of the General Assembly shall not be actuarially reduced to provide for this survivor benefit.
- (15)~~(14)~~ A member of the General Assembly who wishes to obtain the survivorship option specified in subsection (14)~~(13)~~ of this section shall so notify the Kentucky retirement systems:
- (a) Within thirty (30) days after first becoming a member of the General Assembly if he is not a member of the General Assembly on July 15, 1980; or
 - (b) Within thirty (30) days after July 15, 1980, if he is a member of the General Assembly on July 15, 1980.
- (16)~~(15)~~ The system shall forward to members of the General Assembly a form on which a member may elect the option provided for in subsections (14)~~(13)~~ and (15)~~(14)~~ of this section.
- (17)~~(16)~~ The options described in subsections (2), (3), (4), (8)(b), (10), (12)(b), and (14)~~(13)~~ of this section shall be extended to the member only if the designated beneficiary is a person.
- Section 10. 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. 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) (a) 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.
- (b) *A retired member whose disability retirement was discontinued pursuant to KRS 61.615 and who is reemployed in one (1) of the systems administered by the Kentucky Retirement Systems prior to his or her normal retirement date shall have his or her accounts combined upon termination for determining eligibility for benefits. If the member is eligible for retirement, the member's service and creditable compensation earned as a result of his or her reemployment shall be used in the calculation of benefits, except that the member's final compensation shall not be less than the final compensation last used in determining his or her retirement allowance. The member shall not change beneficiary or payment option designations. This provision shall apply to members reemployed on or after August 1, 1998.*
- ~~(8) 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)~~ 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.
- ~~(9)~~~~(10)~~ 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.
- ~~(10)~~~~(11)~~ 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.

~~(11)~~~~(12)~~ (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.

~~(12)~~~~(13)~~ (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 *termination*~~[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.

~~(13)~~~~(14)~~ 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 *termination*~~[initial retirement date]~~.

(b) The retired member shall repay to the retirement system all benefits *paid from systems administered by Kentucky Retirement Systems under reciprocity, including medical insurance 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 *termination*~~[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.
- ~~(14)~~~~(15)~~ (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.
- ~~(15)~~~~(16)~~ (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.
- ~~(16)~~~~(17)~~ 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 11. KRS 61.645 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) The County Employees Retirement System, Kentucky Employees Retirement System, and State Police Retirement System shall be administered by the board of trustees of the Kentucky Retirement Systems composed of nine (9) members, who shall be selected as follows:
 - (a) The secretary of the Personnel Cabinet shall serve as trustee for as long as he occupies the position of secretary under KRS 18A.015, except as provided under subsections (5) and (6) of this section;
 - (b) Two (2) trustees, who shall be members or retired from the County Employees Retirement System, elected by the members and retired members of the County Employees Retirement System;
 - (c) One (1) trustee, who shall be a member or retired from the State Police Retirement System, elected by the members and retired members of the State Police Retirement System;
 - (d) Two (2) trustees, who shall be members or retired from the Kentucky Employees Retirement System, elected by the members and retired members of the Kentucky Employees Retirement System; and
 - (e) Three (3) trustees, appointed by the Governor of the Commonwealth. Of the three (3) trustees appointed by the Governor, one (1) shall be knowledgeable about the impact of pension requirements on local governments.

- (2) The board is hereby granted the powers and privileges of a corporation, including, but not limited to, the following powers:
- (a) To sue and be sued in its corporate name;
 - (b) To make bylaws not inconsistent with the law;
 - (c) To conduct the business and promote the purposes for which it was formed;
 - (d) To contract for investment counseling, actuarial, auditing, *medical*, and other professional *or technical* services as ***required to carry out the obligations of the board without limitation***~~[its statutory purpose may require]~~, notwithstanding the provisions of KRS Chapters 45, ~~and~~ 45A, ***56, and 57***;
 - (e) To purchase fiduciary liability insurance;
 - (f) To acquire, hold, sell, dispose of, pledge, lease, or mortgage, ***the goods or*** ~~any such~~ property ***necessary to exercise the board's powers and perform the board's duties without limitation***~~[as its purpose may require]~~, notwithstanding the limitations of KRS Chapters 45, 45A, and 56; and
 - (g) The board shall reimburse any trustee or officer for any legal expense resulting from a civil action arising out of the performance of his official duties.
- (3) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1) of this section, each trustee shall serve a term of four (4) years or until his successor is duly qualified except as otherwise provided in this section. An elected trustee shall not serve more than three (3) consecutive four (4) year terms. An elected trustee who has served three (3) consecutive terms may be elected again after an absence of four (4) years from the board.
- (4) (a) The trustees selected by the membership of each of the various retirement systems shall be elected by ballot. For each trustee to be elected, the board may nominate, not less than six (6) months before a term of office of a trustee is due to expire, three (3) constitutionally eligible individuals;
- (b) Individuals may be nominated by the retirement system members which are to elect the trustee by presenting to the ***executive director***~~[general manager]~~, not less than four (4) months before a term of office of a trustee is due to expire, a petition, bearing the name, Social Security number, and signature of no less than one-tenth (1/10) of the number voting in the last election by the retirement system members;
- (c) Within four (4) months of the nominations made in accordance with paragraphs (a) and (b) of this subsection, the ***executive director***~~[general manager]~~ shall cause to be prepared an official ballot. The ballot shall carry the name, address, and position title of each individual nominated by the board and by petition. Provisions shall also be made for write-in votes;
- (d) The ballots shall be distributed to the eligible voters by mail to their last known residence address;
- (e) The ballots shall be addressed to the Kentucky Retirement Systems in care of a predetermined box number at a United States Post Office located within Kentucky. Access to this post office box shall be limited to the board's contracted auditing firm. The individual receiving a plurality of votes shall be declared elected;

- (f) The eligible voter shall cast his ballot by checking a square opposite the name of the candidate of his choice. He shall ~~record his Social Security number,~~ sign~~,~~ and mail the ballot at least thirty (30) days prior to the date the term to be filled is due to expire. The latest mailing date shall be printed on the ballot;
- (g) The board's contracted auditing firm shall report in writing the outcome to the chairman of the board of trustees. Cost of an election shall be payable from the funds of the system for which the trustee is elected.
- (5) Any vacancy which may occur in an appointed position shall be filled in the same manner which provides for the selection of the particular trustee, and any vacancy which may occur in an elected position shall be filled by appointment by a majority vote of the remaining trustees, and if the secretary of the Personnel Cabinet resigns his position as trustee, it shall be filled by appointment made by the Governor; however, any vacancy shall be filled only for the duration of the unexpired term.
- (6) (a) Membership on the board of trustees shall not be incompatible with any other office unless a constitutional incompatibility exists. No trustee shall serve in more than one (1) position as trustee on the board; and if a trustee holds more than one (1) position as trustee on the board, he shall resign a position.
- (b) A trustee shall be removed from office upon conviction of a felony or for a finding of a violation of any provision of KRS 11A.020 or 11A.040 by a court of competent jurisdiction.
- (7) Trustees who do not otherwise receive a salary from the State Treasury shall receive a per diem of eighty dollars (\$80) for each day they are in session or on official duty, and they shall be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses in accordance with state administrative regulations and standards.
- (8) The board shall meet at least once in each quarter of the year and may meet in special session upon the call of the chairman or the *executive director* ~~general manager~~. It shall elect a chairman and a vice chairman. A majority of the trustees shall constitute a quorum and all actions taken by the board shall be by affirmative vote of a majority of the trustees present.
- (9) (a) *The board of trustees shall appoint or contract for the services of an executive director and fix the compensation and other terms of employment for this position without limitation of the provisions of KRS Chapters 18A and 45A and KRS 64.640. The executive director shall be the chief administrative officer of the board.*
- (b) *The board of trustees shall authorize the executive director to appoint the employees deemed necessary to transact the business of the system. For an appointee deemed to be in a policy-making position, the board shall determine the compensation and other terms of employment for the policy-making position without limitation of the provisions of KRS Chapter 18A. Anything in the Kentucky Revised Statutes to the contrary notwithstanding, the power over and control of determining and maintaining an adequate complement of employees shall be under the exclusive jurisdiction of the board of trustees.*
- (c) *Effective December 1, 2002, all employees of the Kentucky Retirement Systems shall be transferred to a personnel system adopted by the board. Employees of Kentucky Retirement Systems covered by the personnel system adopted by the board shall be:*

1. *Provided the same health insurance coverage as all other state government employees as provided in KRS 18A.225;*
 2. *Eligible to participate in the deferred compensation system provided for all state government employees as provided in KRS 18A.250 to 18A.265;*
 3. *Provided the same life insurance coverage provided all state employees as provided in KRS 18A.205 to 18A.215;*
 4. *Reimbursed for all reasonable and necessary travel expenses and disbursements incurred or made in the performance of official duties in accordance with KRS Chapter 45;*
 5. *Ensured equal employment opportunity regardless of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, or age;*
 6. *Given those holidays and rights granted to state employees as provided in KRS 18A.190;*
 7. *Paid a salary not less than the salary paid as of the date of transfer to the personnel system, unless voluntarily demoted or involuntarily demoted for cause;*
 8. *Credited with all accumulated sick leave, compensatory time, and annual leave accumulated in accordance with KRS Chapter 18A, and for an employee leaving service, the system shall attest to the employee's accumulated sick leave, compensatory time, and annual leave which shall be credited with other employers to the extent provided for by statute or policy;*
 9. *Classified with status upon transfer to the personnel system on December 1, 2002, if the employee was classified with status as a merit employee under KRS Chapter 18A. Any employee of the Kentucky Retirement Systems transferred on December 1, 2002, during the probationary period before earning classified status as a merit system employee under KRS Chapter 18A shall transfer all accrued probationary time and the time shall be credited to the probationary time required to attain classified status in the personnel system;*
 10. *Ensured a grievance appeal procedure and the employee's right to have a representative present at each step of the grievance procedure; and*
 11. *Ensured of the right of appeal in a manner consistent with the provisions of KRS 18A.095 to the Kentucky Personnel Board and employees classified with status in the personnel system shall not be dismissed, demoted, suspended, or otherwise penalized except for cause.*
- (d) *The board shall adopt by administrative regulation a fair, equitable, and comprehensive personnel policy with a minimum of the following provisions for the personnel system:*
1. *A code of conduct including provisions describing performance of duties, abuse of position, conflicts of interest, and outside employment;*
 2. *An appointments plan including provisions describing the appointing authority, appointments, equal employment policy, sexual harassment policy, and drug-free workplace policy;*

3. *A classification plan including provisions describing class specifications, position actions, and employee actions;*
4. *A compensation plan based on qualifications, experience, and responsibilities and including provisions which describe a salary schedule, salary adjustments, salary advancements, and an employee suggestion program;*
5. *Separations, disciplinary actions, and appeal policies including provisions describing classified with status, exemptions from classified with status, layoffs, abolishment of position, dismissals and notification of dismissal, dismissals during probationary period, disciplinary actions, right of appeal, grievance and appeal procedures, and an employee grievance and appeal committee;*
6. *Service and benefits regulations including provisions describing hours of work, fringe benefits, workers' compensation, payroll deductions, holidays, inclement weather days, compensatory time, retirement, resignations, employee evaluations, and political activities; and*
7. *Leave policies including provisions describing special leave, annual leave, court leave and jury duty, military leave, voting leave, educational leave, sick leave, family medical leave, leave without pay, absence without leave, and blood donation leave.*~~{The board shall:~~
 - ~~(a) Appoint or contract for the services of a general manager and fix his compensation without limitation by the provisions of KRS Chapter 18A and KRS 64.640. The general manager shall be the chief administrative officer of the board;~~
 - ~~(b) Authorize the general manager to appoint the employees he deems necessary. Appointees deemed to be in a policy-making position shall be unclassified and their salaries shall be determined by the board. Other appointees shall be subject to the personnel classification system and salaries shall be subject to the secretary of the Personnel Cabinet;}~~
 - ~~(e){(e)} The board shall require the *executive director*~~{general manager}~~ and the employees as it thinks proper to execute bonds for the faithful performance of their duties notwithstanding the limitations of KRS Chapter 62.~~{;~~}~~
 - ~~(f){(d)} The board shall establish a system of accounting.~~{; and}~~}~~
 - ~~(g){(e)} The board shall do all things, take all actions, and promulgate all administrative regulations, not inconsistent with the provisions of KRS 61.515 to 61.705, 16.510 to 16.652, and 78.520 to 78.852, necessary or proper in order to carry out the provisions of KRS 61.515 to 61.705, 16.510 to 16.652, and 78.520 to 78.852. Notwithstanding any other evidence of legislative intent, it is hereby declared to be the controlling legislative intent that the provisions of KRS 61.515 to 61.705, 16.510 to 16.652, and 78.520 to 78.852 conform with federal statute or regulation and meet the qualification requirements under 26 U.S.C. sec. 401(a). Provisions of KRS 61.515 to 61.705, 16.510 to 16.652, and 78.520 to 78.852 which conflict with federal statute or regulation or qualification under 26 U.S.C. sec. 401(a) shall not be available to the member. The board shall have the authority to promulgate administrative regulations to conform with federal statute and regulation and to meet the qualification requirements under 26 U.S.C. sec. 401(a).~~

- (10) All employees of the board shall serve during its will and pleasure. Notwithstanding any statute to the contrary, employees shall not be considered legislative agents under KRS 6.611.
- (11) The Attorney General, or an assistant designated by him, may attend each meeting of the board and may receive the agenda, board minutes, and other information distributed to trustees of the board upon request. The Attorney General may act as legal adviser and attorney for the board, and the board may contract for legal services, notwithstanding the limitations of KRS Chapter 12 or 13B.
- (12) The system shall publish an annual financial report showing all receipts, disbursements, assets, and liabilities. The annual report shall include a copy of an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. The board may select an independent certified public accountant or the Auditor of Public Accounts to perform the audit. If the audit is performed by an independent certified public accountant, the Auditor of Public Accounts shall not be required to perform an audit pursuant to KRS 43.050(2)(a), but may perform an audit at his discretion. All proceedings and records of the board shall be open for inspection by the public. The system shall make copies of the audit required by this subsection available for examination by any member, retiree, or beneficiary in the office of the *executive director* ~~[general manager]~~ of the Kentucky Retirement Systems and in other places as necessary to make the audit available to all members, retirees, and beneficiaries. A copy of the annual audit shall be sent to the Legislative Research Commission no later than ten (10) days after receipt by the board.
- (13) All expenses incurred by or on behalf of the system and the board in the administration of the system during a fiscal year shall be paid from the retirement allowance account. Any other statute to the contrary notwithstanding, authorization for all expenditures relating to the administrative operations of the system shall be contained in the biennial budget unit request, branch budget recommendation, and the financial plan adopted by the General Assembly pursuant to KRS Chapter 48.
- (14) Any person adversely affected by a decision of the board, except as provided under subsection (16) of this section or KRS 61.665, involving KRS 16.510 to 16.652, 61.515 to 61.705, and 78.520 to 78.852, may appeal the decision of the board to the Franklin Circuit Court within sixty (60) days of the board action.
- (15) (a) A trustee shall discharge his duties as a trustee, including his duties as a member of a committee:
1. In good faith;
 2. On an informed basis; and
 3. In a manner he honestly believes to be in the best interest of the Kentucky Retirement Systems.
- (b) A trustee discharges his duties on an informed basis if, when he makes an inquiry into the business and affairs of the Kentucky Retirement Systems or into a particular action to be taken or decision to be made, he exercises the care an ordinary prudent person in a like position would exercise under similar circumstances.
- (c) In discharging his duties, a trustee may rely on information, opinions, reports, or statements, including financial statements and other financial data, if prepared or presented by:

1. One (1) or more officers or employees of the Kentucky Retirement Systems whom the trustee honestly believes to be reliable and competent in the matters presented;
 2. Legal counsel, public accountants, actuaries, or other persons as to matters the trustee honestly believes are within the person's professional or expert competence; or
 3. A committee of the board of trustees of which he is not a member if the trustee honestly believes the committee merits confidence.
- (d) A trustee shall not be considered as acting in good faith if he has knowledge concerning the matter in question that makes reliance otherwise permitted by paragraph (c) of this subsection unwarranted.
- (e) Any action taken as a trustee, or any failure to take any action as a trustee, shall not be the basis for monetary damages or injunctive relief unless:
1. The trustee has breached or failed to perform the duties of the trustee's office in compliance with this section; and
 2. In the case of an action for monetary damages, the breach or failure to perform constitutes willful misconduct or wanton or reckless disregard for human rights, safety, or property.
- (f) A person bringing an action for monetary damages under this section shall have the burden of proving by clear and convincing evidence the provisions of paragraphs (e)1. and (e)2. of this subsection, and the burden of proving that the breach or failure to perform was the legal cause of damages suffered by the Kentucky Retirement Systems.
- (g) Nothing in this section shall eliminate or limit the liability of any trustee for any act or omission occurring prior to July 15, 1988.
- (16) When an order by the system substantially impairs the benefits or rights of a member, retired member, or recipient, except action which relates to entitlement to disability benefits, the affected member, retired member, or recipient may request a hearing to be held in accordance with KRS Chapter 13B. ***The board may establish an appeals committee whose members shall be appointed by the chairman and who shall have authority to act upon the recommendations and reports of the hearing officer on behalf of the board.*** The member, retired member, or recipient aggrieved by a final order of the board following the hearing may appeal the decision to the Franklin Circuit Court, in accordance with KRS Chapter 13B.
- (17) The board shall give the Kentucky Education Support Personnel Association twenty-four (24) hours notice of the board meetings, to the extent possible.

Section 12. KRS 61.650 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) (a) The board shall be the trustee of the several funds created by KRS 16.510, 61.515, 61.701, and 78.520, ***notwithstanding the provisions of any other statute to the contrary***, and shall have ***exclusive***~~full~~ power to invest and reinvest such funds ***in accordance with federal law.***
- (b) ***The board may establish an investment committee whose members shall be appointed by the board chairperson. The investment committee shall have authority to implement policy and act on behalf of the board on all investment-related matters***

with full power to acquire, sell, safeguard, monitor, and manage the assets and securities of the several funds.

(c) *A trustee or other fiduciary shall discharge duties with respect to the retirement system:*

1. *Solely in the interest of the members and beneficiaries;*
2. *For the exclusive purpose of providing benefits to members and beneficiaries and paying reasonable expenses of administering the system;*
3. *With the care, skill, and caution under the circumstances then prevailing that a prudent person acting in a like capacity and familiar with those matters would use in the conduct of an activity of like character and purpose;*
4. *Impartially, taking into account any differing interests of members and beneficiaries;*
5. *Incurring any costs that are appropriate and reasonable; and*
6. *In accordance with a good-faith interpretation of the law governing the retirement system.* ~~[, subject to the limitations that no investments shall be made except in securities which, at the time of making the investment, are, by law, permitted for the investment of funds by fiduciaries in this state, except that the board may at its discretion purchase common stocks in corporations that do not have a record of paying dividends to their stockholders and may acquire real estate without obtaining the approval of the District Court as set forth in KRS 386.020(1)(h). Subject to such limitations, the board shall have full power to hold, purchase, sell, assign, transfer or dispose of, any of the securities or investments in which any of the funds created herein have been invested, as well as of the proceeds of such investments and any moneys belonging to such funds. The board members or any investment manager shall discharge their duties with respect to the assets of the several funds solely in the interest of the members and beneficiaries and:~~

- ~~(a) For the exclusive purposes of providing benefits to members and their beneficiaries and defraying reasonable expenses of administering the plan;~~
- ~~(b) With the care, skill, prudence, and diligence under the circumstances then prevailing that a prudent man acting in a like capacity and familiar with such matters would use in the conduct of an enterprise of a like character and with like aims; and~~
- ~~(c) In accordance with the laws, administrative regulations and other instruments governing the several funds.]~~

- (2) All registered securities acquired under authority of KRS 61.510 to 61.705 shall be registered in the name "Kentucky Retirement Systems of the Commonwealth of Kentucky" or nominee name as provided by KRS 287.225 and every change in registration, by reason of sale or assignment of such securities, shall be accomplished by the signatures of the chairman or a trustee appointed by the chairman and the general manager of the board of trustees.
- (3) The board, in keeping with its responsibility as trustee and wherever consistent with its fiduciary responsibilities, shall give priority to the investment of funds in obligation

calculated to improve the industrial development and enhance the economic welfare of the Commonwealth.

- (4) The contents of real estate appraisals, engineering or feasibility estimates, and evaluations made by or for the system relative to the acquisition or disposition of property, until such time as all of the property has been acquired or sold, shall be excluded from the application of KRS 61.870 to 61.884 and shall be subject to inspection only upon order of a court of competent jurisdiction.

Section 13. KRS 61.680 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) Prior to August 1, 1982, every employee shall be deemed to consent and agree to any deduction from his compensation required by KRS 6.500 to 6.535, 16.510 to 16.652, 61.510 to 61.692, 78.510 to 78.852, and to all other provisions thereof. Thereafter, employee contributions shall be picked up by the employer pursuant to KRS 61.560(4).
- (2) (a) Notwithstanding any other provisions of KRS 6.500 to 6.535, 16.510 to 16.652, 61.510 to 61.692, 78.510 to 78.852 and 161.220 to 161.714, upon death, disability, or service retirement, a member's accounts under the Legislators' Retirement Plan, State Police Retirement System, Kentucky Employees Retirement System, County Employees Retirement System, and Teachers' Retirement System, ***except for service prohibited by KRS 161.623(2)***, shall be consolidated for the purpose of determining eligibility and amount of benefits. Vested service credit in a retirement system, other than the Teachers' Retirement System, sponsored by a Kentucky institution of higher education and accepted by the Kentucky Employees Retirement System or the County Employees Retirement System, may be used to determine eligibility for twenty-seven (27) year retirement but not the amount of benefits. The computation of benefits shall be based on the applicable formula in each system and service credit in each system, but the final compensation, ***excluding compensation earned under KRS 161.155(9)***, shall be determined as if all service were in one (1) system. If the member has prior service in more than one (1) system, he shall obtain at least twelve (12) months' current service in each system in which he has prior service in order to validate the prior service in each system for purposes of determining consolidated benefits under this section. Upon the determination of benefits, each system shall pay the applicable percentage of total benefits.
- (b) The provisions of paragraph (a) of this subsection shall be waived if the member notifies the system of his desire to maintain separate retirement accounts in the State Police Retirement System, Kentucky Employees Retirement System, or County Employees Retirement System~~, or if he is a member of the State Police Retirement System or is working in a hazardous position under the Kentucky Employees Retirement System or County Employees Retirement System and as a result of an act in line of duty, becomes disabled or deceased~~.
- (c) If the member has not contributed at least one (1) year in a system in which he has prior service, his current service in the system shall be valid for purposes of determining eligibility and in computation of benefits on a consolidated basis.
- (3) A member with service credit in the Kentucky Employees Retirement System, State Police Retirement System, or the County Employees Retirement System who becomes the holder of an office entitling him to membership in the Judicial Retirement Plan or the Legislators' Retirement Plan, but who does not elect within thirty (30) days after taking office in such

service to participate in the plan, in accordance with KRS 6.505 or 21.360, shall be deemed to have elected to retain membership in the system in which he is a member, either the Kentucky Employees Retirement System, State Police Retirement System, or the County Employees Retirement System. In that event, the agency employing the member shall withhold employee contributions, or picked-up employee contributions after August 2, 1982, make employer contributions and remit these contributions to the system in which the member retained his membership. Any person entitled to membership in the Judicial Retirement Plan or the Legislators' Retirement Plan, who does not elect within thirty (30) days after taking office to participate in the plan, in accordance with KRS 6.505 or 21.360, and who at the time of taking office is not a contributing member of, or does not have service credit in, any of the retirement systems mentioned in this section, or the Teachers' Retirement System, shall participate in the Kentucky Employees Retirement System. A member of one (1) of the state-administered retirement plans who ceases to contribute to the plan as provided in KRS 21.360 and who is employed in a nonelected position by an agency participating in the Kentucky Retirement Systems shall be deemed to have elected membership in the system in which the employer of the nonelected position participates. A member of one (1) of the state-administered retirement plans who ceases to contribute to the plan as provided in KRS 21.360 and who is not employed in a nonelected position by an agency participating in the Kentucky Retirement Systems shall be deemed to have elected membership in the Kentucky Employees Retirement System.

- (4)
 - (a) Prior to July 1, 1976, a person entering the service of an employer participating in the Kentucky Employees Retirement System or the County Employees Retirement System with service credit in the Teachers' Retirement System and who desires to retain membership in the Teachers' Retirement System, and who is permitted by that system to continue, shall be exempt from participating in the Kentucky Employees Retirement System or the County Employees Retirement System.
 - (b) Any person who has elected to retain membership in the Teachers' Retirement System as provided in paragraph (a) of this subsection may cancel his election and participate in the system under which his position would normally participate, if he elects to cancel his option prior to January 1, 1977.
 - (c) Any member of the General Assembly who upon election is a contributing member of the Teachers' Retirement System and who does not elect within thirty (30) days after taking office to participate in the Legislators' Retirement Plan, in accordance with KRS 6.505, shall during his term of office participate in the Kentucky Employees Retirement System unless an election to retain membership in the Teachers' Retirement System is filed in writing within ninety (90) days after his term of office begins. No contributions may be made to the Teachers' Retirement System for the same period of service under the Legislators' Retirement Plan or the Kentucky Employees Retirement System as a member of the General Assembly, but contributions made to the Teachers' Retirement System while a member of the General Assembly shall be transferred to the Legislators' Retirement Plan, as provided for in KRS 6.535, when the member elects to join the Legislators' Retirement Plan, and service credit in the Legislators' Retirement Plan shall be granted as provided for in KRS 6.505(3).
- (5) Effective July 1, 1974, any member of the Kentucky Employees Retirement System or County Employees Retirement System who is working in a position covered by one (1) of

these retirement systems and his employee contributions, service credit and employer contributions made on his behalf are being transferred to the other retirement system shall contribute to the system in which his employer participates, or after August 1, 1982, the employer shall pick up the employee contributions, and no further contributions or service credit shall be transferred to the system in which he elected to retain membership, as subsection (2) of this section eliminates the necessity of the transfers.

- (6) Any member of the Kentucky Employees Retirement System or County Employees Retirement System who is working in more than one (1) position covered by the same retirement system, shall have his wages and contributions consolidated and his retirement account administered as a single account. If part-time positions are involved, an accumulation of all hours worked within the same retirement system shall be used to determine eligibility under KRS 61.510(21).
- (7) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (2) of this section, a person who does not have the amount of service required for service retirement in the State Police Retirement System, Kentucky Employees Retirement System, County Employees Retirement System, Legislators' Retirement Plan, or Teachers' Retirement System, but who is a member of one (1) of the systems or is a former member of one (1) or more of the systems with valid service credit therein, shall become eligible for service retirement benefits attributable to the amount of his actual service credit in each system in which he has service credit when his combined service credit in all the systems, plus any service credit he has in the Judicial Retirement Plan, is equal to that required for service retirement in each respective system. The computation of benefits shall be based on the applicable formula in each system and service credit in each system, ***except that total service in all systems, unless prohibited by KRS 161.623(2), shall be used to determine the reduction for early retirement, if any.*** The final compensation shall be determined by using the creditable compensation reported to the State Police Retirement System, Kentucky Employees Retirement System, County Employees Retirement System, Legislators' Retirement Plan, or Teachers' Retirement System and only as much of the compensation earned in the Judicial Retirement Plan as is needed to satisfy the final compensation requirement applicable in the respective retirement systems.
- (8) ***Each retirement system from which the member retires shall pay a retirement allowance upon receipt of required forms and documents, except that no retirement system shall pay a retirement allowance or annuity until all forms and documents are filed at all retirement systems in compliance with each system's requirements.***

Section 14. KRS 61.690 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) All retirement allowances and other benefits accrued or accruing to any person under the provisions of KRS 61.510 to 61.705, 16.505 to 16.652, and 78.510 to 78.852, and the accumulated contributions and cash securities in the funds created under KRS 61.510 to 61.705, 16.505 to 16.652, and 78.510 to 78.852, are hereby exempt from any state, county, or municipal tax, and shall not be subject to execution, attachment, garnishment, or any other process, and an assignment thereof shall not be enforceable in any court. Except retirement benefits accrued or accruing to any person under the provisions of KRS 61.510 to 61.705, 16.505 to 16.652, and 78.510 to 78.852 on or after January 1, 1998, shall be subject to the tax imposed by KRS 141.020, to the extent provided in KRS 141.010 and 141.0215.

- (2) ~~A retirement allowance, a disability allowance, a member's accumulated contributions, or any other benefit under the system shall not be classified as marital property or as an economic circumstance as provided in KRS 403.190 in an action for dissolution of marriage.~~
- (3) Child support orders for current, owed, or to-be- owed child support, issued by a court or administrative agency shall be honored by the retirement systems if the orders are in compliance with the regulation adopted by the board pursuant to KRS 61.645(9)(g)~~(e)~~.

Section 15. KRS 61.701 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) There is hereby created and established a state fund to be known as "Kentucky Retirement Systems Insurance Fund."
- (2) The fund is created *pursuant to 26 U. S. C. sec. 106* for the purpose of providing a fund separate from the retirement funds and is to be used to provide fringe benefits as provided in KRS 61.702 to retired recipients and employees of employers participating in the Kentucky Employees Retirement System, County Employees Retirement System, and State Police Retirement System, and to certain of their dependents or beneficiaries.
- (3) The fund shall be administered by the board of trustees of the Kentucky Retirement Systems and the board shall manage the assets of the fund in the same manner in which it administers the retirement funds.

Section 16. KRS 61.705 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) Upon the death of a retired member of the Kentucky Employees Retirement System, County Employees Retirement System, or State Police Retirement System who *was receiving a monthly retirement allowance based on*~~had~~ a minimum of forty-eight (48) months of service *or whose retirement allowance based on a minimum of forty-eight (48) months was suspended in accordance with Section 10 of this Act*, a death benefit of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) shall be paid. If the retired member had more than one (1) account in the Kentucky Employees Retirement System, County Employees Retirement System, or State Police Retirement System, the system shall pay only one (1) five thousand dollar (\$5,000) death benefit. Application for the death benefit made to the Kentucky Retirement Systems shall include acceptable evidence of death and of the eligibility of the applicant to act on the deceased retired member's behalf.
- (2) The death benefit shall be paid to a beneficiary named by the retired member. Upon retirement or any time thereafter, the retired member may designate on the form prescribed by the board, death benefit designation, an individual, his estate, a trust or trustee as the beneficiary of the death benefit. The beneficiary for the death benefit may or may not be the same beneficiary designated in accordance with KRS 61.590(1). If the beneficiary designated under this section dies prior to the member or if the beneficiary was the spouse and they were divorced on the date of the retired member's death, the retired member's estate shall become the beneficiary, unless the retired member has filed a subsequent death benefit designation.

SECTION 17. A NEW SECTION OF KRS 61.510 TO 61.705 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

- (1) *Upon the death of a member, retiree, or recipient who has an existing account or other benefit in a retirement system administered by the Kentucky Retirement Systems that totals no more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000), the surviving spouse, or if none, a*

surviving child, or if none, a surviving parent, or if none, a surviving brother or sister, may without formal administration of the estate collect the account subject to the provisions of this section.

- (2) *The surviving spouse, child, parent, or brother or sister who makes demand for the deceased member, retiree, or recipient account shall file with the retirement office an affidavit stating that he or she is entitled to payment of the account. The affidavit shall conform to the requirements of the administrative regulation promulgated by the board.*
- (3) *After having paid the account to the surviving spouse, child, parent, or brother or sister, the retirement system shall be discharged and held harmless to the same extent as if conducting business with a personal representative. The retirement system shall not be required to inquire into the truth or veracity of any statement made in the affidavit. In the event any person or entity establishes a superior right to the account, the surviving spouse, child, parent, or brother or sister, and not the Kentucky Retirement Systems, shall be answerable and accountable to any appointed personal representative for the estate.*

Section 18. 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, *lump-sum* 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 *in Section 24 of this Act* ~~[adopted by the board for purchase of service under KRS 61.552(9)]~~, except the *determination of the actuarial cost for classified employees of a school board shall be based on their final compensation* ~~[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 19. KRS 78.606 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) Upon retirement, a noncertified employee shall have his service credit earned after July 1, 1998, recalculated in accordance with KRS 78.615 except that the employee shall receive service credit determined by dividing the actual number of contracted days worked by twenty (20) and rounding any remainder to the next whole month, provided that the number of hours worked during the period averages eighty (80) or more hours.
- ~~(2) Each school board for whom the employee worked shall pay the cost of the additional months of service credited to the employee for school years reported by the school board. The cost shall be the member and employer contributions that would have been paid on the employee's average monthly salary for each school year plus interest at the actuarial rate. Payment shall be due at the retirement office within thirty (30) days of receipt of notice from the retirement system. If the school board does not make the payment within thirty (30) days, interest at the actuarial rate shall be added to the payment for each additional thirty (30) days after payment is due.~~
- ~~(3) An employee who takes a refund, in accordance with KRS 61.625, of contributions made as an employee of a school board shall not be entitled to additional months service credit under subsection (1) of this section for the period covered by the refund. If the employee repays the refund as provided by KRS 61.552(1), the employee may have his service recalculated under the provisions of subsection (1) of this section for the period covered by the refund if the member pays the cost of the additional months prior to his retirement. The cost shall be the same as for the employer. The payment shall be credited to the member's account.~~
- (4) The Kentucky Retirement Systems shall adjust the service credit for all affected members who earned service credit for the school years 1996-97 and 1997-98 by recomputing the members' service based on the rounding method provided in subsection (1) of this section.

Section 20. KRS 78.615 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) Employee contributions shall be deducted each payroll period from the creditable compensation of each employee of an agency participating in the system while he is classified as regular full-time as defined in KRS 78.510 unless the person did not elect to become a member as provided by KRS 61.545(3) or by KRS 78.540(2). After August 1, 1982, employee contributions shall be picked up by the employer pursuant to KRS 78.610(4).
- (a) For employees who are not employed by a school board, service credit shall be allowed for each month contributions are deducted or picked up during a fiscal or calendar year, if the employee receives creditable compensation for an average of one hundred (100) hours or more of work per month based on the actual hours worked in a calendar or fiscal year. If the average number of hours of work is less than one hundred (100) hours per month, the employee shall be allowed credit only for those months he receives creditable compensation for one hundred (100) hours of work.
- (b) For noncertified employees of school boards, for service prior to July 1, 2000, service credit shall be allowed for each month contributions are deducted or picked up under the employee's employment contract during a school year determined by dividing the

actual number of contracted *calendar* days worked by twenty (20) and rounded to the nearest whole month if the employee receives creditable compensation for an average of eighty (80) or more hours of work per month based on the employee's employment contract. The school board shall certify the number of *calendar* days worked, the rate of pay, and the hours in a work day for each employee monthly or annually. The employer shall file at the retirement office the final monthly report or the annual report for a fiscal year no later than twenty (20) days following the completion of the fiscal year. The retirement system shall impose a penalty on the employer of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) if the information is not submitted by the date required with an additional two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250) for each additional thirty (30) day period the information is reported late.

1. If the employee works fewer than the number of contracted *calendar* days, the employee shall receive service credit determined by dividing the actual number of contracted *calendar* days worked by twenty (20) and rounded to the nearest whole month, provided that the number of hours worked during the period averages eighty (80) or more hours.
 2. If the employee works fewer than the number of contracted *calendar* days and the average number of hours worked is less than eighty (80) per month, then the employee shall receive service credit for each calendar month in which he worked eighty (80) or more hours.
 3. The retirement system shall refund contributions and service credit for any period for which the employee is not given credit under this subsection.
- (c) For noncertified employees of school boards, for service on and after July 1, 2000, at the close of each fiscal year, the retirement system shall add service credit to the account of each *employee*~~[member]~~ who made contributions to his or her account during the year. *Employees*~~[Members]~~ shall be entitled to a full year of service credit if their total paid *calendar* days were not less than one hundred eighty (180) *calendar* days for a regular school or fiscal year. In the event *an employee*~~[a member]~~ is paid for less than one hundred eighty (180) *calendar* days, the *employee*~~[member]~~ may purchase credit according to administrative regulations promulgated by the system. In no case shall more than one (1) year of service be credited for all service performed in one (1) fiscal year. *Employees*~~[Members]~~ who complete their employment contract prior to the close of a fiscal year and elect to retire prior to the close of a fiscal year shall have their service credit reduced by eight percent (8%) for each calendar month that the retirement becomes effective prior to July 1. *Employees*~~[Members]~~ who are employed and paid for less than the number of *calendar* days required in their normal employment year shall be entitled to pro rata service credit for the fractional service. This credit shall be based upon the number of *calendar* days employed and the number of *calendar* days in the *employee's*~~[member's]~~ annual employment agreement or normal employment year. Service credit may not exceed the ratio between the school or fiscal year and the number of months or fraction of a month the *employee*~~[member]~~ is employed during that year.
- (d) Notwithstanding paragraph (c) of this subsection, a noncertified employee of a school board who retires between July 1, 2000, and August 1, 2001, may choose to have service earned between July 1, 2000, and August 1, 2001, credited as described in paragraph (b) of this subsection, *if the employee or retired member notifies the*

retirement system within one (1) year of his initial retirement. The decision once made shall be irrevocable.

- (2) Employee contributions shall not be deducted from the creditable compensation of any employee or picked up by the employer while he is seasonal, emergency, temporary, or part-time. No service credit shall be earned.
- (3) Contributions shall not be made or picked up by the employer and no service credit shall be earned by a member while on leave except:
 - (a) A member on military leave shall be entitled to service credit in accordance with KRS 61.555; and
 - (b) A member on educational leave who meets the criteria established by the state Personnel Cabinet for approved educational leave, who is receiving seventy-five percent (75%) or more of full salary, shall receive service credit and shall pay member contributions in accordance with KRS 78.610, and his employer shall pay employer contributions or the contributions shall be picked up in accordance with KRS 61.565. If a tuition agreement is broken by the member, the member and employer contributions paid or picked up during the period of educational leave shall be refunded.
- (4) The retirement office, upon detection, shall refund any erroneous employer and employee contributions made to the retirement system and any interest credited in accordance with KRS 78.640.

Section 21. KRS 78.616 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) Any agency participating in the County Employees Retirement System which has formally adopted a sick-leave program that is universally administered to its employees may purchase service credit with the retirement system for up to six (6) months of unused sick leave for each retiring employee.
- (2) Participation under this section shall be at the option of each participating employer. The election to participate shall be made by the governing authority of the participating employer and shall be certified in writing to the system on forms prescribed by the board. The certification shall provide for equal treatment of all employees participating under this section.
- (3)
 - (a) Upon the member's notification of retirement as prescribed in KRS 61.590, the employer shall certify the retiring employee's unused, accumulated sick-leave balance to the system. The member's sick-leave balance, expressed in days, shall be divided by the average number of working days per month in county service and rounded to the nearest number of whole months. A maximum of six (6) months of the member's sick-leave balance, expressed in months, shall be added to his service credit for the purpose of determining his annual retirement allowance under KRS 78.510 to 78.852 and for the purpose of determining whether the member is eligible to receive a retirement allowance under KRS 78.510 to 78.852. Accumulated sick-leave in excess of six (6) months shall be added to the member's service credit if the member or employer pays to the retirement system the value of the additional service credit based on the formula adopted by the board.
 - (b) The employer may elect to pay fifty percent (50%) of the cost of the sick leave in excess of six (6) months on behalf of its employees. The employee shall pay the

remaining fifty percent (50%). The payment by the employer shall not be deposited to the member's account. Service credit shall not be credited to the member's account until both the employer's and employee's payments are received by the retirement system.

- (c) Once the employer elects to pay all or fifty percent (50%) of the cost on behalf of its employees, it shall continue to pay the same portion of the cost.
- (4) The system shall compute the cost of the sick-leave credit of each retiring employee and bill each employer with whom the employee accrued sick leave accordingly. The employer shall remit payment within thirty (30) days from receipt of the bill.
- (5) As an alternative to subsections (1), (3), (4), and (6) of this section, any agency participating in the County Employees Retirement System which has formally adopted a sick-leave program that is universally administered to its employees, or administered to a majority of eligible employees in accordance with subsection (6) of this section, shall, at the time of termination, *or as provided in KRS 161.155 in the case of school boards*, compensate the employee for unused sick-leave days the employee has accumulated which it is the uniform policy of the agency to allow. The rate of compensation for each unused sick-leave day shall be based on the daily salary rate calculated from the employee's current rate of pay. Payment for unused sick-leave days shall be incorporated into the employee's final compensation if the employee and employer make the regular employee and employer contributions, respectively, on the sick-leave payment. The number of sick-leave days for which the employee is compensated shall be divided by the average number of working days per month in county service and rounded to the nearest number of whole months. This number of months shall be added to the employee's total service credit and to the number of months used to determine creditable compensation, pursuant to KRS 78.510, but no more than sixty (60) months shall be used to determine final compensation.
- (6) Any city of the first class that has two (2) or more sick-leave programs for its employees may purchase service credit with the retirement system for up to six (6) months of unused sick leave for each retiring employee who participates in the sick-leave program administered to a majority of the eligible employees of the city. An employee participating in a sick-leave program administered to a minority of the eligible employees shall become eligible for the purchase of service credit under this subsection when the employee commences participating in the sick-leave program that is administered to a majority of the eligible employees of the city.

Section 22. KRS 78.625 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) The agency reporting official of the county shall, by the tenth day of each month, forward to the system an amount equal to the aggregate amount of the employees' contributions deducted during the previous month in accordance with KRS 78.610 and the aggregate amount of the employer's contributions due for the previous month in accordance with KRS 61.565.
- (2) The agency reporting official or some other person designated by the county shall forward a record of all contributions to the system on the forms the board prescribes.
- (3) (a) If the agency reporting official fails to forward all contributions *by the twentieth* ~~[within twenty (20) days of the tenth]~~ day of the month following the period being reported, interest at the actuarial rate adopted by the board compounded annually

on the delinquent contributions, but not less than one hundred dollars (\$100), shall be added to the amount due the system.

- (b) Delinquent contributions, with interest at the rate adopted by the board compounded annually, or penalties may be recovered by action in the Franklin Circuit Court against the county liable or may, at the request of the board, be deducted from any other moneys payable to the county by any department or agency of the state.
- (4) If an agency is delinquent in the payment of contributions due in accordance with any of the provisions of KRS 78.510 to 78.852, refunds and retirement allowance payments to members of this agency may be suspended until the delinquent contributions have been made.

Section 23. 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;
- (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 KRS 61.621;~~and~~
- (43) Purchase of service credit effective July 1, 2001, as provided in KRS 61.5525; *and*
- (44) *Payment of small accounts upon death of member, retiree, or recipient without formal administration of the estate as provided in Section 17 of this Act.***

Section 24. KRS 61.5525 is amended 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 ~~(23)~~~~(24)~~, or KRS 61.592(3)(c).

Section 25. KRS 61.600 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) Any person may qualify to retire on disability, subject to the following conditions:

- (a) The person shall have sixty (60) months of service, twelve (12) of which shall be current service credited under KRS 16.543(1), 61.543(1), or 78.615(1);
 - (b) The person shall not be eligible for an unreduced retirement allowance;
 - (c) The person's application shall be on file in the retirement office no later than twenty-four (24) months after the person's last day of paid employment, as defined in KRS 61.510, in a regular full-time position, as defined in KRS 61.510 or 78.510;
 - (d) The person shall receive a satisfactory determination pursuant to KRS 61.665;~~and~~
 - (e) A person's disability application based on the same claim of incapacity shall be accepted and reconsidered for disability if accompanied by new objective medical evidence. The application shall be on file in the retirement office no later than twenty-four (24) months after the person's last day of paid employment in a regular full-time position; *and*
 - (f) *A person who had previously applied for and was denied disability benefits by the board on or before December 31, 1996, because of the pre-existing disease of poliomyelitis may file a new application for disability benefits no later than December 31, 2002, at the office of the retirement systems, and subsection(2)(d) of this section shall not apply to the new application if the person applying under this paragraph has at least ten (10) years of current or prior service for employment with employers participating in the retirement systems administered by the Kentucky Retirement Systems.*
- (2) Upon the examination of the objective medical evidence by licensed physicians pursuant to KRS 61.665, it shall be determined that:
- (a) The person, since his last day of paid employment, has been mentally or physically incapacitated to perform the job, or jobs of like duties, from which he received his last paid employment. In determining whether the person may return to a job of like duties, any reasonable accommodation by the employer as provided in 42 U.S.C. sec. 12111(9) and 29 C.F.R. Part 1630 shall be considered;
 - (b) The incapacity is a result of bodily injury, mental illness, or disease. For purposes of this section, "injury" means any physical harm or damage to the human organism other than disease or mental illness;
 - (c) The incapacity is deemed to be permanent; and
 - (d) The incapacity does not result directly or indirectly from bodily injury, mental illness, disease, or condition which pre-existed membership in the system or reemployment, whichever is most recent. For purposes of this subsection, reemployment shall not mean a change of employment between employers participating in the retirement systems administered by the Kentucky Retirement Systems with no loss of service credit.
- (3) Paragraph (d) of subsection (2) shall not apply if:
- (a) The incapacity is a result of bodily injury, mental illness, disease, or condition which has been substantially aggravated by an injury or accident arising out of or in the course of employment; or

- (b) The person has at least sixteen (16) years' current or prior service for employment with employers participating in the retirement systems administered by the Kentucky Retirement Systems.
- (4) (a) 1. An incapacity shall be deemed to be permanent if it is expected to result in death or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than twelve (12) months from the person's last day of paid employment in a regular full-time position.
2. The determination of a permanent incapacity shall be based on the medical evidence contained in the member's file and the member's residual functional capacity and physical exertion requirements.
- (b) The person's residual functional capacity shall be the person's capacity for work activity on a regular and continuing basis. The person's physical ability shall be assessed in light of the severity of the person's physical, mental, and other impairments. The person's ability to walk, stand, carry, push, pull, reach, handle, and other physical functions shall be considered with regard to physical impairments. The person's ability to understand, remember, and carry out instructions and respond appropriately to supervision, coworkers, and work pressures in a work setting shall be considered with regard to mental impairments. Other impairments, including skin impairments, epilepsy, visual sensory impairments, postural and manipulative limitations, and environmental restrictions, shall be considered in conjunction with the person's physical and mental impairments to determine residual functional capacity.
- (c) The person's physical exertion requirements shall be determined based on the following standards:
- 1. Sedentary work shall be work that involves lifting no more than ten (10) pounds at a time and occasionally lifting or carrying articles such as large files, ledgers, and small tools. Although a sedentary job primarily involves sitting, occasional walking and standing may also be required in the performance of duties.
 - 2. Light work shall be work that involves lifting no more than twenty (20) pounds at a time with frequent lifting or carrying of objects weighing up to ten (10) pounds. A job shall be in this category if lifting is infrequently required but walking and standing are frequently required, or if the job primarily requires sitting with pushing and pulling of arm or leg controls. If the person has the ability to perform substantially all of these activities, the person shall be deemed capable of light work. A person deemed capable of light work shall be deemed capable of sedentary work unless the person has additional limitations such as the loss of fine dexterity or inability to sit for long periods.
 - 3. Medium work shall be work that involves lifting no more than fifty (50) pounds at a time with frequent lifting or carrying of objects weighing up to twenty-five (25) pounds. If the person is deemed capable of medium work, the person shall be deemed capable of light and sedentary work.
 - 4. Heavy work shall be work that involves lifting no more than one hundred (100) pounds at a time with frequent lifting or carrying of objects weighing up to fifty (50) pounds. If the person is deemed capable of heavy work, the person shall also be deemed capable of medium, light, and sedentary work.

5. Very heavy work shall be work that involves lifting objects weighing more than one hundred (100) pounds at a time with frequent lifting or carrying of objects weighing fifty (50) or more pounds. If the person is deemed capable of very heavy work, the person shall be deemed capable of heavy, medium, light, and sedentary work.

Approved March 15, 2002