

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 56th Legislature (2017)

SENATE BILL 428

By: Smalley

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to teacher retirement; amending 70 O.S. 2011, Section 17-116.10, as amended by Section 4, Chapter 101, O.S.L. 2013 (70 O.S. Supp. 2016, Section 17-116.10), which relates to post-retirement employment; conforming language; excluding certain employees from retirement classification; allowing certain retired teachers to return at full pay; 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. 2011, Section 17-116.10, as amended by Section 4, Chapter 101, O.S.L. 2013 (70 O.S. Supp. 2016, 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

1 days between the retiree's last day of pre-retirement public-
2 education employment and any post-retirement public-education
3 employment. For purposes of this section, the term "last day of
4 pre-retirement employment" shall mean the last day the employee is
5 required to be physically present on the job to complete the terms
6 of the employment contract or agreement. An employee on paid leave
7 is still considered to be employed for purposes of this section.

8 Employment under any conditions during this time, volunteer services
9 for the purpose of obtaining a paid position at a later date, or
10 payment at a later time for services performed during this time
11 period shall cause the forfeiture of all retirement benefits
12 received during the period;

13 2. Unless otherwise provided in paragraph 3 of this subsection,
14 earnings from the public schools may not exceed one-half (1/2) of
15 the member's final average salary used in computing retirement
16 benefits, or the Earnings Limitation for employees allowed by the
17 Social Security Administration, whichever is less. For retired
18 members under the age of sixty-two (62) years, the limit on allowed
19 earnings from the public schools of Oklahoma for employment for the
20 performance of duties ordinarily performed by classified or
21 nonclassified personnel shall be the lesser of Fifteen Thousand
22 Dollars (\$15,000.00) or one-half (1/2) of the member's final average
23 salary used in computing retirement benefits unless the earnings
24 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

- 1 day of January of each year to reflect the current
2 Earnings Limitation for employees as determined from
3 time to time by the Social Security Administration,
- 4 d. the earnings limit for the calendar year in which a
5 member retires shall be one-twelfth (1/12) of the
6 annual limit multiplied by the number of months the
7 member is eligible to work and receive payments from
8 the public schools of Oklahoma,
- 9 e. earnings in excess of the maximum limit on allowed
10 earnings from public schools of Oklahoma shall result
11 in a loss of future retirement benefits for the year
12 the post-retirement employment was performed of One
13 Dollar (\$1.00) for each One Dollar (\$1.00) earned over
14 the maximum allowed earnings amount,
- 15 f. for those members age seventy (70) years and over, the
16 earnings in excess of the maximum limit allowed
17 earnings from public schools of Oklahoma shall be one-
18 half (1/2) the member's final average salary used in
19 computing retirement benefits. However, any retired
20 member receiving benefits from the Retirement System
21 who reached age seventy (70) years prior to July 1,
22 1991, shall not be restricted by the earnings limits
23 pursuant to this subparagraph until January 1, 1994.
24 To qualify for the provisions of this subparagraph,

1 the member must be employed less than one-half (1/2)
2 time compared to other full-time employees in similar
3 positions;

4 3. Notwithstanding paragraph 2 of this subsection, a retired
5 classified or nonclassified member who has been retired for thirty-
6 six (36) or more months and who is employed by a public school to
7 perform duties ordinarily performed by classified or nonclassified
8 personnel shall be able to receive annualized earnings from the
9 public school with no reduction in retirement benefits regardless of
10 the amount of annualized earnings. For a period of three (3) years
11 beginning July 1, 2017, members who retired as active classroom
12 teachers, who have been retired and receiving a benefit for at least
13 one year, and who have not been employed by any public school during
14 that one-year period, shall be eligible to be re-employed as an
15 active classroom teacher in common or career tech school districts,
16 with no limitations on earnings. The one-year period starts with
17 the retiree's last day of preretirement public education employment.
18 Members returning under this section shall not be subject to any
19 earning limitations following the end of the three-year period
20 described in this paragraph; and

21 4. A member shall be considered to be employed by a school
22 district to perform the duties ordinarily performed by classified or
23 nonclassified personnel if the member is hired by the school
24 district in the member's individual capacity to perform the duties

1 or if the member performs the duties through employment with a
2 proprietorship, partnership, corporation, limited liability company
3 or partnership, or any other business structure that has agreed or
4 contracted to provide the services to the school district.

5 B. A public school district that employs a retired member shall
6 be required to make contributions to the System for the retired
7 member in an amount as required in Section 17-108.1 and in paragraph
8 3 of subsection B of Section 17-116.2 of this title.

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

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

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

22 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2017.

23 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
24 of the public peace, health or 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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