

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 48th Legislature (2001)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR ENGROSSED  
SENATE BILL NO. 626

By: Price of the Senate

and

Bonny of the House

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to retirement; amending 11 O.S. 1991, Sections 50-101, as last amended by Section 3 of Enrolled House Bill No. 1965 of the 1st Session of the 48th Oklahoma Legislature, 50-106.3, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 333, O.S.L. 1996, 50-111.2, as amended by Section 3, Chapter 352, O.S.L. 1993, 50-112, as last amended by Section 2, Chapter 377, O.S.L. 2000, Section 50-114, as last amended by Section 7, Chapter 287, O.S.L. 2000 and Section 50-132, as amended by Section 11, Chapter 287, O.S.L. 2000 (11 O.S. Supp. 2000, Sections 50-106.3, 50-111.2, 50-112, 50-114 and 50-132), which relate to the Oklahoma Police Pension and Retirement System; providing definition; deleting obsolete dates; allowing certain municipalities to join the System; allowing purchase of certain prior service credit; limiting service that can be purchased; providing for calculation of purchase price; allowing payment through trustee-to-trustee transfers and by members; clarifying language; deleting obsolete language; allowing certain members to retire and return to employment as police chief; clarifying language; providing that certain benefits are nonforfeitable; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 11 O.S. 1991, Section 50-101, as last amended by Section 3 of Enrolled House Bill No. 1965 of the 1st Session of the 48th Oklahoma Legislature, is amended to read as follows:

Section 50-101. As used in this article:

1. "System" means the Oklahoma Police Pension and Retirement System and all predecessor municipal Police Pension and Retirement Systems;
2. "Article" means Article 50 of this title;

3. "State Board" means the Oklahoma Police Pension and Retirement Board;

4. "Local board" means the local police pension and retirement boards;

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

6. "Officer" means any duly appointed and sworn full-time officer of the regular police department of a municipality whose duties are to preserve the public peace, protect life and property, prevent crime, serve warrants, enforce all laws and municipal ordinances of this state, and any political subdivision thereof, and who is authorized to bear arms in the execution of such duties;

7. "Member" means all eligible officers of a participating municipality and any person hired by a participating municipality who is undergoing police training to become a permanent police officer of the municipality. Effective July 1, 1987, a member does not include a "leased employee" as defined under Section 414(n)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. Effective July 1, 1999, any individual who agrees with the participating municipality that the individual's services are to be performed as a leased employee or an independent contractor shall not be a member regardless of any classification as a common law employee by the Internal Revenue Service or any other governmental agency, or any court of competent jurisdiction. A member shall include members of the Oklahoma State Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control who elect to participate in the System pursuant to Section 50-111.5 of Title 11 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

8. "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 of the month coinciding with or 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 of the month after the member terminates employment with more than twenty (20) years of credited service;

9. "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 or credited service granted by the State Board;

10. "Participating municipality" means a municipality which is making contributions to the System on behalf of its officers. The Oklahoma State Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control shall be treated as a participating municipality only regarding those members who elect to participate in the System pursuant to Section 50-111.5 of Title 11 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

11. "Permanent total disability" means incapacity due to accidental injury or occupational disease, to earn any wages in the employment for which the member is physically suited and reasonably fitted through education, training or experience. Further, the member must be declared one hundred percent (100%) impaired as defined by the "American Medical Association's Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment" on the basis of a physical medical examination by a physician licensed to practice medicine in this state, as selected by the State Board;

12. "Permanent partial disability" means permanent disability which is less than permanent total disability as defined in this section. The member must be declared no greater than ninety-nine percent (99%) impaired as defined by the "American Medical

Association's Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment" on the basis of a physical medical examination by a physician licensed to practice medicine in this state, as selected by the State Board;

13. "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 member for the thirty (30) continuous months immediately preceding the member's death, provided a surviving spouse of a member who died while in, and as a consequence of, the performance of the member's duty for a participating municipality, shall not be subject to the thirty-month marriage requirement 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 police officer 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;

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

15. "Eligible employer" means any municipality with a municipal police department;

16. "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;

17. "Final average salary" means the average paid gross salary of the member for normally scheduled hours over the highest salaried thirty (30) consecutive months of the last sixty (60) months of credited service.

- a. Gross salary shall not include payment for accumulated sick and annual leave upon termination of employment or any uniform allowances. Provided, for purposes of determining the normal disability benefit, final average salary shall be based on the member's total service if less than thirty (30) months. 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. Effective January 1, 1988, gross salary shall include any amount of elective salary reduction under Section 125 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. Only salary on which required contributions have been made may be used in computing the final average salary.
- b. In addition to other applicable limitations, and notwithstanding any other provision to the contrary, for plan years beginning on or after July 1, 1996, the annual compensation of each "Noneligible Member" taken into account under the System shall not exceed the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 (OBRA '93) annual compensation limit. The OBRA '93 annual compensation limit is One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000.00), as adjusted by the Commissioner for increases in the cost of living in accordance with Section 401(a)(17)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. The annual compensation limit in

effect for a calendar year applies to any period, not exceeding twelve (12) months, over which compensation is determined ("determination period") beginning in such calendar year. If a determination period consists of fewer than twelve (12) months, the OBRA '93 annual compensation limit will be multiplied by a fraction, the numerator of which is the number of months in the determination period, and the denominator of which is twelve (12). For purposes of this section, a "Noneligible Member" is any member who first became a member during a plan year commencing on or after July 1, 1996.

- c. For plan years beginning on or after July 1, 1996, any reference in the System to the annual compensation limit under Section 401(a)(17) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, shall mean the OBRA '93 annual compensation limit set forth in this provision.
- d. If compensation for any prior determination period is taken into account in determining a Noneligible Member's benefits accruing in the current plan year, the compensation for that prior determination period is subject to the OBRA '93 annual compensation limit in effect for that prior determination period. For this purpose, for determination periods beginning before the first day of the first plan year beginning on or after July 1, 1996, the OBRA '93 annual compensation limit is One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000.00).
- e. Effective July 1, 1989, through June 30, 1997, in determining the compensation of a member for purposes of this limitation, the rules of Section 414(q)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, shall

apply, except in applying such rules, the term "family" shall include only the spouse of the member and any lineal descendants of the member who have not attained age nineteen (19) before the close of the year. If, as a result of the application of such rules, the adjusted annual compensation limitation is exceeded, then the limitation shall be prorated among the affected individuals in proportion to each such individual's compensation as determined under this section prior to the application of this limitation;

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

19. "Normal disability benefit" means two and one-half percent (2 1/2%) of the member's final average salary multiplied by twenty (20) years;

20. "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; ~~and~~

21. "Paid base salary" means compensation that shall include longevity, educational allowances, and normal compensation paid on a regularly scheduled pay period of which said pay period shall include holidays, annual leave and sick leave. Paid base salary shall not include overtime. This shall exclude any incremental increases due to reimbursement or payment of benefits or other allowances including but not limited to insurance premium reimbursements ; and

22. "Actuarial equivalent" means equality in value of the aggregate amounts expected to be received based on interest rate and mortality assumptions set by the State Board, in a manner that precludes employer discretion, and based upon recommendations from

independent professional advisors, and which shall be published annually in the actuarial report.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 11 O.S. 1991, Section 50-106.3, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 333, O.S.L. 1996 (11 O.S. Supp. 2000, Section 50-106.3), is amended to read as follows:

Section 50-106.3 A. An eligible employer may join the System on the first day of any month. Application for affiliation shall be in the form of a resolution approved by the governing body of the eligible employer or by any other body or officer authorized by law or recognized by the State Board to approve such resolution or action. Upon the filing of a certified copy of such resolution with the State Board, such election shall be irrevocable and the eligible municipality shall become a participating municipality on the first day of the month immediately following the filing of such election with the State Board.

B. The State Board shall have final authority in determining eligibility for membership in the System, pursuant to the provisions of this article. A member claiming credit for prior municipal police service in Oklahoma shall file an application with the State Board. The date of filing such application shall be not more than ninety (90) days after the municipality's entry date. Any credit for such prior service shall not exceed five (5) years. Upon a favorable determination of the eligibility for and the amount of service credit under this section, the member shall pay the amount determined by the State Board pursuant to Section 50-111.4 of this title.

C. Any municipality that has a municipal police pension and retirement system prior to July 1, 1980, shall consolidate its system with the state System and become a participating municipality on the first entry date as provided in this article.

D. Any eligible employer of a municipality which is a participating employer in the Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement

System on July 1, 1996, may become a participating municipality of the Oklahoma Police Pension and Retirement System ~~on January 1, 1997,~~ if and only if a certified copy of a resolution approved by the governing body of the eligible employer or by any other body or officer authorized by law or recognized by the Board to approve such a resolution, is filed with the Board ~~by December 15, 1996.~~ Such election shall be irrevocable.

1. All eligible officers who are initially employed in such a position on or after ~~January 1, 1997,~~ the date when the municipality becomes a participating municipality shall be members of the Oklahoma Police Pension and Retirement System and shall have no right to participate in the Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System.

2. All eligible officers who were employed in such a position prior to ~~January 1, 1997,~~ the date when the municipality becomes a participating municipality shall have the right to make a one-time election on or before ~~January 1, 1997,~~ six (6) months following the date that the municipality became a participating municipality to participate in the Oklahoma Police Pension and Retirement System. Any such employee who fails to make the election provided in this paragraph ~~by January 1, 1997,~~ shall remain in the Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System.

- a. Eligible officers electing to participate in the Oklahoma Police Pension and Retirement System shall be allowed to withdraw their accumulated contributions or elect a vested benefit in the Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System as provided in Section 917 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes.
- b. Eligible officers electing to participate in the Oklahoma Police Pension and Retirement System may file a claim for prior municipal police service in Oklahoma with the Board and may receive the prior service

credit, not to exceed five (5) years, upon payment for the service at the actuarial cost as determined by the Board. In no event, however, shall any eligible officer electing to participate in the Oklahoma Police Pension and Retirement System be allowed to receive credit or benefits in the Oklahoma Police Pension and Retirement System for years of service for which the officer is already receiving or eligible to receive retirement credit or benefits in the Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System.

SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 11 O.S. 1991, Section 50-111.2, as amended by Section 3, Chapter 352, O.S.L. 1993 (11 O.S. Supp. 2000, Section 50-111.2), is amended to read as follows:

Section 50-111.2 A. A member of the Oklahoma Police Pension and Retirement System may receive up to five (5) years of credited service accumulated by the member while a member of the Oklahoma Firefighters Pension and Retirement System, the Oklahoma Law Enforcement Retirement System, the Teacher's Retirement System of Oklahoma, the Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System or a county retirement system created pursuant to Section 951 of Title 19 of the Oklahoma Statutes or an Oklahoma municipal retirement system, if the member is not receiving or eligible to receive retirement credit or benefits from said service in any other public retirement system. ~~To receive the service credit, the member shall pay the amount determined by the State Board pursuant to Section 50-111.4 of this title~~ The member shall decide the number of years of credited service, not to exceed five (5) years, to purchase. The State Board shall determine the amount for the purchase pursuant to Section 50-111.4 of this title. The amount may be paid through a trustee-to-trustee transfer to the Oklahoma Police Pension and Retirement System from another system designated in this section, and/or through payments made by the member. The transferred credited

service of the member from another ~~state~~ retirement system pursuant to this section shall not alter the member's normal retirement date or vesting requirements. The transferred credited service will be added after the member reaches normal retirement date or vesting date.

B. The Oklahoma Police Pension and Retirement System shall transfer credited service to another state retirement system upon request of former members. Upon transfer, the former member shall have forfeited all rights in the Oklahoma Police Pension and Retirement System. Employee and city contributions of the former municipal retirement systems prior to January 1, 1981, are not transferable.

SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 11 O.S. 1991, Section 50-112, as last amended by Section 2, Chapter 377, O.S.L. 2000 (11 O.S. Supp. 2000, Section 50-112), is amended to read as follows:

Section 50-112. A. All persons employed as officers or any person hired by a participating municipality who is undergoing police training to become a permanent police officer of the municipality shall participate in the System upon initial employment with a police department of a participating municipality. All such persons shall submit to a physical-medical examination pertaining to sight, hearing, agility and other conditions the requirements of which shall be established by the State Board. The person shall be required to complete this physical-medical examination prior to the beginning of actual employment. This examination shall identify any preexisting conditions. Except as otherwise provided in ~~subsection C~~ ~~of~~ this section, a police officer shall be not less than twenty-one (21) nor more than forty-five (45) years of age when accepted for membership in the System. The State Board shall have authority to deny or revoke membership of any person submitting false information in such person's membership application. The State Board shall have final authority in determining eligibility for

membership in the System, pursuant to the provisions of this article.

B. ~~Except as provided in subsection C of this section, the~~ The police chief of any participating municipality may be exempt from membership in the System or may become a member provided the member is not a retired member and the requirements of this section are met at the time of employment.

C. A member of the System who has attained his or her normal retirement date may, if the member so elects, agree to terminate employment and retire as a member of the System, make an election to receive distributions from the System, and then return to employment in the position of police chief, but in the position of police chief, such member shall be a retired member of the System, receiving distributions from the System while employed as police chief.

D. A former member of the System who terminates from covered employment and who has neither retired from the System nor entered the Oklahoma Police Deferred Option Plan and is later employed in a covered position with a participating municipality shall not be denied eligibility to become a member of the System because he or she is forty-five (45) years of age or older. If such member has withdrawn his or her contributions prior to re-entering the System and the member desires to receive credit for such prior service, then the member shall pay back such contributions and interest pursuant to Section 50-111.1 of this title.

SECTION 5. AMENDATORY 11 O.S. 1991, Section 50-114, as last amended by Section 7, Chapter 287, O.S.L. 2000 (11 O.S. Supp. 2000, Section 50-114), is amended to read as follows:

Section 50-114. A. The State Board is hereby authorized to pay out of funds in the System a monthly service pension to any member eligible as hereinafter provided, not exceeding in any event the amount of money in such funds and not exceeding in any event the

accrued retirement benefit for such member, except as provided for herein. In order for a member to be eligible for such service pension the following requirements must be complied with:

1. The member's service with the police department for any participating municipality must have ceased; however, a member may be subsequently reemployed in the position of police chief pursuant to subsection C of Section 50-112 of this title;

2. The member must have reached the member's normal retirement date; and

3. The member must have complied with any agreement as to contributions by the member and other members to any funds of the System where said agreement has been made as provided by this article; provided, that should a retired member receive disability benefits as provided in this and other sections of this article, the time the retired member is receiving said disability benefits shall count as time on active service if the retired member should be recalled by the Chief of Police from said disability retirement. It shall be necessary before said time shall be counted toward retirement that the retired member make the same contribution as the member would have otherwise made if on active service for the time the retired member was disabled.

B. Any member complying with all requirements of this article, who reaches normal retirement date, upon application, shall be retired at the accrued retirement benefit. When a member has served for the necessary number of years and is otherwise eligible, as provided in this article, if such member is discharged without cause by the participating municipality, the member shall be eligible for a pension.

C. Effective July 1, 1989, in no event shall commencement of distribution of the accrued retirement benefit of a member be delayed beyond April 1 of the calendar year following the later of:

1. The calendar year in which the member reaches seventy and one-half (70 1/2) years of age; or

2. The actual retirement date of the member.

D. In the event of the death of any member who has been awarded a retirement benefit or is eligible therefor as provided in this section, such member's beneficiaries shall be paid such retirement benefit. The remaining portion of the member's retirement benefit shall be distributed to the beneficiaries at least as rapidly as under the method of distribution to the member. Effective March 1, 1997, if a member to whom a retirement benefit has been awarded or who is eligible therefor dies prior to the date as of which the total amount of retirement benefit paid equals the total amount of the employee contributions paid by or on behalf of the member and the member does not have a surviving beneficiary, the total benefits paid as of the date of the member's death shall be subtracted from the accumulated employee contribution amount and the balance, if greater than zero (0), shall be paid to the member's estate.

E. A local board and the State Board may review and affirm a member's request for retirement benefits prior to the member's normal retirement date provided that no retirement benefits are paid prior to the normal retirement date.

F. A member retired under the provisions of this article may apply to the State Board to have the member's retirement benefits set aside and may make application for disability benefits. Upon approval of the disability benefits, the member would become subject to all provisions of this article pertaining to disability retirement.

G. Upon the death of a retired member, the benefit payment for the month in which the retired member died, if not previously paid, shall be made to the beneficiary of the member or to the member's estate if there is no beneficiary. Such benefit payment shall be

made in an amount equal to a full monthly benefit payment regardless of the day of the month in which the retired member died.

SECTION 6. AMENDATORY 11 O.S. 1991, Section 50-132, as amended by Section 11, Chapter 287, O.S.L. 2000 (11 O.S. Supp. 2000, Section 50-132), is amended to read as follows:

Section 50-132. The assets of the Fund shall consist of such assets and the income therefrom, including such contributions as shall from time to time be made to the State Board by each municipality, or property for which any of the same shall be exchanged or into which any of the same shall be converted, together with any other assets held from time to time hereunder by the State Board. All legal right, title and interest in and to the assets of the Fund shall at all times be held in trust and vested exclusively in the State Board or its nominee and no municipality shall be deemed to have severable ownership of any asset of the Fund or any right of partition or possession.

The State Board shall appraise and place valuation upon the assets of the Fund held by it as of the last business day of each month. Any assets not held by the State Board shall be appraised and valued by the Executive Director on said date.

The valuation of all assets of the Fund shall be both at cost and at the fair market value thereof, as determined by reference to the best available source or sources, in the opinion of the Executive Director and the State Board and both the Executive Director and State Board may rely on figures, or statements appearing in any reputable publication purporting to state sales prices, market quotations, values, bid and asking prices or any facts affecting values and upon the opinion of one or more persons familiar with the reasonable market value of any assets to be valued and shall incur no liability for error in any such valuation made in good faith. The reasonable and equitable decision of the Executive Director and State Board regarding the method used in determining

values shall be conclusive and binding upon all persons, natural or legal, having interest, direct or indirect, in the Fund's assets.

Upon termination or partial termination of the System, or a permanent discontinuance of contributions, the benefits accrued up to the date of termination by the affected members and their beneficiaries, respectively, shall be nonforfeitable.

SECTION 7. 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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