

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 48th Legislature (2001)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR  
HOUSE BILL NO. 1234

By: Askins

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to the Oklahoma Firefighters Pension and Retirement System; amending Section 2, Chapter 317, O.S.L. 1998, as amended by Section 2, Chapter 228, O.S.L. 1999 (11 O.S. Supp. 2000, Section 49-143.3), which relates to certain benefit adjustments; modifying applicability of adjustments to retirement benefits based upon Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U); prescribing procedures for adjustment of retirement benefits for certain designated periods of time; prescribing procedures for adjustment of retirement benefits for certain retirees of the System; imposing requirement with respect to determination of CPI-U; providing for termination of benefit adjustment procedures based upon certain funded condition of retirement system; repealing 11 O.S. 1991, Section 49-143.1, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 337, O.S.L. 2000 (11 O.S. Supp. 2000, Section 49-143.1), which relates to certain retirement benefit adjustments; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 2, Chapter 317, O.S.L. 1998, as amended by Section 2, Chapter 228, O.S.L. 1999 (11 O.S. Supp. 2000, Section 49-143.3), is amended to read as follows:

Section 49-143.3 A. For purposes of this section the following definitions shall apply:

1. "Initial COLA Benefit Date" means the later of the member's date of benefit commencement or January 1, 1981. This date is used in the definition of Initial COLA Benefit and Target COLA Benefit;

2. "Initial COLA Benefit" means the accrued retirement benefit which will be used as the base benefit for determining the Target

COLA Benefit. The Initial COLA Benefit equals the benefit in payment status as of the Initial COLA Benefit Date. Furthermore, this benefit will reflect adjustment for military service credits, if any, granted after the Initial COLA Benefit Date;

3. "CPI-U" means the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers for all goods and services, as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. This is used as a measure of price inflation for the development of the Target COLA Benefit defined below; and

4. "Target COLA Benefit" is the Initial COLA Benefit adjusted to reflect price inflation as measured by CPI-U. The Target COLA Benefit is calculated for each eligible member to equal the member's Initial COLA Benefit multiplied by a ratio of (A) divided by (B) as follows:

(A) is the CPI-U as follows:

- (1) for benefit increases effective July 1, 2001, the CPI-U as of July 1, ~~1997~~ 2000;
- (2) for benefit increases effective July 1, 2002, the CPI-U as of July 1, 2001;
- (3) for benefit increases effective July 1, 2003, the CPI-U as of July 1, 2002;
- (4) for benefit increases effective July 1, 2004 the CPI-U as of July 1, 2003; and
- (5) for benefit increases effective July 1, 2005, the CPI-U as of July 1, 2004.

(B) is the CPI-U as of July 1 of the calendar year of the Initial COLA Benefit Date.

B. 1. The State Board shall, effective July 1, ~~1999~~ 2001, implement a benefit adjustment, to increase, if necessary, the retirement benefit for any person receiving accrued retirement benefits from the System as of June 30, ~~1997~~ 2000. This benefit adjustment is intended to restore one hundred percent (100%) of the

loss of the Initial COLA Benefit, if any, due to price inflation, as measured by CPI-U. The benefit adjustment shall be one hundred percent (100%) of the amount by which the Target COLA Benefit is in excess, if any, of the June ~~1998~~ 2001 retirement benefit. Persons who retired after December 31, ~~1996~~ 1999 and before July 1, ~~1997~~ 2000, shall receive a benefit increase based on one hundred percent (100%) of one-half (1/2) of the CPI-U change for the period beginning January 1, ~~1997~~ 2000 and before July 1, ~~1997~~ 2000.

2. The State Board shall, effective July 1, 2002, implement a benefit adjustment, to increase, if necessary, the retirement benefit for any person receiving accrued retirement benefits from the System as of June 30, 2001. This benefit adjustment is intended to restore one hundred percent (100%) of the loss of the Initial COLA Benefit, if any, due to price inflation, as measured by CPI-U. The benefit adjustment shall be one hundred percent (100%) of the amount by which the Target COLA Benefit is in excess, if any, of the June 2002, retirement benefit. Persons who retired after December 31, 2000, and before July 1, 2001, shall receive a benefit increase based on one hundred percent (100%) of one-half (1/2) of the CPI-U change for the period beginning January 1, 2001, and before July 1, 2001.

3. The State Board shall, effective July 1, 2003, implement a benefit adjustment, to increase, if necessary, the retirement benefit for any person receiving accrued retirement benefits from the System as of June 30, 2002. This benefit adjustment is intended to restore one hundred percent (100%) of the loss of the Initial COLA Benefit, if any, due to price inflation, as measured by CPI-U. The benefit adjustment shall be one hundred percent (100%) of the amount by which the Target COLA Benefit is in excess, if any, of the June, 2003, retirement benefit. Persons who retired after December 31, 2001, and before July 1, 2002, shall receive a benefit increase based on one hundred percent (100%) of one-half (1/2) of the CPI-U

change for the period beginning January 1, 2002, and before July 1, 2002.

4. The State Board shall, effective July 1, 2004, implement a benefit adjustment, to increase, if necessary, the retirement benefit for any person receiving accrued retirement benefits from the System as of June 30, 2003. This benefit adjustment is intended to restore one hundred percent (100%) of the loss of the Initial COLA Benefit, if any, due to price inflation, as measured by CPI-U. The benefit adjustment shall be one hundred percent (100%) of the amount by which the Target COLA Benefit is in excess, if any, of the June 2004, retirement benefit. Persons who retired after December 31, 2002, and before July 1, 2003, shall receive a benefit increase based on one hundred percent (100%) of one-half (1/2) of the CPI-U change for the period beginning January 1, 2003, and before July 1, 2003.

5. The State Board shall, effective July 1, 2005, implement an annual benefit adjustment to increase, if necessary, the retirement benefit for any person receiving accrued retirement benefits from the System as of June 30, 2004. This benefit adjustment is intended to restore one hundred percent (100%) of the loss of the Initial COLA Benefit, if any, due to price inflation, as measured by CPI-U. The benefit adjustment shall be one hundred percent (100%) of the amount by which the Target COLA Benefit is in excess, if any, of the June 2003, retirement benefit. Persons who retired after December 31, 2003, and before July 1, 2004, shall receive a benefit increase based on one hundred percent (100%) of one-half (1/2) of the CPI-U change for the period beginning January 1, 2004, and before July 1, 2004.

C. 1. Effective July 1, 2001, any person receiving benefits pursuant to Section 49-101 of this title shall receive a benefit equal to Seven Dollars (\$7.00) per month for each year of credited service not to exceed thirty (30) years of credited service.

2. Effective July 1, 2002, the State Board shall implement an annual benefit adjustment to increase, if necessary, the monthly benefit of any person receiving benefits pursuant to Section 49-101 of this title as of June 30, 2001. The benefit adjustment implemented by the State Board shall equal the amount per month for each year of credited service not to exceed thirty (30) years of credited service by which any person receives benefits pursuant to Section 49-101 of this title, and shall be one hundred percent (100%) of the amount by which the Target COLA Benefit is in excess, if any, of the June 2001, retirement benefit.

3. Effective July 1, 2003, the State Board shall implement an annual benefit adjustment to increase, if necessary, the monthly benefit of any person receiving benefits pursuant to Section 49-101 of this title as of June 30, 2002. The benefit adjustment implemented by the State Board shall equal the amount per month for each year of credited service not to exceed thirty (30) years of credited service by which any person receives benefits pursuant to Section 49-101 of this title, and shall be one hundred percent (100%) of the amount by which the Target COLA Benefit is in excess, if any, of the June 2002, retirement benefit.

4. Effective July 1, 2004, the State Board shall implement an annual benefit adjustment to increase, if necessary, the monthly benefit of any person receiving benefits pursuant to Section 49-101 of this title as of June 30, 2003. The benefit adjustment implemented by the State Board shall equal the amount per month for each year of credited service not to exceed thirty (30) years of credited service by which any person receives benefits pursuant to Section 49-101 of this title, and shall be one hundred percent (100%) of the amount by which the Target COLA Benefit is in excess, if any, of the June 2003, retirement benefit.

5. Effective July 1, 2005, the State Board shall implement an annual benefit adjustment to increase, if necessary, the monthly

benefit of any person receiving benefits pursuant to Section 49-101 of this title as of June 30, 2004. The benefit adjustment implemented by the State Board shall equal the amount per month for each year of credited service not to exceed thirty (30) years of credited service by which any person receives benefits pursuant to Section 49-101 of this title, and shall be one hundred percent (100%) of the amount by which the Target COLA Benefit is in excess, if any, of the June 2004, retirement benefit.

D. In determining CPI-U, for purposes of applying price inflation in the development of the Target COLA Benefit for the two fiscal years ending June 30, 1999, combined, the State Board shall use four and seven tenths of a percent (4.7%).

E. The State Board shall cease implementing the provisions of this section on a prospective basis if the actuarial funded percentage of the System in any future year is less than seven (7) percentage points of the actuarial funded percentage of the System as of July 1, 1999, on a fiscal year basis. For purposes of comparing the actuarial funded percentage of the System as of July 1, 1999, with the actuarial funded percentage of the System for future years, the July 1, 1999, actuarial assumed interest rate shall be used.

~~E. F.~~ Any increase in benefits a person is eligible to receive pursuant to repealed Section 49-136 of Title 11 of the Oklahoma Statutes, ~~after June 30, 1998,~~ shall be offset by the increase in benefits, if any, provided by this section.

SECTION 2. REPEALER 11 O.S. 1991, Section 49-143.1, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 337, O.S.L. 2000 (11 O.S. Supp. 2000, Section 49-143.1), is hereby repealed.

SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2001.

SECTION 4. 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.

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