To: Appropriations

By: Representative Banks

HOUSE BILL NO. 636

AN ACT TO CREATE NEW SECTION 25-11-126, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE THAT CERTAIN PERSONS WHO ARE RECEIVING A RETIREMENT ALLOWANCE FROM THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM WHO ARE ELECTED AS A MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATURE AFTER RETIREMENT, 5 AND CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE WHO ARE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE 6 A RETIREMENT ALLOWANCE FROM THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT 7 SYSTEM WHILE SERVING AS A MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATURE, MAY RECEIVE A RETIREMENT ALLOWANCE FROM THE SYSTEM WHILE SERVING AS A MEMBER OF 8 9 THE LEGISLATURE IN ADDITION TO RECEIVING THE REGULAR COMPENSATION 10 FOR MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE; TO PROVIDE THAT THOSE PERSONS 11 SHALL NOT BE ACTIVE MEMBERS OF THE RETIREMENT SYSTEM AND SHALL NOT 12 RECEIVE ANY CREDITABLE SERVICE FOR THE PERIOD DURING WHICH THEY 13 RECEIVE A RETIREMENT ALLOWANCE WHILE SERVING AS A MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATURE; TO AMEND SECTIONS 25-11-105 AND 25-11-127, 14 15 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, IN CONFORMITY TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS 16 ACT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES. 17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI: 18 SECTION 1. The following shall be codified as Section 25-11-126, Mississippi Code of 1972: 19 20 25-11-126. (1) (a) Any person who has twenty-five (25) or more years of creditable service and is not less than seventy (70) 21 years of age, who is receiving a retirement allowance under this 22 23 article and who is elected as a member of the Legislature after 24 retirement, may choose to continue to receive a retirement 25 allowance under this article while serving as a member of the H. B. No. 636 ~ OFFICIAL ~ G1/218/HR26/R7 PAGE 1 (RF\KW)

- 26 Legislature in addition to receiving the regular compensation for
- 27 members of the Legislature in the manner provided in this section.
- 28 (b) Any member of the Legislature who has twenty-five
- 29 (25) or more years of creditable service and is not less than
- 30 seventy (70) years of age may choose to receive a retirement
- 31 allowance under this article while serving as a member of the
- 32 Legislature in addition to receiving the regular compensation for
- 33 members of the Legislature in the manner provided in this section.
- 34 (2) Any person who is eligible to receive a retirement
- 35 allowance under subsection (1)(a) of this section shall notify the
- 36 executive director of the system before taking office as a member
- 37 of the Legislature of his or her choice about continuing to
- 38 receive the retirement allowance while serving as a member of the
- 39 Legislature. If the person chooses not to continue receiving the
- 40 retirement allowance while serving as a member of the Legislature,
- 41 the retirement allowance shall cease on the day that he or she
- 42 begins serving as a member of the Legislature. After the person
- 43 is no longer serving as a member of the Legislature, in order to
- 44 begin receiving a retirement allowance under this article again,
- 45 the person shall make application to the executive director of the
- 46 system, and the retirement allowance shall begin on the first of
- 47 the month following the date that the application is received by
- 48 the executive director.
- 49 (3) Any member of the Legislature who is eligible to receive
- 50 a retirement allowance under subsection (1)(b) of this section and

- 51 who chooses to receive a retirement allowance while serving as a
- 52 member of the Legislature shall make application to the executive
- 53 director of the system, and the retirement allowance shall begin
- 54 on the first of the month following the date that the application
- 55 is received by the executive director. The member of the
- 56 Legislature shall not be required to withdraw from service in
- 57 order to receive the retirement allowance.
- 58 (4) Any person to whom this section applies who receives or
- 59 continues to receive a retirement allowance under this article
- 60 while serving as a member of the Legislature shall not be an
- 61 active member of the retirement system and shall not receive any
- 62 creditable service for the period during which he or she receives
- 63 a retirement allowance while serving as a member of the
- 64 Legislature.
- 65 (5) Any person to whom this section applies who chooses not
- 66 to receive a retirement allowance while serving as a member of the
- 67 Legislature shall be an active and contributing member of the
- 68 retirement system and shall receive creditable service for the
- 69 period during which he or she serves as a member of the
- 70 Legislature without receiving a retirement allowance. If the
- 71 person has previously received a retirement allowance under this
- 72 article and serves as a member of the Legislature for more than
- 73 six (6) months without receiving a retirement allowance, the
- 74 person shall have his or her allowance recomputed when he or she

- 75 retires again, which shall include the service after he or she
- 76 again became a contributing member of the retirement system.
- 77 **SECTION 2.** Section 25-11-105, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 78 amended as follows:
- 79 25-11-105. I. THOSE WHO ARE ELIGIBLE FOR MEMBERSHIP
- The membership of this retirement system shall be composed as
- 81 follows:
- 82 (a) (i) All persons who become employees in the state
- 83 service after January 31, 1953, and whose wages are subject to
- 84 payroll taxes and are lawfully reported on IRS Form W-2, except
- 85 those who are specifically excluded, * * * those as to whom
- 86 election is provided in Articles 1 and 3, and those persons who
- 87 choose to receive or continue to receive a retirement allowance
- 88 while serving as a member of the Legislature as authorized by
- 89 Section 25-11-126, shall become members of the retirement system
- 90 as a condition of their employment.
- 91 (ii) From and after July 1, 2002, any individual
- 92 who is employed by a governmental entity to perform professional
- 93 services shall become a member of the system if the individual is
- 94 paid regular periodic compensation for those services that is
- 95 subject to payroll taxes, is provided all other employee benefits
- 96 and meets the membership criteria established by the regulations
- 97 adopted by the board of trustees that apply to all other members
- 98 of the system; however, any active member employed in such a

99 position on July 1, 2002, will continue to be an active member for 100 as long as they are employed in any such position.

101 All persons who become employees in the state 102 service after January 31, 1953, except those specifically excluded 103 or as to whom election is provided in Articles 1 and 3, unless 104 they file with the board before the lapse of sixty (60) days of 105 employment or sixty (60) days after the effective date of the 106 cited articles, whichever is later, on a form prescribed by the 107 board, a notice of election not to be covered by the membership of the retirement system and a duly executed waiver of all present 108 and prospective benefits that would otherwise inure to them on 109 110 account of their participation in the system, shall become members 111 of the retirement system; however, no credit for prior service will be granted to members who became members of the system before 112 July 1, 2007, until they have contributed to Article 3 of the 113 114 retirement system for a minimum period of at least four (4) years, 115 or to members who became members of the system on or after July 1, 2007, until they have contributed to Article 3 of the retirement 116 117 system for a minimum period of at least eight (8) years. members shall receive credit for services performed before January 118 119 1, 1953, in employment now covered by Article 3, but no credit 120 shall be granted for retroactive services between January 1, 1953, and the date of their entry into the retirement system, unless the 121 122 employee pays into the retirement system both the employer's and the employee's contributions on wages paid him during the period 123

124	from	January	31,	1953,	to	the	date	of	his	becoming	a	contributing

- 125 member, together with interest at the rate determined by the board
- 126 of trustees. Members reentering after withdrawal from service
- 127 shall qualify for prior service under the provisions of Section
- 128 25-11-117. From and after July 1, 1998, upon eligibility as noted
- 129 above, the member may receive credit for such retroactive service
- 130 provided:
- 131 (i) The member shall furnish proof satisfactory to
- 132 the board of trustees of certification of that service from the
- 133 covered employer where the services were performed; and
- 134 (ii) The member shall pay to the retirement system
- on the date he or she is eligible for that credit or at any time
- 136 thereafter before the date of retirement the actuarial cost for
- 137 each year of that creditable service. The provisions of this
- 138 subparagraph (ii) shall be subject to the limitations of Section
- 139 415 of the Internal Revenue Code and regulations promulgated under
- 140 Section 415.
- Nothing contained in this paragraph (b) shall be construed to
- 142 limit the authority of the board to allow the correction of
- 143 reporting errors or omissions based on the payment of the employee
- 144 and employer contributions plus applicable interest.
- 145 (c) All persons who become employees in the state
- 146 service after January 31, 1953, and who are eligible for
- 147 membership in any other retirement system shall become members of
- 148 this retirement system as a condition of their employment, unless

- they elect at the time of their employment to become a member of that other system.
- (d) All persons who are employees in the state service on January 31, 1953, and who are members of any nonfunded retirement system operated by the State of Mississippi, or any of its departments or agencies, shall become members of this system with prior service credit unless, before February 1, 1953, they file a written notice with the board of trustees that they do not
- 158 (e) All persons who are employees in the state service 159 on January 31, 1953, and who under existing laws are members of 160 any fund operated for the retirement of employees by the State of 161 Mississippi, or any of its departments or agencies, shall not be 162 entitled to membership in this retirement system unless, before 163 February 1, 1953, any such person indicates by a notice filed with 164 the board, on a form prescribed by the board, his individual 165 election and choice to participate in this system, but no such person shall receive prior service credit unless he becomes a 166 167 member on or before February 1, 1953.
- (f) Each political subdivision of the state and each instrumentality of the state or a political subdivision, or both, is authorized to submit, for approval by the board of trustees, a plan for extending the benefits of this article to employees of any such political subdivision or instrumentality. Each such plan or any amendment to the plan for extending benefits thereof shall

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elect to become members.

174	be approved by the board of trustees if it finds that the plan, or
175	the plan as amended, is in conformity with such requirements as
176	are provided in Articles 1 and 3; however, upon approval of the
177	plan or any such plan previously approved by the board of
178	trustees, the approved plan shall not be subject to cancellation
179	or termination by the political subdivision or instrumentality.
180	No such plan shall be approved unless:
181	(i) It provides that all services that constitute
182	employment as defined in Section 25-11-5 and are performed in the
183	employ of the political subdivision or instrumentality, by any
184	employees thereof, shall be covered by the plan, with the
185	exception of municipal employees who are already covered by
186	existing retirement plans; however, those employees in this class
187	may elect to come under the provisions of this article;
188	(ii) It specifies the source or sources from which
189	the funds necessary to make the payments required by paragraph (d)
190	of Section 25-11-123 and of paragraph (f)(v)2 and 3 of this
191	section are expected to be derived and contains reasonable
192	assurance that those sources will be adequate for that purpose;
193	(iii) It provides for such methods of
194	administration of the plan by the political subdivision or
195	instrumentality as are found by the board of trustees to be
196	necessary for the proper and efficient administration thereof;
197	(iv) It provides that the political subdivision or
198	instrumentality will make such reports, in such form and

199	containing suc	h information,	as	the	board	of	trustees	may	from
200	time to time r	equire;							

- terminate the plan in its entirety in the discretion of the board if it finds that there has been a failure to comply substantially with any provision contained in the plan, the termination to take effect at the expiration of such notice and on such conditions as may be provided by regulations of the board and as may be consistent with applicable federal law.
- 208 The board of trustees shall not finally 1. 209 refuse to approve a plan submitted under paragraph (f), and shall 210 not terminate an approved plan without reasonable notice and 211 opportunity for hearing to each political subdivision or 212 instrumentality affected by the board's decision. The board's decision in any such case shall be final, conclusive and binding 213 214 unless an appeal is taken by the political subdivision or 215 instrumentality aggrieved by the decision to the Circuit Court of 216 the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, in 217 accordance with the provisions of law with respect to civil causes 218 by certiorari.
- 2. Each political subdivision or
 220 instrumentality as to which a plan has been approved under this
 221 section shall pay into the contribution fund, with respect to
 222 wages (as defined in Section 25-11-5), at such time or times as
 223 the board of trustees may by regulation prescribe, contributions

224	in	the	amounts	and	at	the	rates	s specified	in	the	applicable
225	agr	eeme	ent enter	red :	into	by	the k	ooard.			

226 Every political subdivision or 227 instrumentality required to make payments under paragraph (f)(v)2 of this section is authorized, in consideration of the employees' 228 229 retention in or entry upon employment after enactment of Articles 230 1 and 3, to impose upon its employees, as to services that are 231 covered by an approved plan, a contribution with respect to wages 232 (as defined in Section 25-11-5) not exceeding the amount provided 233 in Section 25-11-123(d) if those services constituted employment within the meaning of Articles 1 and 3, and to deduct the amount 234 235 of the contribution from the wages as and when paid. 236 Contributions so collected shall be paid into the contribution 237 fund as partial discharge of the liability of the political 238 subdivisions or instrumentalities under paragraph (f)(v)2 of this section. Failure to deduct the contribution shall not relieve the 239 240 employee or employer of liability for the contribution.

4. Any state agency, school, political subdivision, instrumentality or any employer that is required to submit contribution payments or wage reports under any section of this chapter shall be assessed interest on delinquent payments or wage reports as determined by the board of trustees in accordance with rules and regulations adopted by the board and delinquent payments, assessed interest and any other amount certified by the board as owed by an employer, may be recovered by action in a

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249	court of competent jurisdiction against the reporting agency
250	liable therefor or may, upon due certification of delinquency and
251	at the request of the board of trustees, be deducted from any
252	other monies payable to the reporting agency by any department or
253	agency of the state.

- 5. Each political subdivision of the state and each instrumentality of the state or a political subdivision or subdivisions that submit a plan for approval of the board, as provided in this section, shall reimburse the board for coverage into the expense account, its pro rata share of the total expense of administering Articles 1 and 3 as provided by regulations of the board.
- 261 (g) The board may, in its discretion, deny the right of
 262 membership in this system to any class of employees whose
 263 compensation is only partly paid by the state or who are occupying
 264 positions on a part-time or intermittent basis. The board may, in
 265 its discretion, make optional with employees in any such classes
 266 their individual entrance into this system.
- (h) An employee whose membership in this system is

 contingent on his own election, and who elects not to become a

 member, may thereafter apply for and be admitted to membership;

 but no such employee shall receive prior service credit unless he

 becomes a member before July 1, 1953, except as provided in

 paragraph (b).

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273	(i) If any member of this system changes his employment
274	to any agency of the state having an actuarially funded retirement
275	system, the board of trustees may authorize the transfer of the
276	member's creditable service and of the present value of the
277	member's employer's accumulation account and of the present value
278	of the member's accumulated membership contributions to that other
279	system, provided that the employee agrees to the transfer of his
280	accumulated membership contributions and provided that the other
281	system is authorized to receive and agrees to make the transfer.

If any member of any other actuarially funded system maintained by an agency of the state changes his employment to an agency covered by this system, the board of trustees may authorize the receipt of the transfer of the member's creditable service and of the present value of the member's employer's accumulation account and of the present value of the member's accumulated membership contributions from the other system, provided that the employee agrees to the transfer of his accumulated membership contributions to this system and provided that the other system is authorized and agrees to make the transfer.

- 292 Wherever state employment is referred to in this (i) 293 section, it includes joint employment by state and federal 294 agencies of all kinds.
- 295 Employees of a political subdivision or (k) 296 instrumentality who were employed by the political subdivision or 297 instrumentality before an agreement between the entity and the

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298	Public Employees' Retirement System to extend the benefits of this
299	article to its employees, and which agreement provides for the
300	establishment of retroactive service credit, and who became
301	members of the retirement system before July 1, 2007, and have
302	remained contributors to the retirement system for four (4) years,
303	or who became members of the retirement system on or after July 1,
304	2007, and have remained contributors to the retirement system for
305	eight (8) years, may receive credit for that retroactive service
306	with the political subdivision or instrumentality, provided that
307	the employee and/or employer, as provided under the terms of the
308	modification of the joinder agreement in allowing that coverage,
309	pay into the retirement system the employer's and employee's
310	contributions on wages paid the member during the previous
311	employment, together with interest or actuarial cost as determined
312	by the board covering the period from the date the service was
313	rendered until the payment for the credit for the service was
314	made. Those wages shall be verified by the Social Security
315	Administration or employer payroll records. Effective July 1,
316	1998, upon eligibility as noted above, a member may receive credit
317	for that retroactive service with the political subdivision or
318	instrumentality provided:
319	(i) The member shall furnish proof satisfactory to
320	the board of trustees of certification of those services from the

political subdivision or instrumentality where the services were

322 rendered or verification by the Social Security Administration;

323 and

Section 415.

(ii) The member shall pay to the retirement system
on the date he or she is eligible for that credit or at any time
thereafter before the date of retirement the actuarial cost for
each year of that creditable service. The provisions of this
subparagraph (ii) shall be subject to the limitations of Section
415 of the Internal Revenue Code and regulations promulgated under

Nothing contained in this paragraph (k) shall be construed to limit the authority of the board to allow the correction of reporting errors or omissions based on the payment of employee and employer contributions plus applicable interest. Payment for that time shall be made beginning with the most recent service. Upon the payment of all or part of the required contributions, plus interest or the actuarial cost as provided above, the member shall receive credit for the period of creditable service for which full payment has been made to the retirement system.

(1) Through June 30, 1998, any state service eligible for retroactive service credit, no part of which has ever been reported, and requiring the payment of employee and employer contributions plus interest, or, from and after July 1, 1998, any state service eligible for retroactive service credit, no part of which has ever been reported to the retirement system, and requiring the payment of the actuarial cost for that creditable

347	service, may, at the member's option, be purchased in quarterly
348	increments as provided above at the time that its purchase is
349	otherwise allowed.
350	(m) All rights to purchase retroactive service credit
351	or repay a refund as provided in Section 25-11-101 et seq. shall
352	terminate upon retirement.
353	II. THOSE WHO ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR MEMBERSHIP
354	The following classes of employees and officers shall not
355	become members of this retirement system, any other provisions of
356	Articles 1 and 3 to the contrary notwithstanding:
357	(a) Patient or inmate help in state charitable, penal
358	or correctional institutions;
359	(b) Students of any state educational institution
360	employed by any agency of the state for temporary, part-time or
361	intermittent work;
362	(c) Participants of Comprehensive Employment and
363	Training Act of 1973 (CETA) being Public Law 93-203, who enroll on
364	or after July 1, 1979;
365	(d) From and after July 1, 2002, individuals who are
366	employed by a governmental entity to perform professional service
367	on less than a full-time basis who do not meet the criteria
368	established in I(a)(ii) of this section.
369	III. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Membership in this system shall cease by a member withdrawing

his accumulated contributions, or by a member withdrawing from

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372 active service with a retirement allowance, or by a member's 373 death.

374 Section 25-11-127, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 375 amended as follows:

25-11-127. (1) (a) No person who is being paid a retirement allowance or a pension after retirement under this article shall be employed or paid for any service by the State of Mississippi, including services as an employee, contract worker, contractual employee or independent contractor, until the retired person has been retired for not less than ninety (90) consecutive days from his or her effective date of retirement. After the person has been retired for not less than ninety (90) consecutive days from his or her effective date of retirement or such later date as established by the board, he or she may be reemployed while being paid a retirement allowance under the terms and conditions provided in this section. The restrictions on employment after retirement in this subsection shall not apply to persons who are eligible to receive a retirement allowance under this article while serving as a member of the Legislature and who choose to receive the retirement allowance while serving as a member of the Legislature as authorized by Section 25-11-126.

No retiree of this retirement system who is (b) reemployed or is reelected to office after retirement shall continue to draw retirement benefits while so reemployed, except as provided in this section or in Section 25-11-126.

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397		(C) N	lo per	son empl	Loyed o	or elect	ed under	the e	xceptions	
398	provided f	for in	this	section	shall	become	a member	under	Article	3
399	of the ret	iremen	nt sys	stem.						

- 400 (2) Any person who has been retired under the provisions of 401 Article 3 and who is later reemployed in service covered by this 402 article shall cease to receive benefits under this article unless 403 the person continues to receive a retirement allowance while 404 serving as a member of the Legislature under the authority of 405 Section 25-11-126, and the person shall again become a 406 contributing member of the retirement system. When the person 407 retires again, if that person has been a contributing member of 408 the retirement system during reemployment and the reemployment 409 exceeds six (6) months, the person shall have his or her benefit 410 recomputed, including service after again becoming a member, provided that the total retirement allowance paid to the retired 411 412 member in his or her previous retirement shall be deducted from 413 the member's retirement reserve and taken into consideration in 414 recalculating the retirement allowance under a new option 415 selected.
- 416 (3) The board shall have the right to prescribe rules and 417 regulations for carrying out the provisions of this section.
- 418 (4) The provisions of this section shall not be construed to 419 prohibit any retiree, regardless of age, from being employed and 420 drawing a retirement allowance either:

422	of the normal working days for the position in any fiscal year
423	during which the retiree will receive no more than one-half $(1/2)$
424	of the salary in effect for the position at the time of
425	employment, or
426	(b) For a period of time in any fiscal year sufficient
427	in length to permit a retiree to earn not in excess of twenty-five
428	percent (25%) of retiree's average compensation.
429	To determine the normal working days for a position under
430	paragraph (a) of this subsection, the employer shall determine the
431	required number of working days for the position on a full-time
432	basis and the equivalent number of hours representing the
433	full-time position. The retiree then may work up to one-half
434	(1/2) of the required number of working days or up to one-half
435	(1/2) of the equivalent number of hours and receive up to one-half
436	(1/2) of the salary for the position. In the case of employment
437	with multiple employers, the limitation shall equal one-half $(1/2)$
438	of the number of days or hours for a single full-time position.
439	Notice shall be given in writing to the executive director,
440	setting forth the facts upon which the employment is being made,
441	and the notice shall be given within five (5) days from the date
442	of employment and also from the date of termination of the
443	employment.
444	The restrictions on employment after retirement in this
445	subsection shall not apply to persons who choose to receive or

(a) For a period of time not to exceed one-half (1/2)

446	continue to receive	a retirement	allowance un	nder this article
447	while serving as a	member of the	Legislature	as authorized by
448	Section 25-11-126.			

- Except as otherwise provided in subsection (6) of this 449 (5) 450 section, the employer of any person who is receiving a retirement 451 allowance and who is employed in service covered by subsection (4) 452 of this section as an employee or a contractual employee, and the 453 employer of any person who chooses to receive or continue to 454 receive a retirement allowance under this article while serving as 455 a member of the Legislature as authorized by Section 25-11-126, 456 shall pay to the board the full amount of the employer's 457 contribution on the amount of compensation received by the retiree 458 for his or her employment in accordance with regulations 459 prescribed by the board. The retiree shall not receive any 460 additional creditable service in the retirement system as a result 461 of the payment of the employer's contribution. This subsection 462 does not apply to persons who are receiving a retirement allowance 463 and who contract with an employer to provide services as a true 464 independent contractor, as defined by the board through 465 regulation.
- (6) (a) A member may retire and continue in municipal or county elective office provided that the member has reached the age and/or service requirement that will not result in a prohibited in-service distribution as defined by the Internal

470	Revenue	Service	, or	a re	etiree	may	be	elected	to	a	municipal	or
471	county o	office, m	orovi	ded	that	the 1	pers	son:				

- 472 Files annually, in writing, in the office of the employer and the office of the executive director of the 473 474 system before the person takes office or as soon as possible after 475 retirement, a waiver of all salary or compensation and elects to 476 receive in lieu of that salary or compensation a retirement 477 allowance as provided in this section, in which event no salary or 478 compensation shall thereafter be due or payable for those services; however, any such officer or employee may receive, in 479 480 addition to the retirement allowance, office expense allowance, 481 mileage or travel expense authorized by any statute of the State 482 of Mississippi; or
 - (ii) Elects to receive compensation for that elective office in an amount not to exceed twenty-five percent (25%) of the retiree's average compensation. In order to receive compensation as allowed in this subparagraph, the retiree shall file annually, in writing, in the office of the employer and the office of the executive director of the system, an election to receive, in addition to a retirement allowance, compensation as allowed in this subparagraph.
- 491 (b) The municipality or county in which the retired 492 person holds elective office shall pay to the board the amount of 493 the employer's contributions on the full amount of the regular

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494	compensation	for	the	elective	office	that	the	retired	person
495	holds.								

- (c) As used in this subsection, the term "compensation"
 does not include office expense allowance, mileage or travel
 expense authorized by a statute of the State of Mississippi.
- SECTION 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 2018.