

CHAPTER 90**(HB 590)**

AN ACT relating to the Kentucky Judicial Form Retirement System.

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

SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 21 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

- (1) *The Kentucky Judicial Retirement Plan excess benefit plan established in Section 2 of this Act shall be administered by the board of trustees of the Kentucky Judicial Form Retirement System. The board shall have the same authority in its administration as it has in the administration of the Kentucky Judicial Retirement Plan.*
- (2) *The plan shall constitute a qualified governmental excess benefit plan as provided in 26 U.S.C. sec. 415(m).*
- (3) *All retired members and beneficiaries of the Kentucky Judicial Retirement Plan whose effective retirement dates are July 1, 1998, or after, and whose retirement allowances have been limited by 26 U.S.C. sec. 415 shall be participants in the plan. Each member's participation in the plan shall be determined each fiscal year and shall cease for any year in which the retirement allowance is not limited by 26 U.S.C. sec. 415.*
- (4) *A participant shall receive a benefit equal to the difference between the retirement allowance otherwise payable from the plan prior to any reduction or limitation required by 26 U.S.C. sec. 415 and the actual retirement allowance payable as limited by 26 U.S.C. sec. 415. The benefit shall be subject to withholding for applicable state and federal taxes. The benefit shall be paid in accordance with the retirement payment option selected by the member for the retirement allowance.*
- (5)
 - (a) *The board, in accordance with the recommendation of the actuary, shall determine the required contribution to pay benefits each fiscal year. The required contribution for each fiscal year shall be the total amount of benefits payable under this section to all participants plus the amount required to pay any employment taxes on the benefits paid from the plan.*
 - (b) *The required contribution shall be paid from state appropriations.*
 - (c) *The required contribution shall be deposited into the separate fund. The plan is intended to be exempt from federal income tax under 26 U.S.C. sec. 115 and 26 U.S.C. sec. 415 (m)(1).*
 - (d) *The benefit liability shall be determined on a fiscal year basis, and contributions shall not be accumulated to pay benefits in future fiscal years. Any assets not used to pay benefits in the current fiscal year shall be paid to the Retirement Plan.*
- (6) *The benefits payable from the plan shall be treated in accordance with KRS 21.470.*

SECTION 2. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 21 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

- (1) *There is created and established:*
 - (a) *An excess benefit plan to be known as the Kentucky Judicial Retirement Plan excess benefit plan. The plan is created for the purpose of providing retirement*

allowances payable from the retirement plan under KRS 21.345 to 21.580 that would otherwise be limited by 26 U.S.C. sec. 415; and

(b) A state fund to be known as the Kentucky Judicial Retirement Plan excess benefit fund which shall consist of all the assets of the plan.

(2) *The administration and assets of the plan created under this section shall be as set forth in Section 1 of this Act.*

Section 3. KRS 21.370 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of KRS 21.410 and in subsection (2) of KRS 21.420, no benefits shall be payable under KRS 21.350 to 21.480 to any member or to his surviving spouse, unless he has completed at least eight (8) years of service, including service before becoming a member. No surviving spouse of a retired member shall be entitled to any benefits unless the person was the spouse of the member at the time he retired.
- (2) A member who has qualified for benefits under this section may transfer to the Judicial Retirement Plan up to ten (10) years of service credit which he has earned in a retirement system administered by Kentucky Retirement Systems, and he may transfer to the Judicial Retirement Plan up to ten (10) years of service credit which he has earned in the Kentucky Legislators' Retirement Plan. If the member elects to transfer his service credit, the system or plan from which the transfer is made shall transfer to the judicial retirement fund an amount equal to the employee's and employer's contributions attributable to that credit, together with interest on the contributions from the date made to the date of transfer at the actuarially assumed interest rate of the system or plan from which the transfer is made in effect at the time the contributions were made, compounded annually at that same interest rate. The member shall be entitled to the transferred service credit, at the rate at which he qualifies under KRS 21.400, when he pays the total difference between the amount of the funds transferred and the cost of the credit to the Judicial Retirement Plan, as determined by the actuary for the Judicial Retirement Plan. The member may pay by transfer, if authorized under subsection (5)(d) of this section, or by lump sum or increments as set forth in subsection (4)(b) of this section. The payments made under this section shall be considered accumulated contributions of the member and shall not be picked up by the employer under KRS 21.360(6).
- (3) Any active member of the Judicial Retirement Plan who is vested in the Judicial Retirement Plan under subsection (1) of this section or KRS 21.375, shall receive service credit for a maximum of four (4) years for his period of service as a city police judge for a city within the Commonwealth of Kentucky, if the service was performed prior to the first Monday in January, 1978, and if the service has not been credited to the member's account with any other public defined benefit plan, by paying the retirement system one hundred percent (100%) of the actuarial cost of the service as determined by the board of trustees, based on assumptions used in the most recent biennial evaluation. The period of service to be purchased shall be certified to the board of trustees by the custodian of the records of the city for which the service was performed. The service credit shall be awarded and the cost shall be determined in conformity with the rate which applies to the member in question under KRS 21.400. Service credit awarded under this subsection shall be equivalent, for all purposes of the Judicial Retirement Plan, to other service credit earned in the plan. The payments made under this section shall be considered accumulated contributions of the member and shall not be picked up by the employer under KRS 21.360(6).

- (4) (a) 1. Any active member of the Judicial Retirement Plan who is vested in the Judicial Retirement Plan under subsection (1) of this section or KRS 21.375, or his beneficiary acting in his place if the member dies prior to retirement, shall receive service credit for a maximum of four (4) years for his period of service in the Armed Forces of the United States, if his discharge therefrom is honorable and he has not been credited with the service by any other retirement system administered by the Commonwealth of Kentucky, by paying the retirement system thirty-five percent (35%) of the actuarial cost of the service as determined by the board of trustees, based on assumptions used in the most recent biennial evaluation. The service credit shall be awarded and the cost shall be determined in conformity with the rate which applies to the member in question under KRS 21.400. Service credit awarded under this subsection shall be equivalent, for all purposes of the Judicial Retirement Plan, to other service credit earned in the plan.
2. Any active member of the Judicial Retirement Plan who is vested in the Judicial Retirement Plan may purchase and receive service credit for one (1) month of service for each six (6) months of service in the reserves or the National Guard by paying the retirement system one hundred percent (100%) of the actuarial cost of the service as determined by the board of trustees, based on assumptions used in the most recent biennial evaluation. The service credit shall be awarded and the cost shall be determined in conformity with the rate that applies to the member in question as provided in KRS 21.400. Service credit awarded under this subsection shall be equivalent, for all purposes of the Judicial Retirement Plan, to other service credit earned in the plan. The service in the military reserves or the National Guard shall be treated as service earned prior to participation in the plan. The purchase can be made by the member in a transfer, if authorized under subsection (5)(d) of this section, or by a lump-sum payment or installment payments. The payment shall not be picked up by the employer as provided in KRS 21.360(6).
- (b) ~~The beneficiary may purchase military service credit only at one (1) time by lump-sum payment for the amount of service he wishes to purchase, and the payment shall be made within thirty (30) days of the death of the active member.~~ The member may purchase all of his military service credit at one (1) time, or in increments of no less than one (1) year, unless there is a fraction remaining after all full years have been paid for. Payment of the total or the increment may be made by lump sum or by monthly installments through payroll deduction. If the member chooses to pay by installment, the cost of the service credit shall be computed in the same manner as for a lump-sum payment, which shall be the principal. Interest, at the annual actuarial rate in effect at the time each payment is made, shall be added to each monthly payment at the rate of one-twelfth (1/12) of the annual interest rate applied to the declining principal amount. Installment purchases shall be for no less than twelve (12) nor more than sixty (60) months. If the member leaves office before completing his installment payments, he may satisfy his contract by a lump-sum payment of the remaining principal amount, but no further installment payments shall be accepted thereafter. In this case, the member shall be credited with the military service credit for which he has paid, in years or months but no fraction less than a full month, and any payment remaining after credit for full months has been awarded shall be returned to the member.

- (c) The payments made under this section shall be considered accumulated contributions of the member and shall not be picked up by the employer under KRS 21.360(6).
- ~~[(d) No veteran shall be eligible to purchase military service credit under this section if he is receiving a military pension or is eligible for a military pension in the future, unless the military pension is for service primarily on inactive duty in a reserve component of the Armed Forces, or is a disability pension which does not exceed five hundred dollars (\$500) monthly.]~~
- (5) (a) ~~[Any provision of law to the contrary notwithstanding, paragraphs (a), (b), (c), and (d) of this subsection shall apply only to applicable officials who are in office on June 21, 2001, and who are in active contributing status to the applicable retirement plan on June 21, 2001.~~
- ~~(a)~~ Any active member of the Judicial Retirement Plan who is vested in the Judicial Retirement Plan under subsection (1) of this section or KRS 21.375, shall receive service credit for a maximum of four (4) years each for his period of service as a Domestic Relations Commissioner, a Master Commissioner, or a District Court Trial Commissioner of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, or a combination thereof, if the service has not been credited to the member's account with any other public defined benefit plan, by paying the retirement system one hundred percent (100%) of the actuarial cost of the service as determined by the board of trustees, based on assumptions used in the most recent biennial evaluation. The period of service to be purchased shall be certified to the board of trustees by the custodian of the records. The service credit shall be awarded and the cost shall be determined in conformity with the rate that applies to the member in question under KRS 21.400. Service credit awarded under this subsection shall be equivalent, for all purposes of the Judicial Retirement Plan, to other service credit earned in the plan. The member may pay by transfer as set forth in paragraph (d) of this subsection, or by lump sum or increments as set forth in subsection (4)(b) of this section. The payments made under this section shall be considered accumulated contributions of the member and shall not be picked up by the employer under KRS 21.360(6).
- (b) Any active member of the Judicial Retirement Plan who is vested in the Judicial Retirement Plan under subsection (1) of this section or KRS 21.375, shall receive service credit for his period of service to the United States Government, other than service in the Armed Forces, if the service has not been credited to the member's account with any other public defined benefit plan, by paying the retirement system one hundred percent (100%) of the actuarial cost of the service as determined by the board of trustees, based on assumptions used in the most recent biennial evaluation. The period of service to be purchased shall be certified to the board of trustees by the custodian of the records. The service credit shall be awarded and the cost shall be determined in conformity with the rate that applies to the member in question under KRS 21.400. Service credit awarded under this subsection shall be equivalent, for all purposes of the Judicial Retirement Plan, to other service credit earned in the plan. The member may pay by transfer as set forth in paragraph (d) of this subsection, or by lump sum or increments as set forth in subsection (4)(b) of this section. The payments made under this section shall be considered accumulated contributions of the member and shall not be picked up by the employer under KRS 21.360(6).

- (c) Any member of the Judicial Retirement Plan, who has at least two hundred forty (240) months of service credit may purchase a combined maximum total of five (5) years retirement service credit that is not otherwise purchasable, by paying the retirement system one hundred percent (100%) of the actuarial cost of the service as determined by the board of trustees, based on assumptions used in the most recent biennial evaluation. The service credit shall be awarded and the cost shall be determined in conformity with the rate that applies to the member in question under KRS 21.400. Service credit awarded under this subsection shall be equivalent, for all purposes of the Judicial Retirement Plan, to other service credit earned in the plan. The member may pay by transfer as set forth in paragraph (d) of this subsection, or by lump sum or increments as set forth in subsection (4)(b) of this section. The payments made under this section shall be considered accumulated contributions of the member and shall not be picked up by the employer under KRS 21.360(6).
- (d) A member of the Judicial Retirement Plan may purchase service credit under the provisions of this section by transferring funds *through a direct trustee-to-trustee transfer 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 ~~the rules in~~ 26 U.S.C. sec. 401(a)(31) ~~directly from a retirement plan or a deferred compensation arrangement maintained by his employer that is a qualified plan under 26 U.S.C. sec. 401(a)~~. Service credit may also be purchased by a rollover of funds *pursuant to and permitted* ~~from a qualified retirement plan~~ under the rules specified in 26 U.S.C. sec. 402(c) *and 26 U.S.C. sec. 408(d)(3)*. The Judicial Retirement Fund 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(e) and 401(a)(31)~~. The amount shall be credited to the individual member's contribution account and shall be considered accumulated contributions of the member and shall not be picked up by the employer under KRS 21.360(6).

Section 4. KRS 6.515 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) Service credit in the Legislators' Retirement Plan shall be acquired only by service as a legislator after July 1, 1980, while a member of the plan, by transfer of credit as provided in KRS 6.505, or by purchase or transfer of credit as provided in this section.
- (2) (a) 1. Any active member of the Legislators' Retirement Plan who has at least five (5) years of service credit in the Legislators' Retirement Plan, or his beneficiary acting in his place if the member dies prior to retirement, shall receive service credit for a maximum of four (4) years for his period of service in the Armed Forces of the United States, if his discharge therefrom is honorable and he has not been credited with the service by any other retirement system administered by the Commonwealth of Kentucky, by paying the retirement system thirty-five percent (35%) of the actuarial cost of the service as determined by the board of trustees, based on assumptions used in the most recent biennial evaluation. The service credit shall be awarded and the cost shall be determined in conformity with the rate which applies to the legislator in question under KRS 6.520. Service credit awarded under this subsection shall be equivalent, for all purposes of the Legislators' Retirement Plan, to other service credit earned in the plan.

2. Any active member of the Legislators' Retirement Plan who has at least five (5) years of service credit in the Legislators' Retirement Plan may purchase and receive service credit for one (1) month of service for each six (6) months of service in the reserves or the National Guard by paying the retirement system one hundred percent (100%) of the actuarial cost of the service as determined by the board of trustees, based on the assumptions used in the most recent biennial evaluation. The service credit shall be awarded and the cost shall be determined in conformity with the rate that applies to the legislator in question under KRS 6.520. Service credit awarded as provided in this subsection shall be equivalent, for all purposes of the Legislators' Retirement Plan, to other service credit earned in the plan. The service in the military reserves or the National Guard shall be treated as service earned prior to participation in the plan. The purchase can be made by the member by transfer, if authorized under subsection (7)(d) of this section, or in a lump-sum payment or by installment payments, as set forth in paragraph (b) of this subsection. The payment shall not be picked up by the employer as provided in KRS 6.505(2).
 - (b) ~~[(The beneficiary may purchase military service credit only at one (1) time by lump-sum payment for the amount of service he wishes to purchase, and the payment shall be made within thirty (30) days of the death of the active member.)]~~ The member may purchase all of his military service credit at one (1) time, or in increments of no less than one (1) year, unless there is a fraction remaining after all full years have been paid for. Payment of the total or the increment may be made by lump-sum or by monthly installments through payroll deduction. If the member chooses to pay by installment, the cost of the service credit shall be computed in the same manner as for a lump-sum payment, which shall be the principal. Interest, at the annual actuarial rate in effect at the time each payment is made, shall be added to each monthly payment at the rate of one-twelfth (1/12) of the annual interest rate applied to the declining principal amount. Installment purchases shall be for no less than twelve (12) nor more than sixty (60) months. If the member leaves office before completing his installment payments, he may satisfy his contract by a lump-sum payment of the remaining principal amount, but no further installment payments shall be accepted thereafter. In this case, the member shall be credited with the military service credit for which he has paid, in years or months but no fraction less than a full month, and any payment remaining after credit for full months has been awarded shall be returned to the member.
 - (c) The payments made under this section shall be considered accumulated contributions of the member and shall not be picked up by the employer under KRS 6.505(2).
 - ~~[(d) No veteran shall be eligible to purchase military service credit under this section if he is receiving a military pension or is eligible for a military pension in the future, unless the military pension is for service primarily on inactive duty in a reserve component of the Armed Forces, or is a disability pension which does not exceed five hundred dollars (\$500) monthly.]~~
- (3) If spouses both serve in the General Assembly, but not simultaneously, they may combine their service credit in the Legislators' Retirement Plan for all purposes of that plan into a single account, and may jointly designate to whom the service retirement allowance shall be paid. The designation shall not be changed once it is made. Assuming equal service credit, the benefits paid, under this section, to a legislator and his or her spouse who also served as

a legislator shall not exceed the benefits that the same legislator and his or her spouse would receive if the spouse had not served as a legislator.

- (4) In the event of divorce, rights to benefits shall be considered marital property subject to the provisions of KRS 403.190.
 - (5) A former legislator whose spouse currently serves in the General Assembly and who received a refund of contributions under KRS 21.460 may repurchase service credit which he or she previously had by repaying the amount refunded with interest at six percent (6%) per annum, and the service credit shall become part of the single account authorized by subsection (3) of this section.
 - (6) A member who has qualified for benefits under KRS 6.525(1) may transfer to the Legislators' Retirement Plan up to ten (10) years of service credit which he has earned in a retirement system administered by Kentucky Retirement Systems. If the member elects to transfer his service credit, the system from which the transfer is made shall transfer to the legislators' retirement fund an amount equal to the employee's and employer's contributions attributable to that credit, together with interest on the contributions from the date made to date of transfer at the actuarially assumed interest rate of the system from which the transfer is made in effect at the time the contributions were made, compounded annually at that same interest rate. The member shall be entitled to the transferred service credit, at the rate at which he qualifies under KRS 6.520, when he pays the total difference between the amount of the funds transferred and the cost of the credit to the Legislators' Retirement Plan, as determined by the actuary for the Legislators' Retirement Plan. The member may pay by transfer, if authorized under subsection (7)(d) of this section, by lump sum, or by increments, as provided for in this section. The payments made under this section shall be considered accumulated contributions of the member and shall not be picked up by the employer under KRS 6.505(2).
 - (7) (a) ~~[Any provision of law to the contrary notwithstanding, paragraphs (a), (b), (c), and (d) of this subsection shall apply only to applicable officials who are in office on June 21, 2001, and who are in active contributing status to the applicable retirement plan on June 21, 2001.~~
- ~~(a)~~—]Any active member of the Legislators Retirement Plan who is vested in the Legislators Retirement Plan under KRS 6.525, shall receive service credit for a maximum of four (4) years each for his period of service as a Domestic Relations Commissioner, a Master Commissioner, or a District Court Trial Commissioner of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, or a combination thereof, if the service has not been credited to the member's account with any other public defined benefit plan, by paying the retirement system one hundred percent (100%) of the actuarial cost of the service as determined by the board of trustees, based on assumptions used in the most recent biennial evaluation. The period of service to be purchased shall be certified to the board of trustees by the custodian of the records. The service credit shall be awarded and the cost shall be determined in conformity with the rate that applies to the member in question under KRS 6.520. Service credit awarded under this subsection shall be equivalent, for all purposes of the Legislators Retirement Plan, to other service credit earned in the plan. The member may pay by transfer, by lump sum, or by increments as set forth in this section. The payments made under this section shall be considered accumulated contributions of the member and shall not be picked up by the employer under KRS 6.505(2).

- (b) Any active member of the Legislators Retirement Plan who is vested in the Legislators Retirement Plan under KRS 6.525, shall receive service credit for his period of service to the United States Government, other than service in the Armed Forces, if the service has not been credited to the member's account with any other public defined benefit plan, by paying the retirement system one hundred percent (100%) of the actuarial cost of the service as determined by the board of trustees, based on assumptions used in the most recent biennial evaluation. The period of service to be purchased shall be certified to the board of trustees by the custodian of the records. The service credit shall be awarded and the cost shall be determined in conformity with the rate that applies to the member in question under KRS 6.520. Service credit awarded under this subsection shall be equivalent, for all purposes of the Legislators Retirement Plan, to other service credit earned in the plan. The member may pay by transfer, by lump sum, or by increments as set forth in this section. The payments made under this section shall be considered accumulated contributions of the member and shall not be picked up by the employer under KRS 6.505(2).
- (c) Any member of the Legislators Retirement Plan, who has at least two hundred forty (240) months of service credit may purchase a combined maximum total of five (5) years of retirement service credit that is not otherwise purchasable, by paying the retirement system one hundred percent (100%) of the actuarial cost of the service as determined by the board of trustees, based on assumptions used in the most recent biennial evaluation. The member shall be entitled to the service credit at the rate at which he qualifies under KRS 6.520. Service credit awarded under this subsection shall be equivalent, for all purposes of the Legislators Retirement Plan, to other service credit earned in the plan. The member may pay by transfer, by lump sum, or by increments as set forth in this section. The payments made under this section shall be considered accumulated contributions of the member and shall not be picked up by the employer under KRS 6.505(2).
- (d) A member of the Legislators Retirement Plan may purchase service credit under the provisions of this section 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* ~~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 that is a qualified plan under 26 U.S.C. sec. 401(a)~~. Service credit may also be purchased by a rollover of funds *pursuant to and permitted* ~~from a qualified retirement plan~~ under the rules specified in 26 U.S.C. sec. 402(c) *and 26 U.S.C. sec. 408(d)(3)*. The Legislators Retirement Fund 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(e) and 401(a)(31)~~. The amount shall be credited to the individual member's contribution account and shall be considered accumulated contributions of the member and shall not be picked up by the employer under KRS 6.505(2).

Section 5. KRS 6.525 is amended to read as follows:

The Legislators' Retirement Plan shall be governed by KRS 21.560 and by provisions identical in terms with those provided in KRS 21.345(1) and (3), 21.360(1), 21.370 ~~to~~ ~~21.375, 21.380,~~

~~21.385,~~ 21.410, 21.420, 21.425, 21.450, 21.460, 21.470, 21.480, 21.525, and 61.552 for the Judicial Retirement Plan, except that:

- (1) Five (5) years of service as a legislator will be sufficient for vesting; and
- (2) A member of the Legislators' Retirement Plan may combine his service credit with his service credit in the Teachers' Retirement System, Kentucky Employees Retirement System, County Employees Retirement System, and State Police Retirement System at the time of his retirement, according to the procedure of KRS 61.680(2)(a). A member of the Legislators' Retirement Plan may retire at the completion of thirty (30) or more years of combined service credit, so long as at least fifteen (15) years of such credit were earned after January 1, 1960, and there shall be no reduction in the retirement allowance because of retirement before the age of sixty-five (65). For the purposes of this section, any reference in the KRS sections listed above to the Judicial Retirement Plan shall also be read as a reference to the Legislators' Retirement Plan, and any reference to the Legislators' Retirement Plan shall also be read as a reference to the Judicial Retirement Plan.
- (3) Any other statute to the contrary notwithstanding, a member of any state-administered retirement system who has ceased to qualify for membership but subsequently returns to a qualified status, shall, for the purposes of determining the date of entry into the state-administered retirement system for the subsequent period or periods of service, be deemed to have never left the retirement system.

Approved March 28, 2002