

CHAPTER 270**(HB 801)**

AN ACT relating to retirement and declaring an emergency.

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

Section 1. KRS 78.530 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) (a) Each county and school board, as defined in KRS 78.510, will participate in the system by appropriate order authorizing such participation which has been entered and duly recorded in the records of the governing body of the county or school board. In cases where general purpose county government does not participate, but the sheriff and his employees or the county clerk and his employees do, the sheriff or the clerk shall retain the order in his office. The authority to issue and properly record such order of participation being hereby granted, permits such county to participate in the system. The effective date of such participation shall be fixed in the order.
- (b) ***Notwithstanding any statute to the contrary, after the effective date of this Act, the systems shall deny the request for participation of any agency which does not have an irrevocable contract with the state Personnel Cabinet for health insurance coverage under KRS 18A.225 for its active employees, except that county governments entering the system between the effective date of this Act and July 1, 2003, under this section shall be excluded from this requirement.***
- (2) Once a county or school board participates, it shall thereafter continue to participate, except as provided in KRS 78.535.
- (3) (a) Concurrent with the adoption of the appropriate resolution to participate in the system, a county may elect the alternate participation plan which will require the county to purchase on behalf of each employee electing coverage, at the time the county elected to participate in the system as provided under KRS 78.540(2), current service credit for employment in regular full-time positions between July 1, 1958, and the participation date of the county. Cities which participate in the system pursuant to subsection (7) of this section, KRS 79.080, 90.400, 90.410, 95.520, 95.621, 95.761, 95.768, 95.852, or 96.180 shall be required to purchase on behalf of each employee electing coverage only as much service credit as the employee has accumulated in the city-administered plan, up to the participation date of the city. Accumulated service shall include service for which an employee received a refund pursuant to KRS 95.620 or 95.866, if such refund has been repaid. If the employee has not yet repaid the refund, he may make payment to the system by any method acceptable to the system, and the requirement of five (5) years of continuous reemployment prior to repayment of refunds shall not apply. Upon the employee's repayment, the city shall purchase the associated service credit for the employee. Cost of such service credit over and above that which would be funded within the existing employer contribution rate shall be determined by the board's consulting actuary. The expense of such actuarial service shall be paid by the county;
- (b) The county shall establish a payment schedule subject to approval by the board for payment of the cost of such service over and above that which would be funded within the existing employer contribution rate. The maximum period allowed in a payment schedule shall be thirty (30) years, with interest at the rate actuarially assumed by the

board. A shorter period is desirable and the board may approve any payment schedule provided it is not longer than a thirty (30) year period, except that cities which participate in the system pursuant to subsection (7) of this section, KRS 79.080, 90.400, 90.410, 95.520, 95.621, 95.761, 95.768, 95.852, or 96.180 may, at their option, extend the payment schedule to a maximum of thirty (30) years, may choose to make level payments at the interest rate actuarially assumed by the board over the life of the payment schedule chosen, and may retain employer contributions and the earnings thereon attributable to employees electing coverage;

- (c) A city entering the system under the alternate participation plan, may, by ordinance, levy a special property tax to pay for current service credit purchased for the period between July 1, 1958, and the participation date of the city. The special tax shall be to pay, within a period of no more than fifteen (15) years, for the cost of such service credit over that which would be funded within the existing employer contribution rate, as determined by the board's consulting actuary. The reason for levying the special tax and the disposition of the proceeds shall be part of the ordinance levying the tax. The special tax shall be rescinded when the unfunded prior service liability has been amortized, and shall not be subject to the provisions of KRS 132.017 or 132.027. In addition, the city may maintain any tax, the proceeds of which had been devoted to funding pension obligations under the locally administered plan prior to participation in the system, for the purpose of funding current service costs incurred after the date of participation. The city may increase the tax to pay current service costs which exceed the local pension system costs to which the tax had been devoted, but the city shall not collect from the tax more revenues than are necessary to pay current service costs incurred after the date of participation. The city may continue the tax so long as it participates in the system, and the tax shall not be subject to the provisions of KRS 132.017 or 132.027. The city shall not collect either tax authorized by this paragraph if its participation has been terminated pursuant to KRS 78.535;
- (d) The county may at a later date purchase current service credit from July 1, 1958, to the participation date of the county by alternate participation plan for those employees who rejected membership in the system at the time the county first participated. In addition, the employer shall pay the employer contributions on the creditable compensation of the employees who later elect membership from the participation date of the county to the date the member elects participation. The employee shall pay the employee contributions on his creditable compensation from the participation date of the county to the date he elects membership plus interest at the current actuarial rate compounded annually on the employee and employer contributions. Cost of the service credit over and above that which would be funded within the existing employer contribution rate shall be determined by the board's consulting actuary. The expense of the actuarial service shall be paid by the county. The county shall pay the cost of the service by lump sum or by adding it to the existing payment schedule established under paragraph (b) of this subsection;
- (e) A county which did not participate by alternate participation may, until July 1, 1991, purchase current service credit for those employees who rejected membership in the system at the time the county first participated. The employer shall pay the employer contributions on the creditable compensation of the employees who later elect membership from the participation date of the county to the date the member elects participation. The employee shall pay the employee contributions on his creditable

compensation from the participation date of the county to the date he elects membership plus interest at the current actuarial rate compounded annually on the employee and employer contributions. The county shall pay the cost of the service credit by lump sum or by establishing a payment schedule under paragraph (b) of this subsection; and

- (f) A county which participated in the system but did not elect the alternate participation plan may at a later date elect the alternate participation plan. In this case, the county shall purchase on behalf of each employee participating in the system current service credit for employment in regular full-time positions between July 1, 1958, or a later date selected by the county government, and the participation date of the county. The county shall also purchase, for employees who decide to participate when the county elects the alternate participation plan, current service credit for employment in regular full-time positions between July 1, 1958, or the later date selected by the county government, and the participation date of the county. In addition, the county shall pay the employer contributions on the creditable compensation of the employees who later elect membership from the participation date of the county to the date the member elects participation. The employee shall pay the employee contributions on his creditable compensation from the participation date of the county to the date he elects membership plus interest at the current actuarial rate compounded annually on the employee and employer contributions. Cost of the service credit over that which would be funded within the existing employer contribution rate shall be determined by the board's consulting actuary. The expense of the actuarial service shall be paid by the county. The county shall pay the cost of the service by lump sum or by a payment schedule established under paragraph (b) of this subsection.
- (4) Every school board not participating on June 21, 1974, shall enact a resolution of participation no later than July 1, 1976.
- (5) The order of the governing body of a county, as provided for in subsection (1) of this section, may exclude from participation in the system hospitals and any other semiindependent agency. Each such excluded agency shall be identified in the order authorizing participation and such excluded agency may participate in the system as a separate agency.
- (6) An agency whose participation in the County Employees Retirement System has been terminated by the board of trustees in accordance with KRS 78.535 may at a later date request participation in the retirement system by the adoption of an appropriate order as authorized by subsection (1) of this section. The board may accept the participation of such agency provided it is determined that such participation is in the best interest of the agency, the employees thereof and the County Employees Retirement System.
- (7) (a) After August 1, 1988, except as permitted by KRS 65.156, no local government retirement system shall be created pursuant to KRS 70.580 to 70.598 and any local government retirement systems created pursuant to KRS 79.080, 90.400, 90.410, 95.768, and KRS Chapter 96 shall be closed to new members. New employees who would have been granted membership in such retirement systems shall instead be granted membership in the County Employees Retirement System. Employees who would have been granted membership in retirement systems created pursuant to KRS 95.768, or any other policemen or firefighters who would have been granted membership in retirement systems created pursuant to KRS 79.080, 90.400, or 90.410,

or any such policemen or firefighter members employed on or prior to August 1, 1988, who transfer to the County Employees Retirement System, shall be certified by their employers as working in hazardous positions. Each city participating in the County Employees Retirement System pursuant to this subsection shall execute the appropriate order authorizing such participation, shall select the alternate participation plan as described in subsection (3) of this section, and shall pay for the actuarial services necessary to determine the additional costs of alternate participation. Cities which closed their local pension systems to new members and participated in the system prior to July 15, 1988, whose employees at the time of transition were given the option to join the system shall not be required to offer said employees a second option to join the system.

(b) Notwithstanding any statute to the contrary, after the effective date of this Act, the systems shall deny the request for participation of any agency which does not have an irrevocable contract with the state Personnel Cabinet for health insurance coverage under KRS 18A.225 for its active employees.

- (8) Any city which closed a police and firefighter pension plan to new members between January 1, 1988, and July 15, 1988, and participated in the system under the alternate participation plan shall, if its police and firefighters were not covered by Social Security, or any city which operates a pension under KRS 90.400 or 90.410, shall be required to certify that its police and firefighters are working in hazardous positions, and shall offer its police and firefighters in service at the time of entry a second option to participate under hazardous duty coverage if they were not offered hazardous duty coverage at the time of their first option. The provisions of subsection (3)(b) of this section notwithstanding, a city affected by this subsection may, at its option, extend its payment schedule to the County Employees Retirement System for alternate participation to thirty (30) years at the rate actuarially assumed by the board.

Section 2. KRS 78.540 is amended to read as follows:

Membership in the system shall consist of the following:

- (1) All persons who become employees of a participating county after the date the county first participates in the system, except a person who did not elect membership pursuant to KRS 61.545(3), and except that mayors and members of city legislative bodies may decline prior to their participation in the system and city managers or other appointed local government executives who participate in a retirement system, other than Social Security, which operates in more than one (1) state, may decline prior to their participation in the system;
- (2) (a) All persons who are employees of a county on the date the county first participates in the system, either in service or on authorized leave from service, and who elect within thirty (30) days next following the county's participation, or in the case of persons on authorized leave, within thirty (30) days of their return to active service, to become members and thereby agree to make contributions as provided in KRS 78.520 to 78.852;
- (b) All persons who are employees of a county who did not elect to participate within thirty (30) days of the date the county first participated in the system or within thirty (30) days of their return to active service and who subsequently elect to participate the first day of a month after the county's date of participation;~~and~~

- (3) All persons *who declined participation in subsection (1) of this section and who later elect to participate. Persons who elect to participate under this subsection may purchase service credit for any prior years by paying a delayed contribution payment. The service shall not be included in the member's total service for purposes of determining benefits under KRS. 61.702; and*
- (4) *All persons* electing coverage in the system under KRS 78.530(3)(d).
- ~~(5)~~~~(4)~~ The provisions of subsections (1) and (2) of this section notwithstanding, cities which participate in the CERS and close existing local pension systems to new, or all members pursuant to the provisions of KRS 78.530, 95.520, 95.621, or 95.852 shall not be required to provide membership in the County Employees Retirement System to employees in any employee category not covered by a city pension system at the date of participation.
- ~~(6)~~~~(5)~~ Membership in the system shall not include those employees who are simultaneously participating in another state-administered defined benefit plan within Kentucky other than those administered by the Kentucky Retirement Systems, except for employees who have ceased to contribute to one (1) of the state-administered retirement plans as provided in KRS 21.360.

Section 3. 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 *prior to the effective date of this Act* ~~on or after August 1, 1998~~, who has *accrued* 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 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.
- (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.
- (28) *The Board of Trustees is authorized to establish a program, subject to a favorable ruling from the Internal Revenue Service, to provide for the purchase of service credit under any of the provisions of KRS 16.510 to 16.652 and KRS 61.515 to 61.705 and KRS 78.520 to 78.852 pursuant to the employer pick up provisions in 26 U.S.C. sec. 414(h)(2).*

Section 4. Whereas the cost of health insurance for state and local employees within the state group is expected to rise at least eleven percent (11%) annually and the cost is dramatically affected by agencies whose retirees are in the state group but whose active employees are not, an emergency is declared to exist, and Sections 1 and 2 of this Act shall take effect upon this Act's passage and approval by the Governor or upon its otherwise becoming a law.

Approved April 9, 2002