1	ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 2996 By: Lepak and Randleman of the
2	BILL NO. 2996 By: Lepak and Randleman of the House
3	and
4	Weaver of the Senate
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7	An Act relating to retirement; amending 47 O.S. 2021, Sections 2-300, as amended by Section 8, Chapter 151,
8 O.S.L. 2023 (47 O.S. Supp. 2023, Section 2-300), 2-304, and 2-307.2, which relate to the Oklahoma Law Enforcement Retirement System; defining term;	O.S.L. 2023 (47 O.S. Supp. 2023, Section 2-300), 2-
10	an emergency.
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14	BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:
15	SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 47 O.S. 2021, Section 2-300, as
16	amended by Section 8, Chapter 151, O.S.L. 2023 (47 O.S. Supp. 2023,
17	Section 2-300), is amended to read as follows:
18	Section 2-300. As used in Section 2-300 et seq. of this title:
19	1. "System" means the Oklahoma Law Enforcement Retirement
20	System;
21	2. "Act" means Section 2-300 et seq. of this title;
22	3. "Board" means the Oklahoma Law Enforcement Retirement Board
23	of the System;

- 4. "Executive Director" means the managing officer of the System employed by the Board;
 - 5. "Fund" means the Oklahoma Law Enforcement Retirement Fund;
- 6. "Participating Employer" means any Oklahoma entity with employees that are members of the System pursuant to this act;
 - 7. a. "Member" means:
 - (1) all commissioned law enforcement officers of the
 Oklahoma Highway Patrol Division of the
 Department of Public Safety who have obtained
 certification from the Council on Law Enforcement
 Education and Training, and all cadets of a
 Patrol Academy of the Department of Public
 Safety,
 - (2) law enforcement officers and criminalists of the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation,
 - (3) law enforcement officers of the Oklahoma State

 Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control

 designated to perform duties in the investigation

 and prevention of crime and the enforcement of

 the criminal laws of this state,
 - (4) law enforcement officers of the Alcoholic

 Beverage Laws Enforcement Commission designated
 to perform duties in the investigation and

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prevention of crime and the enforcement of the criminal laws of this state,

- (5) employees of the Communications Section of the Oklahoma Highway Patrol Division, radio technicians and tower technicians of the Department of Public Safety, who are employed in any such capacity as of June 30, 2008, and who remain employed on or after July 1, 2008, until a termination of service, or until a termination of service with an election of a vested benefit from the System, or until retirement. Effective July 1, 2008, a person employed for the first time as an employee of the Department of Public Safety in the Communications Division as an information systems telecommunication technician of the Department of Public Safety shall not be a member of the System,
- (6) park rangers of the Oklahoma Tourism and

 Recreation Department and any park manager or

 park supervisor of the Oklahoma Tourism and

 Recreation Department, who was employed in such a

 position prior to July 1, 1985, and who elects on

 or before September 1, 1996, to participate in

 the System, and

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- (7) inspectors of the State Board of Pharmacy,
- (8) police officers who are CLEET certified and
 employed by the University of Oklahoma or
 Oklahoma State University and who participate in
 this System pursuant to Section 2-314 of this
 title, and
- (9) Lake Patrolmen or Dispatchers of the Grand River

 Dam Authority and who participate in this System

 pursuant to Section 2-315 of this title.
- b. 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 employer Participating Employer 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.
- c. All persons who shall be offered a position of a commissioned law enforcement officer as an employee of one of the agencies described in subparagraph a of this paragraph shall participate in the System upon

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the person meeting the requisite post-offer-preemployment physical examination standards which shall be subject to the following requirements:

- (1) all such persons shall be of good moral character, free from deformities, mental or physical conditions, or disease and alcohol or drug addiction which would prohibit the person from performing the duties of a law enforcement officer,
- (2) the physical-medical examination shall pertain to age, sight, hearing, agility and other conditions the requirements of which shall be established by the Board,
- (3) the person shall be required to meet the conditions of this subsection prior to the beginning of actual employment but after an offer of employment has been tendered by a participating employer Participating Employer,
- (4) the Board shall have authority to deny or revoke membership of any person submitting false information in such person's membership application, and
- (5) the Board shall have final authority in determining eligibility for membership in the

System, pursuant to the provisions of this subsection;

7. 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:

- a. completes twenty (20) years of vesting service, or
- b. attains sixty-two (62) years of age with ten (10) years of vesting service, or
- c. attains sixty-two (62) years of age, if:
 - (1) the member has been transferred to this System from the Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System on or after July 1, 1981, and
 - (2) the member would have been vested had the member continued to be a member of the Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System.

With respect to distributions under the System made for calendar years beginning on or after January 1, 2005, the System shall apply the minimum distribution incidental benefit requirements, incidental benefit requirements, and minimum distribution requirements of Section 401(a)(9) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, in accordance with the final regulations under Section 401(a)(9) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, including Treasury Regulations Sections 1.401(a)(9)-1 through 1.401(a)(9)-9; provided,

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    that for individuals who attain seventy and one-half (70 1/2) years
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    of age after December 31, 2019, but before January 1, 2023, such
    distributions shall take into account that "age 70 1/2" was stricken
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    and "age 72" was inserted in Sections 401(a)(9)(B)(iv)(I),
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    401(a)(9)(C)(i)(I) and 401(a)(9)(C)(ii)(I) of the Internal Revenue
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    Code of 1986, as amended, and, provided further, that for
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    individuals who attain seventy-two (72) years of age after December
    31, 2022, such distributions shall take into account that "age 72"
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    was stricken and "the applicable age", as defined in Section
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    401(a)(9)(C)(v) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended,
    was inserted in Section 401(a)(9)(B)(iv)(I) of the Internal Revenue
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    Code of 1986, as amended (applicable to calendar year 2023), Section
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    401(a)(9)(C)(i)(I) and Section 401(a)(9)(C)(ii)(I) of the Internal
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    Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and that the further revision of
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    Section 401(a)(9)(B)(iv) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as
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    amended, effective for calendar years after 2023 with respect to
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    certain distributions shall be taken into account, in all cases
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    notwithstanding any provision of the System to the contrary.
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    respect to distributions under the System made for calendar years
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    beginning on or after January 1, 2001, through December 31, 2004,
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    the System shall apply the minimum distribution requirements and
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    incidental benefit requirements of Section 401(a)(9) of the Internal
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    Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, in accordance with the regulations
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    under Section 401(a)(9) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as
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amended, which were proposed in January 2001, notwithstanding any provision of the System to the contrary.

Effective July 1, 1989, notwithstanding any other provision contained herein to the contrary, 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 onehalf $(70 \ 1/2)$ years of age for a member who attains this age before January 1, 2020, or, for a member who attains this age on or after January 1, 2020, but before January 1, 2023, the calendar year in which the member reaches seventy-two (72) years of age, or effective for distributions required to be made after December 31, 2022, the calendar year in which the member reaches seventy-three (73) years of age for an individual who attains age seventy-two (72) after December 31, 2022, or "the applicable age", as defined in Section 401(a)(9)(C)(v) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, if later; or (2) the actual retirement date of the member. A member electing to defer the commencement of retirement benefits pursuant to Section 2-308.1 of this title may not defer the benefit commencement beyond the age of sixty-five (65).

Effective September 8, 2009, notwithstanding anything to the contrary of the System, the System, which as a governmental plan (within the meaning of Section 414(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended), is treated as having complied with Section

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401(a)(9) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, for all years to which Section 401(a)(9) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, applies to the System if the System complies with a reasonable and good faith interpretation of Section 401(a)(9) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

A member who was required to join the System effective July 1, 1980, because of the transfer of the employing agency from the Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System to the System, and was not a member of the Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System on the date of such transfer shall be allowed to receive credit for prior law enforcement service rendered to this state, if the member is not receiving or eligible to receive retirement credit or benefits for such service in any other public retirement system, upon payment to the System of the employee contribution the member would have been subject to had the member been a member of the System at the time, plus five percent (5%) interest. Service credit received pursuant to this paragraph shall be used in determining the member's retirement benefit, and shall be used in determining years of service for retirement or vesting purposes;

8. 9. "Actual paid base salary" means the salary received by a member, excluding payment for any accumulated leave or uniform allowance. Salary shall include any amount of nonelective salary reduction under Section 414(h) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;

9. 10. "Final average salary" means the average of the highest thirty (30) consecutive complete months of actual paid gross salary. 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 July 1, 1992, gross salary shall include any amount of elective salary reduction under Section 125 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. Effective July 1, 1998, gross salary shall include any amount of elective salary reduction not includable in the gross income of the member under Section 132(f)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. Effective July 1, 1998, for purposes of determining a member's compensation, any contribution by the member to reduce his or her regular cash remuneration under Section 132(f)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, shall be treated as if the member did not make such an election. Only salary on which required contributions have been made may be used in computing the final average salary. Gross salary shall not include severance pay.

In addition to other applicable limitations, and notwithstanding any other provision to the contrary, for plan years beginning on or after July 1, 2002, the annual gross salary of each "Noneligible Member" taken into account under the System shall not exceed the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 ("EGTRRA")

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1 annual salary limit. The EGTRRA annual salary limit is Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00), as adjusted by the Commissioner for increases in the cost of living in accordance with Section 3 401(a)(17)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. The 5 annual salary limit in effect for a calendar year applies to any period, not exceeding twelve (12) months, over which salary is 6 7 determined ("determination period") beginning in such calendar year. If a determination period consists of fewer than twelve (12) months, 8 the EGTRRA salary limit will be multiplied by a fraction, the 10 numerator of which is the number of months in the determination period, and the denominator of which is twelve (12). For purposes 11 of this section, a "Noneligible Member" is any member who first 12 13 became a member during a plan year commencing on or after July 1,

For plan years beginning on or after July 1, 2002, any reference in the System to the annual salary limit under Section 401(a)(17) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, shall mean the EGTRRA salary limit set forth in this provision.

Effective January 1, 2008, gross salary for a plan year shall also include gross salary, as described above, for services, but paid by the later of two and one-half (2 1/2) months after a member's severance from employment or the end of the calendar year that includes the date the member terminated employment, if it is a payment that, absent a severance from employment, would have been

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paid to the member while the member continued in employment with the employer.

Effective January 1, 2008, any payments not described above shall not be considered gross salary if paid after severance from employment, even if they are paid by the later of two and one-half (2 1/2) months after the date of severance from employment or the end of the calendar year that includes the date of severance from employment, except payments to an individual who does not currently perform services for the employer by reason of qualified military service within the meaning of Section 414(u)(5) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, to the extent these payments do not exceed the amounts the individual would have received if the individual had continued to perform services for the employer rather than entering qualified military service.

Effective January 1, 2008, back pay, within the meaning of Section 1.415(c)-2(g)(8) of the Income Tax Regulations, shall be treated as gross salary for the limitation year to which the back pay relates to the extent the back pay represents wages and compensation that would otherwise be included in this definition.

Effective for years beginning after December 31, 2008, gross salary shall also include differential wage payments under Section 414(u)(12) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended;

service shall consist of the period during which the member participated in the System or the predecessor Plan as an active employee in an eligible membership classification, plus any service prior to the establishment of the predecessor Plan which was credited under the predecessor Plan and for law enforcement officers and criminalists of the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation and the Oklahoma State Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control who became members of the System on July 1, 1980, any service credited under the Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System as of June 30, 1980, and for members of the Communications and Lake Patrol Divisions of the Oklahoma Department of Public Safety, who became members of the System on July 1, 1981, any service credited under the predecessor Plan or the Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System as of June 30, 1981, and for law enforcement officers of the Alcoholic Beverage Laws Enforcement Commission who became members of the System on July 1, 1982, any service credited under the Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System as of June 30, 1982, and for park rangers of the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department who became members of the System on July 1, 1985, any service credited under the Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System as of June 30, 1985, and for inspectors of the State Board of Pharmacy who became members of the System on July 1, 1986, any service credited under the Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System as of June 30, 1986, for law enforcement officers of the Oklahoma Capitol Patrol Division of

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the Department of Public Safety who became members of the System effective July 1, 1993, any service credited under the Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System as of June 30, 1993, and for all commissioned officers in the Gunsmith/Ammunition Reloader Division of the Department of Public Safety who became members of the System effective July 1, 1994, any service credited under the Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System as of June 30, 1994, and for the park managers or park supervisors of the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department who were employed in such a position prior to July 1, 1985, and who elect to become members of the System effective September 1, 1996, any service transferred pursuant to subsection C of Section 2-309.6 of this title and any service purchased pursuant to subsection B of Section 2-307.2 of this title. Effective August 5, 1993, an authorized leave of absence shall include a period of absence pursuant to the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993; 11. 12. "Disability" means a physical or mental condition which, in the judgment of the Board, totally and presumably

11. 12. "Disability" means a physical or mental condition which, in the judgment of the Board, totally and presumably permanently prevents the member from engaging in the usual and customary duties of the occupation of the member and thereafter prevents the member from performing the duties of any occupation or service for which the member is qualified by reason of training, education or experience. A person is not under a disability when capable of performing a service to the employer, regardless of

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- 1 occupation, providing the salary of the employee is not diminished 2 thereby;
- 3 12. 13. "Limitation year" means the year used in applying the
 4 limitations of Section 415 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986,
 5 which year shall be the calendar year;
 - 13. 14. "Line of duty" means any action which a member whose primary function is crime control or reduction or enforcement of the criminal law is obligated or authorized by rule, regulations, condition of employment or service, or law to perform including those social, ceremonial or athletic functions to which the member is assigned, or for which the member is compensated, by the agency the member serves;
 - 14. 15. "Personal injury" or "injury" means any traumatic injury as well as diseases which are caused by or result from such an injury, but not occupational diseases;
 - 15. 16. "Catastrophic nature" means consequences of an injury that permanently prevent an individual from performing any gainful work;
- 19 16. 17. "Traumatic injury" means a wound or a condition of the
 20 body caused by external force including injuries inflicted by
 21 bullets, explosives, sharp instruments, blunt objects or other
 22 physical blows, chemicals, electricity, climatic conditions,
 23 infectious diseases, radiation and bacteria, but excluding stress
 24 and strain; and

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17. 18. "Beneficiary" means the individual designated by the member on a beneficiary designation form supplied by the Oklahoma Law Enforcement Retirement System, or, if there is no designated beneficiary or if the designated beneficiary predeceases the member, the estate of the member. If the member's spouse is not designated as the sole primary beneficiary, the member's spouse must sign a consent. SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 47 O.S. 2021, Section 2-304, is amended to read as follows:

Section 2-304. A. The Department of Public Safety, the

Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation, the Oklahoma State Bureau of

Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control, the Alcoholic Beverage

Control Board, the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department and

the State Board of Pharmacy shall make contributions to the fund as

follows:

The Department of Public Safety, Oklahoma State Bureau of
Investigation, Oklahoma State Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous

Drugs Control, the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board, the Oklahoma

Tourism and Recreation Department and the State Board of Pharmacy

Participating Employers shall contribute to the fund an amount equal

to eleven percent (11%) of the actual paid base salary of each

member.

B. Each member of the System shall make contributions to the fund in an amount equal to eight percent (8%) of the actual paid base salary of the member.

Member contributions shall be deducted by each participating employer Participating Employer for such benefits as the Board is by law authorized to administer and shall be remitted monthly, or as the Board may otherwise provide, for deposit in the fund.

C. Each employer Participating Employer shall pick up under the provisions of Section 414(h)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and pay the contribution which the member is required by law to make to the System for all compensation earned after December 31, 1989. Although the contributions so picked up are designated as member contributions, such contributions shall be treated as contributions being paid by the employer in lieu of contributions by the member in determining tax treatment under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and such picked up contributions shall not be includable in the gross income of the member until such amounts are distributed or made available to the member or the beneficiary of the member. The member, by the terms of this System, shall not have any option to choose to receive the contributions so picked up directly and the picked up contributions must be paid by the employer to the System.

Member contributions which are picked up shall be treated in the same manner and to the same extent as member contributions made prior to the date on which member contributions were picked up by

the participating employer Participating Employer. Member contributions so picked up shall be included in gross salary for purposes of determining benefits and contributions under the System.

The employer Participating Employer shall pay the member contributions from the same source of funds used in paying salary to the member, by effecting an equal cash reduction in gross salary of the member.

SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 47 O.S. 2021, Section 2-307.2, is amended to read as follows:

Section 2-307.2 A. The total service credit of a member who retires, elects a Deferred Option Plan or terminates employment and elects a vested benefit shall include not to exceed one hundred thirty (130) days of unused sick leave accumulated while a member of the System. Effective July 1, 2008, a member who retires, elects a Deferred Option Plan or terminates employment and elects a vested benefit shall include not to exceed two hundred forty (240) days of unused sick leave accumulated while a member of the System. Such credit shall be added in terms of whole months. Twenty (20) days of unused sick leave shall equal one (1) month for purposes of service credit. If unused sick leave entitles a member to an additional year or fraction thereof of service credit, the member's employer shall reimburse the System for the cost of funding the additional reserve by paying the amount determined by the Board pursuant to Section 25 of this act. Each employer shall provide the System with

adequate and timely information necessary to determine additional benefits and its cost under this section. This section shall apply to members retiring or vesting on or after July 1, 1985, and shall not be retroactive. The amount of accrued sick leave available for determination of a member's monthly benefit for purposes of the deferred option election shall be limited to the accrued sick leave available as of the effective date of the deferred option election, but not to exceed two hundred forty (240) days. The member's monthly benefit determined as of the effective date of the deferred option election shall not be adjusted for additional accrued sick leave earned by the member after the deferred option election.

B. Whenever any member is unable to perform the member's duties because of sickness or temporary disability caused or sustained while in the discharge of the member's duty as a member, is receiving a temporary total disability benefit under Section 1 et seq. of Title 85A of the Oklahoma Statutes, and does not purchase service credit as described below, such member shall only receive prorated service credit based on the contributions made by the member and the member's employer while the member is receiving a temporary total disability benefit under Section 1 et seq. of Title 85A of the Oklahoma Statutes. Whenever any member is unable to perform the member's duties because of sickness or temporary disability caused or sustained while in the discharge of the member's duty as a member and is receiving a temporary disability

- benefit under Section 1 et seq. of Title 85A of the Oklahoma

 Statutes, such member shall have the option to purchase service

 credit for the time related to such leave of absence for such

 sickness or temporary disability.
 - 1. The payment for such purchase must be completed no later than three (3) years from the date the member commenced receipt of a temporary total disability benefit.
 - 2. The purchase price shall be:

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- a. the actual paid base salary that the member was entitled to immediately prior to the member's sickness or temporary disability minus any vacation or sick leave payments received by the member during such sickness or temporary disability, multiplied by,
- b. the following percent:
 - (1) eighteen percent (18%) the combined employer and member contribution percentages pursuant to

 Section 2-304 of this title for members who are suspended without pay, or
 - (2) eight percent (8%) the member contributions

 percentage pursuant to Section 2-304 of this

 title for members who are not suspended without

 pay.

If such member has not been suspended without pay, the employer shall contribute, within three (3) months of the completion of the

member's purchase of service credit, ten percent (10%) the employer

contribution percentage pursuant to Section 2-304 of this title of

the actual paid base salary that the member was entitled to

immediately prior to the member's sickness or temporary disability

minus any vacation or sick leave payments received by the member

during such sickness or temporary disability.

- 3. The member may purchase such service credit through:
 - a. a cash lump-sum payment,
 - b. a trustee-to-trustee transfer of non-Roth funds from a Code Section 403(b) annuity or custodial account, an eligible deferred compensation plan described in Code Section 457(b) which is maintained by an eligible employer described in Code Section 457(e)(1)(A), and/or a Code Section 401(a) qualified plan,
 - c. a direct rollover of tax-deferred funds from a Code

 Section 403(b) annuity or custodial account, an

 eligible deferred compensation plan described in Code

 Section 457(b) which is maintained by an eligible

 employer described in Code Section 457(e)(1)(A), a

 Code Section 401(a) qualified plan, and/or a Code

 Section 408(a) or 408(b) traditional or conduit

 Individual Retirement Account or Annuity (IRA). Roth

 accounts, Coverdell Education Savings Accounts and

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1	after-tax contributions shall not be used to purchase
2	such service credit, or
3	d. any combination of the above methods of payment.
4	SECTION 4. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
5	of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
6	declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
7	be in full force from and after its passage and approval.
8	Passed the House of Representatives the 11th day of March, 2024.
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11	Presiding Officer of the House of Representatives
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13	Passed the Senate the day of, 2024.
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