

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 48th Legislature (2001)

HOUSE BILL HB1731

By: Corn

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 7, Chapter 377, O.S.L. 2000 (47 O.S. Supp. 2000, Section 2-305), which relates to computation of benefits; modifying provisions related to computation of benefits for certain members; 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 7, Chapter 377, O.S.L. 2000 (47 O.S. Supp. 2000, 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 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.

C. Members of the Highway Patrol who have retired after completion of the mandatory twenty (20) years of service, and those highway patrol officers who retire after reaching the mandatory twenty-year retirement, shall receive an annual retirement pay, payable in equal monthly payments, based upon the greater of either:

1. One-half (1/2) of the base pay currently paid to an active patrolman, at the time each such monthly retirement payment is made, multiplied by two and one-half percent (2 1/2%) multiplied by the number of years of credited service and fraction thereof; or

2. The patrolman's final average salary as set forth in paragraph 9 of Section 2-300 of this title, multiplied by two and one-half percent (2 1/2%), multiplied by the number of years of credited service and fraction thereof.

No member of the System retired prior to July 1, 2001, shall receive a benefit less than the amount the member is receiving as of June 30, 2001.

D. Members of the Communications Division who have retired after completion of the mandatory twenty (20) years of service, and those communications dispatchers who retire after reaching the mandatory twenty-year retirement shall receive an annual retirement pay, payable in equal monthly payments, based upon the greater of:

1. One-half (1/2) of the base pay currently paid to an active communications dispatcher, at the time each such monthly retirement payment is made, multiplied by two and one-half percent (2 1/2%), multiplied by the number of years of credited service and fraction thereof; or

2. The communications dispatcher's final average salary, as set forth in paragraph 9 of Section 2-300 of this title, multiplied by two and one-half percent (2 1/2%), multiplied by the number of years of credited service and fraction thereof.

No member of the System retired prior to July 1, 2001, shall receive a benefit less than the amount the member is receiving as of June 30, 2001.

E. Other members of the System whose retirement benefit is not otherwise prescribed by this section shall receive an annual retirement pay, payable in equal monthly payments, equal to the member's final average salary, as set forth in paragraph 9 of Section 2-300 of this title, multiplied by two and one-half percent (2 1/2%), multiplied by the number of years of credited service and fraction thereof.

F. 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.~~ G. 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 whose disability is by means of personal and traumatic injury of a catastrophic nature and in the line of duty shall receive a monthly benefit equal to:

1. Two and one-half percent (2 1/2%);
2. Multiplied by:
 - a. twenty (20) years of service, regardless of the actual number of years of credited service performed by the member prior to the date of disability, if the member had performed less than twenty (20) years of service, or
 - b. the actual number of years of service performed by the member if the member had performed twenty (20) or more years of service;
3. Multiplied by a final average salary equal to:
 - a. the salary which the member would have received pursuant to statutory salary schedules in effect upon the date of the disability for twenty (20) years of service prior to disability. The final average salary for a member who performed less than twenty (20) years of service prior to disability shall be computed assuming that the member was paid the highest salary allowable pursuant to the law in effect at the time of the member's disability based upon twenty (20) years of service and with an assumption that the member was eligible for any and all increases in pay based upon rank during the entire period. If the salary of a member is not prescribed by a specific salary schedule upon the date of the member's disability, the final average salary for the member shall be computed by the member's actual final average salary or the highest

median salary amount for a member whose salary was prescribed by a specific salary schedule upon the date of the member's disability, whichever final average salary amount would be greater, or

- b. the actual final average salary of the member if the member had performed twenty (20) or more years of service prior to disability;

~~E.~~ H. 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.

~~F.~~ I. 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.

~~G.~~ J. For the purpose of determining the member's disability under subsection ~~E~~ F, ~~D~~ G or ~~E~~ H of this section, 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 the member's 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 recuperation period. 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.

~~H.~~ K. The disability benefit under this section shall be for the lifetime of the member unless such member is found no longer disabled pursuant to subsection ~~F~~ I of this section. Such member shall not be entitled to the retirement benefit pursuant to subsection A of this section unless such member returns to active duty and is eligible for a retirement benefit as provided in subsection A of this section.

~~I.~~ L. At the postoffer, preemployment physical examination required under paragraph 6 of Section 2-300 of this title, the physician selected by the Board shall determine the extent to which a new member is disabled. If a member is determined to be partially disabled, the physician shall assign a percentage of disability to such partial disability. If such member then becomes entitled to a disability benefit under either subsection ~~G~~ F or subsection ~~E~~ H of this section, the benefit payable shall be reduced by the percentage which such member was determined to be disabled at the postoffer, preemployment physical unless the Board makes a determination that the initially determined percentage of disability at the preemployment physical examination is unrelated to the reason for the disability currently sought pursuant to subsection ~~G~~ F or subsection ~~E~~ H of this section. Upon employment, the member shall disclose to the Board any disability payments received from any source. The amount of disability to be paid to any member cannot

exceed one hundred percent (100%) disability from all sources. The provisions of this subsection shall apply only to members whose effective date of membership is on or after July 1, 2000.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2001.

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.

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