

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 46th Legislature (1998)

HOUSE BILL NO. 3346

By: Seikel

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to the Oklahoma Law Enforcement

Retirement System; amending 47 O.S. 1991, Section 2-305, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 315, O.S.L. 1996 (47 O.S. Supp. 1997, Section 2-305), which relates to retirement and retirement pay; providing for benefits computed according to certain method for members retiring or eligible to retire on or after certain date; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 47 O.S. 1991, Section 2-305, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 315, O.S.L. 1996 (47 O.S. Supp. 1997, Section 2-305), is amended to read as follows:

Section 2-305. A. Except as otherwise provided in this title, at any time after attaining normal retirement date, any member of the System upon application therefor made and approved may retire and, during the remainder of the member's lifetime, receive annual retirement pay, payable in equal monthly payments, equal to two and one-half percent (2 1/2%) of the final average salary times years of credited service. No member shall be required to retire for length of service unless and until the member shall have reached the age of

sixty (60) years, but any member of the System who shall have reached the age of sixty (60) years and who shall also have completed twenty (20) years or more of credited service shall be retired by the Board unless, after application to the Board and such examination and showing as the Board may deem proper, the Board shall determine that such member of the System is physically and mentally able to continue to perform duties or service as required of a member. Unless such application be made by a member of the System within thirty (30) days after reaching the age of sixty (60) years and completing twenty (20) years or more of credited service or if, after such application and examination, the Board shall determine that such member of the System is not physically or mentally able to continue to perform services as required of the employer, the Board shall by resolution order his retirement with retirement pay for length of service as provided herein.

B. Beginning:

1. July 1, 1994, members who retired or were eligible to retire prior to July 1, 1980 or their surviving spouses shall receive annual retirement pay, payable in equal monthly payments, equal to the greater of their current retirement pay, or two and one-half percent (2 1/2%) of the actual paid gross salary being currently paid to a highway patrol officer, at the time each such monthly retirement payment is made, multiplied by the retired member's years of credited service; and

2. July 1, 1998, members who retired or were eligible to retire on or after July 1, 1980, or their surviving spouses shall receive annual retirement pay, payable in equal monthly payments, equal to the greater of their current retirement pay, or two and one-half percent (2 1/2%) of the actual paid gross salary being paid to a highway patrol officer on July 1, 1998, at the time each such monthly retirement payment is made, multiplied by the retired member's years of credited service.

C. A member who meets the definition of disability as defined in Section 2-300 of this title and whose disability occurred prior to the member's normal retirement date and by direct reason of the performance of the member's duties as an officer shall receive a monthly benefit equal to the greater of fifty percent (50%) of final average salary or two and one-half percent (2 1/2%) of final average salary multiplied by the number of years of the member's credited service.

D. A member who meets the definition of disability as defined in Section 2-300 of this title and whose disability occurred prior to the member's normal retirement date but after completing three (3) years of vesting service and not by reason of the performance of the member's duties as an officer or as a result of the member's willful negligence shall receive a monthly benefit equal to two and one-half percent (2 1/2%) of final average salary multiplied by the number of years of the member's credited service. For the purpose of determining the member's disability under the System, the member shall be required by the Board to be examined by a minimum of two recognized physicians selected by the Board to determine the extent of his injury or illness. The examining physicians shall furnish the Board a detailed written report of the injury or illness of the examined member establishing the extent of disability and the possibilities of the disabled member being returned to his regular duties or an alternate occupation or service covered by the System after a normal recuperating period.

E. Payment of a disability pension shall commence as of the first day of the month coinciding or next following the date of retirement and shall continue as long as the member meets the definition of total and permanent disability provided in this section.

F. The Board shall require all retired disabled members who have not attained their normal retirement date to submit to a

physical examination once each year for a minimum of three (3) years following retirement. The Board shall select a minimum of two physicians to examine the retired members and pay for their services from the fund. Any retired disabled member found no longer disabled by the examining physicians to perform the occupation of the member or an alternate occupation or service covered by the System shall be required to return to duty and complete twenty (20) years of service as provided in subsection A of this section, or forfeit all his rights and claims under this act.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 1998.

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.

46-2-9368

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