

SHORT TITLE: Teachers' Retirement System; deleting dollar cap on post-retirement earnings; effective date; emergency.

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 46th Legislature (1997)

SENATE BILL NO. 473

By: Milacek

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to retirement; amending Section 1, Chapter 290, O.S.L. 1993, as last amended by Section 3, Chapter 295, O.S.L. 1995 (70 O.S. Supp. 1996, Section 17-116.10), which relates to certain continued benefits; deleting dollar cap on post-retirement earnings; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 1, Chapter 290, O.S.L. 1993, as last amended by Section 3, Chapter 295, O.S.L. 1995 (70 O.S. Supp. 1996, Section 17-116.10), is amended to read as follows:

Section 17-116.10 A. Subject to the requirements of Section 6-101.2 of this title and any other applicable requirements of law, a member may enter into post-retirement employment with a public school of Oklahoma and still receive his or her monthly retirement benefits subject to the following limitations:

1. A retired member is not eligible to be employed by the public schools of Oklahoma, in any capacity, for sixty (60) calendar days between the retiree's last day of pre-retirement public-education employment and any post-retirement public-education employment. For purposes of this section, the term "last day of pre-retirement employment" shall mean the last day the employee is required to be physically present on the job to complete the terms

of the employment contract or agreement. Employment under any conditions during this time or payment at a later time for services performed during this time period shall cause the forfeiture of all retirement benefits received during the period;

2. Earnings from the public schools may not exceed one-half (1/2) of the member's final average salary used in computing retirement benefits, ~~or the Earnings Limitation for employees allowed by the Social Security Administration, whichever is less. For retired members, the limit on allowed earnings from public schools of Oklahoma shall be the lesser of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) or one-half (1/2) of the member's final average salary used in computing retirement benefits unless the earnings limitation for employees allowed by the Social Security Administration would be greater~~ however, employees who are receiving benefits pursuant to the Social Security Act, Section 301 et seq. of Title 42 of the United States Code shall be limited in their earnings to the Earnings Limitation for employees allowed by the Social Security Administration. For purposes of this paragraph, the following shall apply:

- a. earnings shall mean "regular annual compensation" as defined in subsection 25 of Section 17-101 of this title, and shall include any payment by a public school for services rendered by a retired member who is employed for any purpose whatsoever. Supplemental retirement payments paid by a former public school employer pursuant to subsection 9 of Section 17-105 of this title or other state law shall not be considered as earnings,
- b. the Earnings Limitation for employees allowed by the Social Security Administration to workers between the age of sixty-two (62) years and sixty-five (65) years

shall apply to retired members below the age of sixty-two (62) years,

- c. the limit on allowed earnings from the public schools shall be automatically adjusted effective the first day of January of each year to reflect the current Earnings Limitation for employees as determined from time to time by the Social Security Administration,
- d. earnings in excess of the maximum limit on allowed earnings from public schools of Oklahoma shall result in a loss of future retirement benefits for the year the post-retirement employment was performed of One Dollar (\$1.00) for each One Dollar (\$1.00) earned over the maximum allowed earnings amount,
- e. for those members age seventy (70) years and over, the earnings in excess of the maximum limit allowed earnings from public schools of Oklahoma shall be one-half (1/2) the member's final average salary used in computing retirement benefits. However, any retired member receiving benefits from the Retirement System who reached age seventy (70) years prior to July 1, 1991, shall not be restricted by the earnings limits pursuant to this subparagraph until January 1, 1994. To qualify for the provisions of this subparagraph, the member must be employed less than one-half (1/2) time compared to other full-time employees in similar positions.

B. For purposes of this section, post-retirement employment of less than one thousand (1,000) hours per year with the Governor, the State Senate, the House of Representatives or the Legislative Service Bureau shall not be considered as post-retirement employment with a public school of Oklahoma.

C. The Board of Trustees of the Teachers' Retirement System of Oklahoma shall promulgate such rules as are necessary to implement the provisions of this section.

D. A member who has entered into post-retirement employment with a participating employer of the Teachers' Retirement System of Oklahoma must fully comply with all the provisions of the rules promulgated by the Board of Trustees pursuant to this section in order to continue receiving his or her monthly retirement benefit.

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.

46-1-0990

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