

ENROLLED HOUSE
BILL NO. 2074

By: Sears, Cannaday, Martin
(Steve), Banz, Denney,
McCullough, Hoskin, Kiesel,
Renegar and Hickman of the
House

and

Brown and Ford of the
Senate

An Act relating to the Teachers' Retirement System of Oklahoma; amending 70 O.S. 2001, Section 17-116.10, as last amended by Section 4, Chapter 315, O.S.L. 2004 (70 O.S. Supp. 2007, Section 17-116.10), which relates to post-retirement earnings limitations; modifying earnings limitations; amending 70 O.S. 2001, Section 17-101, as last amended by Section 1 of Enrolled Senate Bill No. 1442 of the 2nd Session of the 51st Oklahoma Legislature, which relates to definitions; modifying definitions; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 17-116.10, as last amended by Section 4, Chapter 315, O.S.L. 2004 (70 O.S. Supp. 2007, 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 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, volunteer services for the purpose of obtaining a paid position at a later date, 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. Unless otherwise provided in paragraph 3 of this subsection, 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 under the age of sixty-two (62) years, the limit on allowed earnings from the public schools of Oklahoma for employment for the performance of duties ordinarily performed by classified or nonclassified personnel shall be the lesser of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00) or one-half (1/2) of the member's final average salary used in computing retirement benefits unless the earnings limitation allowed by the Social Security Administration would be greater than Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00). For retired members sixty-two (62) years of age or older the limit on allowed earnings from the public schools of Oklahoma for the performance of duties ordinarily performed by classified or nonclassified personnel shall be the lesser of Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.00) or one-half (1/2) of the member's final average salary used in computing retirement benefits. For purposes of this paragraph, the following shall apply:

- a. earnings shall mean "regular annual compensation" as defined in paragraph (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;

3. Notwithstanding paragraph 2 of this subsection, a retired classified or nonclassified member who has been retired for thirty-six (36) or more months and who is employed by a public school to perform duties ordinarily performed by classified or nonclassified personnel shall be able to receive annualized earnings from the public school not to exceed Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.00) with no reduction in retirement benefits regardless of the amount of annualized earnings; and

4. A member shall be considered to be employed by a school district to perform the duties ordinarily performed by classified or nonclassified personnel if the member is hired by the school

district in the member's individual capacity to perform the duties or if the member performs the duties through employment with a proprietorship, partnership, corporation, limited liability company or partnership, or any other business structure that has agreed or contracted to provide the services to the school district.

B. A public school district that employs a retired member shall be required to make contributions to the System for the retired member in an amount as required in Section 17-108.1 of this title.

C. 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.

D. 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.

E. 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. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 17-101, as last amended by Section 1 of Enrolled Senate Bill No. 1442 of the 2nd Session of the 51st Oklahoma Legislature, is amended to read as follows:

Section 17-101. The following words and phrases as used in this act, unless a different meaning is clearly required by the context, shall have the following meanings:

(1) "Retirement system" shall mean the Teachers' Retirement System of Oklahoma, as defined in Section 17-102 of this title.

(2) "Public school" shall mean a school district, a state college or university, the State Board of Education, the State Board of Career and Technology Education and any other state educational entity conducted within the state supported wholly or partly by public funds and operating under the authority and supervision of a legally constituted board or agency having authority and responsibility for any function of public education. "Public

school" shall also mean a tuition free, non-profit alternative school of choice that provides education, therapeutic counseling and outreach programs which is aligned with a school district and which receives grant funds from governmental sources.

(3) "Classified personnel" shall mean any teacher, principal, superintendent, supervisor, administrator, librarian, certified or registered nurse, college professor, or college president whose salary is paid wholly or in part from public funds. An employee of any state department, board, board of regents or board of trustees, who is in a supervisory or an administrative position, the function of which is primarily devoted to public education, shall be considered classified personnel under the meaning of this act, at the discretion of the Board of Trustees of the Teachers' Retirement System. The term "teacher" shall also include instructors and counselors employed by the Department of Corrections and holding valid teaching certificates issued by the State Department of Education. Provided, that a person employed by the Department of Corrections as an instructor or counselor shall have been actively engaged in the teaching profession for a period of not less than three (3) years prior to employment to be eligible to participate in the Oklahoma Teachers' Retirement System. The Department of Corrections shall contribute the employer's share to the Oklahoma Teachers' Retirement System.

(4) "Nonclassified optional personnel" shall include cooks, janitors, maintenance personnel not in a supervisory capacity, bus drivers, noncertified or nonregistered nurses, noncertified librarians, and clerical employees of the public schools, state colleges, universities or any state department, board, board of regents or board of trustees, the functions of which are primarily devoted to public education and whose salaries are paid wholly or in part from public funds.

(5) "Employer" shall mean the state and any of its designated agents or agencies with responsibility and authority for public education, such as boards of education of elementary and independent school districts, boards of regents, boards of control or any other agency of and within the state by which a person may be employed for service in public education. "Employer" shall also mean the board of directors of a tuition free, non-profit alternative school of choice that provides education, therapeutic counseling and outreach programs which is aligned with a school district and which receives grant funds from governmental sources.

(6) "Member" shall mean any teacher or other employee included in the membership of the system as provided in Section 17-103 of this title.

(7) "Board of Trustees" shall mean the board provided for in Section 17-106 of this title to administer the retirement system.

(8) "Service" shall mean service as a classified or nonclassified optional employee in the public school system, or any other service devoted primarily to public education in the state.

(9) "Prior service" shall mean service rendered prior to July 1, 1943.

(10) "Membership service" shall mean service as a member of the classified or nonclassified personnel as defined in paragraphs (3) and (4) of this section.

(11) "Creditable service" shall mean membership service plus any prior service authorized under this title.

(12) "Annuitant" shall mean any person in receipt of a retirement allowance as provided in this title.

(13) "Accumulated contributions" shall mean the sum of all amounts deducted from the compensation of a member and credited to his individual account in the Teacher Savings Fund, together with interest as of June 30, 1968.

(14) "Earnable compensation" shall mean the full rate of the compensation that would be payable to a member if he worked the full normal working time.

(15) "Average salary":

- (a) for those members who joined the System prior to July 1, 1992, shall mean the average of the salaries for the three (3) years on which the highest contributions to the Teachers' Retirement System was paid not to exceed the maximum contribution level specified in Section 17-116.2 of this title or the maximum compensation level specified in subsection (28) of this section. Provided, no member shall retire with an average salary in excess of Twenty-five Thousand

Dollars (\$25,000.00) unless the member has made the required election and paid the required contributions on such salary in excess of Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00), or unless an eligible member fulfills the requirements of Section 17-116.2C of this title in order to have pre-cap removal service included in the retirement benefit computation of the member using the regular annual compensation of the member for any pre-cap removal year of service so included subject to the maximum average salary amount, and

- (b) for those members who join the System after June 30, 1992, shall mean the average of the salaries for five (5) consecutive years on which the highest contribution to the Teachers' Retirement System was paid. Only salary on which required contributions have been made may be used in computing average salary.

(16) "Annuity" shall mean payments for life derived from the "accumulated contributions" of a member. All annuities shall be payable in equal monthly installments.

(17) "Pension" shall mean payments for life derived from money provided by the employer. All pensions shall be payable in equal monthly installments.

(18) "Monthly retirement allowance" is one-twelfth (1/12) of the annual retirement allowance which shall be payable monthly.

(19) "Retirement Benefit Fund" shall mean the fund from which all retirement benefits shall be paid based on such mortality tables as shall be adopted by the Board of Trustees.

(20) "Actuary" shall mean a person especially skilled through training and experience in financial calculation respecting the expectancy and duration of life.

(21) "Actuarial equivalent" shall mean a benefit of equal value when computed upon the basis of such mortality and other tables as shall be adopted by the Board of Trustees.

(22) The masculine pronoun, whenever used, shall include the feminine.

(23) "Actuarially determined cost" shall mean the single sum which is actuarially equivalent in value to a specified pension amount as determined on the basis of mortality and interest assumptions adopted by the Board of Trustees.

(24) "Normal retirement age" means age sixty-two (62) or the age at which the sum of a member's age and number of years of creditable service total eighty (80) or ninety (90), for those who became a member after June 30, 1992, pursuant to Section 17-105 of this title, whichever occurs first.

(25) "Regular annual compensation" means salary plus fringe benefits, excluding the flexible benefit allowance pursuant to Section 26-105 of this title and for purposes pursuant to Section 17-101 et seq. of this title. For purposes of this definition, regular annual compensation shall include all payments as provided in subsection D of Section 17-116.2 of this title.

(26) "Teacher" means classified personnel and nonclassified optional personnel.

(27) "Active classroom teacher" means a person employed by a school district to teach students specifically identified classes for specifically identified subjects during the course of a semester, and who holds a valid certificate or license issued by and in accordance with the rules and regulations of the State Board of Education.

(28) "Maximum compensation level" shall, except as otherwise authorized pursuant to the provisions of Section 17-116.2C of this title, mean:

- (a) Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) for creditable service authorized and performed prior to July 1, 1995, for members not electing a higher maximum compensation level,
- (b) Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000.00) for creditable service authorized and performed prior to July 1, 1995, for members electing a maximum compensation level in excess of Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00),

- (c) Twenty-seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$27,500.00) for members who, as of June 30, 1995, had elected to have a maximum compensation level not in excess of Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00), and who were employed by an entity or institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education for creditable service authorized and performed on or after July 1, 1995, but not later than June 30, 1996, if such member does not elect a higher maximum compensation level for this period as authorized by Section 17-116.2A of this title,
- (d) Thirty-two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$32,500.00) for members employed by a comprehensive university if the member meets the requirements imposed by Section 17-116.2A of this title and the member elects to impose a higher maximum compensation level for service performed on or after July 1, 1995, but not later than June 30, 1996,
- (e) Forty-four Thousand Dollars (\$44,000.00) for members who, as of June 30, 1995, had elected to have a maximum compensation level in excess of Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00), and who were employed by an entity or institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education for creditable service authorized and performed on or after July 1, 1995, but not later than June 30, 1996, if such member does not elect a higher maximum compensation level for this period as authorized by Section 17-116.2A of this title,
- (f) Forty-nine Thousand Dollars (\$49,000.00) for members employed by a comprehensive university if the member meets the requirements imposed by Section 17-116.2A of this title and the member elects to impose a higher maximum compensation level for service performed on or after July 1, 1995, but not later than June 30, 1996,
- (g) the following amounts for creditable service authorized and performed by members employed by a comprehensive university, based upon the election of the member in effect as of June 30, 1995:

1. for members who elected a maximum compensation level not in excess of Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00):
 - (i) Thirty-two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$32,500.00) for service authorized and performed on or after July 1, 1996, but not later than June 30, 1997,
 - (ii) Thirty-seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$37,500.00) for service authorized and performed on or after July 1, 1997, but not later than June 30, 1998,
 - (iii) Forty-two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$42,500.00) for service authorized and performed on or after July 1, 1998, but not later than June 30, 2000,
 - (iv) Forty-seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$47,500.00) for service authorized and performed on or after July 1, 2000, but not later than June 30, 2001,
 - (v) Fifty-two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$52,500.00) for service authorized and performed on or after July 1, 2001, but not later than June 30, 2002,
 - (vi) Fifty-seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$57,500.00) for service authorized and performed on or after July 1, 2002, but not later than June 30, 2003,
 - (vii) Sixty-two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$62,500.00) for service authorized and performed on or after July 1, 2003, but not later than June 30, 2004,
 - (viii) Sixty-seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$67,500.00) for service authorized and performed on or after July 1, 2004, but not later than June 30, 2005,

- (ix) Seventy-two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$72,500.00) for service authorized and performed on or after July 1, 2005, but not later than June 30, 2006,
 - (x) Seventy-seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$77,500.00) for service authorized and performed on or after July 1, 2006, but not later than June 30, 2007,
 - (xi) the full amount of regular annual compensation for service authorized and performed on or after July 1, 2007, and
2. for members who elected a maximum compensation level in excess of Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00):
- (i) Forty-nine Thousand Dollars (\$49,000.00) for service authorized and performed on or after July 1, 1996, but not later than June 30, 1997,
 - (ii) Fifty-four Thousand Dollars (\$54,000.00) for service authorized and performed on or after July 1, 1997, but not later than June 30, 1998,
 - (iii) Fifty-nine Thousand Dollars (\$59,000.00) for service authorized and performed on or after July 1, 1998, but not later than June 30, 2000,
 - (iv) Sixty-four Thousand Dollars (\$64,000.00) for service authorized and performed on or after July 1, 2000, but not later than June 30, 2001,
 - (v) Sixty-nine Thousand Dollars (\$69,000.00) for service authorized and performed on or after July 1, 2001, but not later than June 30, 2002,
 - (vi) Seventy-four Thousand Dollars (\$74,000.00) for service authorized and performed on or

after July 1, 2002, but not later than June 30, 2003,

- (vii) Seventy-nine Thousand Dollars (\$79,000.00) for service authorized and performed on or after July 1, 2003, but not later than June 30, 2004,
- (viii) Eighty-four Thousand Dollars (\$84,000.00) for service authorized and performed on or after July 1, 2004, but not later than June 30, 2005,
- (ix) Eighty-nine Thousand Dollars (\$89,000.00) for service authorized and performed on or after July 1, 2005, but not later than June 30, 2006,
- (x) Ninety-four Thousand Dollars (\$94,000.00) for service authorized and performed on or after July 1, 2006, but not later than June 30, 2007,
- (xi) the full amount of regular annual compensation for service authorized and performed on or after July 1, 2007,

(h) the full amount of regular annual compensation of:

1. a member of the retirement system not employed by an entity or institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education for all creditable service authorized and performed on or after July 1, 1995,
2. a member of the retirement system first employed on or after July 1, 1995, by an entity or institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education for all creditable service authorized and performed on or after July 1, 1995, but not later than June 30, 1996,
3. a member of the retirement system employed by an entity or institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education, other than a

comprehensive university, if the member elects to impose a higher maximum compensation level for service performed on or after July 1, 1995, but not later than June 30, 1996, pursuant to subsection B of Section 17-116.2A of this title,

4. a member of the retirement system who is first employed on or after July 1, 1996, by any entity or institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education, including a comprehensive university, for creditable service authorized and performed on or after July 1, 1996,
5. a member of the retirement system who, as of July 1, 1996, is subject to a maximum compensation level pursuant to paragraph (g) of this subsection if the member terminates service with a comprehensive university and is subsequently reemployed by a comprehensive university,
6. a member of the retirement system employed by a comprehensive university for all service performed on and after July 1, 2007, or
7. an eligible member of the retirement system who fulfills the requirements of Section 2 of this act with respect to pre-cap removal service included in the retirement benefit computation of the member at the average salary of the member subject to the maximum average salary amount.

(29) "Comprehensive university" shall mean:

- (a) the University of Oklahoma and all of its constituent agencies, including the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, the University of Oklahoma Law Center and the Geological Survey, and
- (b) Oklahoma State University and all of its constituent agencies, including the Oklahoma State University Agricultural Experiment Station, the Oklahoma State University Agricultural Extension Division, the Oklahoma State University College of Veterinary Medicine, the Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences, the Technical Branch at Oklahoma

City, the Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology-Okmulgee and Oklahoma State University-Tulsa.

SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2008.

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.

Passed the House of Representatives the 19th day of May, 2008.

Presiding Officer of the House of
Representatives

Passed the Senate the 20th day of May, 2008.

Presiding Officer of the Senate