

CHAPTER 77

(HB 416)

AN ACT relating to retirement.

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

➔Section 1. KRS 16.505 is amended to read as follows:

As used in KRS 16.505 to 16.652, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (1) "System" means the State Police Retirement System created by KRS 16.505 to 16.652;
- (2) "Board" means the board of trustees of the Kentucky Retirement Systems;
- (3) "Employer" or "State Police" means the Department of Kentucky State Police, or its successor;
- (4) "Current service" means the number of years and completed months of employment as an employee subsequent to July 1, 1958, for which creditable compensation was paid by the employer and employee contributions deducted except as otherwise provided;
- (5) "Prior service" means the number of years and completed months of employment as an employee prior to July 1, 1958, for which creditable compensation was paid to the employee by the Commonwealth. Twelve (12) months of current service in the system are required to validate prior service;
- (6) "Service" means the total of current service and prior service;
- (7) "Accumulated contributions" at any time means the sum of all amounts deducted from the compensation of a member and credited to his individual account in the member's contribution account, including employee contributions picked up after August 1, 1982, pursuant to KRS 16.545(4), together with interest credited on such amounts as provided in KRS 16.505 to 16.652, and any other amounts the member shall have contributed, including interest credited. *For members who begin participating on or after September 1, 2008, "accumulated contributions" shall not include employee contributions that are deposited into accounts established pursuant to 26 U.S.C. sec. 401(h) within the funds established in KRS 16.510, 61.515, and 78.520, as prescribed by subsection (2)(b) of Section 22 of this Act;*
- (8) "Creditable compensation" means all salary and wages, including payments for compensatory time, paid to the employee as a result of services performed for the employer or for time during which the member is on paid leave, which are includable on the member's federal form W-2 wage and tax statement under the heading "wages, tips, other compensation," including employee contributions picked up after August 1, 1982, pursuant to KRS 16.545(4). A lump-sum bonus, severance pay, or employer-provided payment for purchase of service credit shall be included as creditable compensation but shall be averaged over the employee's total service with the system in which it is recorded if it is equal to or greater than one thousand dollars (\$1,000). Living allowances, expense reimbursements, lump-sum payments for accrued vacation leave, and other items determined by the board shall be excluded. Creditable compensation shall also include amounts which are not includable in the member's gross income by virtue of the member having taken a voluntary salary reduction provided for under applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code. Creditable compensation shall also include elective amounts for qualified transportation fringes paid or made available on or after January 1, 2001, for calendar years on or after January 1, 2001, that are not includable in the gross income of the employee by reason of 26 U.S.C. sec. 132(f)(4). For employees who begin participating on or after September 1, 2008, creditable compensation shall not include payments for compensatory time;
- (9) "Final compensation" means:
 - (a) For a member who begins participating before September 1, 2008, the creditable compensation of a member during the three (3) fiscal years he was paid at the highest average monthly rate divided by the number of months of service credit during the three (3) year period, multiplied by twelve (12); the three (3) years may be fractional and need not be consecutive. If the number of months of service credit during the three (3) year period is less than twenty-four (24), one (1) or more additional fiscal years shall be used; or
 - (b) For a member who begins participating on or after September 1, 2008, the creditable compensation of the member during the three (3) complete fiscal years he or she was paid at the highest average monthly

- rate divided by three (3). Each fiscal year used to determine final compensation must contain twelve (12) months of service credit;
- (10) "Final rate of pay" means the actual rate upon which earnings of a member were calculated during the twelve (12) month period immediately preceding the member's effective retirement date, including employee contributions picked up after August 1, 1982, pursuant to KRS 16.545(4). The rate shall be certified to the system by the employer and the following equivalents shall be used to convert the rate to an annual rate: two thousand eighty (2,080) hours for eight (8) hour workdays, one thousand nine hundred fifty (1,950) hours for seven and one-half (7-1/2) hour workdays, two hundred sixty (260) days, fifty-two (52) weeks, twelve (12) months, or one (1) year;
- (11) "Retired member" means any former member receiving a retirement allowance or any former member who has filed the necessary documents for retirement benefits and is no longer contributing to the retirement system;
- (12) "Retirement allowance" means the retirement payments to which a retired member is entitled;
- (13) "~~Actuarial~~ Actuarially equivalent ~~benefits~~" means *a benefit* ~~benefits which are~~ of equal value when computed upon the basis of actuarial tables adopted by the board. *In cases* ~~except that, in case~~ of disability retirement, the options authorized by KRS 61.635 shall be computed by adding ten (10) years to the age of the member, *unless the member has chosen the Social Security adjustment option as provided for in KRS 61.635(8), in which case the member's actual age shall be used.* No disability retirement option shall be less than the same option computed under early retirement;
- (14) "Authorized leave of absence" means any time during which a person is absent from employment but retained in the status of an employee in accordance with the personnel policy of the Department of Kentucky State Police;
- (15) "Normal retirement date" means:
- (a) For a member who begins participating before September 1, 2008, the first day of the month following a member's fifty-fifth birthday, except that for members over age fifty-five (55) on July 1, 1958, it shall mean January 1, 1959; or
 - (b) For a member who begins participating on or after September 1, 2008, the first day of the month following a member's sixtieth birthday;
- (16) "Disability retirement date" means the first day of the month following the last day of paid employment;
- (17) "Dependent child" means a child in the womb and a natural or legally adopted child of the member who has neither attained age eighteen (18) nor married or who is an unmarried full-time student who has not attained age twenty-two (22);
- (18) "Optional allowance" means an actuarially equivalent benefit elected by the member in lieu of all other benefits provided by KRS 16.505 to 16.652;
- (19) "Act in line of duty" means an act occurring or a thing done, which, as determined by the board, was required in the performance of the duties specified in KRS 16.060. For employees in hazardous positions under KRS 61.592, an "act in line of duty" shall mean an act occurring which was required in the performance of the principal duties of the position as defined by the job description;
- (20) "Early retirement date" means:
- (a) For a member who begins participating before September 1, 2008, the retirement date declared by a member who is not less than fifty (50) years of age and has fifteen (15) years of service; or
 - (b) For a member who begins participating on or after September 1, 2008, the retirement date declared by a member who is not less than fifty (50) years of age and has fifteen (15) years of service credited under KRS 16.543(1), 61.543(1), or 78.615(1) or another state-administered retirement system;
- (21) "Member" means any officer included in the membership of the system as provided under KRS 16.520 whose membership has not been terminated under KRS 61.535;
- (22) "Regular full-time officers" means the occupants of positions as set forth in KRS 16.010;

- (23) "Hazardous disability" as used in KRS 16.505 to 16.652 means a disability which results in an employee's total incapacity to continue as an employee in a hazardous position, but the employee is not necessarily deemed to be totally and permanently disabled to engage in other occupations for remuneration or profit;
- (24) "Current rate of pay" means the member's actual hourly, daily, weekly, biweekly, monthly, or yearly rate of pay converted to an annual rate as defined in final rate of pay. The rate shall be certified by the employer;
- (25) "Beneficiary" means the person, persons, estate, trust, or trustee designated by the member in accordance with KRS 61.542 or 61.705 to receive any available benefits in the event of the member's death. As used in KRS 61.702, "beneficiary" does not mean an estate, trust, or trustee;
- (26) "Recipient" means the retired member, the person or persons designated as beneficiary by the member and drawing a retirement allowance as a result of the member's death, or a dependent child drawing a retirement allowance. An alternate payee of a qualified domestic relations order shall be considered a recipient only for purposes of KRS 61.691;
- (27) "Person" means a natural person;
- (28) "Retirement office" means the Kentucky Retirement Systems office building in Frankfort;
- (29) "Delayed contribution payment" means an amount paid by an employee for purchase of current service. The amount shall be determined using the same formula in KRS 61.5525, and the payment shall not be picked up by the employer. A delayed contribution payment shall be deposited to the member's contribution account and considered as accumulated contributions of the individual member;
- (30) "Last day of paid employment" means the last date employer and employee contributions are required to be reported in accordance with KRS 16.543, 61.543, or 78.615 to the retirement office in order for the employee to receive current service credit for the month. Last day of paid employment does not mean a date the employee receives payment for accrued leave, whether by lump sum or otherwise, if that date occurs twenty-four (24) or more months after previous contributions;
- (31) "Objective medical evidence" means reports of examinations or treatments; medical signs which are anatomical, physiological, or psychological abnormalities that can be observed; psychiatric signs which are medically demonstrable phenomena indicating specific abnormalities of behavior, affect, thought, memory, orientation, or contact with reality; or laboratory findings which are anatomical, physiological, or psychological phenomena that can be shown by medically acceptable laboratory diagnostic techniques, including but not limited to chemical tests, electrocardiograms, electroencephalograms, X-rays, and psychological tests;
- (32) "Fiscal year" of the system means the twelve (12) months from July 1 through the following June 30, which shall also be the plan year. ***The "fiscal year" shall be the limitation year used to determine contribution and benefit limits established by 26 U.S.C. sec. 415;***
- (33) "Participating" means an employee is currently earning service credit in the system as provided in KRS 16.543;~~and~~
- (34) "Month" means a calendar month; ***and***
- (35) ***"Membership date" means the date upon which the member began participating in the system as provided by KRS 16.543.***

➔Section 2. KRS 16.530 is amended to read as follows:

Under such rules and regulations as are adopted by the board, each employee becoming a member on July 1, 1958, shall have on file at the retirement office, on such forms as the board may prescribe, a statement of the facts pertaining to his status as a member which shall include a detailed description of all service rendered prior to July 1, 1958. Until such statement is filed, no member~~or his beneficiary~~ shall be entitled to receive any benefits under KRS 16.505 to 16.652. As soon as practicable after said statement is filed, the system shall ascertain the amount of prior service, if any, to which each member is entitled and shall issue to each member a certificate certifying the length of such service rendered by him.

➔Section 3. KRS 16.555 is amended to read as follows:

All the assets of the system shall be held and invested in the State Police Retirement Fund and credited, according to the purpose for which they are held, to one (1) of ~~three (3)~~~~two (2)~~ accounts: the "member contribution account," ~~or~~ the "retirement allowance account," *and accounts established pursuant to 26 U.S.C. sec. 401(h) within the funds established in KRS 16.510, 61.515, and 78.520, as prescribed by subsection (2)(b) of Section 22 of this Act.*

➔Section 4. KRS 16.560 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) The member contribution account shall be the account to which all members' contributions, or contributions picked up by the employer after August 1, 1982, and interest allowances as provided in KRS 16.505 to 16.652 shall be credited, *except as provided by subsection (2)(b) of Section 22 of this Act*; only funds from this account shall be used to return accumulated contributions of a member when required by reason of any provision of KRS 16.505 to 16.652. Prior to the member's retirement, death, or refund in accordance with KRS 61.625, no funds shall be made available from the member's contribution account.
- (2) Each member's contribution or contribution picked up by the employer shall be credited to the individual account of the contributing member, *except as provided by subsection (2)(b) of Section 22 of this Act*.
- (3)
 - (a) Each member on June 30 of each year shall have his individual account credited with interest.
 - (b) For members who begin participating before September 1, 2008, interest shall be credited to their individual account at a rate determined by the board but not less than two and one-half percent (2.5%) per annum on the accumulated contributions of the member on June 30 of the preceding fiscal year.
 - (c) For members who begin participating on or after September 1, 2008, interest shall be credited to their individual account at a rate of two and one-half percent (2.5%) per annum on the accumulated contributions of the member on June 30 of the preceding fiscal year.
 - (d) The amounts of interest credited to a member's account under this subsection shall be transferred from the retirement allowance account.
- (4) Upon the retirement of a member, his accumulated contribution shall be transferred from the member's contribution account to the retirement allowance account.
- (5) Included as a part of such member's contribution account shall be his accumulated contributions in the Kentucky Employees Retirement System, if any, transferred to this system.

➔Section 5. KRS 16.576 is amended to read as follows:

- (1)
 - (a) Any member who begins participating before September 1, 2008, who has at least five (5) years of service credit may retire at his normal retirement date, or subsequent thereto, upon written notification to the system, setting forth at what date the retirement is to become effective, if the effective date shall be after his last day of service and subsequent to the filing of the notice at the retirement office.
 - (b) Any member who begins participating on or after September 1, 2008, who has at least five (5) years of service credited under KRS 16.543(1), 61.543(1), or 78.615(1) or another state-administered retirement system may retire at his or her normal retirement date, or subsequent thereto, upon written notification to the system, setting forth what date the retirement is to become effective, if the effective date shall be after his or her last day of service and subsequent to the filing of the notice at the retirement office.
- (2) The member shall have the right to elect to have his retirement allowance payable under subsection (3), (4), or (6) of this section or any one (1) of the plans set forth in KRS 61.635.
- (3)
 - (a) Effective August 1, 1990, a member of the Kentucky State Police Retirement System may elect to receive an annual retirement allowance, payable monthly during his lifetime, equal to two and five-tenths percent (2.5%) of final compensation for each year of service credit. Effective August 1, 1988, a member of the County Employees Retirement System covered by this section may elect to receive an annual retirement allowance, payable monthly during his lifetime, equal to two and five-tenths percent (2.5%) of final compensation for each year of service credit. Effective August 1, 1988, a member of the Kentucky Employees Retirement System covered by this section may elect to receive an annual retirement allowance, payable monthly during his lifetime, equal to two and forty-nine hundredths percent (2.49%) of final compensation for each year of service credit. The annual retirement allowance for a member covered by this section shall not exceed the maximum benefit as set forth in the Internal Revenue Code.

- (b) A member of the State Police Retirement System, a member of the Kentucky Employees Retirement System covered by this section, or a member of the County Employees Retirement System covered by this section, whose participation begins on or after September 1, 2008, shall receive an annual retirement allowance, payable monthly during his or her lifetime, equal to:
1. One and three-tenths percent (1.3%) of final compensation for each year of service credit if the employee has earned ten (10) or less years of service at retirement;
 2. One and one-half percent (1.5%) of final compensation for each year of service credit if the employee has earned greater than ten (10) but no more than twenty (20) years of service at retirement;
 3. Two and one-quarter percent (2.25%) of final compensation for each year of service credit if the employee has earned greater than twenty (20) but less than twenty-five (25) years of service at retirement; or
 4. Two and one-half percent (2.5%) of final compensation for each year of service credit if the employee has earned twenty-five (25) or more years of service at retirement.
- (4) The member may elect to receive a monthly retirement allowance payable for ten (10) years certain, actuarially equivalent to the retirement allowance payable under subsection (3) of this section. If the member should become deceased prior to the expiration of ten (10) years, his beneficiary, ***unless the beneficiary is the member's estate***, shall receive the remaining payments monthly for the duration of the ten (10) years. ***If the member's estate is the beneficiary, the member's estate shall receive a lump-sum payment which shall be the actuarial equivalent to the remaining payments.*** The provisions of KRS 61.702 notwithstanding, the member who retired on June 17, 1978, or thereafter, and his spouse and ***eligible*** dependents ~~or beneficiary~~ shall continue to receive the insurance benefits to which they are entitled pursuant to KRS 61.702 after the expiration of ten (10) years. Effective with any insurance contract procured, or self-insurance plan instituted, after July 15, 1990, a member who retired prior to June 17, 1978, and his spouse and ***eligible*** dependents ~~or beneficiary~~ shall receive insurance benefits pursuant to KRS 61.702 upon payment by the member or beneficiary of the entire cost of the required insurance premium.
- (5) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section, upon written notification to the system, a member shall have the option to defer his election to receive his retirement allowance. The retirement allowance payable under a deferred option shall be increased to reflect the deferred receipt of benefits.
- (6) In lieu of any other benefits due under KRS 16.505 to 16.652, a member who begins participating before September 1, 2008, who has attained age fifty-five (55) and who has attained at least one (1) month of service credit but no more than fifty-nine (59) months of service credit may elect to receive an annual retirement allowance, payable monthly or less frequently as determined by the board, which shall be determined by multiplying his accumulated contributions by two (2) and converting this amount to an annual retirement allowance based on an annuity rate adopted by the board which would pay the actuarial equivalent of twice his accumulated contributions over the lifetime of the retired member.

➔Section 6. KRS 16.578 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) ***If a member dies prior to retirement or before the first benefit payment has been issued by the State Treasurer, the member's beneficiary shall be eligible for the benefits provided by this section if the member had on file a written designation of a beneficiary with the retirement office and the member met the following conditions at the date of his or her death:***
- (a) ***The member was eligible to retire under KRS 16.576 or 16.577;***
 - (b) ***The member was in active employment or on authorized leave of absence with five (5) or more years of service credit and died prior to his or her normal retirement date; or***
 - (c) ***The member was not in active employment or on authorized leave of absence with twelve (12) or more years of service credit and died prior to his or her normal retirement date.***
- (2) ***If the beneficiary eligible for benefits as provided in subsection (1) of this section is a single person, then the beneficiary may elect to receive:***
- (a) ***A monthly benefit payable for the life of the beneficiary that is equal to the benefit that would have been paid had the member retired immediately prior to his or her date of death and elected to receive***

benefits payable under the survivorship one hundred percent (100%) option as provided in KRS 61.635(2);

- (b) *A monthly benefit payable for the life of the beneficiary under the beneficiary Social Security adjustment option as provided in KRS 61.635(9) that is the actuarial equivalent to the amount computed under paragraph (a) of this subsection;*
 - (c) *A monthly benefit payable for a period of sixty (60) months that is the actuarial equivalent to the amount computed under paragraph (a) of this subsection;*
 - (d) *A monthly benefit payable for a period of one hundred twenty (120) months that is the actuarial equivalent to the amount computed under paragraph (a) of this subsection;*
 - (e) *A monthly benefit payable for a period of one hundred twenty (120) months that is equivalent to the benefit the member would have been entitled to receive based on his or her years of service and final compensation at the date of his or her death reduced by the survivorship fifty percent (50%) factor as provided for in KRS 61.635(4), then reduced by fifty percent (50%), and that is the actuarial equivalent to the amount computed under paragraph (a) of this subsection; or*
 - (f) *The higher of a refund of accumulated contributions and interest as described in KRS 61.625(1) or a one (1) time lump-sum payment which shall be the actuarial equivalent of the amount payable under paragraph (a) of this subsection for a period of sixty (60) months.*
- (3) *If the beneficiary eligible for benefits as provided in subsection (1) of this section are multiple beneficiaries or a trust, then the multiple beneficiaries by consensus or the trustee may elect to receive the actuarial equivalent amounts payable under paragraph (c), (d), (e), or (f) of subsection (2) of this section using the assumption that the beneficiary's age is the same as the member's age.*
- (4) *If the beneficiary eligible for benefits as provided in subsection (1) of this section is the member's estate, then the beneficiary shall receive the higher of a refund of accumulated contributions and interest as described in KRS 61.625(1) or the one (1) time lump-sum payment payable under paragraph (f) of subsection (2) of this section, using the assumption that the beneficiary's age is the same as the member's age.*
- (5) *Payments of taxable distributions made pursuant to this section shall be subject to state and federal tax as appropriate.* ~~If a member, eligible to retire as provided in KRS 16.576, dies at any time before the first benefit payment has been issued by the State Treasurer and has on file in the retirement office at the time of his death a written designation of a beneficiary, the beneficiary may elect to receive an annual benefit payable monthly which shall be equal to the benefit that would have been paid had the member retired immediately prior to his date of death and elected to receive payments under subsection (2) of KRS 61.635 or the beneficiary may elect the actuarial equivalent payable for sixty (60) months certain or the beneficiary may elect the actuarial equivalent payable for one hundred twenty (120) months certain, or the beneficiary may elect to receive the beneficiary Social Security adjustment payment under subsection (9) of KRS 61.635 or the beneficiary may elect the actuarial equivalent refund.~~
- ~~(2) If a member in active employment or on authorized leave of absence with five (5) or more years of service dies at any time before his normal retirement date and has on file in the retirement office at the time of his death a written designation of a beneficiary, the beneficiary may elect to receive an annual benefit payable monthly commencing in the month following the member's death which shall be equal to the benefit the member would have been entitled to receive, based on his age, years of service, and final compensation at the date of his death, had the member been eligible for retirement and had he chosen benefits payable under subsection (2) of KRS 61.635 or the beneficiary may elect the actuarial equivalent payable for sixty (60) months certain or the beneficiary may elect the actuarial equivalent payable for one hundred twenty (120) months certain, or the beneficiary may elect to receive the beneficiary Social Security adjustment payment under subsection (9) of KRS 61.635 or the beneficiary may elect the actuarial equivalent refund.~~
- ~~(3) If a member, not in active employment nor on authorized leave of absence with twelve (12) or more years of service, dies at any time before his normal retirement date and has on file in the retirement office at the time of his death a written designation of a beneficiary, the beneficiary may elect to receive an annual benefit payable monthly commencing in the month following the member's death which shall be equal to the benefit the member would have been entitled to receive, based on his age, years of service, and final compensation at the date of his death, had the member been eligible for retirement and had he chosen benefits payable under~~

~~subsection (2) of KRS 61.635 or the beneficiary may elect the actuarial equivalent payable for sixty (60) months certain or the beneficiary may elect the actuarial equivalent payable for one hundred twenty (120) months certain, or the beneficiary may elect to receive the beneficiary Social Security adjustment payment under subsection (9) of KRS 61.635 or the beneficiary may elect the actuarial equivalent refund.~~

- ~~(4) An alternative calculation of benefits payable to the beneficiary under subsection (1), (2) or (3) of this section shall be determined by computing an annual benefit payable commencing in the month following the member's death which shall be equivalent to the benefit the member would have been entitled to receive based on his years of service and final compensation at the date of his death reduced by the survivorship fifty percent (50%) factor as provided for in KRS 61.635(4), then reduced by fifty percent (50%) and the actuarial equivalent payable for one hundred twenty (120) months certain shall be determined, or the beneficiary may elect to receive the beneficiary Social Security adjustment payment under subsection (9) of KRS 61.635.~~
- ~~(5) If the member, subject to subsection (1), (2), (3), or (4) of this section, had on file a written designation of multiple beneficiaries, or his estate, trust, or trustee, the multiple beneficiaries by consensus or the administrator or executor of the estate or trustee may elect to receive the actuarial equivalent to the benefit allowable under subsection (1), (2), (3), or (4) of this section given the assumptions that the beneficiary's age is the same as the member's, and that the member had chosen benefits payable monthly for sixty (60) months certain, or one hundred and twenty (120) months certain, or an actuarial equivalent refund.~~
- ~~(6) The beneficiary may elect to receive a one (1) time lump sum payment which shall be the actuarial equivalent of the amount payable under KRS 61.635(2) for a period of sixty (60) months. In the case of designation of multiple beneficiaries, an estate, trust, or trustee, the multiple beneficiaries by consensus, trustee, executor, or administrator of the estate may elect to receive a one (1) time lump sum payment which shall be the actuarial equivalent of the amount payable under KRS 61.635(2), assuming the beneficiary's age to be the same as the member's, for a period of sixty (60) months.~~
- ~~(7) In the case of a single beneficiary who is a person, the highest monthly benefit determined under subsection (1), (2), (3), (4), or (6) of this section for a life annuity, for payments for sixty (60) months certain, for payments for one hundred twenty (120) months certain, for the actuarial equivalent refund or for the beneficiary Social Security payment shall be tendered to the beneficiary. In the case of designation of multiple beneficiaries, an estate, trust, or trustee, the highest monthly benefit determined under subsection (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), or (6) of this section for payments for sixty (60) months certain or one hundred and twenty (120) months certain or the actuarial equivalent refund shall be tendered to the multiple beneficiaries, trustee, administrator, or executor of the estate.]~~

➔ Section 7. KRS 61.510 is amended to read as follows:

As used in KRS 61.510 to 61.705, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (1) "System" means the Kentucky Employees Retirement System created by KRS 61.510 to 61.705;
- (2) "Board" means the board of trustees of the system as provided in KRS 61.645;
- (3) "Department" means any state department or board or agency participating in the system in accordance with appropriate executive order, as provided in KRS 61.520. For purposes of KRS 61.510 to 61.705, the members, officers, and employees of the General Assembly and any other body, entity, or instrumentality designated by executive order by the Governor, shall be deemed to be a department, notwithstanding whether said body, entity, or instrumentality is an integral part of state government;
- (4) "Examiner" means the medical examiners as provided in KRS 61.665;
- (5) "Employee" means the members, officers, and employees of the General Assembly and every regular full-time, appointed or elective officer or employee of a participating department, including the Department of Military Affairs. The term does not include persons engaged as independent contractors, seasonal, emergency, temporary, interim, and part-time workers. In case of any doubt, the board shall determine if a person is an employee within the meaning of KRS 61.510 to 61.705;
- (6) "Employer" means a department or any authority of a department having the power to appoint or select an employee in the department, including the Senate and the House of Representatives, or any other entity, the employees of which are eligible for membership in the system pursuant to KRS 61.525;
- (7) "State" means the Commonwealth of Kentucky;

- (8) "Member" means any employee who is included in the membership of the system or any former employee whose membership has not been terminated under KRS 61.535;
- (9) "Service" means the total of current service and prior service as defined in this section;
- (10) "Current service" means the number of years and months of employment as an employee, on and after July 1, 1956, except that for members, officers, and employees of the General Assembly this date shall be January 1, 1960, for which creditable compensation is paid and employee contributions deducted, except as otherwise provided, and each member, officer, and employee of the General Assembly shall be credited with a month of current service for each month he serves in the position;
- (11) "Prior service" means the number of years and completed months, expressed as a fraction of a year, of employment as an employee, prior to July 1, 1956, for which creditable compensation was paid; except that for members, officers, and employees of the General Assembly, this date shall be January 1, 1960. An employee shall be credited with one (1) month of prior service only in those months he received compensation for at least one hundred (100) hours of work; provided, however, that each member, officer, and employee of the General Assembly shall be credited with a month of prior service for each month he served in the position prior to January 1, 1960. Twelve (12) months of current service in the system are required to validate prior service;
- (12) "Accumulated contributions" at any time means the sum of all amounts deducted from the compensation of a member and credited to his individual account in the members' contribution account, including employee contributions picked up after August 1, 1982, pursuant to KRS 61.560(4), together with interest credited on such amounts and any other amounts the member shall have contributed thereto, including interest credited thereon. *For members who begin participating on or after September 1, 2008, "accumulated contributions" shall not include employee contributions that are deposited into accounts established pursuant to 26 U.S.C. sec. 401(h) within the funds established in KRS 16.510, 61.515, and 78.520, as prescribed by subsection (2)(b) of Section 22 of this Act;*
- (13) "Creditable compensation" means all salary, wages, tips to the extent the tips are reported for income tax purposes, and fees, including payments for compensatory time, paid to the employee as a result of services performed for the employer or for time during which the member is on paid leave, which are includable on the member's federal form W-2 wage and tax statement under the heading "wages, tips, other compensation," including employee contributions picked up after August 1, 1982, pursuant to KRS 61.560(4). For members of the General Assembly, it shall mean all amounts which are includable on the member's federal form W-2 wage and tax statement under the heading "wages, tips, other compensation," including employee contributions picked up after August 1, 1982, pursuant to KRS 6.505(4) or 61.560(4). A lump-sum bonus, severance pay, or employer-provided payment for purchase of service credit shall be included as creditable compensation but shall be averaged over the employee's total service with the system in which it is recorded if it is equal to or greater than one thousand dollars (\$1,000). In cases where compensation includes maintenance and other perquisites, the board shall fix the value of that part of the compensation not paid in money. Living allowances, expense reimbursements, lump-sum payments for accrued vacation leave, and other items determined by the board shall be excluded. Creditable compensation shall also include amounts which are not includable in the member's gross income by virtue of the member having taken a voluntary salary reduction provided for under applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code. Creditable compensation shall also include elective amounts for qualified transportation fringes paid or made available on or after January 1, 2001, for calendar years on or after January 1, 2001, that are not includable in the gross income of the employee by reason of 26 U.S.C. sec. 132(f)(4). For employees who begin participating on or after September 1, 2008, creditable compensation shall not include payments for compensatory time;
- (14) "Final compensation" of a member means:
- (a) For a member who begins participating before September 1, 2008, who is not employed in a hazardous position, as provided in KRS 61.592, the creditable compensation of the member during the five (5) fiscal years he was paid at the highest average monthly rate divided by the number of months of service credit during that five (5) year period multiplied by twelve (12). The five (5) years may be fractional and need not be consecutive. If the number of months of service credit during the five (5) year period is less than forty-eight (48), one (1) or more additional fiscal years shall be used;
 - (b) For a member who is not employed in a hazardous position, as provided in KRS 61.592, whose effective retirement date is between August 1, 2001, and January 1, 2009, and whose total service credit is at least twenty-seven (27) years and whose age and years of service total at least seventy-five (75), final

compensation means the creditable compensation of the member during the three (3) fiscal years the member was paid at the highest average monthly rate divided by the number of months of service credit during that three (3) years period multiplied by twelve (12). The three (3) years may be fractional and need not be consecutive. If the number of months of service credit during the three (3) year period is less than twenty-four (24), one (1) or more additional fiscal years shall be used. Notwithstanding the provision of KRS 61.565, the funding for this paragraph shall be provided from existing funds of the retirement allowance;

- (c) For a member who begins participating before September 1, 2008, who is employed in a hazardous position, as provided in KRS 61.592, the creditable compensation of the member during the three (3) fiscal years he was paid at the highest average monthly rate divided by the number of months of service credit during that three (3) year period multiplied by twelve (12). The three (3) years may be fractional and need not be consecutive. If the number of months of service credit during the three (3) year period is less than twenty-four (24), one (1) or more additional fiscal years shall be used;
 - (d) For a member who begins participating on or after September 1, 2008, who is not employed in a hazardous position, as provided in KRS 61.592, the creditable compensation of the member during the five (5) complete fiscal years immediately preceding retirement divided by five (5). Each fiscal year used to determine final compensation must contain twelve (12) months of service credit; or
 - (e) For a member who begins participating on or after September 1, 2008, who is employed in a hazardous position, as provided in KRS 61.592, the creditable compensation of the member during the three (3) complete fiscal years he was paid at the highest average monthly rate divided by three (3). Each fiscal year used to determine final compensation must contain twelve (12) months of service credit;
- (15) "Final rate of pay" means the actual rate upon which earnings of an employee were calculated during the twelve (12) month period immediately preceding the member's effective retirement date, including employee contributions picked up after August 1, 1982, pursuant to KRS 61.560(4). The rate shall be certified to the system by the employer and the following equivalents shall be used to convert the rate to an annual rate: two thousand eighty (2,080) hours for eight (8) hour workdays, nineteen hundred fifty (1,950) hours for seven and one-half (7-1/2) hour workdays, two hundred sixty (260) days, fifty-two (52) weeks, twelve (12) months, one (1) year;
- (16) "Retirement allowance" means the retirement payments to which a member is entitled;
- (17) "Actuarial equivalent" means a benefit of equal value when computed upon the basis of the actuarial tables that are ~~from time to time~~ adopted by the board. ~~except~~ In cases of disability retirement, the options authorized by KRS 61.635 shall be computed by adding ten (10) years to the age of the member, ***unless the member has chosen the Social Security adjustment option as provided for in KRS 61.635(8), in which case the member's actual age shall be used.*** No disability retirement option shall be less than the same option computed under early retirement;
- (18) "Normal retirement date" means the sixty-fifth birthday of a member, unless otherwise provided in KRS 61.510 to 61.705;
- (19) "Fiscal year" of the system means the twelve (12) months from July 1 through the following June 30, which shall also be the plan year. ***The "fiscal year" shall be the limitation year used to determine contribution and benefit limits as established by 26 U.S.C. sec. 415;***
- (20) "Officers and employees of the General Assembly" means the occupants of those positions enumerated in KRS 6.150. The term shall also apply to assistants who were employed by the General Assembly for at least one (1) regular legislative session prior to July 13, 2004, who elect to participate in the retirement system, and who serve for at least six (6) regular legislative sessions. Assistants hired after July 13, 2004, shall be designated as interim employees;
- (21) "Regular full-time positions," as used in subsection (5) of this section, shall mean all positions that average one hundred (100) or more hours per month determined by using the number of months actually worked within a calendar or fiscal year, including all positions except:
- (a) Seasonal positions, which although temporary in duration, are positions which coincide in duration with a particular season or seasons of the year and which may recur regularly from year to year, the period of time shall not exceed nine (9) months;

- (b) Emergency positions which are positions which do not exceed thirty (30) working days and are nonrenewable;
 - (c) Temporary positions which are positions of employment with a participating department for a period of time not to exceed nine (9) months;
 - (d) Part-time positions which are positions which may be permanent in duration, but which require less than a calendar or fiscal year average of one hundred (100) hours of work per month, determined by using the number of months actually worked within a calendar or fiscal year, in the performance of duty; and
 - (e) Interim positions which are positions established for a one-time or recurring need not to exceed nine (9) months;
- (22) "Delayed contribution payment" means an amount paid by an employee for purchase of current service. The amount shall be determined using the same formula in KRS 61.5525, and the payment shall not be picked up by the employer. A delayed contribution payment shall be deposited to the member's contribution account and considered as accumulated contributions of the individual member. In determining payments under this subsection, the formula found in this subsection shall prevail over the one found in KRS 212.434;
- (23) "Parted employer" means a department, portion of a department, board, or agency, such as Outwood Hospital and School, which previously participated in the system, but due to lease or other contractual arrangement is now operated by a publicly held corporation or other similar organization, and therefore is no longer participating in the system;
- (24) "Retired member" means any former member receiving a retirement allowance or any former member who has filed the necessary documents for retirement benefits and is no longer contributing to the retirement system;
- (25) "Current rate of pay" means the member's actual hourly, daily, weekly, biweekly, monthly, or yearly rate of pay converted to an annual rate as defined in final rate of pay. The rate shall be certified by the employer;
- (26) "Beneficiary" means the person or persons or estate or trust or trustee designated by the member in accordance with KRS 61.542 or 61.705 to receive any available benefits in the event of the member's death. As used in KRS 61.702, "beneficiary" does not mean an estate, trust, or trustee;
- (27) "Recipient" means the retired member or the person or persons designated as beneficiary by the member and drawing a retirement allowance as a result of the member's death or a dependent child drawing a retirement allowance. An alternate payee of a qualified domestic relations order shall be considered a recipient only for purposes of KRS 61.691;
- (28) "Level-percentage-of-payroll amortization method" means a method of determining the annual amortization payment on the unfunded **actuarial accrued**~~past service~~ liability as expressed as a percentage of payroll over a set period of years. Under this method, the percentage of payroll shall be projected to remain constant for all years remaining in the set period and the unfunded **actuarially accrued**~~past service~~ liability shall be projected to be fully amortized at the conclusion of the set period;
- (29) "Increment" means twelve (12) months of service credit which are purchased. The twelve (12) months need not be consecutive. The final increment may be less than twelve (12) months;
- (30) "Person" means a natural person;
- (31) "Retirement office" means the Kentucky Retirement Systems office building in Frankfort;
- (32) "Last day of paid employment" means the last date employer and employee contributions are required to be reported in accordance with KRS 16.543, 61.543, or 78.615 to the retirement office in order for the employee to receive current service credit for the month. Last day of paid employment does not mean a date the employee receives payment for accrued leave, whether by lump sum or otherwise, if that date occurs twenty-four (24) or more months after previous contributions;
- (33) "Objective medical evidence" means reports of examinations or treatments; medical signs which are anatomical, physiological, or psychological abnormalities that can be observed; psychiatric signs which are medically demonstrable phenomena indicating specific abnormalities of behavior, affect, thought, memory, orientation, or contact with reality; or laboratory findings which are anatomical, physiological, or psychological phenomena that can be shown by medically acceptable laboratory diagnostic techniques,

including but not limited to chemical tests, electrocardiograms, electroencephalograms, X-rays, and psychological tests;

- (34) "Participating" means an employee is currently earning service credit in the system as provided in KRS 61.543;~~and~~
- (35) "Month" means a calendar month; *and*
- (36) ***"Membership date" means the date upon which the member began participating in the system as provided in KRS 61.543.***

➔Section 8. KRS 61.540 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) Under administrative regulations promulgated by the board, each member and each employer shall have on file at the retirement office, in the form the board prescribes, a statement of the facts pertaining to the member and other information the system requires. Until the statement is filed, no member ~~or his beneficiary~~ shall be eligible to receive any benefits under KRS 61.510 to 61.705 and 78.510 to 78.852.
- (2) The system shall prepare and make available upon request to all members a summary plan description, written in a manner that can be understood by the average member or beneficiary, and sufficiently accurate and comprehensive to reasonably apprise them of their rights and obligations under the provisions of KRS 16.505 to 16.652, 61.510 to 61.705 and 78.510 to 78.852.
- (3) The summary plan description shall include:
 - (a) The name of the retirement system, the name and address of the executive director, and the name, address and title of each member of the board of trustees;
 - (b) The name and address of the person designated for the service of legal process;
 - (c) The system's requirements for participation and benefits;
 - (d) A description of retirement formulas for normal, early and disability retirement, and survivor benefits;
 - (e) A description of the requirements for vesting of pension benefits;
 - (f) A reasonable list of circumstances which would result in disqualification, ineligibility, or denial or loss of benefits;
 - (g) The sources of financing retirement benefits, and statutory requirements for funding;
 - (h) A statement after each actuarial valuation as to whether funding requirements are being met; and
 - (i) The procedures to be followed in presenting claims for benefits under the plan, and the remedies available under the plan for the redress of claims which are denied in whole or in part.
- (4) The system may publish the summary plan description in the form of a comprehensive pamphlet or booklet, or in the form of periodic newsletters which shall incorporate all the information required in the summary plan description within a period of two (2) years. Any changes in statutory requirements or administrative practices which alter the provisions of the plan as described in the summary plan description shall be summarized as required in subsection (2) of this section and shall be made available upon request to members in the form of a supplement to a comprehensive booklet, or reported in the periodic newsletter.
- (5) The system shall make available upon request to retirees and beneficiaries the summary plan description.

➔Section 9. KRS 61.541 is amended to read as follows:

~~{(1)—}~~The creditable compensation of fee officers who receive salary, fees, maintenance, or other perquisites as a result of their official duties is the gross amount received decreased by the cost of salary paid deputies and clerks and the cost of office supplies and other official expenses.

~~{(2)—}~~Each officer shall estimate the amount of creditable compensation he expects to receive during a calendar year and shall report and pay employee contributions monthly on one twelfth (1/12) of the estimated creditable compensation.

~~{(3)—}~~On or before April 30 of each fiscal year, each officer shall have on file at the retirement office a report of his actual creditable compensation during the previous calendar year. This report shall be in the form of an

~~affidavit and shall be used by the retirement system as a basis of adjusting the individual's account in the retirement system.~~

- ~~(4) The retirement office shall make a calculation of the amount of the additional contributions due or the excess contributions paid during the previous calendar year. If additional contributions are due, both the officer and employer shall pay such contributions on or before June 30 of the year in which the recalculation was made. If the recalculation shows that excess contributions have been paid, both the officer and the employer shall be reimbursed the amount of overpayment.~~
- ~~(5) Refund of contributions or retirement allowances which might otherwise be due to the officer shall be withheld until the provisions of this section have been fully met.]~~

➔Section 10. 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(21)~~[(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. 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 retirement systems administered by Kentucky Retirement Systems, who has at least forty-eight (48) months of service if age sixty-five (65) or at least sixty (60) months of service if under age sixty-five (65) in the systems administered by the Kentucky Retirement Systems, and 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 retirement systems administered by Kentucky Retirement Systems, who has at least forty-eight (48) months of service if age sixty-five (65) or at least sixty (60) months of service if under age sixty-five (65) in the systems administered by the Kentucky Retirement Systems, and 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 retirement systems administered by Kentucky Retirement Systems, who has at least forty-eight (48) months of service if age sixty-five (65) or at least sixty (60) months of service if under age sixty-five (65) in the systems administered by the Kentucky Retirement Systems, may 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.
- (5)
 - (a) An employee participating in one (1) of the retirement systems administered by Kentucky Retirement Systems, who has at least forty-eight (48) months of service if age sixty-five (65) or at least sixty (60) months of service if under age sixty-five (65) in the systems administered by the Kentucky Retirement Systems, may obtain credit in the County Employees Retirement System for current service between July 1, 1958, and the effective date of participation of his county by paying to the County Employees Retirement System a delayed contribution payment for the service he would have received had his county participated on July 1, 1958. The delayed contribution payment shall not be picked up, as described in KRS 61.560(4), by the employer.
 - (b) An employee participating in one (1) of the retirement systems administered by Kentucky Retirement Systems, who has at least forty-eight (48) months of service if age sixty-five (65) or at least sixty (60)

months of service if under age sixty-five (65) in the systems administered by Kentucky Retirement Systems may obtain credit for the period of his service with an area development district created pursuant to KRS 147A.050 or with a business development corporation created pursuant to KRS 155.001 to 155.230 if that service was not covered by a state-administered retirement system. The member shall pay to the retirement system in which he participates a delayed contribution payment, 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 retirement systems administered by Kentucky Retirement Systems who has at least forty-eight (48) months' service if age sixty-five (65) or at least sixty (60) months' service if under age sixty-five (65) in 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 participate in a defined benefit retirement program at the university may obtain credit in the employee's account in the County Employees Retirement System, the Kentucky Employees Retirement System, or the State Police Retirement System for prior and current service by paying either retirement system a delayed contribution payment for the service he would have received had his period of university employment been covered by the County Employees, Kentucky Employees Retirement System, or State Police Retirement System. The delayed contribution payment shall not be picked up, as described in KRS 61.560(4), by the employer. Payment may be by lump sum, or the employee may pay by increments.
- (9)
 - (a) Effective August 1, 1980, any county participating in the County Employees Retirement System may purchase current service, between July 1, 1958, and participation date of the county, for present employees of the county who have obtained coverage under KRS 78.540(2);
 - (b) Effective July 1, 1973, any department participating in the Kentucky Employees Retirement System may purchase current service between July 1, 1956, and participation date of the department, for present employees of the department who were employees on the participation date of the department and elected coverage under KRS 61.525(2);
 - (c) Cost of the service credit purchased under this subsection shall be determined by computing the discounted value of the additional service credit based on an actuarial formula recommended by the board's consulting actuary and approved by the board. A department shall make payment for the service credit within the same fiscal year in which the option is elected. The county shall establish a payment schedule subject to approval by the board for payment of the service credit. The maximum period allowed in a payment schedule shall be ten (10) years with interest at the rate actuarially assumed by the board; however, a shorter period is desirable and the board may approve any schedule provided it is not longer than a ten (10) year period;
 - (d) If a county or department elects the provisions of this subsection, any present employee who would be eligible to receive service credit under the provisions of this subsection and has purchased service credit under subsection (4) or (5) of this section shall have his payment for the service credit refunded with interest at the rate paid under KRS 61.575 or 78.640;
 - (e) Any payments made by a county or department under this subsection shall be deposited to the retirement allowance account of the proper retirement system and these funds shall not be considered accumulated contributions of the individual members.

- (10) Interest paid by a member of the Kentucky Employees Retirement System, County Employees Retirement System, or State Police Retirement System under this section or other similar statutes under KRS 16.505 to 16.652, 61.510 to 61.705, or 78.510 to 78.852 prior to June 19, 1976, shall be credited to the individual member's contribution account in the appropriate retirement system and considered as accumulated contributions of the member.
- (11) Employees who served as assistants to officers and employees of the General Assembly who have at least forty-eight (48) months of service if age sixty-five (65) or at least sixty (60) months of service if under age sixty-five (65) in the systems administered by Kentucky Retirement Systems and who were unable to acquire service under KRS 61.510(20) may purchase credit for the service performed after January 1, 1960. 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 retirement systems administered by Kentucky Retirement Systems who has at least forty-eight (48) months of service if age sixty-five (65) or at least sixty (60) months of service if under age sixty-five (65) in the systems administered by Kentucky Retirement Systems may purchase service credit for interim, seasonal, emergency, or temporary employment or part-time employment averaging one hundred (100) or more hours of work per month on a calendar or fiscal year basis. If the average number of hours of work is less than one hundred (100) per month, the member shall be allowed credit only for those months he receives creditable compensation for one hundred hours of work. The cost will be determined as a delayed contribution payment for the period of time involved, which shall not be picked up by the employer as described in KRS 61.560(4).
 - (b) Any noncertified employee of a school board who has at least forty-eight (48) months of service if age sixty-five (65) or at least sixty (60) months of service if under age sixty-five (65) in the systems administered by Kentucky Retirement Systems may purchase service credit for part-time employment prior to the 1990-91 school year which averaged eighty (80) or more hours of work per month on a calendar or fiscal year basis by paying to the County Employees Retirement System a delayed contribution payment. The delayed contribution payment shall not be picked up, as described in KRS 78.610(4), by the employer. Payment may be by lump sum or the employee may pay by increments. If the average number of hours of work is less than eighty (80) per month, the noncertified employee of a school board shall be allowed credit only for those months he receives creditable compensation for eighty (80) hours of work. The cost will be determined as a delayed contribution payment, which shall not be picked up by the employer as described in KRS 78.610(4).
- (13) A retired member, who is contributing to one (1) of the state-administered retirement programs under the provisions of KRS 61.637(1) to (4) 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 systems administered by Kentucky Retirement Systems who has at least forty-eight (48) months of service if age sixty-five (65) or at least sixty (60) months of service if under age sixty-five (65) in the systems administered by Kentucky Retirement Systems may obtain credit for prior or current service for any period of approved educational leave, or for agency-approved leave to work for a work-related labor organization if the agency subsequently participated in the County Employees Retirement System, by paying to the respective retirement system a delayed contribution payment. The employee may also obtain credit for agency-approved leave to work for a work-related labor organization if the agency subsequently participated in the County Employees Retirement System, but only if the Kentucky Retirement Systems receives a favorable private letter ruling from the United States Internal Revenue Service or a favorable opinion letter from the United States Department of Labor. The delayed contribution payment shall not be picked up, as described in KRS 61.560(4), by the employer, and shall be deposited to the individual member's account.
- (15) Any employee participating in one (1) of the retirement systems administered by Kentucky Retirement Systems who has at least forty-eight (48) months of service if age sixty-five (65) or at least sixty (60) months of service

if under age sixty-five (65) in the systems administered by Kentucky Retirement Systems may obtain credit for prior or current service for any period of authorized maternity leave, unpaid leave authorized under the Federal Family and Medical Leave Act, or for any period of authorized 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 16.505 to 16.652, 61.510 to 61.705, or 78.510 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 **or a portion of the remaining principal**.
 - (b) One (1) year of installment payments shall be made for each one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or any part thereof of the total cost, except that the total period allowed for installments shall not be less than one (1) year and shall not exceed five (5) years.
 - (c) The employee shall pay the installments by payroll deduction. Upon notification by the retirement system, the employer shall report the installment payments either monthly or semimonthly continuously over each twelve (12) month period at the same time as, but separate from, regular employee contributions on the forms or by the computer format specified by the board. The payments made under this subsection shall be considered accumulated contributions of the member and shall not be picked up by the employer pursuant to KRS 61.560(4) and no employer contributions shall be paid on the installments.
 - (d) The retirement system shall determine how much of the total cost represents payment for one (1) month of the service to be purchased and shall credit one (1) month of service to the member's account each time this amount has been paid. The first service credited shall represent the first calendar month of the service to be purchased and each succeeding month of service credit shall represent the succeeding months of that service.
 - (e) If the employee elects to stop the installment payments, dies, retires, or does not continue employment in a position required to participate in the retirement system, the member, or in the case of death, the beneficiary, shall have sixty (60) days to pay the remaining principal **or a portion of the remaining principal** of the purchase by lump sum, except that payment by the member shall be made prior to the effective retirement date. 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, except in the case of employees on military leave or sick leave without pay, the installment purchase shall cease and the retirement system shall refund to the employee the payment, payments, or portion of a payment that does not represent a full month of service purchased. Installment payments of employees on military leave or sick leave without pay shall be suspended during the period of leave and shall resume without recalculation upon the employee's return from leave.
 - (g) If payments have ceased under paragraph (e) or (f) of this subsection and the member later becomes a participating employee in one (1) of the three (3) systems administered by Kentucky Retirement Systems, the employee may complete the adjusted original installment purchase by lump sum or installment payments. If the employee elects to renew the installment purchase, the cost of the remaining service shall be recalculated in accordance with paragraph (a) of this subsection. ~~If the original~~

~~installment purchase was for multiple service purchases, the employee may not separate those purchases under a new installment purchase.]~~

- (17) 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 16.505 to 16.652, 61.510 to 61.705, or 78.510 to 78.852 by transferring funds through a direct trustee-to-trustee transfer as permitted under the applicable sections of the Internal Revenue Code and any regulations or rulings issued thereunder, or through a direct rollover as contemplated by and permitted under 26 U.S.C. sec. 401(a)(31) and any regulations or rulings issued thereunder. Service credit may also be purchased by a rollover of funds pursuant to and permitted under the rules specified in 26 U.S.C. sec. 402(c) and 26 U.S.C. sec. 408(d)(3). The Kentucky Retirement Systems shall accept the transfer or rollover to the extent permitted under the rules specified in the applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code and any regulations and rulings issued thereunder. The amount shall be credited to the individual member's contribution account in the appropriate retirement system and shall be considered accumulated contributions of the member.
- (18) After August 1, 1998, any employee participating in one (1) of the retirement systems administered by Kentucky Retirement Systems who is age sixty-five (65) or older and has forty-eight (48) months of service credit or, if younger, who has sixty (60) months of service credit in systems administered by Kentucky Retirement Systems may purchase credit in the system in which the employee has the service credit for up to ten (10) years service in a regular full-time position that was credited to a state or local government-administered public defined benefit plan in another state other than a defined benefit plan for teachers. The employee shall pay a delayed contribution payment. Payment may be by lump sum, or the employee may pay by increments. The employee may transfer funds directly from the other state's plan if eligible to the extent permitted under subsection (17) of this section and to the extent permitted by the other state's laws and shall provide proof that he is not eligible for a retirement benefit for the period of service from the other state's plan.
- (19) After August 1, 1998, any employee participating in one (1) of the retirement systems administered by Kentucky Retirement Systems, who has sixty (60) or more months of service in the State Police Retirement System or in a hazardous position in the Kentucky Employees Retirement System or the County Employees Retirement System, may purchase credit in the system in which the employee has the sixty (60) months of service credit for up to ten (10) years of service in a regular full-time position that was credited to a defined benefit retirement plan administered by a state or local government in another state, if the service could be certified as hazardous pursuant to KRS 61.592. The employee shall pay a delayed contribution payment. Payment may be by lump sum or by increments. The employee may transfer funds directly from the other unit of government's plan if eligible to the extent permitted under subsection (17) of this section and to the extent permitted by the other state's laws, and the employee shall provide proof that he is not eligible for a retirement benefit for the period of service from the other unit of government's plan.
- (20) Any employee participating in one (1) of the retirement systems administered by Kentucky Retirement Systems who has at least forty-eight (48) months of service if age sixty-five (65) or at least sixty (60) months of service if under age sixty-five (65) in the systems administered by Kentucky Retirement Systems and who has completed service as a volunteer in the Kentucky Peace Corps, created by KRS 154.01-720, may purchase service credit for the time served in the corps by making delayed contribution payments.
- (21) An employee participating in any retirement system administered by Kentucky Retirement Systems who has at least forty-eight (48) months of service if age sixty-five (65), or at least sixty (60) months of service if under age sixty-five (65) in the systems administered by Kentucky Retirement Systems, and who was formerly employed in a regional community mental health and mental retardation services program, organized and operated under the provisions of KRS 210.370 to 210.480, which does not participate in a state-administered retirement system may obtain credit for the period of his service in the regional community mental health and mental retardation program, by paying to the state retirement system in which he participates a delayed contribution payment. Payment to one (1) of the retirement systems administered by the Kentucky Retirement Systems may be made by lump sum or in increments.
- (22) An employee participating in one (1) of the retirement systems administered by Kentucky Retirement Systems who has at least forty-eight (48) months of service if age sixty-five (65) or at least sixty (60) months of service if under age sixty-five (65) in the systems administered by the Kentucky Retirement Systems, who was employed by a vocational technical school in a noncertified part-time position averaging eighty (80) or more hours per month, determined by using the number of months actually worked within a calendar or fiscal year,

may purchase service credit in the Kentucky Employees Retirement System. The cost of the service shall be a delayed contribution payment, which shall not be picked up by the employer as described in KRS 61.560(4).

- (23) (a) Any person who is entitled to service credit for employment which was not reported in accordance with KRS 16.543, 61.543, or 78.615 may obtain credit for the service by paying the employee contributions due within six (6) months of notification by the system. No interest shall be added to the contributions. The service credit shall not be credited to the member's account until the employer contributions are received. If a retired member makes the payment within six (6) months, the retired member's retirement allowance shall be adjusted to reflect the added service after the employer contributions are received by the retirement system.
- (b) Any employee participating in one (1) of the state-administered retirement systems 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.
- (c) Service purchased under this subsection by employees who begin participating on or after September 1, 2008, shall be considered service credited under KRS 16.543(1), 61.543(1), or 78.615(1) for purposes of determining eligibility for retirement benefits under KRS 16.505 to 16.652, 61.510 to 61.705, and 78.510 to 78.852.
- (24) Any employee participating in one (1) of the retirement systems administered by Kentucky Retirement Systems who has at least forty-eight (48) months of service if age sixty-five (65) or at least sixty (60) months of service if under age sixty-five (65) in the systems administered by the Kentucky Retirement Systems may purchase service credit for employment with a public agency that would have been eligible to participate under KRS 61.520 but which did not participate in the Kentucky Employees Retirement System or a political subdivision that would have been eligible to participate under KRS 78.530 but which did not participate in the County Employees Retirement System if the former public agency or political subdivision has merged with or been taken over by a participating department or county. The cost of the service shall be determined as a delayed contribution payment for the respective retirement system. Payment may be made by lump sum or in increments. The payment shall not be picked up, as described in KRS 61.560(4) or 78.610(4), by the employer.
- (25) Any employee participating in one (1) of the retirement systems administered by the Kentucky Retirement Systems prior to July 15, 2002, who has accrued at least forty-eight (48) months of service if age sixty-five (65) or at least sixty (60) months of service if under age sixty-five (65) in the systems administered by the Kentucky Retirement Systems and who has total service in all state-administered retirement systems of at least one hundred eighty (180) 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 16.505 to 16.652, 61.510 to 61.705, and 78.510 to 78.852. The purchase price for the retirement service credit shall be calculated and paid for as a delayed contribution payment. The payment shall not be picked up, as described in KRS 16.545(4), 61.560(4), or 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 forty (240) months of service, excluding service purchased under this subsection. If the member does not accrue at least two hundred 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.
- (26) An employee participating in one (1) of the retirement systems administered by Kentucky Retirement Systems, who has at least forty-eight (48) months of service if age sixty-five (65), or at least sixty (60) months of service if under age sixty-five (65), in the systems administered by Kentucky Retirement Systems, may obtain credit in the County Employees Retirement System for the period of that employee's service with a community action agency created under KRS 273.405 to 273.453 if that service was not covered by a state-administered retirement system. The member shall pay to the retirement system a delayed contribution payment. Payment may be made by lump sum or in increments. The payment shall not be picked up, as described in KRS 61.560(4) or 78.610(4), by the employer.

- (27) ~~[Any employee participating in one (1) of the retirement systems administered by Kentucky Retirement Systems who has at least forty eight (48) months of service if age sixty five (65) or at least sixty (60) months of service if under age sixty five (65) in the retirement systems administered by the Kentucky Retirement Systems may obtain current service credit for up to forty eight (48) months for his or her period of service as a Domestic Relations Commissioner by paying to the retirement system a delayed contribution payment no later than December 31, 2002. Payment may be made by lump sum or under an installment agreement. The payment shall not be picked up, as described in KRS 61.560(4), by the employer, and shall be deposited to the individual member's account.~~
- ~~(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 16.505 to 16.552, 61.510 to 61.705, and 78.510 to 78.852, pursuant to the employer pick-up provisions in 26 U.S.C. sec. 414(h)(2).
- ~~(28)~~~~(29)~~ An employee may obtain credit for regular full-time service with an agency prior to August 1, 1998, for which the employee did not receive credit due to KRS 61.637(1), by paying a delayed contribution. The payment shall not be picked up by the employer, except as provided in subsection ~~(27)~~~~(28)~~ of this section, and shall be credited to the employee's second retirement account. Service credit obtained under this subsection shall not be used in determining benefits under KRS 61.702. The employee may purchase credit for service prior to August 1, 1998, if:
- (a) The employee retired from one (1) of the retirement systems administered by the Kentucky Retirement Systems and was reemployed prior to August 1, 1998, earning less than the maximum permissible earnings under the Federal Social Security Act;
 - (b) The employee elected to participate in a second retirement account effective August 1, 1998, in accordance with KRS 61.637(7); and
 - (c) The employee has at least forty-eight (48) months of service if age sixty-five (65), or at least sixty (60) months of service if under age sixty-five (65), in a second account in the systems administered by Kentucky Retirement Systems.
- ~~(29)~~~~(30)~~ An employee participating in one (1) of the retirement systems administered by the Kentucky Retirement Systems, who has at least forty-eight (48) months of service if age sixty-five (65) or at least sixty (60) months of service if under age sixty-five (65) in the systems administered by the Kentucky Retirement Systems, may obtain credit for the service in a regular full-time position otherwise creditable under the Kentucky Employees Retirement System, the County Employees Retirement System, or the State Police Retirement System for service in the United States government, other than service in the Armed Forces, for which service is not otherwise given, by paying to the system a delayed contribution payment. Payment may be made by lump sum or in increments. No payment made pursuant to this section shall be picked up by the employer, as described in KRS 61.560(4).
- ~~(30)~~~~(31)~~ An employee participating in a hazardous position in one (1) of the retirement systems administered by the Kentucky Retirement Systems, who has at least forty-eight (48) months of service if age sixty-five (65) or at least sixty (60) months of service if under age sixty-five (65) in the systems administered by the Kentucky Retirement Systems, may obtain credit for service in a regular full-time position in an urban-county government that would qualify for hazardous duty coverage under KRS 61.592 by paying to the system a delayed contribution payment. Payment may be made by lump sum or in increments. No payment made pursuant to this section shall be picked up by the employer, as described in KRS 61.560(4).

➔Section 11. KRS 61.565 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) Each employer participating in the State Police Retirement System as provided for in KRS 16.505 to 16.652, each employer participating in the County Employees Retirement System as provided for in KRS 78.510 to 78.852, and each employer participating in the Kentucky Employees Retirement System as provided for in KRS 61.510 to 61.705 shall contribute annually to the respective retirement system an amount equal to the percent, as computed under subsection (2) of this section, of the creditable compensation of its employees to be known as the "normal contributions," and an additional amount to be known as the "*actuarially accrued liability*~~[past service]~~ contribution" which shall be computed by amortizing the total unfunded *actuarially accrued*~~[past service]~~ liability over a period of thirty (30) years using the level-percentage-of-payroll *amortization* method. This method shall be used beginning with the ~~2007~~~~[1990]~~ actuarial valuation. The initial

thirty (30) year amortization period shall begin with the ~~2007~~~~1990~~ valuation. Any significant increase in *the actuarially accrued*~~[past service]~~ liability due to benefit improvements after the ~~2007~~~~1990~~ valuation shall be amortized using the level-percentage-of-payroll amortization method over a separate thirty (30) year period commencing in the year of the actuarial valuation in which the benefit improvements are first reflected.

- (2) The normal contribution rate shall be determined by the entry age normal cost funding method. The *actuarially accrued*~~[past service]~~ liability shall be determined by actuarial method consistent with the methods prescribed for determining the normal contribution rate. Normal contributions and the *actuarially accrued*~~[past service]~~ liability contribution shall be determined on actuarial bases adopted by the board.
- (3) Normal contribution and the *actuarially accrued liability*~~[past service]~~ contribution rates shall be determined by the board on the basis of the annual actuarial valuation last preceding the July 1 of a new biennium. The board may amend contribution rates as of July 1 of the second year of a biennium, if it is determined on the basis of a subsequent actuarial valuation that amended contribution rates are necessary to satisfy the requirements of subsections (1) and (2) of this section.
- (4) The system shall advise each employer prior to the beginning of each biennium, or prior to July 1 of the second year of a biennium, of any change in the employer contribution rate. Based on the employer contribution rate, each employer shall include in the budget sufficient funds to pay the employer contributions as determined by the board under subsections (1) to (3) of this section.
- (5)
 - (a) It is the intent of the General Assembly to begin phasing into the full actuarially required contribution rates for the Kentucky Employees Retirement System and the State Police Retirement System.
 - (b) For the employer contribution rate for the Kentucky Employees Retirement System pertaining to nonhazardous employees, it is the intent of the General Assembly to work towards the goal of contributing the actuarially required employer contribution as follows:
 1. Forty-four percent (44%) of the actuarially required contribution for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2010;
 2. Forty-eight percent (48%) of the actuarially required contribution for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2011;
 3. Fifty-three percent (53%) of the actuarially required contribution for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2012;
 4. Fifty-seven percent (57%) of the actuarially required contribution for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2013;
 5. Sixty-one percent (61%) of the actuarially required contribution for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014;
 6. Sixty-five percent (65%) of the actuarially required contribution for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015;
 7. Sixty-nine percent (69%) of the actuarially required contribution for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016;
 8. Seventy-three percent (73%) of the actuarially required contribution for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017;
 9. Seventy-seven percent (77%) of the actuarially required contribution for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2018;
 10. Eighty-one percent (81%) of the actuarially required contribution for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019;
 11. Eighty-five percent (85%) of the actuarially required contribution for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020;
 12. Eighty-nine percent (89%) of the actuarially required contribution for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021;

13. Ninety-three percent (93%) of the actuarially required contribution for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022;
 14. Ninety-seven percent (97%) of the actuarially required contribution for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023; and
 15. One hundred percent (100%) of the actuarially required contribution for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024.
- (c) For the employer contribution rate for the Kentucky Employees Retirement System pertaining to hazardous employees, it is the intent of the General Assembly to work towards the goal of contributing the full actuarially required employer contribution as follows:
1. Seventy-six percent (76%) of the actuarially required contribution for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2010;
 2. Seventy-nine percent (79%) of the actuarially required contribution for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2011;
 3. Eighty-three percent (83%) of the actuarially required contribution for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2012;
 4. Eighty-six percent (86%) of the actuarially required contribution for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2013;
 5. Eighty-nine percent (89%) of the actuarially required contribution for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014;
 6. Ninety-two percent (92%) of the actuarially required contribution for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015;
 7. Ninety-five percent (95%) of the actuarially required contribution for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016;
 8. Ninety-eight percent (98%) of the actuarially required contribution for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017; and
 9. One hundred percent (100%) of the actuarially required contribution for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2018.
- (d) For the employer contribution rate for the State Police Retirement System, it is the intent of the General Assembly to work towards the goal of contributing the full actuarially required employer contribution as follows:
1. Sixty percent (60%) of the actuarially required contribution for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2010;
 2. Sixty-five percent (65%) of the actuarially required contribution for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2011;
 3. Seventy percent (70%) of the actuarially required contribution for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2012;
 4. Seventy-five percent (75%) of the actuarially required contribution for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2013;
 5. Eighty percent (80%) of the actuarially required contribution for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014;
 6. Eighty-five percent (85%) of the actuarially required contribution for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015;
 7. Ninety percent (90%) of the actuarially required contribution for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016;
 8. Ninety-five percent (95%) of the actuarially required contribution for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017;

9. Ninety-eight percent (98%) of the actuarially required contribution for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2018; and
10. One hundred percent (100%) of the actuarially required contribution for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019.

➔Section 12. KRS 61.570 is amended to read as follows:

All of the assets of the system shall be held and invested in the Kentucky employees retirement fund and credited, according to the purpose for which they are held, to one (1) of ~~three (3)~~~~two (2)~~ accounts, namely, the members' contribution account,~~and~~ the retirement allowance account, **and accounts established pursuant to 26 U.S.C. sec. 401(h) within the funds established in KRS 16.510, 61.515, and 78.520, as prescribed by subsection (2)(b) of Section 22 of this Act.**

➔Section 13. KRS 61.575 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) The members' contribution account shall be the account to which all members' contributions, or contributions picked up by the employer after August 1, 1982, and interest allowances as provided in KRS 61.510 to 61.692 shall be credited, **except as provided by subsection (2)(b) of Section 22 of this Act.** From this account shall be paid the accumulated contributions of a member required to be returned to him upon withdrawal, or paid in the event of his death before retirement. Prior to the member's retirement, death, or refund in accordance with KRS 61.625, no funds shall be made available from the member contribution account.
- (2) Each member's contribution or contribution picked up by the employer shall be credited to the individual account of the contributing member, **except as provided by subsection (2)(b) of Section 22 of this Act.**
- (3)
 - (a) Each member on June 30 of each year shall have his individual account credited with interest.
 - (b) For a member who begins participating before September 1, 2008, interest shall be credited to his individual account at a rate determined by the board but not less than two percent (2%) per annum on the accumulated contributions of the member on June 30 of the preceding fiscal year.
 - (c) For a member who begins participating on or after September 1, 2008, interest shall be credited to his individual account at a rate of two and one-half percent (2.5%) per annum on the accumulated contributions of the member on June 30 of the preceding fiscal year.
 - (d) The amounts of interest credited to a member's account under this subsection shall be transferred from the retirement allowance account.
- (4) Upon the retirement of a member, his accumulated contributions shall be transferred from the members' contribution account to the retirement allowance account.

➔Section 14. KRS 61.590 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) A member or beneficiary eligible to receive retirement benefits under any of the provisions of KRS 61.510 to 61.705, 78.510 to 78.852, and 16.510 to 16.652 shall have on file at the retirement office on the form prescribed by the board, notification of retirement, giving his name, address, Social Security number, last day of employment, and other information the system may require. The **form entitled "Notification of Retirement"** shall not be filed more than six (6) months before the member's effective retirement date.
- (2) Within ten (10) days of the receipt of the ~~notification of retirement~~ form **entitled "Notification of Retirement"** submitted within two (2) months of the effective date of retirement, the system shall cause to be prepared an estimate of the amounts the member or beneficiary may expect to receive under the various plans available to the member or beneficiary. This information shall be recorded on a form entitled "Estimated Retirement Allowance" and forwarded to the member or beneficiary. If the member submits a ~~notification of retirement~~ form **entitled "Notification of Retirement"** more than two (2) months prior to the effective retirement date, the system shall provide the **form entitled "Estimated Retirement Allowance"** ~~estimated retirement allowance~~ within forty-five (45) days of the member's effective retirement date.
- (3) The member or beneficiary shall file at the retirement office the form entitled "Estimated Retirement Allowance" after he has checked the **payment option**~~plan~~ of his choice, signed the document and had his signature witnessed. A member or beneficiary may not select a different **payment option**~~plan~~ after the first retirement allowance payment has been issued by the State Treasurer.

- (4) A member or beneficiary choosing a monthly payment *option*~~[plan]~~ shall have on file at the retirement office his birth certificate or other acceptable evidence of date of birth. If a survivorship *option*~~[plan]~~ is chosen, proof of dates of birth of the beneficiary and member shall be on file at the retirement office.
- (5) (a) The effective date of normal retirement shall be the first month following the month in which employment was terminated from a regular full-time position.
- (b) The effective date of disability retirement shall be the first month following the month in which the member's last day of paid employment in a regular full-time position occurred, *provided the member files the form entitled "Estimated Retirement Allowance" no later than six (6) months following the date the notification of approval for disability retirement benefits is mailed. If the member fails to file the form entitled "Estimated Retirement Allowance" within six (6) months of the date the notification of approval for disability retirement benefits is mailed, then the member's form entitled "Notification of Retirement" shall be void. The member shall be required to submit a new form entitled "Notification of Retirement" to apply for disability retirement and reestablish eligibility for disability retirement benefits.*
- (c) The effective date of early retirement shall be the first month following the month the *form entitled "Notification of Retirement"*~~[form]~~ is filed at the retirement office or a future month designated by the member, if employment in a regular full-time position has been terminated and if the member files the *form entitled "Estimated Retirement Allowance Form" no later than six (6) months following termination. If the member fails to file the form entitled "Estimated Retirement Allowance" within six (6) months following the effective retirement date of the member, then the member's form entitled "Notification of Retirement" shall be void and the member shall be required to submit a new form entitled "Notification of Retirement" to apply for early retirement.*
- (6) The effective date of a deferred retirement option as provided under KRS 16.576(5) shall be the month following age sixty-five (65), or the month following written notification from the member that he wishes to begin receiving retirement payments. In the event of the death of a member who has deferred his retirement allowance, the effective date of retirement shall be the month following the member's death.
- (7) Notwithstanding the provisions of KRS 16.578 or 61.640, the effective date of a beneficiary's retirement allowance under normal, early, or disability retirement shall be as prescribed in subsection (5) or (6) of this section if the member dies before the first retirement allowance has been issued by the State Treasurer and his beneficiary becomes eligible for payments under KRS 16.578 or 61.640.

➔Section 15. KRS 61.615 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) If the board's medical examiner determines that a recipient of a disability retirement allowance is, prior to his normal retirement date, employed in a position with the same or similar duties, or in a position with duties requiring greater residual functional capacity and physical exertion, as the position from which he was disabled, except where the recipient has returned to work on a trial basis not to exceed nine (9) months, the system may reduce or discontinue the retirement allowance. Each recipient of a disability retirement allowance who is engaged in gainful employment shall notify the system of any employment; otherwise, the system shall have the right to recover payments of a disability retirement allowance made during the employment.
- (2) If the board's medical examiner determines that a recipient of a disability retirement allowance is, prior to his normal retirement date, no longer incapacitated by the bodily injury, mental illness, or disease for which he receives a disability retirement allowance, the board may reduce or discontinue the retirement allowance.
- (3) The system shall have full power and exclusive authority to reduce or discontinue a disability retirement allowance and the system shall utilize the services of a medical examiner as provided in KRS 61.665, in determining whether to continue, reduce, or discontinue a disability retirement allowance under this section.
- (a) The system shall select a medical examiner to evaluate the forms and medical information submitted by the person. If there is objective medical evidence of a mental impairment, the medical examiner may request the board's licensed mental health professional to assist in determining the level of the mental impairment.
- (b) The medical examiners shall be paid a reasonable amount by the retirement system for each case evaluated.

- (c) The medical examiner shall recommend that disability retirement allowance be continued, reduced, or discontinued.
1. If the medical examiner recommends that the disability retirement allowance be continued, the system shall make retirement payments in accordance with the retirement plan selected by the person.
 2. If the medical examiner recommends that the disability retirement allowance be reduced or discontinued, the system shall send notice of the recommendation by United States first-class mail to the person's last address on file in the retirement office.
 - a. The person shall have sixty (60) days from the day that the system mailed the notice to file at the retirement office additional supporting employment or medical information and certify to the retirement office that the forms and additional supporting employment information or medical information are ready to be evaluated by the medical examiner or to appeal the recommendation of the medical examiner to reduce or discontinue the disability retirement allowance by filing at the retirement office a request for a formal hearing.
 - b. If the person fails or refuses to file at the retirement office the forms, the additional supporting employment information, and current medical information or to appeal the recommendation of the medical examiners to reduce or discontinue the disability retirement allowance, his retirement allowance shall be discontinued on the first day of the month following the expiration of the period of the sixty (60) days from the day the system mailed the notice of the recommendation to the person's last address on file in the retirement office.
- (d) The medical examiner shall make a recommendation based upon the evaluation of additional supporting medical information submitted in accordance with paragraph (c)2.a. of this subsection.
1. If the medical examiner recommends that the disability retirement allowance be continued, the system shall make disability retirement payments in accordance with the retirement plan selected by the person.
 2. If the medical examiner recommends that the disability retirement allowance be reduced or discontinued based upon the evaluation of additional supporting medical information, the system shall send notice of this recommendation by United States first-class mail to the person's last address on file in the retirement office.
 - a. The person shall have sixty (60) days from the day that the system mailed the notice of the recommendation to appeal the recommendation to reduce or discontinue the disability retirement allowance by filing at the retirement office a request for formal hearing.
 - b. If the person fails or refuses to appeal the recommendation of the medical examiners to reduce or discontinue the disability retirement allowance, his retirement allowance shall be discontinued on the first day of the month following the expiration of the period of the sixty (60) days from the day the system mailed the notice of the recommendation to the person's last address on file in the retirement office.
- (e) Any person whose disability benefits have been reduced or discontinued, pursuant to paragraph (c)2. or (d)2. of this subsection, may file at the retirement office a request for formal hearing to be conducted in accordance with KRS Chapter 13B. The right to demand a formal hearing shall be limited to a period of sixty (60) days after the person had notice, as described in paragraph (c) or (d) of this subsection. The request for formal hearing shall be filed with the system, at the retirement office in Frankfort. The request for formal hearing shall include a short and plain statement of the reasons the reduction, discontinuance, or denial of disability retirement is being contested.
- (f) Failure of the person to request a formal hearing within the period of time specified shall preclude the person from proceeding any further with contesting the reduction or discontinuation of disability retirement allowance, except as provided in subsection (6)(d) of this section. This paragraph shall not limit the person's right to appeal to a court.

- (g) A final order of the board shall be based on substantial evidence appearing in the record as a whole and shall set forth the decision of the board and the facts and law upon which the decision is based. If the board orders that the person's disability retirement allowance be discontinued or reduced, the order shall take effect on the first day of the month following the day the system mailed the order to the person's last address on file in the retirement office. Judicial review of the final board order shall not operate as a stay and the system shall discontinue or reduce the person's disability retirement allowance as provided in this section.
 - (h) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section, the system may require the person to submit to one (1) or more medical or psychological examinations at any time. The system shall be responsible for any costs associated with any examinations of the person requested by the medical examiner or the system for the purpose of providing medical information deemed necessary by the medical examiner or the system. Notice of the time and place of the examination shall be mailed to the person or his legal representative. If the person fails or refuses to submit to one (1) or more medical examinations, his rights to further disability retirement allowance shall cease.
 - (i) All requests for a hearing pursuant to this section shall be made in writing.
- (4) The board may establish an appeals committee whose members shall be appointed by the chair and who shall have the authority to act upon the recommendations and reports of the hearing officer pursuant to this section on behalf of the board.
 - (5) Any person aggrieved by a final order of the board may seek judicial review after all administrative appeals have been exhausted by filing a petition for judicial review in the Franklin Circuit Court in accordance with KRS Chapter 13B.
 - (6) If a disability retirement allowance is reduced or discontinued, the person may apply for early retirement benefits as provided under KRS 61.559, subject to the following provisions:
 - (a) The person may not change his beneficiary or payment option;
 - (b) If the person has returned to employment with an employer participating in *one (1) of the systems administered by Kentucky Retirement Systems*~~[the system from which he retired]~~, the service and creditable compensation shall be used in recomputing his benefit, except that the person's final compensation shall not be less than the final compensation last used in determining his retirement allowance;
 - (c) The benefit shall be reduced as provided by KRS 61.595(2);
 - (d) The person shall remain eligible for reinstatement of his disability allowance upon reevaluation by the medical review board until his normal retirement age. The person shall apply for reinstatement of disability benefits in accordance with the provisions of this section. ***An application for reinstatement of disability benefits shall be administered as an application under KRS 61.600, and only the bodily injuries, mental illnesses, diseases, or conditions for which the person was originally approved for disability benefits shall be considered. Bodily injuries, mental illnesses, diseases, or conditions that came into existence after the person's last day of paid employment shall not be considered as a basis for reinstatement of disability benefits. Bodily injuries, mental illnesses, diseases, or conditions alleged by the person as being incapacitating, but which were not the basis for the award of disability retirement benefits, shall not be considered.*** If the person establishes that the disability benefits should be reinstated, the retirement system shall pay disability benefits effective from the first day of the month following the month in which the person applied for reinstatement of the disability benefits; and
 - (e) Upon attaining normal retirement age, the person shall receive the higher of either his disability retirement allowance or his early retirement allowance.
 - (7) No disability retirement allowance shall be reduced or discontinued by the system after the person's normal retirement date except in case of reemployment as provided for by KRS 61.637. If a disability retirement allowance has been reduced or discontinued, except if the person is reemployed as provided for by KRS 61.637, the retirement allowance shall be reinstated upon attainment of the person's normal retirement ~~date~~~~[age]~~ to the retirement allowance prior to adjustment. No reinstated payment shall be less than the person is receiving upon attainment of the person's normal retirement ~~date~~~~[age]~~.

➔Section 16. KRS 61.623 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) A recipient who begins receiving a retirement allowance August 1, 2000, or after, from the Kentucky Employees Retirement System, the County Employees Retirement System, or the State Police Retirement System shall have the retirement allowance paid by electronic fund transfer to a financial institution designated by the recipient except as provided by subsection (5) of this section.
- (2) When an individual becomes eligible to receive a monthly retirement allowance, the retirement system shall provide an authorization for deposit of retirement payment form to the recipient to have the monthly retirement allowance deposited to an account in a financial institution.
- (3) The recipient ~~and the financial institution~~ shall provide the information and **authorization**~~authorizations~~ required for the electronic transfer of funds from the State Treasurer's office to the designated financial institution.
- (4) At any time while receiving a retirement allowance, the recipient may change the designated institution by completing a new authorization for deposit of retirement payment form and filing the form at the retirement office in Frankfort. The last authorization for deposit of retirement payment on file at the retirement office shall control the electronic transfer of the recipient's retirement allowance.
- (5)
 - (a) A recipient may request to be paid by check issued by the State Treasurer instead of by electronic transfer by completing and filing at the retirement office a request for payment by check form.
 - (b) The request shall be approved if:
 1. The recipient certifies that he does not currently have an account with a financial institution; *or*
 2. The recipient's bank certifies that it does not participate in the electronic funds transfer program; ~~or~~
 3. ~~The recipient is age seventy (70) or older as of July 15, 2008, and the recipient files at the retirement office on or before December 31, 2008, a request for payment by check form with a written explanation of why the requirement to receive payment by electronic fund transfer presents a hardship or is not in his or her best financial interest.~~
 - (c) The retirement office shall, every five (5) years, require the recipient to certify that the original conditions under which he requested payment by check continue. If the original conditions do not exist, the recipient shall complete an authorization for direct deposit of retirement payment form and file it with the retirement office.

➔Section 17. KRS 61.630 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) If a retired member who did not elect an optional retirement plan dies at any time after retirement but before receiving total retirement allowances provided in KRS 16.510 to 16.652, KRS 61.515 to 61.705, and KRS 78.520 to 78.852 at least equal to his accumulated contributions as of the date of his retirement, the difference between the accumulated contributions and the total allowances shall be payable in a lump sum to the properly designated beneficiary. If a living person designated as the beneficiary predeceases the retired member, the estate shall become the beneficiary. If a spouse designated as the beneficiary is divorced from the retired member as of the member's death, the estate shall become the beneficiary.
- (2) If a retired member who elected an optional retirement plan and his beneficiary both die at any time after retirement of the member but before receiving total retirement allowances provided in KRS 16.510 to 16.652, KRS 61.515 to 61.705, and KRS 78.520 to 78.852 at least equal to the retired member's accumulated contributions as of the date of his retirement, the difference between the accumulated contributions and the total allowances shall be payable in a lump sum to the estate of the last deceased, except that the retired member's estate shall receive the payment if the beneficiary was the spouse and they were divorced as of the date of the member's death. If the retired member and beneficiary die simultaneously, the estate of the retired member shall become the beneficiary.
- (3) If a beneficiary receiving a lifetime retirement allowance under KRS 16.578 or 61.640 dies before receiving total retirement allowances provided in KRS 16.510 to 16.652, KRS 61.515 to 61.705, and KRS 78.520 to 78.852 at least equal to the member's accumulated contributions as of the date of the member's death, the difference between the accumulated contributions and the total allowances shall be payable in a lump sum to the estate of the beneficiary.

- (4) If a beneficiary receiving a retirement allowance for *sixty (60) or* one hundred twenty (120) months certain under KRS 16.576, 16.578, or 61.640, or a beneficiary receiving a retirement allowance under KRS 61.635(5), (6), or (7), dies before receiving all payments under the plan, the executor or administrator of his estate shall receive a lump sum payment which shall be the actuarial equivalent to the remaining payments.
- (5) If the system is unable to verify a recipient's whereabouts or whether the recipient is living, the system shall suspend the recipient's retirement allowance. If the recipient is located, the system shall restore to the recipient all suspended retirement allowances.

➔Section 18. KRS 61.640 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) *If a member dies prior to retirement or before the first benefit payment has been issued by the State Treasurer, the member's beneficiary shall be eligible for the benefits provided by this section if the member had on file a written designation of a beneficiary with the retirement office and the member met the following conditions at the date of his or her death:*
- (a) *The member was eligible to retire under KRS 61.559(2) or (3);*
 - (b) *The member was in active employment or on authorized leave of absence with five (5) or more years of service credit and died prior to his or her normal retirement date or was normal retirement age or older and had at least four (4) years of service credit; or*
 - (c) *The member was not in active employment or on authorized leave of absence with twelve (12) or more years of service credit and died prior to his or her normal retirement date.*
- (2) *If the beneficiary eligible for benefits as provided in subsection (1) of this section is a single person, then the beneficiary may elect to receive:*
- (a) *A monthly benefit payable for the life of the beneficiary that is equal to the benefit that would have been paid had the member retired immediately prior to his or her date of death and elected to receive benefits payable under the survivorship one hundred percent (100%) option as provided in KRS 61.635(2);*
 - (b) *A monthly benefit payable for the life of the beneficiary under the beneficiary Social Security adjustment option as provided in KRS 61.635(9) that is the actuarial equivalent to the amount computed under paragraph (a) of this subsection;*
 - (c) *A monthly benefit payable for a period of sixty (60) months that is the actuarial equivalent to the amount computed under paragraph (a) of this subsection;*
 - (d) *A monthly benefit payable for a period of one hundred twenty (120) months that is the actuarial equivalent to the amount computed under paragraph (a) of this subsection;*
 - (e) *A monthly benefit payable for a period of one hundred twenty (120) months that is equivalent to the benefit the member would have been entitled to receive based on his or her years of service and final compensation at the date of his or her death reduced by the survivorship fifty percent (50%) factor as provided for in KRS 61.635(4), then reduced by fifty percent (50%), and that is the actuarial equivalent to the amount computed under paragraph (a) of this subsection; or*
 - (f) *The higher of a refund of accumulated contributions and interest as described in KRS 61.625(1) or one (1) time lump-sum payment which shall be the actuarial equivalent of the amount payable under paragraph (a) of this subsection for a period of sixty (60) months.*
- (3) *If the beneficiary eligible for benefits as provided by subsection (1) of this section are multiple beneficiaries or a trust, then the multiple beneficiaries by consensus or the trustee may elect to receive the actuarial equivalent amounts payable under paragraph (c), (d), (e), or (f) of subsection (2) of this section using the assumption that the beneficiary's age is the same as the member's age.*
- (4) *If the beneficiary eligible for benefits as provided in subsection (1) of this section is the member's estate, then the beneficiary shall receive the higher of a refund of accumulated contributions and interest as described in KRS 61.625(1) or the one (1) time lump-sum payment payable under paragraph (f) of subsection (2) of this section, using the assumption that the beneficiary's age is the same as the member's age. [If an employee who is of normal retirement age or greater is in the active employment of a participating agency, or on official leave from the agency, if the leave has been granted in accordance with the policy of the*

~~state Personnel Cabinet, with service credit of forty eight (48) months or more, at least twelve (12) of which are current service, or if an employee of less than normal retirement age is in the active employment of a participating agency or on official leave from the agency, if the leave has been granted in accordance with the policy of the state Personnel Cabinet, with service credit of sixty (60) months, at least twelve (12) of which are current service, dies at any time before the first retirement allowance payment has been issued by the State Treasurer and has on file at the retirement office at the time of his death a written designation of a beneficiary, the beneficiary may elect to receive an annual benefit payable monthly commencing in the month following the member's death which shall be equivalent to the benefit the member would have been entitled to receive, based on his age, years of service, and final compensation at date of his death, had the member been eligible for retirement and had he chosen benefits payable under KRS 61.635(2); or the beneficiary may elect the actuarial equivalent payable for sixty (60) months certain; or the beneficiary may elect the actuarial equivalent payable for one hundred twenty (120) months certain; or the beneficiary may elect the actuarial equivalent refund.~~

- ~~(2) — If a member not in the active employment of a participating agency, nor on official leave from the agency, with the service and age prescribed in KRS 61.559(2), dies before the first retirement allowance payment has been issued by the State Treasurer and has on file in the retirement office at the time of his death a written designation of a beneficiary, the beneficiary may elect to receive an annual benefit payable monthly commencing in the month following the member's death which shall be equivalent to the benefit the member would have been entitled to receive, based on his age, years of service, and final compensation at date of his death, had he chosen benefits payable under KRS 61.635(2); or the beneficiary may elect the actuarial equivalent payable for sixty (60) months certain; or the beneficiary may elect the actuarial equivalent payable for one hundred twenty (120) months certain; or the beneficiary may elect the actuarial equivalent refund.~~
- ~~(3) — If a member, not in the active employment of a participating agency nor on official leave from the agency, with twelve (12) or more years of service credit at least one (1) of which is current service, dies at any time before the first retirement allowance payment has been issued by the State Treasurer and has on file in the retirement office at the time of his death a written designation of a beneficiary, the beneficiary may elect to receive an annual benefit payable monthly commencing in the month following the member's death which shall be equivalent to the benefit the member would have been entitled to receive, based on his age, years of service, and final compensation at date of his death, had the member been eligible for retirement and had he chosen benefits payable under KRS 61.635(2); or the beneficiary may elect the actuarial equivalent payable for sixty (60) months certain; or the beneficiary may elect the actuarial equivalent payable for one hundred twenty (120) months certain; or the beneficiary may elect the actuarial equivalent refund.~~
- ~~(4) — An alternative calculation of benefits payable to the beneficiary under subsection (1), (2), or (3) of this section shall be determined by computing an annual benefit payable commencing in the month following the member's death which shall be equivalent to the benefit the member would have been entitled to receive based on his years of service and final compensation at the date of his death reduced by the survivorship fifty percent (50%) factor as provided for in KRS 61.635(4) then reduced by fifty percent (50%), and the actuarial equivalent payable for sixty (60) months certain and one hundred twenty (120) months certain and the actuarial equivalent refund shall be determined.~~
- ~~(5) — If the member, subject to subsection (1), (2), (3), or (4) of this section, had on file in the retirement office a written designation of multiple beneficiaries, his estate, trust, or trustee, the multiple beneficiaries by consensus, the administrator, or executor of the estate, or trustee may elect to receive the actuarial equivalent to the benefit allowable under subsections (1), (2), (3), or (4) of this section given the assumptions that the beneficiary's age is the same as the member's, and that the member had chosen benefits payable monthly for sixty (60) months certain, or one hundred and twenty (120) months certain, or an actuarial equivalent refund.~~
- ~~(6) — Actuarial equivalent refund. The beneficiary may elect to receive a one (1) time lump sum payment which shall be the actuarial equivalent to the amount payable under KRS 61.635(2) for a period of sixty (60) months. In the case of designation of multiple beneficiaries, an estate, trust, or trustee, the multiple beneficiaries by consensus, trustee, executor, or administrator of the estate may elect to receive a one (1) time lump sum payment which shall be the actuarial equivalent of the amount payable under KRS 61.635(2), assuming the beneficiary's age to be the same as the member's for a period of sixty (60) months.~~
- ~~(7) — In the case of a single beneficiary, who is a person, the highest monthly benefit determined under subsection (1), (2), (3), (4), or (6) of this section for a life annuity or for payments for sixty (60) months certain or for payments for one hundred twenty (120) months certain or for the actuarial equivalent refund or for the Social Security adjustment option shall be tendered to the beneficiary. In the case of designation of multiple~~

~~beneficiaries, an estate, trust, or trustee, the highest monthly benefit determined under subsection (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), or (6) of this section for payments for sixty (60) months certain or one hundred and twenty (120) months certain or the actuarial equivalent refund shall be tendered to the multiple beneficiaries, trustee, administrator, or executor of the estate.]~~

~~(5)(8)]~~ Payments of taxable distributions made pursuant to this section shall be subject to state and federal income tax as appropriate.

➔Section 19. KRS 61.645 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) The County Employees Retirement System, Kentucky Employees Retirement System, and State Police Retirement System shall be administered by the board of trustees of the Kentucky Retirement Systems composed of nine (9) members, who shall be selected as follows:
 - (a) The secretary of the Personnel Cabinet shall serve as trustee for as long as he occupies the position of secretary under KRS 18A.015, except as provided under subsections (5) and (6) of this section;
 - (b) Two (2) trustees, who shall be members or retired from the County Employees Retirement System, elected by the members and retired members of the County Employees Retirement System;
 - (c) One (1) trustee, who shall be a member or retired from the State Police Retirement System, elected by the members and retired members of the State Police Retirement System;
 - (d) Two (2) trustees, who shall be members or retired from the Kentucky Employees Retirement System, elected by the members and retired members of the Kentucky Employees Retirement System; and
 - (e) Three (3) trustees, appointed by the Governor of the Commonwealth. Of the three (3) trustees appointed by the Governor, one (1) shall be knowledgeable about the impact of pension requirements on local governments.
- (2) The board is hereby granted the powers and privileges of a corporation, including but not limited to the following powers:
 - (a) To sue and be sued in its corporate name;
 - (b) To make bylaws not inconsistent with the law;
 - (c) To conduct the business and promote the purposes for which it was formed;
 - (d) To contract for investment counseling, actuarial, auditing, medical, and other professional or technical services as required to carry out the obligations of the board without limitation, notwithstanding the provisions of KRS Chapters 45, 45A, 56, and 57;
 - (e) To purchase fiduciary liability insurance;
 - (f) To acquire, hold, sell, dispose of, pledge, lease, or mortgage, the goods or property necessary to exercise the board's powers and perform the board's duties without limitation, notwithstanding the limitations of KRS Chapters 45, 45A, and 56; and
 - (g) The board shall reimburse any trustee, officer, or employee for any legal expense resulting from a civil action arising out of the performance of his official duties.
- (3) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1) of this section, each trustee shall serve a term of four (4) years or until his successor is duly qualified except as otherwise provided in this section. An elected trustee shall not serve more than three (3) consecutive four (4) year terms. An elected trustee who has served three (3) consecutive terms may be elected again after an absence of four (4) years from the board.
- (4)
 - (a) The trustees selected by the membership of each of the various retirement systems shall be elected by ballot. For each trustee to be elected, the board may nominate, not less than six (6) months before a term of office of a trustee is due to expire, three (3) constitutionally eligible individuals.
 - (b) Individuals may be nominated by the retirement system members which are to elect the trustee by presenting to the executive director, not less than four (4) months before a term of office of a trustee is due to expire, a petition, bearing the name, Social Security number, and signature of no less than one-tenth (1/10) of the number voting in the last election by the retirement system members.

- (c) Within four (4) months of the nominations made in accordance with paragraphs (a) and (b) of this subsection, the executive director shall cause to be prepared an official ballot. The ballot shall carry the name, address, and position title of each individual nominated by the board and by petition. Provisions shall also be made for write-in votes.
 - (d) The ballots shall be distributed to the eligible voters by mail to their last known residence address.
 - (e) The ballots shall be addressed to the Kentucky Retirement Systems in care of a predetermined box number at a United States Post Office located within Kentucky. Access to this post office box shall be limited to the board's contracted auditing firm. The individual receiving a plurality of votes shall be declared elected.
 - (f) The eligible voter shall cast his ballot by checking a square opposite the name of the candidate of his choice. He shall sign and mail the ballot at least thirty (30) days prior to the date the term to be filled is due to expire. The latest mailing date shall be printed on the ballot.
 - (g) The board's contracted auditing firm shall report in writing the outcome to the chair of the board of trustees. Cost of an election shall be payable from the funds of the system for which the trustee is elected.
 - (h) ***For purposes of this subsection, an eligible voter shall be a person who was a member of the retirement system on December 31 of the year preceding the election year.***
- (5) Any vacancy which may occur in an appointed position shall be filled in the same manner which provides for the selection of the particular trustee, and any vacancy which may occur in an elected position shall be filled by appointment by a majority vote of the remaining trustees, and if the secretary of the Personnel Cabinet resigns his position as trustee, it shall be filled by appointment made by the Governor; however, any vacancy shall be filled only for the duration of the unexpired term.
- (6) (a) Membership on the board of trustees shall not be incompatible with any other office unless a constitutional incompatibility exists. No trustee shall serve in more than one (1) position as trustee on the board; and if a trustee holds more than one (1) position as trustee on the board, he shall resign a position.
- (b) A trustee shall be removed from office upon conviction of a felony or for a finding of a violation of any provision of KRS 11A.020 or 11A.040 by a court of competent jurisdiction.
- (c) ***A current or former employee of Kentucky Retirement Systems shall not be eligible to serve as a member of the board.***
- (7) Trustees who do not otherwise receive a salary from the State Treasury shall receive a per diem of eighty dollars (\$80) for each day they are in session or on official duty, and they shall be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses in accordance with state administrative regulations and standards.
- (8) The board shall meet at least once in each quarter of the year and may meet in special session upon the call of the chair or the executive director. It shall elect a chair and a vice chair. A majority of the trustees shall constitute a quorum and all actions taken by the board shall be by affirmative vote of a majority of the trustees present.
- (9) (a) The board of trustees shall appoint or contract for the services of an executive director and fix the compensation and other terms of employment for this position without limitation of the provisions of KRS Chapters 18A and 45A and KRS 64.640. The executive director shall be the chief administrative officer of the board.
- (b) The board of trustees shall authorize the executive director to appoint the employees deemed necessary to transact the business of the system. For an appointee deemed to be in a policy-making position, the board shall determine the compensation and other terms of employment for the policy-making position without limitation of the provisions of KRS Chapter 18A. Anything in the Kentucky Revised Statutes to the contrary notwithstanding, the power over and control of determining and maintaining an adequate complement of employees shall be under the exclusive jurisdiction of the board of trustees.
- (c) Effective December 1, 2002, all employees of the Kentucky Retirement Systems shall be transferred to a personnel system adopted by the board. Employees of Kentucky Retirement Systems covered by the personnel system adopted by the board shall be:

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

5. Separations, disciplinary actions, and appeal policies including provisions describing classified with status, exemptions from classified with status, layoffs, abolishment of position, dismissals and notification of dismissal, dismissals during probationary period, disciplinary actions, right of appeal, grievance and appeal procedures, and an employee grievance and appeal committee;
 6. Service and benefits regulations including provisions describing hours of work, fringe benefits, workers' compensation, payroll deductions, holidays, inclement weather days, compensatory time, retirement, resignations, employee evaluations, and political activities; and
 7. Leave policies including provisions describing special leave, annual leave, court leave and jury duty, military leave, voting leave, educational leave, sick leave, family medical leave, leave without pay, absence without leave, and blood donation leave.
- (e) The board shall require the executive director and the employees as it thinks proper to execute bonds for the faithful performance of their duties notwithstanding the limitations of KRS Chapter 62.
 - (f) The board shall establish a system of accounting.
 - (g) The board shall do all things, take all actions, and promulgate all administrative regulations, not inconsistent with the provisions of KRS 16.505 to 16.652, 61.510 to 61.705, and 78.510 to 78.852, necessary or proper in order to carry out the provisions of KRS 16.505 to 16.652, 61.510 to 61.705, and 78.510 to 78.852. Notwithstanding any other evidence of legislative intent, it is hereby declared to be the controlling legislative intent that the provisions of KRS 16.505 to 16.652, 61.510 to 61.705, and 78.510 to 78.852 conform with federal statute or regulation and meet the qualification requirements under 26 U.S.C. sec. 401(a), applicable federal regulations, and other published guidance. Provisions of KRS 16.505 to 16.652, 61.510 to 61.705, and 78.510 to 78.852 which conflict with federal statute or regulation or qualification under 26 U.S.C. sec. 401(a), applicable federal regulations, and other published guidance shall not be available. The board shall have the authority to promulgate administrative regulations to conform with federal statute and regulation and to meet the qualification requirements under 26 U.S.C. sec. 401(a), including an administrative regulation to comply with 26 U.S.C. sec. 401(a)(9). The board shall have the authority to promulgate an administrative regulation to comply with any consent decrees entered into by the board in Civil Action No. 3:99CV500(C) in order to bring the systems into compliance with the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, 29 U.S.C. Section 621, et seq., as amended.
- (10) All employees of the board shall serve during its will and pleasure. Notwithstanding any statute to the contrary, employees shall not be considered legislative agents under KRS 6.611.
 - (11) The Attorney General, or an assistant designated by him, may attend each meeting of the board and may receive the agenda, board minutes, and other information distributed to trustees of the board upon request. The Attorney General may act as legal adviser and attorney for the board, and the board may contract for legal services, notwithstanding the limitations of KRS Chapter 12 or 13B.
 - (12) The system shall publish an annual financial report showing all receipts, disbursements, assets, and liabilities. The annual report shall include a copy of an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. The board may select an independent certified public accountant or the Auditor of Public Accounts to perform the audit. If the audit is performed by an independent certified public accountant, the Auditor of Public Accounts shall not be required to perform an audit pursuant to KRS 43.050(2)(a), but may perform an audit at his discretion. All proceedings and records of the board shall be open for inspection by the public. The system shall make copies of the audit required by this subsection available for examination by any member, retiree, or beneficiary in the office of the executive director of the Kentucky Retirement Systems and in other places as necessary to make the audit available to all members, retirees, and beneficiaries. A copy of the annual audit shall be sent to the Legislative Research Commission no later than ten (10) days after receipt by the board.
 - (13) All expenses incurred by or on behalf of the system and the board in the administration of the system during a fiscal year shall be paid from the retirement allowance account. Any other statute to the contrary notwithstanding, authorization for all expenditures relating to the administrative operations of the system shall be contained in the biennial budget unit request, branch budget recommendation, and the financial plan adopted by the General Assembly pursuant to KRS Chapter 48.

- (14) Any person adversely affected by a decision of the board, except as provided under subsection (16) of this section or KRS 61.665, involving KRS 16.505 to 16.652, 61.510 to 61.705, and 78.510 to 78.852, may appeal the decision of the board to the Franklin Circuit Court within sixty (60) days of the board action.
- (15) (a) A trustee shall discharge his duties as a trustee, including his duties as a member of a committee:
1. In good faith;
 2. On an informed basis; and
 3. In a manner he honestly believes to be in the best interest of the Kentucky Retirement Systems.
- (b) A trustee discharges his duties on an informed basis if, when he makes an inquiry into the business and affairs of the Kentucky Retirement Systems or into a particular action to be taken or decision to be made, he exercises the care an ordinary prudent person in a like position would exercise under similar circumstances.
- (c) In discharging his duties, a trustee may rely on information, opinions, reports, or statements, including financial statements and other financial data, if prepared or presented by:
1. One (1) or more officers or employees of the Kentucky Retirement Systems whom the trustee honestly believes to be reliable and competent in the matters presented;
 2. Legal counsel, public accountants, actuaries, or other persons as to matters the trustee honestly believes are within the person's professional or expert competence; or
 3. A committee of the board of trustees of which he is not a member if the trustee honestly believes the committee merits confidence.
- (d) A trustee shall not be considered as acting in good faith if he has knowledge concerning the matter in question that makes reliance otherwise permitted by paragraph (c) of this subsection unwarranted.
- (e) Any action taken as a trustee, or any failure to take any action as a trustee, shall not be the basis for monetary damages or injunctive relief unless:
1. The trustee has breached or failed to perform the duties of the trustee's office in compliance with this section; and
 2. In the case of an action for monetary damages, the breach or failure to perform constitutes willful misconduct or wanton or reckless disregard for human rights, safety, or property.
- (f) A person bringing an action for monetary damages under this section shall have the burden of proving by clear and convincing evidence the provisions of paragraph (e)1. and 2. of this subsection, and the burden of proving that the breach or failure to perform was the legal cause of damages suffered by the Kentucky Retirement Systems.
- (g) Nothing in this section shall eliminate or limit the liability of any trustee for any act or omission occurring prior to July 15, 1988.
- (h) In discharging his or her administrative duties under this section, a trustee shall strive to administer the retirement system in an efficient and cost-effective manner for the taxpayers of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.
- (16) When an order by the system substantially impairs the benefits or rights of a member, retired member, or recipient, except action which relates to entitlement to disability benefits, the affected member, retired member, or recipient may request a hearing to be held in accordance with KRS Chapter 13B. The board may establish an appeals committee whose members shall be appointed by the chair and who shall have authority to act upon the recommendations and reports of the hearing officer on behalf of the board. The member, retired member, or recipient aggrieved by a final order of the board following the hearing may appeal the decision to the Franklin Circuit Court, in accordance with KRS Chapter 13B.
- (17) The board shall give the Kentucky Education Support Personnel Association twenty-four (24) hours notice of the board meetings, to the extent possible.
- (18) The board shall establish a formal trustee education program for all trustees of the board. The program shall include but not be limited to the following:

- (a) A required orientation program for all new trustees elected or appointed to the board. The orientation program shall include training on:
 - 1. Benefits and benefits administration;
 - 2. Investment concepts, policies, and current composition and administration of retirement systems investments;
 - 3. Laws, bylaws, and administrative regulations pertaining to the retirement systems and to fiduciaries; and
 - 4. Actuarial and financial concepts pertaining to the retirement systems.

If a trustee fails to complete the orientation program within one (1) year from the beginning of his or her first term on the board, the retirement systems shall withhold payment of the per diem and travel expenses due to the board member under this section and KRS 16.640 and 78.780 until the trustee has completed the orientation program;

- (b) Annual required training for board members on the administration, benefits, financing, and investing of the retirement systems. If a trustee fails to complete the annual required training during the calendar or fiscal year, the retirement systems shall withhold payment of the per diem and travel expenses due to the board member under this section and KRS 16.640 and 78.780 until the board member has met the annual training requirements; and
 - (c) The retirement systems shall incorporate by reference in an administrative regulation, pursuant to KRS 13A.2251, the trustee education program.
- (19) In order to improve public transparency regarding the administration of the systems, the board of trustees shall adopt a best practices model by posting the following information to the retirement systems' Web site and shall make available to the public:
- (a) Meeting notices and agendas for all meetings of the board. Notices and agendas shall be posted to the retirement systems' Web site at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the board or committee meetings, except in the case of special or emergency meetings as provided by KRS 61.823;
 - (b) The Comprehensive Annual Financial Report with the information as follows:
 - 1. A general overview and update on the retirement systems by the executive director;
 - 2. A listing of the board of trustees;
 - 3. A listing of key staff;
 - 4. An organizational chart;
 - 5. Financial information, including a statement of plan net assets, a statement of changes in plan net assets, an actuarial value of assets, a schedule of investments, a statement of funded status and funding progress, and other supporting data;
 - 6. Investment information, including a general overview, a list of the retirement system's professional consultants, a total return on retirement systems investments over a historical period, an investment summary, contracted investment management expenses, transaction commissions, and a schedule of investments;
 - 7. The annual actuarial valuation report on the pension benefit and the medical insurance benefit; and
 - 8. A general statistical section, including information on contributions, benefit payouts, and retirement systems' demographic data;
 - (c) All external audits;
 - (d) All board minutes or other materials that require adoption or ratification by the board of trustees. The items listed in this paragraph shall be posted within seventy-two (72) hours of adoption or ratification of the board;
 - (e) All bylaws, policies, or procedures adopted or ratified by the board of trustees;

- (f) The retirement systems' summary plan description;
 - (g) A document containing an unofficial copy of the statutes governing the systems administered by Kentucky Retirement Systems;
 - (h) A listing of the members of the board of trustees and membership on each committee established by the board, including any investment committees;
 - (i) All investment holdings and commissions for each fund administered by the board. The board shall update the list of holdings and commissions on a quarterly basis for fiscal years beginning on or after July 1, 2008; and
 - (j) An update of investment returns, asset allocations, and the performance of the funds against benchmarks adopted by the board for each fund and for each asset class administered by the board. The update shall be posted on a quarterly basis for fiscal years beginning on or after July 1, 2008.
- (20) Notwithstanding the requirements of subsection (19) of this section, the retirement systems shall not be required to furnish information that is protected under KRS 61.661, exempt under KRS 61.878, or that, if disclosed, would compromise the retirement systems' ability to competitively invest in real estate or other asset classes, or to competitively negotiate vendor fees.

➔Section 20. KRS 61.675 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) The employer shall prepare the records and, from time to time, shall furnish the information the system may require in the discharge of its duties. Upon employment of an employee, the employer shall inform him of his duties and obligations in connection with the system as a condition of employment.
- (2) The system may at any time conduct an audit of the employer in order to determine if the employer is complying with the provisions of KRS 16.505 to 16.652, 61.610 to 61.705, or 78.510 to 78.852. The system shall have access to and may examine all books, accounts, reports, correspondence files, and records of any employer. Every employer, employee, or agency reporting official of a department or county, as defined in KRS 78.510(3), having records in his possession or under his control, shall permit access to and examination of the records upon the request of the system.
- (3) (a) Any agency participating in the Kentucky Employees Retirement System which is not an integral part of the executive branch of state government shall ***file the following at*** ~~forward the employer and employee contributions required under KRS 61.560 and 61.565 to~~ the retirement office on or before the tenth day of the month following the period being reported:
 - 1. ***The employer and employee contributions required under KRS 61.560 and 61.565; and***
 - 2. ***A record of all contributions to the system on the forms prescribed by the board.***
- (b) If the agency fails to ~~file~~ ***forward*** all contributions ***and reports*** on or before the tenth day of the month following the period being reported, interest on the delinquent contributions at the actuarial rate adopted by the board compounded annually, but not less than one thousand dollars (\$1,000), shall be added to the amount due the system.

➔Section 21. KRS 61.701 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) (a) There is hereby created and established a ***trust*** fund to be known as "Kentucky Retirement Systems Insurance ***Trust*** Fund." All assets received in the ***trust*** fund shall be deemed trust funds to be held and applied solely as provided in this section. ***Assets of the trust fund shall not be used for any other purpose and shall not be used to pay the claims of creditors or any individual, person, or employer participating in the Kentucky Employees Retirement System, County Employees Retirement System, or State Police Retirement System.***
- (b) ***The trust fund is intended to be established as a trust exempt from taxation under 26 U.S.C. sec. 115.***
- (2) The ***trust*** fund is created ~~pursuant to 26 U.S.C. sec. 106~~ for the purpose of providing a ~~trust fund~~ separate from the retirement funds. ***Trust fund assets are dedicated for use for health*** ~~and is to be used to provide fringe~~ benefits as provided in KRS 61.702, ***and as permitted under 26 U.S.C. secs. 105 and 106***, to retired recipients and employees of employers participating in the Kentucky Employees Retirement System, County Employees Retirement System, and State Police Retirement System, and to certain of their dependents or

beneficiaries, *including but not limited to qualified beneficiaries as described in 42 U.S.C. sec. 300bb-1 et seq.*

- (3) The *trust* fund shall be administered by the board of trustees of the Kentucky Retirement Systems and the board shall *serve as trustees of the fund. The board shall* manage the assets of the fund in the same manner in which it administers the retirement funds, *except that separate accounting and financial reporting shall be maintained for the trust fund.*
- (4) *In addition to the requirements of subsection (2) of this section, the employers participating in the trust fund are limited to the Commonwealth, political subdivisions of the Commonwealth, and entities whose income is exempt from taxation under 26 U.S.C. sec. 115. No other entity may participate in the trust fund.*
- (5) *If the trust fund is terminated, the assets in the trust fund may revert, after the payment of all liabilities, to the participating employers as determined by the board of trustees.*
- (6) *The board of trustees may adopt regulations and procedures and take all action necessary and appropriate to provide that the income of the trust fund is exempt from taxation under Title 26 of United States Code.*
- (7) *The establishment of Kentucky Retirement Systems Insurance Trust Fund shall not diminish or expand the rights of any recipients, employees, or dependents to health benefits.*

➔Section 22. KRS 61.702 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) (a) The board of trustees of Kentucky Retirement Systems shall arrange by appropriate contract or on a self-insured basis to provide a group hospital and medical insurance plan for present and future recipients of a retirement allowance from the Kentucky Employees Retirement System, County Employees Retirement System, and State Police Retirement System, except as provided in subsection (8) of this section. The board shall also arrange to provide health care coverage through an insurer licensed pursuant to Subtitle 38 of KRS Chapter 304 and offering a managed care plan as defined in KRS 304.17A-500, as an alternative to group hospital and medical insurance for any person eligible for hospital and medical benefits under this section. Any person who chooses coverage under a managed care plan shall pay, by payroll deduction from the retirement allowance or by another method, the difference in premium between the cost of the managed care plan coverage and the benefits to which he would be entitled under this section. *For purposes of this section, "hospital and medical insurance plan" means any hospital and medical expense policy or certificate, provider-sponsored integrated health delivery network, self-insured medical plan, health maintenance organization contract, or other health benefit plan.*
- (b) The board may authorize present and future recipients of a retirement allowance from any of the three (3) retirement systems to be included in the state employees' group for hospital and medical insurance and shall provide benefits for recipients equal to those provided to state employees having the same Medicare hospital and medical insurance eligibility status, except as provided in subsection (8) of this section. Notwithstanding the provisions of any other statute, recipients shall be included in the same class as current state employees in determining medical insurance policies and premiums.
- (c) For recipients of a retirement allowance who are not eligible for the same level of hospital and medical benefits as recipients living in Kentucky having the same Medicare hospital and medical insurance eligibility status, the board shall provide a medical insurance reimbursement plan as described in subsection (7) of this section.
- (d) *Notwithstanding anything in KRS Chapter 61 to the contrary, the board of trustees, in its discretion, may take necessary steps to ensure compliance with 42 U.S.C. sec. 300bb-1 et seq., including but not limited to receiving contributions and premiums from, and providing benefits pursuant to this section to, persons entitled to continuation coverage under 42 U.S.C. sec. 300bb-1 et seq., regardless of whether such persons are recipients of a retirement allowance.*
- (2) (a) Each employer participating in the State Police Retirement System as provided for in KRS 16.505 to 16.652, each employer participating in the County Employees Retirement System as provided in KRS 78.510 to 78.852, and each employer participating in the Kentucky Employees Retirement System as provided for in KRS 61.510 to 61.705 shall contribute to the Kentucky Retirement Systems insurance *trust* fund the amount necessary to provide hospital and medical insurance as provided for under this section. Such employer contribution rate shall be developed by appropriate actuarial method as a part of

the determination of each respective employer contribution rate to each respective retirement system determined under KRS 61.565.

- (b) 1. Each employer described in paragraph (a) of this subsection shall deduct from the creditable compensation of each member having a membership date on or after September 1, 2008, an amount equal to one percent (1%) of the member's creditable compensation. The deducted amounts shall be credited to *accounts established pursuant to 26 U.S.C. Sec 401(h), within the funds established in KRS 16.510, 61.515, and 78.520*~~[the Kentucky Retirement Systems insurance fund established by KRS 61.701]~~.
2. The employer shall file the contributions as provided by subparagraph 1. of this paragraph at the retirement office in accordance with KRS 61.675 and 78.625. Any interest or penalties paid on any delinquent contributions shall be credited to *accounts established pursuant to 26 U.S.C. sec. 401(h), within the funds established in KRS 16.510, 61.515, and 78.520*~~[the Kentucky Retirement Systems insurance fund]~~. Notwithstanding any minimum compensation requirements provided by law, the deductions provided by this paragraph shall be made, and the compensation of the member shall be reduced accordingly.
3. Each employer shall submit payroll reports, contributions lists, and other data as may be required by administrative regulation promulgated by the board of trustees pursuant to KRS Chapter 13A.
4. Every member shall be deemed to consent and agree to the deductions made pursuant to this paragraph, and the payment of salary or compensation less the deductions shall be a full and complete discharge of all claims for services rendered by the person during the period covered by the payment, except as to any benefits provided by KRS 16.505 to 16.652, 61.510 to 61.705, and 78.510 to 78.852. No member may elect whether to participate in, or choose the contribution amount to *accounts established pursuant to 26 U.S.C. sec. 401(h) within the funds established in KRS 16.510, 61.515, and 78.520*~~[the Kentucky Retirement Systems insurance fund]~~. The member shall have no option to receive the contribution required by this paragraph directly instead of having the contribution paid to *accounts established pursuant to 26 U.S.C. sec. 401(h) within the funds established in KRS 16.510, 61.515, and 78.520*~~[the Kentucky Retirement Systems insurance fund]~~. No member may receive a rebate or refund of contributions. *If a member establishes a membership date prior to September 1, 2008, pursuant to KRS 61.552(1) or 61.552(23), then this paragraph shall not apply to the member and all contributions previously deducted in accordance with this paragraph shall be refunded to the member without interest.* The contribution made pursuant to this paragraph shall not act as a reduction or offset to any other contribution required of a member or recipient under KRS 16.505 to 16.652, 61.510 to 61.705, and 78.510 to 78.852.
5. The board of trustees, at its discretion, may direct that the contributions required by this paragraph be accounted for within *accounts established pursuant to 26 U.S.C. sec. 401(h) within the funds established in KRS 16.510, 61.515, and 78.520*~~[the Kentucky Retirement Systems insurance fund]~~ through the use of separate accounts.
- (3) (a) The premium required to provide hospital and medical benefits under this section shall be paid:
1. Wholly or partly from funds contributed by the recipient of a retirement allowance, by payroll deduction, or otherwise;
 2. Wholly or partly from funds contributed by the Kentucky Retirement Systems insurance *trust* fund;
 3. *Wholly or partly from funds contributed to accounts established pursuant to 26 U.S.C. sec. 401(h) within the funds established in KRS 16.510, 61.515, and 78.520;*
 4. Wholly or partly from funds contributed by another state-administered retirement system under a reciprocal arrangement, except that any portion of the premium paid from the Kentucky Retirement Systems insurance *trust* fund *or accounts established pursuant to 26 U.S.C. sec. 401(h) within the funds established in KRS 16.510, 61.515, and 78.520* under a reciprocal agreement shall not exceed the amount that would be payable under this section if all the

member's service were in one (1) of the systems administered by the Kentucky Retirement Systems;

- 5.~~4~~ Partly from subparagraphs 1., ~~to 4.~~~~2.~~~~or 3.~~ of this paragraph, except that any premium for hospital and medical insurance over the amount contributed by the Kentucky Retirement Systems insurance *trust* fund; *accounts established pursuant to 26 U.S.C. sec. 401(h) within the funds established in KRS 16.510, 61.515, and 78.520*; or another state-administered retirement system under a reciprocal agreement shall be paid by the recipient *by an automatic electronic transfer of funds*. If the board provides for cross-referencing of insurance premiums, the employer's contribution for the working member or spouse shall be applied toward the premium, and the Kentucky Retirement Systems insurance *trust* fund *or accounts established pursuant to 26 U.S.C. sec. 401(h) within the funds established in KRS 16.510, 61.515, and 78.520* shall pay the balance, not to exceed the monthly contribution; or
- 6.~~5~~ In full from the Kentucky Retirement Systems insurance *trust* fund *or accounts established pursuant to 26 U.S.C. sec. 401(h) within the funds established in KRS 16.510, 61.515, and 78.520* for all recipients of a retirement allowance from any of the three (3) retirement systems where such recipient is a retired former member of one (1) or more of the three (3) retirement systems (not a beneficiary or dependent child receiving benefits) and had two hundred and forty (240) months or more of service upon retirement. Should such recipient have less than two hundred forty (240) months of service but have at least one hundred eighty (180) months of service, seventy-five percent (75%) of such premium shall be paid from the insurance *trust* fund *or accounts established pursuant to 26 U.S.C. sec. 401(h) within the funds established in KRS 16.510, 61.515, and 78.520*, provided such recipient agrees to pay the remaining twenty-five percent (25%) by payroll deduction from his retirement allowance or by another method. Should such recipient have less than one hundred eighty (180) months of service but have at least one hundred twenty (120) months of service, fifty percent (50%) of such premium shall be paid from the insurance *trust* fund *or accounts established pursuant to 26 U.S.C. sec. 401(h) within the funds established in KRS 16.510, 61.515, and 78.520*, provided such recipient agrees to pay the remaining fifty percent (50%) by payroll deduction from his retirement allowance or by another method. Should such recipient have less than one hundred twenty (120) months of service but have at least forty-eight (48) months of service, twenty-five percent (25%) of such premium shall be paid from the insurance *trust* fund *or accounts established pursuant to 26 U.S.C. sec. 401(h) within the funds established in KRS 16.510, 61.515, and 78.520*, provided such recipient agrees to pay the remaining seventy-five percent (75%) by payroll deduction from his retirement allowance or by another method. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this subsection, an employee participating in one (1) of the retirement systems administered by the Kentucky Retirement Systems who becomes disabled in the line of duty as defined in KRS 16.505(19) or 61.621, shall have his premium paid in full as if he had two hundred forty (240) months or more of service. Further, an employee participating in one (1) of the retirement systems administered by the Kentucky Retirement Systems who is killed in the line of duty as defined in KRS 16.505(19) or 61.621, shall have the premium for the beneficiary, if the beneficiary is the member's spouse, and for each dependent child paid so long as they individually remain eligible for a monthly retirement benefit. "Months of service" as used in this section shall mean the total months of combined service used to determine benefits under any or all of the three (3) retirement systems, except service added to determine disability benefits shall not be counted as "months of service." For current and former employees of the Council on Postsecondary Education who were employed prior to January 1, 1993, and who earn at least fifteen (15) years of service credit in the Kentucky Employees Retirement System, "months of service" shall also include vested service in another retirement system other than the Kentucky Teachers' Retirement System sponsored by the Council on Postsecondary Education.
- (b) 1. For a member electing insurance coverage through the Kentucky Retirement Systems, "months of service" shall include, in addition to service as described in paragraph (a) of this subsection, service credit in one (1) of the other state-administered retirement plans.
2. Effective August 1, 1998, the Kentucky Retirement Systems shall compute the member's combined service, including service credit in another state-administered retirement plan, and calculate the portion of the member's premium to be paid by the insurance *trust* fund *accounts*

established pursuant to 26 U.S.C. sec. 401(h) within the funds established in KRS 16.510, 61.515, and 78.520, according to the criteria established in paragraph (a) of this subsection. Each state-administered retirement plan annually shall pay to the insurance *trust* fund the percentage of the system's cost of the retiree's monthly contribution for single coverage for hospital and medical insurance which shall be equal to the percentage of the member's number of months of service in the other state-administered retirement plan divided by his total combined service. The amounts paid by the other state-administered retirement plans and the insurance *trust* fund *or accounts established pursuant to 26 U.S.C. sec. 401(h) within the funds established in KRS 16.510, 61.515, and 78.520* shall not be more than one hundred percent (100%) of the monthly contribution adopted by the respective boards of trustees.

3. A member may not elect coverage for hospital and medical benefits under this subsection through more than one (1) of the state-administered retirement plans.
 4. A state-administered retirement plan shall not pay any portion of a member's monthly contribution for medical insurance unless the member is a recipient or annuitant of the plan.
 5. *The premium paid by the Kentucky Retirement Systems insurance trust fund or accounts established pursuant to 26 U.S.C. sec. 401(h) within the funds established in KRS 16.510, 61.515, and 78.520 shall not exceed one hundred percent (100%) of the monthly contribution rate toward hospital and medical insurance coverage approved by the board of trustees of the Kentucky Retirement Systems.*
- (4) (a) Group rates under the hospital and medical insurance plan shall be made available to the spouse, each dependent child, and each disabled child, regardless of the disabled child's age, of a recipient who is a former member or the beneficiary, if the premium for the hospital and medical insurance for the spouse, each dependent child, and each disabled child, or beneficiary is paid by payroll deduction from the retirement allowance or by another method. *For purposes of this subsection only*, a child shall be considered disabled if he has been determined to be eligible for federal Social Security disability benefits *or meets the dependent disability standard established by the Department of Employee Insurance in the Personnel Cabinet.*
- (b) The other provisions of this section notwithstanding, the insurance *trust* fund *or accounts established pursuant to 26 U.S.C. sec. 401(h) within the funds established in KRS 16.510, 61.515, and 78.520* shall pay a percentage of the monthly contribution for the spouse and for each dependent child of a recipient who was a member of the General Assembly and is receiving a retirement allowance based on General Assembly service, of the Kentucky Employees Retirement System and determined to be in a hazardous position, of the County Employees Retirement System, and determined to be in a hazardous position or of the State Police Retirement System. The percentage of the monthly contribution paid for the spouse and each dependent child of a recipient who was in a hazardous position shall be based solely on the member's service with the State Police Retirement System or service in a hazardous position using the formula in subsection (3)(a) of this section, except that for any recipient of a retirement allowance from the County Employees Retirement System who was contributing to the system on January 1, 1998, for service in a hazardous position, the percentage of the monthly contribution shall be based on the total of hazardous service and any nonhazardous service as a police or firefighter with the same agency, if that agency was participating in the County Employees Retirement System but did not offer hazardous duty coverage for its police and firefighters at the time of initial participation.
- (c) The insurance *trust* fund *or accounts established pursuant to 26 U.S.C. sec. 401(h) within the funds established in KRS 16.510, KRS 61.515, and 78.520* shall continue the same level of coverage for a recipient who was a member of the County Employees Retirement System after the age of sixty-five (65) as before the age of sixty-five (65), if the recipient is not eligible for Medicare coverage. If the insurance *trust* fund *or accounts established pursuant to 26 U.S.C. sec. 401(h) within the funds established in KRS 16.510, 61.515, and 78.520* provides coverage for the spouse or each dependent child of a former member of the County Employees Retirement System, the insurance *trust* fund *or accounts established pursuant to 26 U.S.C. sec. 401(h) within the funds established in KRS 16.510, 61.515, and 78.520* shall continue the same level of coverage for the spouse or each dependent child after the age of sixty-five (65) as before the age of sixty-five (65), if the spouse or dependent child is not eligible for Medicare coverage.

- (5) After July 1, 1998, notwithstanding any other provision to the contrary, a member who holds a judicial office but did not elect to participate in the Judicial Retirement Plan and is participating instead in the Kentucky Employees Retirement System, the County Employees Retirement System, or the State Police Retirement System, as provided in KRS 61.680, and who has at least twenty (20) years of total service, one-half (1/2) of which is in a judicial office, shall receive the same hospital and medical insurance benefits, including paid benefits for spouse and dependents, as provided to persons retiring under the provisions of KRS 21.427. The Administrative Office of the Courts shall pay the cost of the medical insurance benefits provided by this subsection.
- (6) Premiums paid for hospital and medical insurance coverage procured under authority of this section shall be exempt from any premium tax which might otherwise be required under KRS Chapter 136. The payment of premiums by the insurance *trust fund or accounts established pursuant to 26 U.S.C. sec. 401(h) within the funds established in KRS 16.510, 61.515, and 78.520* shall not constitute taxable income to an insured recipient. No commission shall be paid for hospital and medical insurance procured under authority of this section.
- (7) The board shall promulgate an administrative regulation to establish a medical insurance reimbursement plan to provide reimbursement for hospital and medical insurance premiums of recipients of a retirement allowance who are not eligible for the same level of hospital and medical benefits as recipients living in Kentucky and having the same Medicare hospital and medical insurance eligibility status. An eligible recipient shall file proof of payment for hospital and medical insurance at the retirement office. Reimbursement to eligible recipients shall be made on a quarterly basis. The recipient shall be eligible for reimbursement of substantiated medical insurance premiums for an amount not to exceed the total monthly premium determined under subsection (3) of this section. The plan shall not be made available if all recipients are eligible for the same coverage as recipients living in Kentucky.
- (8) (a) 1. For employees having a membership date on or after July 1, 2003, and before September 1, 2008, participation in the insurance benefits provided under this section shall not be allowed until the employee has earned at least one hundred twenty (120) months of service in the state-administered retirement systems.
2. For an employee having a membership date on or after September 1, 2008, participation in the insurance benefits provided under this section shall not be allowed until the employee has earned at least one hundred eighty (180) months of service credited under KRS 16.543(1), 61.543(1), or 78.615(1) or another state-administered retirement system.
- (b) An employee who meets the minimum service requirements as provided by paragraph (a) of this subsection shall be eligible for benefits as follows:
1. For employees who are not in a hazardous position, a monthly insurance contribution of ten dollars (\$10) for each year of service as a participating employee.
2. For employees who are in a hazardous position or who participate in the State Police Retirement System, a monthly insurance contribution of fifteen dollars (\$15) for each year of service as a participating employee in a hazardous position or as a participating member of the State Police Retirement System. Upon the death of the retired member, the beneficiary, if the beneficiary is the member's spouse, shall be entitled to a monthly insurance contribution of ten dollars (\$10) for each year of service the member attained as a participating employee in a hazardous position or as a participating member of the State Police Retirement System.
- (c) 1. The minimum service requirement to participate in benefits as provided by paragraph (a) of this subsection shall be waived for a member who is disabled or killed in the line of duty as defined in KRS 16.505(19) ~~or KRS 61.621~~, and the member or his *spouse and eligible dependents* ~~beneficiary~~ shall be entitled to the benefits payable under this subsection as though the member had twenty (20) years of service in a hazardous position.
2. *The minimum service required to participate in benefits as provided by paragraph (a) of this subsection shall be waived for a member who is disabled in the line of duty as defined in KRS 61.621, and the member shall be entitled to the benefits payable under this subsection as though the member has twenty (20) years of service in a nonhazardous position.*

3. ***The minimum service required to participate in benefits as provided by paragraph (a) of this subsection shall be waived for a member who is killed in the line of duty as described in KRS 61.621, and the member's spouse and eligible dependents shall be entitled to the benefits payable under this subsection as though the member has twenty (20) years of service in a hazardous position.***
- (d) The monthly insurance contribution amount shall be increased July 1 of each year by one and one-half percent (1.5%). The increase shall be cumulative and shall continue to accrue after the member's retirement for as long as a monthly insurance contribution is payable to the retired member or beneficiary.
- (e) The benefits of this subsection provided to a member whose participation begins on or after July 1, 2003, shall not be considered as benefits protected by the inviolable contract provisions of KRS 61.692, 16.652, and 78.852. The General Assembly reserves the right to suspend or reduce the benefits conferred in this subsection if in its judgment the welfare of the Commonwealth so demands.
- (f) An employee whose membership date is on or after September 1, 2008, who retires and is reemployed in a regular full-time position required to participate in one (1) of the systems administered by Kentucky Retirement Systems shall not be eligible for health insurance coverage or benefits provided by this section and shall take coverage with his or her employing agency during the period of reemployment in a regular full-time position.

➔Section 23. KRS 61.705 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) Upon the death of a retired member of the Kentucky Employees Retirement System, County Employees Retirement System, or State Police Retirement System who was receiving a monthly retirement allowance based on a minimum of forty-eight (48) months of service or whose retirement allowance based on a minimum of forty-eight (48) months was suspended in accordance with KRS 61.637, a death benefit of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) shall be paid. If the retired member had more than one (1) account in the Kentucky Employees Retirement System, County Employees Retirement System, or State Police Retirement System, the system shall pay only one (1) five thousand dollar (\$5,000) death benefit. Application for the death benefit made to the Kentucky Retirement Systems shall include acceptable evidence of death and of the eligibility of the applicant to act on the deceased retired member's behalf.
- (2) The death benefit shall be paid to a beneficiary named by the retired member. Upon retirement or any time thereafter, the retired member may designate on the form prescribed by the board, death benefit designation, ***a person***~~[an individual]~~, ***the retired member's***~~[his]~~ estate, a trust or trustee, ***or a licensed funeral home***, as the beneficiary of the death benefit. The beneficiary for the death benefit may or may not be the same beneficiary designated in accordance with KRS 61.590(1). If the beneficiary designated under this section ***is a person and that person*** dies prior to the member, or if the beneficiary was the ***retired member's*** spouse and they were divorced on the date of the retired member's death, ***then*** the retired member's estate shall become the beneficiary, unless the retired member has filed a subsequent death benefit designation. ***If a licensed funeral home is designated as beneficiary and the licensed funeral home cannot be reasonably identified or located by Kentucky Retirement Systems at the time of the retired member's death, then the retired member's estate shall become the beneficiary of the death benefit.***
- (3) ***If, at the time of the retired member's death, a debt to the Kentucky Retirement Systems remains on his or her account, the balance owed shall be deducted from the five thousand dollar (\$5,000) death benefit.***

➔Section 24. KRS 78.510 is amended to read as follows:

As used in KRS 78.510 to 78.852, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (1) "System" means the County Employees Retirement System;
- (2) "Board" means the board of trustees of the system as provided in KRS 78.780;
- (3) "County" means any county, or nonprofit organization created and governed by a county, counties, or elected county officers, sheriff and his employees, county clerk and his employees, circuit clerk and his deputies, former circuit clerks or former circuit clerk deputies, or political subdivision or instrumentality, including school boards, charter county government, or urban-county government participating in the system by order appropriate to its governmental structure, as provided in KRS 78.530, and if the board is willing to accept the

agency, organization, or corporation, the board being hereby granted the authority to determine the eligibility of the agency to participate;

- (4) "School board" means any board of education participating in the system by order appropriate to its governmental structure, as provided in KRS 78.530, and if the board is willing to accept the agency or corporation, the board being hereby granted the authority to determine the eligibility of the agency to participate;
- (5) "Examiner" means the medical examiners as provided in KRS 61.665;
- (6) "Employee" means every regular full-time appointed or elective officer or employee of a participating county and the coroner of a participating county, whether or not he qualifies as a regular full-time officer. The term shall not include persons engaged as independent contractors, seasonal, emergency, temporary, and part-time workers. In case of any doubt, the board shall determine if a person is an employee within the meaning of KRS 78.510 to 78.852;
- (7) "Employer" means a county, as defined in subsection (3) of this section, the elected officials of a county, or any authority of the county having the power to appoint or elect an employee to office or employment in the county;
- (8) "Member" means any employee who is included in the membership of the system or any former employee whose membership has not been terminated under KRS 61.535;
- (9) "Service" means the total of current service and prior service as defined in this section;
- (10) "Current service" means the number of years and months of employment as an employee, on and after July 1, 1958, for which creditable compensation is paid and employee contributions deducted, except as otherwise provided;
- (11) "Prior service" means the number of years and completed months, expressed as a fraction of a year, of employment as an employee, prior to July 1, 1958, for which creditable compensation was paid. An employee shall be credited with one (1) month of prior service only in those months he received compensation for at least one hundred (100) hours of work. Twelve (12) months of current service in the system shall be required to validate prior service;
- (12) "Accumulated contributions" means the sum of all amounts deducted from the compensation of a member and credited to his individual account in the members' contribution account, including employee contributions picked up after August 1, 1982, pursuant to KRS 78.610(4), together with interest credited on the amounts, and any other amounts the member shall have contributed thereto, including interest credited thereon. ***For members who begin participating on or after September 1, 2008, "accumulated contributions" shall not include employee contributions that are deposited into accounts established pursuant to 26 U.S.C. sec. 401(h) within the funds established in KRS 16.510, 61.515, and 78.520, as prescribed by subsection (2)(b) of Section 22 of this Act;***
- (13) "Creditable compensation" means all salary, wages, and fees, including payments for compensatory time, paid to the employee as a result of services performed for the employer or for time during which the member is on paid leave, which are includable on the member's federal form W-2 wage and tax statement under the heading "wages, tips, other compensation", including employee contributions picked up after August 1, 1982, pursuant to KRS 78.610(4). A lump-sum bonus, severance pay, or employer-provided payment for purchase of service credit shall be included as creditable compensation but shall be averaged over the employee's service with the system in which it is recorded if it is equal to or greater than one thousand dollars (\$1,000). If compensation includes maintenance and other perquisites, the board shall fix the value of that part of the compensation not paid in money. Living allowances, expense reimbursements, lump-sum payments for accrued vacation leave, sick leave except as provided in KRS 78.616(5), and other items determined by the board shall be excluded. Creditable compensation shall also include amounts that are not includable in the member's gross income by virtue of the member having taken a voluntary salary reduction provided for under applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code. Creditable compensation shall also include elective amounts for qualified transportation fringes paid or made available on or after January 1, 2001, for calendar years on or after January 1, 2001, that are not includable in the gross income of the employee by reason of 26 U.S.C. sec. 132(f)(4). For employees who begin participating on or after September 1, 2008, creditable compensation shall not include payments for compensatory time;

- (14) "Final compensation" means:
- (a) For a member who begins participating before September 1, 2008, who is not employed in a hazardous position, as provided in KRS 61.592, the creditable compensation of the member during the five (5) fiscal years he was paid at the highest average monthly rate divided by the number of months of service credit during that five (5) year period multiplied by twelve (12). The five (5) years may be fractional and need not be consecutive. If the number of months of service credit during the five (5) year period is less than forty-eight (48), one (1) or more additional fiscal years shall be used;
 - (b) For a member who is not employed in a hazardous position, as provided in KRS 61.592, whose effective retirement date is between August 1, 2001, and January 1, 2009, and whose total service credit is at least twenty-seven (27) years and whose age and years of service total at least seventy-five (75), final compensation means the creditable compensation of the member during the three (3) fiscal years the member was paid at the highest average monthly rate divided by the number of months of service credit during that three (3) year period multiplied by twelve (12). The three (3) years may be fractional and need not be consecutive. If the number of months of service credit during the three (3) year period is less than twenty-four (24), one (1) or more additional fiscal years shall be used. Notwithstanding the provision of KRS 61.565, the funding for this paragraph shall be provided from existing funds of the retirement allowance;
 - (c) For a member who begins participating before September 1, 2008, who is employed in a hazardous position, as provided in KRS 61.592, the creditable compensation of the member during the three (3) fiscal years he was paid at the highest average monthly rate divided by the number of months of service credit during that three (3) year period multiplied by twelve (12). The three (3) years may be fractional and need not be consecutive. If the number of months of service credit during the three (3) year period is less than twenty-four (24), one (1) or more additional fiscal years shall be used;
 - (d) For a member who begins participating on or after September 1, 2008, who is not employed in a hazardous position, as provided in KRS 61.592, the creditable compensation of the member during the five (5) complete fiscal years immediately preceding retirement divided by five (5). Each fiscal year used to determine final compensation must contain twelve (12) months of service credit; or
 - (e) For a member who begins participating on or after September 1, 2008, who is employed in a hazardous position, as provided in KRS 61.592, the creditable compensation of the member during the three (3) complete fiscal years he was paid at the highest average monthly rate divided by three (3). Each fiscal year used to determine final compensation must contain twelve (12) months of service credit;
- (15) "Final rate of pay" means the actual rate upon which earnings of an employee were calculated during the twelve (12) month period immediately preceding the member's effective retirement date, and shall include employee contributions picked up after August 1, 1982, pursuant to KRS 78.610(4). The rate shall be certified to the system by the employer and the following equivalents shall be used to convert the rate to an annual rate: two thousand eighty (2,080) hours for eight (8) hour workdays, one thousand nine hundred fifty (1,950) hours for seven and one-half (7.5) hour workdays, two hundred sixty (260) days, fifty-two (52) weeks, twelve (12) months, one (1) year;
- (16) "Retirement allowance" means the retirement payments to which a member is entitled;
- (17) "Actuarial equivalent" means a benefit of equal value when computed upon the basis of the actuarial tables~~as are from time to time~~ adopted by the board. ***In cases***~~[-except in case]~~ of disability retirement, the options authorized by KRS 61.635 shall be computed by adding ten (10) years to the age of the member, ***unless the member has chosen the Social Security adjustment option as provided for in KRS 61.635(8), in which case the member's actual age shall be used.*** No disability retirement option shall be less than the same option computed under early retirement;
- (18) "Normal retirement date" means the sixty-fifth birthday of a member unless otherwise provided in KRS 78.510 to 78.852;
- (19) "Fiscal year" of the system means the twelve (12) months from July 1 through the following June 30, which shall also be the plan year. ***The "fiscal year" shall be the limitation year used to determine contribution and benefits limits as set out in 26 U.S.C. sec. 415;***

- (20) "Agency reporting official" means the person designated by the participating agency who shall be responsible for forwarding all employer and employee contributions and a record of the contributions to the system and for performing other administrative duties pursuant to the provisions of KRS 78.510 to 78.852;
- (21) "Regular full-time positions," as used in subsection (6) of this section, shall mean all positions that average one hundred (100) or more hours per month, determined by using the number of hours actually worked in a calendar or fiscal year, or eighty (80) or more hours per month in the case of noncertified employees of school boards, determined by using the number of hours actually worked in a calendar or school year, unless otherwise specified, except:
- (a) Seasonal positions, which although temporary in duration, are positions which coincide in duration with a particular season or seasons of the year and that may recur regularly from year to year, in which case the period of time shall not exceed six (6) months in any event;
 - (b) Emergency positions that are positions that do not exceed thirty (30) working days and are nonrenewable;
 - (c) Temporary, also referred to as probationary, positions that are positions of employment with a participating agency for a period of time not to exceed twelve (12) months and not renewable; or
 - (d) Part-time positions that are positions that may be permanent in duration, but that require less than a calendar or fiscal year average of one hundred (100) hours of work per month, determined by using the number of months actually worked within a calendar or fiscal year, in the performance of duty, except in case of noncertified employees of school boards, the school term average shall be eighty (80) hours of work per month, determined by using the number of months actually worked in a calendar or school year, in the performance of duty;
- (22) "Alternate participation plan" means a method of participation in the system as provided for by KRS 78.530(3);
- (23) "Retired member" means any former member receiving a retirement allowance or any former member who has on file at the retirement office the necessary documents for retirement benefits and is no longer contributing to the system;
- (24) "Current rate of pay" means the member's actual hourly, daily, weekly, biweekly, monthly, or yearly rate of pay converted to an annual rate as defined in final rate of pay. The rate shall be certified by the employer;
- (25) "Beneficiary" means the person, persons, estate, trust, or trustee designated by the member in accordance with KRS 61.542 or 61.705 to receive any available benefits in the event of the member's death. As used in KRS 61.702, beneficiary shall not mean an estate, trust, or trustee;
- (26) "Recipient" means the retired member, the person or persons designated as beneficiary by the member and drawing a retirement allowance as a result of the member's death, or a dependent child drawing a retirement allowance. An alternate payee of a qualified domestic relations order shall be considered a recipient only for purposes of KRS 61.691;
- (27) "Person" means a natural person;
- (28) "School term or year" means the twelve (12) months from July 1 through the following June 30;
- (29) "Retirement office" means the Kentucky Retirement Systems office building in Frankfort;
- (30) "Delayed contribution payment" means an amount paid by an employee for current service obtained under KRS 61.552. The amount shall be determined using the same formula in KRS 61.5525, except the determination of the actuarial cost for classified employees of a school board shall be based on their final compensation, and the payment shall not be picked up by the employer. A delayed contribution payment shall be deposited to the member's contribution account and considered as accumulated contributions of the individual member. In determining payments under this subsection, the formula found in this subsection shall prevail over the one found in KRS 212.434;
- (31) "Participating" means an employee is currently earning service credit in the system as provided in KRS 78.615; ~~and~~
- (32) "Month" means a calendar month; *and*

(33) **"Membership date" means the date upon which the member began participating in the system as provided in KRS 78.615.**

➔Section 25. KRS 78.625 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) The agency reporting official of the county shall, by the tenth day of each month, **file at the retirement office**~~forward to the system~~ an amount equal to the aggregate amount of the employees' contributions deducted during the previous month in accordance with KRS 78.610 and the aggregate amount of the employer's contributions due for the previous month in accordance with KRS 61.565.
- (2) The agency reporting official or some other person designated by the county shall, **by the tenth day of each month, file at the retirement office**~~forward~~ a record of all contributions to the system on the forms the board prescribes.
- (3)
 - (a) If the agency reporting official fails to **file at the retirement office**~~forward~~ all contributions **and reports** on or before the tenth day of the month following the period being reported, interest on the delinquent contributions at the actuarial rate adopted by the board compounded annually, but not less than one thousand dollars (\$1,000), shall be added to the amount due the system.
 - (b) Delinquent contributions, with interest at the rate adopted by the board compounded annually, or penalties may be recovered by action in the Franklin Circuit Court against the county liable or may, at the request of the board, be deducted from any other moneys payable to the county by any department or agency of the state.
- (4) If an agency is delinquent in the payment of contributions due in accordance with any of the provisions of KRS 78.510 to 78.852, refunds and retirement allowance payments to members of this agency may be suspended until the delinquent contributions, with interest at the rate adopted by the board compounded annually, or penalties have been paid to the system.

➔Section 26. KRS 78.630 is amended to read as follows:

All of the assets of the system shall be held and invested in the county employees' retirement fund and credited, according to the purpose for which they are held, to one (1) of **three (3)**~~two (2)~~ accounts, namely, the members' contribution account,~~and~~ the retirement allowance account, **and accounts established pursuant to 26 U.S.C. sec. 401(h) within the funds established in KRS 16.510, 61.515, and 78.520, as prescribed by subsection (2)(b) of Section 22 of this Act.**

➔Section 27. KRS 78.640 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) The members' contribution account shall be the account to which all members' contributions, or contributions picked up by the employer after August 1, 1982, and interest allowances as provided in KRS 78.510 to 78.852 shall be credited, **except as provided by subsection (2)(b) of Section 22 of this Act.** From this account shall be paid the accumulated contributions of a member required to be returned to him upon withdrawal, or paid in the event of his death before retirement. Prior to the member's retirement, death, or refund in accordance with KRS 61.625, no funds shall be made available from the member contribution account.
- (2) Each member's contribution or contribution picked up by the employer shall be credited to the individual account of the contributing member, **except as provided by subsection (2)(b) of Section 22 of this Act.**
- (3)
 - (a) Each member on June 30 of each year shall have his individual account credited with interest.
 - (b) For a member who begins participating before September 1, 2008, interest shall be credited to his individual account at a rate determined by the board but not less than two percent (2%) per annum on the accumulated contributions of the member on June 30 of the preceding fiscal year.
 - (c) For a member who begins participating on or after September 1, 2008, interest shall be credited to his or her individual account at a rate of two and one-half percent (2.5%) per annum on the accumulated contributions of the member on June 30 of the preceding fiscal year.
 - (d) The amounts of interest credited to a member's account under this subsection shall be transferred from the retirement allowance account.
- (4) Upon the retirement of a member, his accumulated contributions shall be transferred from the members' contribution account to the retirement allowance account.

➔Section 28. KRS 16.645 is amended to read as follows:

The following subjects shall be administered in the same manner subject to the same limitations and requirements as provided for the Kentucky Employees Retirement System as follows:

- (1) Cessation of membership, as provided for by KRS 61.535;
- (2) Medical examiners and hearing procedures, as provided for by KRS 61.665;
- (3) Actuarial bases, as provided for by KRS 61.670;
- (4) Duties of the employer, as provided for by KRS 61.675;
- (5) Exemption of benefits of the system for taxation, as provided for by KRS 61.690;
- (6) Retirement allowance increase, as provided for by KRS 61.691;
- (7) Calculation of retirement allowance, as provided for by KRS 61.595(3) and (4);
- (8) Beneficiaries to be designated by member, change, rights, as provided for by KRS 61.542;
- (9) Year of service credit, as provided for by KRS 61.545;
- (10) Refund of contributions, death after retirement, as provided by KRS 61.630;
- (11) Custodian of fund, payments made, when, as provided for by KRS 61.660;
- (12) Credit for service prior to membership date, as provided for by KRS 61.526;
- ~~(13) Transfer of dormant accounts, as provided for by KRS 61.626;~~
- ~~(14)~~ Member's account, confidential, as provided for by KRS 61.661;
- ~~(14)~~~~(15)~~ Cessation of membership, loss of benefits, as provided for by KRS 61.550;
- ~~(15)~~~~(16)~~ Correction of errors in records, as provided for by KRS 61.685;
- ~~(16)~~~~(17)~~ Maximum disability benefit, as provided for by KRS 61.607;
- ~~(17)~~~~(18)~~ Retirement application procedure, effective retirement date, as provided for by KRS 61.590;
- ~~(18)~~~~(19)~~ Employer contributions, as provided for by KRS 61.565;
- ~~(19)~~~~(20)~~ Reinstatement of lost service credit, purchase of service credit, interest paid, and delayed contribution and installment payments, as provided for by KRS 61.552;
- ~~(20)~~~~(21)~~ Reciprocal arrangement between systems, as provided by KRS 61.680;
- ~~(21)~~~~(22)~~ Refund of contributions, conditions, as provided by KRS 61.625;
- ~~(22)~~~~(23)~~ Hospital and medical insurance plan, as provided by KRS 61.702;
- ~~(23)~~~~(24)~~ Death benefit, as provided by KRS 61.705;
- ~~(24)~~~~(25)~~ Disability retirement allowance, reduction, and discontinuance, as provided by KRS 61.615;
- ~~(25)~~~~(26)~~ Service credit, Armed Forces, as provided by KRS 61.555;
- ~~(26)~~~~(27)~~ Reinstated employee, contributions on creditable compensation, as provided for by KRS 61.569;
- ~~(27)~~~~(28)~~ Statement to be made under oath, good faith reliance, as provided for in KRS 61.699;
- ~~(28)~~~~(29)~~ Retirement of persons in hazardous positions, as provided for by KRS 61.592;
- ~~(29)~~~~(30)~~ Direct deposit of recipient's retirement allowance as provided in KRS 61.623;
- ~~(30)~~~~(31)~~ Purchase of service credit effective July 1, 2001, as provided in KRS 61.5525;
- ~~(31)~~~~(32)~~ Payment of small amounts upon death of member, retiree, or recipient without formal administration of the estate as provided in KRS 61.703;

- (32)~~(33)~~ Suspension of retirement payments on reemployment, reinstatement, recomputation of allowance, waiver of provisions in certain instances, reemployment in a different position, as provided for by KRS 61.637; and
- (33)~~(34)~~ Medical examination and financial review after disability retirement, staff review, as provided in KRS 61.610.

➔Section 29. KRS 78.545 is amended to read as follows:

The following matters shall be administered in the same manner subject to the same limitations and requirements as provided for the Kentucky Employees Retirement System as follows:

- (1) Cessation of membership, conditions, as provided for by KRS 61.535;
- (2) Statement of member and employer, as provided for by KRS 61.540;
- (3) Beneficiary to be designated by member, change, rights, as provided for by KRS 61.542;
- (4) Service credit determination, as provided for by KRS 61.545;
- (5) Cessation of membership, loss of benefits, as provided for by KRS 61.550;
- (6) Service credit, Armed Forces, as provided for by KRS 61.555;
- (7) Normal and early retirement eligibility requirements, as provided for by KRS 61.559;
- (8) Retirement allowance increases as provided for by KRS 61.691;
- (9) Retirement application procedure, effective retirement date, as provided for by KRS 61.590;
- (10) Disability retirement, conditions, as provided for by KRS 61.600;
- (11) Disability retirement, allowance, as provided for by KRS 61.605;
- (12) Medical examination after disability retirement, as provided for by KRS 61.610;
- (13) Disability retirement allowance, reduction, as provided for by KRS 61.615;
- (14) Determination of retirement allowance, as provided for by KRS 61.595;
- (15) Refund of contributions, conditions, as provided for by KRS 61.625;
- (16) Refund of contributions, death after retirement, as provided for by KRS 61.630;
- (17) Optional retirement plans, as provided for by KRS 61.635;
- (18) Suspension of retirement payments on reemployment, reinstatement, as provided for by KRS 61.637;
- (19) Death before retirement, beneficiary's options, as provided for by KRS 61.640;
- (20) Board of trustees, conflict of interest, as provided for by KRS 61.655;
- (21) Custodian of funds, payments made, when, as provided for by KRS 61.660;
- (22) Medical examiners and hearing procedures, as provided for by KRS 61.665;
- (23) Actuarial bases, as provided for by KRS 61.670;
- (24) Employer's administrative duties, as provided for by KRS 61.675;
- (25) Correction of errors in records, as provided for by KRS 61.685;
- (26) Exemptions of retirement allowances, as provided for by KRS 61.690;
- (27) Credit for service prior to membership date, as provided for by KRS 61.526;
- (28) Creditable compensation of fee officers, as provided for by KRS 61.541;
- (29)~~Transfer of dormant accounts, as provided for by KRS 61.626;~~
- (30)~~Members' account, confidential, as provided for by KRS 61.661;~~

- (30)~~(31)~~ Retirement plan for employees determined to be in a hazardous position, as provided for by KRS 61.592;
- (31)~~(32)~~ Maximum disability benefit, as provided for by KRS 61.607;
- (32)~~(33)~~ Consent of employees to deductions and reciprocal arrangement between systems, as provided for by KRS 61.680;
- (33)~~(34)~~ Employer contributions, as provided for by KRS 61.565;
- (34)~~(35)~~ Recontribution and delayed contribution payments, purchase of service credit, interest, and installment payments, as provided for by KRS 61.552;
- (35)~~(36)~~ Hospital and medical insurance plan, as provided by KRS 61.702;
- (36)~~(37)~~ Death benefit, as provided by KRS 61.705;
- (37)~~(38)~~ Reinstated employee, contributions on creditable compensation, as provided for by KRS 61.569;
- (38)~~(39)~~ Statement to be made under oath, good faith reliance, as provided for in KRS 61.699;
- (39)~~(40)~~ Disability procedure for members in hazardous positions as provided for in KRS 16.582;
- (40)~~(41)~~ Direct deposit of recipient's retirement allowance as provided for in KRS 61.623;
- (41)~~(42)~~ Death or disability from a duty-related injury as provided in KRS 61.621;
- (42)~~(43)~~ Purchase of service credit effective July 1, 2001, as provided in KRS 61.5525; and
- (43)~~(44)~~ Payment of small accounts upon death of member, retiree, or recipient without formal administration of the estate as provided in KRS 61.703.

➔Section 30. The following KRS section is repealed:

61.626 Transfer of contributions -- Conditions.

Signed by the Governor March 24, 2009.