

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 46th Legislature (1997)

HOUSE BILL NO. 1088

By: Roberts

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to the Oklahoma Firefighters Pension and Retirement System; amending 11 O.S. 1991, Section 49-100.1, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 208, O.S.L. 1996 (11 O.S. Supp. 1996, Section 49-100.1), which relates to definitions; modifying references; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 11 O.S. 1991, Section 49-100.1, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 208, O.S.L. 1996 (11 O.S. Supp. 1996, Section 49-100.1), is amended to read as follows:

Section 49-100.1 As used in this article:

1. "System" means the Oklahoma Firefighters Pension and Retirement System and all predecessor municipal fire fighters pension and retirement systems;
2. "Article" means Article 49 of this title;
3. "State Board" means the Oklahoma Firefighters Pension and Retirement Board;
4. "Local board" means the local fire fighters pension and retirement boards;

5. "Fund" means the Oklahoma Firefighters Pension and Retirement Fund;

6. "Member" means all eligible fire fighters of a participating municipality or a fire protection district who perform the essential functions of fire suppression, prevention, and life safety duties in a fire department;

7. "Normal retirement date" means the date at which the member is eligible to receive the unreduced payments of the member's accrued retirement benefit. Such date shall be the first day following the date the member completes twenty (20) years of credited service. If the member's employment continues past the normal retirement date of the member, the actual retirement date of the member shall be the first day following the date the member terminates employment with more than twenty (20) years of credited service;

8. "Credited service" means the period of service used to determine the eligibility for and the amount of benefits payable to a member. Credited service shall consist of the period during which the member participated in the System or the predecessor municipal systems as an active employee in an eligible membership classification, plus any service prior to the establishment of the predecessor municipal systems which was credited under the predecessor municipal systems; provided however, "credited service" for members from a fire protection district shall not begin accruing before July 1, 1982;

9. "Participating municipality" means a municipality or fire protection district which is making contributions to the System on behalf of its fire fighters;

10. "Disability" means the complete inability of the fire fighter to perform any and every duty of his regular occupation; provided further, that once benefits have been paid for twenty-four

(24) months the provisions of Section 49-110 of this title shall apply to the fire fighter;

11. "Executive Director" means the managing officer of the System employed by the State Board;

12. "Eligible employer" means any municipality with a municipal fire department or a fire protection district with an organized fire department;

13. "Entry date" means the date as of which an eligible employer joins the System. The first entry date pursuant to this article shall be January 1, 1981;

14. "Final average salary" means the average paid gross salary of the fire fighter for normally scheduled hours over the highest salaried thirty (30) consecutive months of the last sixty (60) months of credited service. Gross salary shall not include payment for accumulated sick or annual leave upon termination of employment, any uniform allowances or any other compensation for reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses. Only salary on which the required contributions have been made may be used in computing the final average salary. Gross salary shall include any amount of elective salary reduction under Section 457 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and any amount of nonelective salary reduction under Section 414(h) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. Only salary on which required contributions have been made may be used in computing final average salary;

15. "Accrued retirement benefit" means two and one-half percent (2 1/2%) of the fire fighter's final average salary multiplied by the member's years of credited service not to exceed thirty (30) years;

16. "Beneficiary" means a member's surviving spouse or any surviving children, including biological and adopted children, at the time of the member's death. The surviving spouse must have been married to the fire fighter for the thirty (30) continuous months

preceding the fire fighter's death provided a surviving spouse of a member who died while in, or as a consequence of, the performance of the member's duty for a participating municipality, shall not be subject to the marriage limitation for survivor benefits. A surviving child of a member shall be a beneficiary until reaching eighteen (18) years of age or twenty-two (22) years of age if the child is enrolled full time and regularly attending a public or private school or any institution of higher education. Any child adopted by a member after the member's retirement shall be a beneficiary only if the child is adopted by the member for the thirty (30) continuous months preceding the member's death. Any child who is adopted by a member after the member's retirement and such member dies accidentally or as a consequence of the performance of the member's duty as a firefighter shall not be subject to the thirty-month adoption requirement. This definition of beneficiary shall be in addition to any other requirement set forth in this article;

17. "Accumulated contributions" means the sum of all contributions made by a member to the System and includes both contributions deducted from the compensation of a member and contributions of a member picked up and paid by the participating municipality of the member. Accumulated contributions shall not include any interest on the contributions of the member, interest on any amount contributed by the municipality or state and any amount contributed by the municipality or state; and

18. "Limitation year" means the year used in applying the limitations of Section 415 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, which year shall be the calendar year.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 1997.

SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby

declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

46-1-5225

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