

CHAPTER 210**(HB 427)**

AN ACT relating to retirement.

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

Section 1. 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 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 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 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 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 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) 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 may obtain credit for prior or current service for any period of approved maternity leave, 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) 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 number of installments shall not be less than twelve (12) and shall not exceed 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 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 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 member or beneficiary does not pay the remaining cost, 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, 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.

- (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.
 - (h) 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 pursuant to 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 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 the rules specified in 26 U.S.C. sec. 402(c). The Kentucky Retirement Systems shall accept the transfer or rollover to the extent permitted under the rules specified in 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.
- (17) After August 1, 1998, any employee participating in one (1) of the state-administered retirement systems who is age sixty-five (65) or older and has forty-eight (48) months' service credit in the Kentucky Employees Retirement System or the County Employees Retirement System or, if younger, who has sixty (60) months' service credit in 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 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 (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.
- (18) After August 1, 1998, any employee participating in one (1) of the state-administered 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 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 (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.

- (19) Any employee participating in one (1) of the state-administered 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) 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.
- (20) An employee participating in any state-administered retirement system 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), 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 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.
- (21) An employee participating in any state-administered retirement system 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), 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 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.

- (24) (a) Any 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 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.
- (25) Any employee participating in one (1) of the state-administered 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.
- (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 **one hundred and eighty (180)**~~[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. ***The service purchased under this subsection shall not be used in determining a retirement allowance until the member has accrued at least two hundred and forty (240) months of service, excluding service purchased under this subsection. If the member does not accrue at least two hundred and forty (240) months of service, excluding service purchased under this subsection, upon***

retirement, death or written request following termination, the payment plus interest as provided in KRS 61.575 shall be refunded.

- (27) An employee participating in one (1) of the state-administered 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), 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 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.

Approved April 5, 2002