

Senate Amendments to House Bill No. 1618

TO THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE:

THIS IS TO INFORM YOU THAT THE SENATE HAS ADOPTED THE AMENDMENTS SET OUT BELOW:

AMENDMENT NO. 1

Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

53 **SECTION 1.** Section 25-11-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
54 amended as follows:

55 25-11-5. For the purposes of this article:

56 (a) The term "wages" means all remuneration for
57 employment as defined herein, including the cash value of all
58 remuneration paid in any medium other than cash, except that such
59 term shall not include that part of such remuneration which, even
60 if it were for "employment" within the meaning of the Federal
61 Insurance Contributions Act, would not constitute "wages" within
62 the meaning of that act. The amount by which an eligible
63 employee's salary is reduced pursuant to a salary reduction
64 agreement authorized under Section 25-17-5 shall be excluded from
65 the term "wages," provided such exclusion does not conflict with
66 federal law, including federal regulations and federal
67 administrative interpretations thereunder, pertaining to the
68 Federal Insurance Contributions Act or to Internal Revenue Code
69 Section 125 cafeteria plans. If any salary reduction amounts

70 excluded from "wages" under the prior sentence are determined to
71 be "wages" by the Social Security Administration or the Internal
72 Revenue Service and payroll tax deficiencies are assessed, the
73 deficiencies shall be borne by the eligible employee and the
74 adopting state agency or local governmental entity and not by the
75 Public Employees' Retirement System of Mississippi as state
76 administrator.

77 (b) The term "employment" means any service performed
78 by an employee in the employ of the state, any political
79 subdivision thereof, or any instrumentality of either for such
80 employer, except (i) service which in the absence of an agreement
81 entered into under this article would constitute "employment" as
82 defined in the Social Security Act; or (ii) service which under
83 applicable federal law may not be included in an agreement between
84 the state and the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare
85 entered into under this article; or (iii) service in positions
86 covered by a retirement system established by the state or by a
87 political subdivision or an instrumentality of either on the date
88 the agreement referred to in Section 25-11-7 or any modification
89 of such agreement is made applicable to the coverage group (as
90 defined in Section 218(b) (5) of the Social Security Act) to which
91 the employee performing such services belongs. Service which
92 under the Social Security Act may be included in an agreement only
93 upon certification by the Governor in accordance with Section
94 218(d) (3) of that act shall be included in the term "employment"
95 if and when the Governor issues, with respect to such service, a

96 certificate to the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare
97 pursuant to Section 25-11-11(5) of this article.

98 Services, the compensation for which is on a fee basis, may,
99 to the extent permitted by applicable federal law, be excluded in
100 any plan or agreement approved under or authorized by this
101 article.

102 (c) The term "employee," in addition to its usual
103 meaning, includes an officer of a state, a political subdivision
104 thereof, or an instrumentality of either, and all school
105 employees.

106 (d) The term "board" means the Board of Trustees of the
107 Public Employees' Retirement System of Mississippi as provided by
108 Section 25-11-15 of this article.

109 (e) The term "Secretary of Health, Education and
110 Welfare" includes any individual to whom the Secretary of Health,
111 Education and Welfare has delegated any functions under the Social
112 Security Act with respect to coverage under such act of employees
113 of states and their political subdivisions and, with respect to
114 any action taken prior to April 11, 1953, includes the federal
115 security administrator or any individual to whom he had delegated
116 any such function.

117 (f) The term "political subdivision" includes any
118 county, municipality, or other political subdivision within the
119 State of Mississippi to which has been delegated certain functions
120 of local government, and employees thereof who are eligible to

121 become a coverage group under the terms of the Social Security
122 Act.

123 (g) The term "instrumentality," when referring to an
124 instrumentality of the state or political subdivision, includes
125 only a juristic entity which is legally separate and distinct from
126 the state or such subdivision and whose employees are not by
127 virtue of their relation to such entity employees of the state or
128 such subdivision. A health care collaborative or other
129 organization formed pursuant to Sections 37-115-50 through
130 37-115-50.3 shall be considered an instrumentality of the state.

131 (h) The term "applicable federal law" refers to such
132 provisions of federal law (including federal regulations and
133 requirements issued pursuant thereto), as provide for extending
134 the benefits of Title II of the Social Security Act to employees
135 of states, political subdivisions, and their instrumentalities.

136 (i) The term "Social Security Act" means the Act of
137 Congress approved August 14, 1935, Chapter 531, 49 Stat 620,
138 officially cited as "The Social Security Act," as such act has
139 been and may from time to time be amended.

140 (j) The term "Federal Insurance Contribution Act" means
141 subchapter A of Chapter 9 of the Federal Internal Revenue Code of
142 1939 and subchapters A and B of Chapter 21 of the Federal Internal
143 Revenue Code of 1954, as such Codes have been and may from time to
144 time be amended; and the term "employee tax" means the tax imposed
145 by Section 1400 of such Code of 1939 and Section 3101 of such Code
146 of 1954.

147 **SECTION 2.** Section 25-11-103, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
148 amended as follows:

149 25-11-103. (1) The following words and phrases as used in
150 Articles 1 and 3, unless a different meaning is plainly required
151 by the context, have the following meanings:

152 (a) "Accumulated contributions" means the sum of all
153 the amounts deducted from the compensation of a member and
154 credited to his or her individual account in the annuity savings
155 account, together with regular interest as provided in Section
156 25-11-123.

157 (b) "Actuarial cost" means the amount of funds
158 presently required to provide future benefits as determined by the
159 board based on applicable tables and formulas provided by the
160 actuary.

161 (c) "Actuarial equivalent" means a benefit of equal
162 value to the accumulated contributions, annuity or benefit, as the
163 case may be, when computed upon the basis of such mortality tables
164 as adopted by the board of trustees, and regular interest.

165 (d) "Actuarial tables" mean such tables of mortality
166 and rates of interest as adopted by the board in accordance with
167 the recommendation of the actuary.

168 (e) "Agency" means any governmental body employing
169 persons in the state service.

170 (f) "Average compensation" means the average of the
171 four (4) highest years of earned compensation reported for an
172 employee in a fiscal or calendar year period, or combination

173 thereof that do not overlap, or the last forty-eight (48)
174 consecutive months of earned compensation reported for an
175 employee. The four (4) years need not be successive or joined
176 years of service. In computing the average compensation for
177 retirement, disability or survivor benefits, any amount lawfully
178 paid in a lump sum for personal leave or major medical leave shall
179 be included in the calculation to the extent that the amount does
180 not exceed an amount that is equal to thirty (30) days of earned
181 compensation and to the extent that it does not cause the
182 employee's earned compensation to exceed the maximum reportable
183 amount specified in paragraph (k) of this subsection; however,
184 this thirty-day limitation shall not prevent the inclusion in the
185 calculation of leave earned under federal regulations before July
186 1, 1976, and frozen as of that date as referred to in Section
187 25-3-99. In computing the average compensation, no amounts shall
188 be used that are in excess of the amount on which contributions
189 were required and paid, and no nontaxable amounts paid by the
190 employer for health or life insurance premiums for the employee
191 shall be used. If any member who is or has been granted any
192 increase in annual salary or compensation of more than eight
193 percent (8%) retires within twenty-four (24) months from the date
194 that the increase becomes effective, then the board shall exclude
195 that part of the increase in salary or compensation that exceeds
196 eight percent (8%) in calculating that member's average
197 compensation for retirement purposes. The board may enforce this
198 provision by rule or regulation. However, increases in

199 compensation in excess of eight percent (8%) per year granted
200 within twenty-four (24) months of the date of retirement may be
201 included in the calculation of average compensation if
202 satisfactory proof is presented to the board showing that the
203 increase in compensation was the result of an actual change in the
204 position held or services rendered, or that the compensation
205 increase was authorized by the State Personnel Board or was
206 increased as a result of statutory enactment, and the employer
207 furnishes an affidavit stating that the increase granted within
208 the last twenty-four (24) months was not contingent on a promise
209 or agreement of the employee to retire. Nothing in Section
210 25-3-31 shall affect the calculation of the average compensation
211 of any member for the purposes of this article. The average
212 compensation of any member who retires before July 1, 1992, shall
213 not exceed the annual salary of the Governor.

214 (g) "Beneficiary" means any person entitled to receive
215 a retirement allowance, an annuity or other benefit as provided by
216 Articles 1 and 3. The term "beneficiary" may also include an
217 organization, estate, trust or entity; however, a beneficiary
218 designated or entitled to receive monthly payments under an
219 optional settlement based on life contingency or under a statutory
220 monthly benefit may only be a natural person. In the event of the
221 death before retirement of any member who became a member of the
222 system before July 1, 2007, and whose spouse and/or children are
223 not entitled to a retirement allowance on the basis that the
224 member has less than four (4) years of membership service credit,

225 or who became a member of the system on or after July 1, 2007, and
226 whose spouse and/or children are not entitled to a retirement
227 allowance on the basis that the member has less than eight (8)
228 years of membership service credit, and/or has not been married
229 for a minimum of one (1) year or the spouse has waived his or her
230 entitlement to a retirement allowance under Section 25-11-114, the
231 lawful spouse of a member at the time of the death of the member
232 shall be the beneficiary of the member unless the member has
233 designated another beneficiary after the date of marriage in
234 writing, and filed that writing in the office of the executive
235 director of the board of trustees. No designation or change of
236 beneficiary shall be made in any other manner.

237 (h) "Board" means the board of trustees provided in
238 Section 25-11-15 to administer the retirement system created under
239 this article.

240 (i) "Creditable service" means "prior service,"
241 "retroactive service" and all lawfully credited unused leave not
242 exceeding the accrual rates and limitations provided in Section
243 25-3-91 et seq., as of the date of withdrawal from service plus
244 "membership service" and other service for which credit is
245 allowable as provided in Section 25-11-109. Except to limit
246 creditable service reported to the system for the purpose of
247 computing an employee's retirement allowance or annuity or
248 benefits provided in this article, nothing in this paragraph shall
249 limit or otherwise restrict the power of the governing authority

250 of a municipality or other political subdivision of the state to
251 adopt such vacation and sick leave policies as it deems necessary.

252 (j) "Child" means either a natural child of the member,
253 a child that has been made a child of the member by applicable
254 court action before the death of the member, or a child under the
255 permanent care of the member at the time of the latter's death,
256 which permanent care status shall be determined by evidence
257 satisfactory to the board. For purposes of this paragraph, a
258 natural child of the member is a child of the member that is
259 conceived before the death of the member.

260 (k) "Earned compensation" means the full amount earned
261 during a fiscal year by an employee not to exceed the employee
262 compensation limit set pursuant to Section 401(a)(17) of the
263 Internal Revenue Code for the calendar year in which the fiscal
264 year begins and proportionately for less than one (1) year of
265 service. Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, the
266 value of maintenance furnished to an employee shall not be
267 included in earned compensation. Earned compensation shall not
268 include any amounts paid by the employer for health or life
269 insurance premiums for an employee. Earned compensation shall be
270 limited to the regular periodic compensation paid, exclusive of
271 litigation fees, bond fees, performance-based incentive payments,
272 and other similar extraordinary nonrecurring payments. In
273 addition, any member in a covered position, as defined by Public
274 Employees' Retirement System laws and regulations, who is also
275 employed by another covered agency or political subdivision shall

276 have the earnings of that additional employment reported to the
277 Public Employees' Retirement System regardless of whether the
278 additional employment is sufficient in itself to be a covered
279 position. In addition, computation of earned compensation shall
280 be governed by the following:

281 (i) In the case of constables, the net earnings
282 from their office after deduction of expenses shall apply, except
283 that in no case shall earned compensation be less than the total
284 direct payments made by the state or governmental subdivisions to
285 the official.

286 (ii) In the case of chancery or circuit clerks,
287 the net earnings from their office after deduction of expenses
288 shall apply as expressed in Section 25-11-123(f) (4).

289 (iii) In the case of members of the State
290 Legislature, all remuneration or amounts paid, except mileage
291 allowance, shall apply.

292 (iv) The amount by which an eligible employee's
293 salary is reduced under a salary reduction agreement authorized
294 under Section 25-17-5 shall be included as earned compensation
295 under this paragraph, provided this inclusion does not conflict
296 with federal law, including federal regulations and federal
297 administrative interpretations under the federal law, pertaining
298 to the Federal Insurance Contributions Act or to Internal Revenue
299 Code Section 125 cafeteria plans.

300 (v) Compensation in addition to an employee's base
301 salary that is paid to the employee under the vacation and sick

302 leave policies of a municipality or other political subdivision of
303 the state that employs him or her that exceeds the maximums
304 authorized by Section 25-3-91 et seq. shall be excluded from the
305 calculation of earned compensation under this article.

306 (vi) The maximum salary applicable for retirement
307 purposes before July 1, 1992, shall be the salary of the Governor.

308 (vii) Nothing in Section 25-3-31 shall affect the
309 determination of the earned compensation of any member for the
310 purposes of this article.

311 (viii) The value of maintenance furnished to an
312 employee before July 1, 2013, for which the proper amount of
313 employer and employee contributions have been paid, shall be
314 included in earned compensation. From and after July 1, 2013, the
315 value of maintenance furnished to an employee shall be reported as
316 earned compensation only if the proper amount of employer and
317 employee contributions have been paid on the maintenance and the
318 employee was receiving maintenance and having maintenance reported
319 to the system as of June 30, 2013. The value of maintenance when
320 not paid in money shall be fixed by the employing state agency,
321 and, in case of doubt, by the board of trustees as defined in
322 Section 25-11-15.

323 (ix) Except as otherwise provided in this
324 paragraph, the value of any in-kind benefits provided by the
325 employer shall not be included in earned compensation. As used in
326 this subparagraph, "in-kind benefits" shall include, but not be
327 limited to, group life insurance premiums, health or dental

328 insurance premiums, nonpaid major medical and personal leave,
329 employer contributions for social security and retirement, tuition
330 reimbursement or educational funding, day care or transportation
331 benefits.

332 (l) "Employee" means any person legally occupying a
333 position in the state service, and shall include the employees of
334 the retirement system created under this article.

335 (m) "Employer" means the State of Mississippi or any of
336 its departments, agencies or subdivisions from which any employee
337 receives his or her compensation.

338 (n) "Executive director" means the secretary to the
339 board of trustees, as provided in Section 25-11-15(9), and the
340 administrator of the Public Employees' Retirement System and all
341 systems under the management of the board of trustees. Wherever
342 the term "Executive Secretary of the Public Employees' Retirement
343 System" or "executive secretary" appears in this article or in any
344 other provision of law, it shall be construed to mean the
345 Executive Director of the Public Employees' Retirement System.

346 (o) "Fiscal year" means the period beginning on July 1
347 of any year and ending on June 30 of the next succeeding year.

348 (p) "Medical board" means the board of physicians or
349 any governmental or nongovernmental disability determination
350 service designated by the board of trustees that is qualified to
351 make disability determinations as provided for in Section
352 25-11-119.

353 (q) "Member" means any person included in the
354 membership of the system as provided in Section 25-11-105. For
355 purposes of Sections 25-11-103, 25-11-105, 25-11-109, 25-11-111,
356 25-11-113, 25-11-114, 25-11-115 and 25-11-117, if a member of the
357 system withdrew from state service and received a refund of the
358 amount of the accumulated contributions to the credit of the
359 member in the annuity savings account before July 1, 2007, and the
360 person reenters state service and becomes a member of the system
361 again on or after July 1, 2007, and repays all or part of the
362 amount received as a refund and interest in order to receive
363 creditable service for service rendered before July 1, 2007, the
364 member shall be considered to have become a member of the system
365 on or after July 1, 2007, subject to the eight-year membership
366 service requirement, as applicable in those sections. For
367 purposes of Sections 25-11-103, 25-11-111, 25-11-114 and
368 25-11-115, if a member of the system withdrew from state service
369 and received a refund of the amount of the accumulated
370 contributions to the credit of the member in the annuity savings
371 account before July 1, 2011, and the person reenters state service
372 and becomes a member of the system again on or after July 1, 2011,
373 and repays all or part of the amount received as a refund and
374 interest in order to receive creditable service for service
375 rendered before July 1, 2011, the member shall be considered to
376 have become a member of the system on or after July 1, 2011.

377 (r) "Membership service" means service as an employee
378 in a covered position rendered while a contributing member of the
379 retirement system.

380 (s) "Position" means any office or any employment in
381 the state service, or two (2) or more of them, the duties of which
382 call for services to be rendered by one (1) person, including
383 positions jointly employed by federal and state agencies
384 administering federal and state funds. The employer shall
385 determine upon initial employment and during the course of
386 employment of an employee who does not meet the criteria for
387 coverage in the Public Employees' Retirement System based on the
388 position held, whether the employee is or becomes eligible for
389 coverage in the Public Employees' Retirement System based upon any
390 other employment in a covered agency or political subdivision. If
391 or when the employee meets the eligibility criteria for coverage
392 in the other position, then the employer must withhold
393 contributions and report wages from the noncovered position in
394 accordance with the provisions for reporting of earned
395 compensation. Failure to deduct and report those contributions
396 shall not relieve the employee or employer of liability thereof.
397 The board shall adopt such rules and regulations as necessary to
398 implement and enforce this provision.

399 (t) "Prior service" means:

400 (i) For persons who became members of the system
401 before July 1, 2007, service rendered before February 1, 1953, for
402 which credit is allowable under Sections 25-11-105 and 25-11-109,

403 and which shall allow prior service for any person who is now or
404 becomes a member of the Public Employees' Retirement System and
405 who does contribute to the system for a minimum period of four (4)
406 years.

407 (ii) For persons who became members of the system
408 on or after July 1, 2007, service rendered before February 1,
409 1953, for which credit is allowable under Sections 25-11-105 and
410 25-11-109, and which shall allow prior service for any person who
411 is now or becomes a member of the Public Employees' Retirement
412 System and who does contribute to the system for a minimum period
413 of eight (8) years.

414 (u) "Regular interest" means interest compounded
415 annually at such a rate as determined by the board in accordance
416 with Section 25-11-121.

417 (v) "Retirement allowance" means an annuity for life as
418 provided in this article, payable each year in twelve (12) equal
419 monthly installments beginning as of the date fixed by the board.
420 The retirement allowance shall be calculated in accordance with
421 Section 25-11-111. However, any spouse who received a spouse
422 retirement benefit in accordance with Section 25-11-111(d) before
423 March 31, 1971, and those benefits were terminated because of
424 eligibility for a social security benefit, may again receive his
425 or her spouse retirement benefit from and after making application
426 with the board of trustees to reinstate the spouse retirement
427 benefit.

428 (w) "Retroactive service" means service rendered after
429 February 1, 1953, for which credit is allowable under Section
430 25-11-105(b) and Section 25-11-105(k).

431 (x) "System" means the Public Employees' Retirement
432 System of Mississippi established and described in Section
433 25-11-101.

434 (y) "State" means the State of Mississippi or any
435 political subdivision thereof or instrumentality of the state.

436 (z) "State service" means all offices and positions of
437 trust or employment in the employ of the state, or any political
438 subdivision or instrumentality of the state, that elect to
439 participate as provided by Section 25-11-105(f), including the
440 position of elected or fee officials of the counties and their
441 deputies and employees performing public services or any
442 department, independent agency, board or commission thereof, and
443 also includes all offices and positions of trust or employment in
444 the employ of joint state and federal agencies administering state
445 and federal funds and service rendered by employees of the public
446 schools. Effective July 1, 1973, all nonprofessional public
447 school employees, such as bus drivers, janitors, maids,
448 maintenance workers and cafeteria employees, shall have the option
449 to become members in accordance with Section 25-11-105(b), and
450 shall be eligible to receive credit for services before July 1,
451 1973, provided that the contributions and interest are paid by the
452 employee in accordance with that section; in addition, the county
453 or municipal separate school district may pay the employer

454 contribution and pro rata share of interest of the retroactive
455 service from available funds. "State service" shall not include
456 the President of the Mississippi Lottery Corporation and personnel
457 employed by the Mississippi Lottery Corporation. From and after
458 July 1, 1998, retroactive service credit shall be purchased at the
459 actuarial cost in accordance with Section 25-11-105(b).

460 (aa) "Withdrawal from service" or "termination from
461 service" means complete severance of employment in the state
462 service of any member by resignation, dismissal or discharge.

463 (bb) The masculine pronoun, wherever used, includes the
464 feminine pronoun.

465 (2) For purposes of this article, the term "political
466 subdivision" shall have the meaning ascribed to such term in
467 Section 25-11-5 and shall also include public charter schools.

468 (3) For purposes of this article, the term "instrumentality"
469 shall have the meaning as defined in Section 25-11-5, and
470 membership in the system shall not extend to any person employed
471 by or paid for any service by a health care collaborative or other
472 organization formed pursuant to Sections 37-115-50 through
473 37-115-50.3, unless the health care collaborative or other
474 organization elects to participate in the system, as provided for
475 by Section 25-11-105(f). Notwithstanding the foregoing and any
476 other provision of law to the contrary, any health care
477 collaborative formed pursuant to Sections 37-115-50 through
478 37-115-50.3 shall not enroll new employees from and after the
479 effective date of this act.

480 **SECTION 3.** Section 25-11-127, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
481 amended as follows:

482 25-11-127. (1) (a) No person who is being paid a
483 retirement allowance or a pension after retirement under this
484 article shall be employed or paid for any service by the State of
485 Mississippi, including services as an employee, contract worker,
486 contractual employee or independent contractor, until the retired
487 person has been retired for not less than ninety (90) consecutive
488 days from his or her effective date of retirement. After the
489 person has been retired for not less than ninety (90) consecutive
490 days from his or her effective date of retirement or such later
491 date as established by the board, he or she may be reemployed
492 while being paid a retirement allowance under the terms and
493 conditions provided in this section or in Section 25-11-126.

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

498 (c) No person employed or elected under the exceptions
499 provided for in this section shall become a member under Article 3
500 of the retirement system.

501 (2) Except as otherwise provided in Section 25-11-126, any
502 person who has been retired under the provisions of Article 3 and
503 who is later reemployed in service covered by this article shall
504 cease to receive benefits under this article and shall again
505 become a contributing member of the retirement system. When the

506 person retires again, if the reemployment exceeds six (6) months,
507 the person shall have his or her benefit recomputed, including
508 service after again becoming a member, provided that the total
509 retirement allowance paid to the retired member in his or her
510 previous retirement shall be deducted from the member's retirement
511 reserve and taken into consideration in recalculating the
512 retirement allowance under a new option selected.

513 (3) The board shall have the right to prescribe rules and
514 regulations for carrying out the provisions of this section.

515 (4) The provisions of this section shall not be construed to
516 prohibit any retiree, regardless of age, from being employed and
517 drawing a retirement allowance either:

518 (a) For a period of time not to exceed one-half (1/2)
519 of the normal working days for the position in any fiscal year
520 during which the retiree will receive no more than one-half (1/2)
521 of the salary in effect for the position at the time of
522 employment, or

523 (b) For a period of time in any fiscal year sufficient
524 in length to permit a retiree to earn not in excess of twenty-five
525 percent (25%) of retiree's average compensation.

526 To determine the normal working days for a position under
527 paragraph (a) of this subsection, the employer shall determine the
528 required number of working days for the position on a full-time
529 basis and the equivalent number of hours representing the
530 full-time position. The retiree then may work up to one-half
531 (1/2) of the required number of working days or up to one-half

532 (1/2) of the equivalent number of hours and receive up to one-half
533 (1/2) of the salary for the position. In the case of employment
534 with multiple employers, the limitation shall equal one-half (1/2)
535 of the number of days or hours for a single full-time position.

536 Notice shall be given in writing to the executive director,
537 setting forth the facts upon which the employment is being made,
538 and the notice shall be given within five (5) days from the date
539 of employment and also from the date of termination of the
540 employment.

541 (5) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (6) of this
542 section, the employer of any person who is receiving a retirement
543 allowance and who is employed in service covered by subsection (4)
544 of this section as an employee or a contractual employee shall pay
545 to the board the full amount of the employer's contribution on the
546 amount of compensation received by the retiree for his or her
547 employment in accordance with regulations prescribed by the board.
548 The retiree shall not receive any additional creditable service in
549 the retirement system as a result of the payment of the employer's
550 contribution. This subsection does not apply to persons who are
551 receiving a retirement allowance and who contract with an employer
552 to provide services as a true independent contractor, as defined
553 by the board through regulation.

554 (6) (a) A member may retire and continue in municipal or
555 county elective office provided that the member has reached the
556 age and/or service requirement that will not result in a
557 prohibited in-service distribution as defined by the Internal

558 Revenue Service, or a retiree may be elected to a municipal or
559 county office, provided that the person:

560 (i) Files annually, in writing, in the office of
561 the employer and the office of the executive director of the
562 system before the person takes office or as soon as possible after
563 retirement, a waiver of all salary or compensation and elects to
564 receive in lieu of that salary or compensation a retirement
565 allowance as provided in this section, in which event no salary or
566 compensation shall thereafter be due or payable for those
567 services; however, any such officer or employee may receive, in
568 addition to the retirement allowance, office expense allowance,
569 mileage or travel expense authorized by any statute of the State
570 of Mississippi; or

571 (ii) Elects to receive compensation for that
572 elective office in an amount not to exceed twenty-five percent
573 (25%) of the retiree's average compensation. In order to receive
574 compensation as allowed in this subparagraph, the retiree shall
575 file annually, in writing, in the office of the employer and the
576 office of the executive director of the system, an election to
577 receive, in addition to a retirement allowance, compensation as
578 allowed in this subparagraph.

579 (b) The municipality or county in which the retired
580 person holds elective office shall pay to the board the amount of
581 the employer's contributions on the full amount of the regular
582 compensation for the elective office that the retired person
583 holds.

584 (c) As used in this subsection, the term "compensation"
585 does not include office expense allowance, mileage or travel
586 expense authorized by a statute of the State of Mississippi.

587 (7) Notwithstanding the foregoing and any other provision of
588 law to the contrary, this section shall not apply to any person
589 who has been retired under this article for ninety (90)
590 consecutive days or more from his or her effective date of
591 retirement from the system if employed by or paid for any service
592 by a health care collaborative or other organization formed
593 pursuant to Sections 37-115-50 through 37-115-50.3, unless the
594 health care collaborative or other organization elects to
595 participate in the system, as provided for by Section
596 25-11-105(f).

597 (8) Any retired teacher who returns to work in accordance
598 with this section shall not be eligible to return to work under
599 the provisions of Section 25-11-126.

600 **SECTION 4.** The following shall be codified as Section
601 25-11-126, Mississippi Code of 1972:

602 25-11-126. (1) Any person who has at least thirty (30)
603 years of creditable service, who was employed as a public school
604 teacher at the time of his or her retirement, has been retired at
605 least ninety (90) days and is receiving a retirement allowance,
606 and holds a standard teaching license in Mississippi, may be
607 employed as a teacher in a public school district after
608 retirement, and choose to continue receiving the retirement
609 allowance under this article during his or her employment as a

610 teacher after retirement in addition to receiving the salary
611 authorized under this section, along with the local contribution
612 of the school district in which the retiree is employed, at the
613 discretion of the school district. Any teacher who has retired
614 with at least twenty-five (25) years of creditable service as of
615 July 1, 2024, may also participate in this program if the teacher
616 otherwise qualifies under this act.

617 (2) A retired teacher may only be hired to teach in a school
618 district designated by the Department of Education as having
619 critical shortages and/or critical subject-area shortages, and
620 shall hold the related standard teaching license and/or
621 endorsements to teach in the subject area. The base compensation
622 authorized for returning retired teachers under Section 37-19-7
623 shall not be graduated annually in the same manner as teachers who
624 are employed by a school district under traditional employment
625 guidelines, but shall remain static for the entirety of his or her
626 eligible teaching period as a retired teacher.

627 (3) (a) A retired teacher may be employed as a teacher,
628 continue receiving his or her retirement allowance and be a
629 contributing member of the system without accruing additional
630 retirement benefits for a total of five (5) years, which may be
631 performed consecutively or intermittently. This method is
632 designed specifically to provide funding for the system to
633 actuarially offset any pension liability created by this act.
634 Each school district hiring retired teachers under the authority
635 of this section, shall make a direct payment to the system, which

636 shall serve as pension liability participation assessment. The
637 pension liability participation assessment and the retired
638 teacher's salary for returning to work shall be determined as
639 follows:

640 (i) A school district shall rely on the salary
641 schedule in Section 37-19-7 in considering the salary for a
642 retired teacher; provided, however, that the school district may
643 allocate up to one hundred twenty-five percent (125%) of the
644 amount provided under the salary schedule comparable to the
645 teacher's years of service and license type as salary and
646 assessment under the program;

647 (ii) After determining the retired teacher's
648 compensation, the school district may pay no more than fifty
649 percent (50%) of the retired teacher's compensation as salary to
650 the retired teacher; and

651 (iii) The remaining fifty percent (50%) of the
652 retired teacher's compensation as salary shall be paid by the
653 school district to PERS as a pension liability participation
654 assessment.

655 (b) If a retired teacher, reemployed under the
656 authority of this section, works in a school district for any
657 portion of a scholastic year less than a full contractual term of
658 traditional teachers, the time worked by the retired teacher shall
659 constitute one (1) of the five (5) years of post retirement
660 teaching eligibility. A retired teacher, under the authority of
661 this section, shall be entitled to work in any applicable school

662 district and shall not be obligated to remain in any one (1)
663 school district for the entirety of his or her post retirement
664 teaching eligibility, but shall be cumulative in nature so as not
665 to exceed five (5) years. The salary authorized under Section
666 37-19-7 for retired teachers shall be prorated for any period
667 worked by the retired teacher that is less than one (1) full
668 academic year.

669 (c) The State Department of Education shall transfer to
670 the system the Mississippi Adequate Education Program funds of
671 local school districts that on or after July 1, 2024, hire retired
672 members as teachers under this section and other funds that
673 otherwise would have been payable to the districts if the
674 districts had not taken advantage of this section. The crediting
675 of assets and financing shall follow the provisions of Section
676 25-11-123.

677 (d) Local educational agencies shall transfer to the
678 system Mississippi Adequate Education Program funds of local
679 school districts that on or after July 1, 2024, hire retired
680 members as teachers under this section and other funds that
681 otherwise would have been payable to the districts if the
682 districts had not taken advantage of this section. The crediting
683 of assets and financing must follow the provisions of Section
684 25-11-123.

685 (4) Under the authority of this section, school districts
686 may employ retired teachers based on criteria established by the
687 department of education for critical teacher shortage areas and

688 critical subject-matter areas. A school district that is not
689 within a critical teacher shortage area may employ teachers for
690 critical subject-matter areas.

691 (5) A person may be hired under this section subject to the
692 following conditions:

693 (a) The retired member holds any teacher's professional
694 license or certificate as may be required in Section 37-3-2, and
695 holds the related standard teaching license and/or endorsements to
696 teach in the applicable subject area;

697 (b) The superintendent of the employing school district
698 certifies in writing to the State Department of Education that the
699 retired member has the requisite experience, training and
700 expertise for the position to be filled;

701 (c) The superintendent of the school district certifies
702 or the principal of the school certifies that there was no
703 preexisting arrangement for the person to be hired;

704 (d) The person had a satisfactory performance review
705 for the most recent period before retirement; and

706 (e) The person is hired to teach in a critical
707 subject-matter area or in a critical teacher shortage area.

708 (6) The State Superintendent of Public Education shall
709 report the persons who are employed under this section to the
710 executive director.

711 (7) The Department of Education shall promulgate regulations
712 that prescribe a salary schedule that reflects the provisions of
713 this act. Each school district shall create a policy, approved by

714 the local school board, related to the hiring of retired teachers
715 and including, but not limited to, the hiring of full and
716 part-time retired teacher employees under this section and Section
717 25-11-127.

718 (8) Any retired teacher who returns to work in accordance
719 with this section shall not be eligible to return to work under
720 the provisions of Section 25-11-127.

721 **SECTION 5.** Section 37-19-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
722 amended as follows:

723 37-19-7. (1) The allowance in the Mississippi Adequate
724 Education Program for teachers' salaries in each public school
725 district shall be determined and paid in accordance with the scale
726 for teachers' salaries as provided in this subsection. For
727 teachers holding the following types of licenses or the equivalent
728 as determined by the State Board of Education, and the following
729 number of years of teaching experience, the scale shall be as
730 follows:

731 **2022-2023 AND SUBSEQUENT SCHOOL YEARS MINIMUM SALARY SCHEDULE**

732	Exp.	AAAA	AAA	AA	A
733	0	45,500.00	44,000.00	43,000.00	41,500.00
734	1	46,100.00	44,550.00	43,525.00	41,900.00
735	2	46,700.00	45,100.00	44,050.00	42,300.00
736	3	47,300.00	45,650.00	44,575.00	42,700.00
737	4	47,900.00	46,200.00	45,100.00	43,100.00
738	5	49,250.00	47,500.00	46,350.00	44,300.00
739	6	49,850.00	48,050.00	46,875.00	44,700.00

740	7	50,450.00	48,600.00	47,400.00	45,100.00
741	8	51,050.00	49,150.00	47,925.00	45,500.00
742	9	51,650.00	49,700.00	48,450.00	45,900.00
743	10	53,000.00	51,000.00	49,700.00	47,100.00
744	11	53,600.00	51,550.00	50,225.00	47,500.00
745	12	54,200.00	52,100.00	50,750.00	47,900.00
746	13	54,800.00	52,650.00	51,275.00	48,300.00
747	14	55,400.00	53,200.00	51,800.00	48,700.00
748	15	56,750.00	54,500.00	53,050.00	49,900.00
749	16	57,350.00	55,050.00	53,575.00	50,300.00
750	17	57,950.00	55,600.00	54,100.00	50,700.00
751	18	58,550.00	56,150.00	54,625.00	51,100.00
752	19	59,150.00	56,700.00	55,150.00	51,500.00
753	20	60,500.00	58,000.00	56,400.00	52,700.00
754	21	61,100.00	58,550.00	56,925.00	53,100.00
755	22	61,700.00	59,100.00	57,450.00	53,500.00
756	23	62,300.00	59,650.00	57,975.00	53,900.00
757	24	62,900.00	60,200.00	58,500.00	54,300.00
758	25	65,400.00	62,700.00	61,000.00	56,800.00
759	26	66,000.00	63,250.00	61,525.00	57,200.00
760	27	66,600.00	63,800.00	62,050.00	57,600.00
761	28	67,200.00	64,350.00	62,575.00	58,000.00
762	29	67,800.00	64,900.00	63,100.00	58,400.00
763	30	68,400.00	65,450.00	63,625.00	58,800.00
764	31	69,000.00	66,000.00	64,150.00	59,200.00
765	32	69,600.00	66,550.00	64,675.00	59,600.00

766	33	70,200.00	67,100.00	65,200.00	60,000.00
767	34	70,800.00	67,650.00	65,725.00	60,400.00
768	35				
769	& above	71,400.00	68,200.00	66,250.00	60,800.00

2024-2025 AND SUBSEQUENT SCHOOL YEARS MINIMUM SALARY SCHEDULE

771 The school district, with assistance from the Department of
772 Education, shall consider the teacher's years of service and
773 license type and determine the corresponding salary for the
774 retired teacher. After determining the retired teacher's
775 corresponding salary, the school district may allocate up to one
776 hundred and twenty-five percent (125%) of the amount provided
777 under the salary schedule for such teacher, as applicable, as
778 salary and assessment under the program.

779 After determining the retired teacher's salary, the school
780 district may pay no more than fifty percent (50%) of the retired
781 teacher's compensation as salary to the retired teacher. The
782 remaining fifty percent (50%) of the retired teacher's
783 compensation as salary shall be paid by the school district to
784 PERS as a pension liability participation assessment.

785 It is the intent of the Legislature that any state funds made
786 available for salaries of licensed personnel in excess of the
787 funds paid for such salaries for the 1986-1987 school year shall
788 be paid to licensed personnel pursuant to a personnel appraisal
789 and compensation system implemented by the State Board of
790 Education. The State Board of Education shall have the authority

791 to adopt and amend rules and regulations as are necessary to
792 establish, administer and maintain the system.

793 All teachers employed on a full-time basis shall be paid a
794 minimum salary in accordance with the above scale. However, no
795 school district shall receive any funds under this section for any
796 school year during which the local supplement paid to any
797 individual teacher shall have been reduced to a sum less than that
798 paid to that individual teacher for performing the same duties
799 from local supplement during the immediately preceding school
800 year. The amount actually spent for the purposes of group health
801 and/or life insurance shall be considered as a part of the
802 aggregate amount of local supplement but shall not be considered a
803 part of the amount of individual local supplement.

804 The level of professional training of each teacher to be used
805 in establishing the salary allotment for the teachers for each
806 year shall be determined by the type of valid teacher's license
807 issued to those teachers on or before October 1 of the current
808 school year. However, school districts are authorized, in their
809 discretion, to negotiate the salary levels applicable to licensed
810 employees who are receiving retirement benefits from the
811 retirement system of another state, and the annual experience
812 increment provided above in Section 37-19-7 shall not be
813 applicable to any such retired certificated employee.

814 (2) (a) The following employees shall receive an annual
815 salary supplement in the amount of Six Thousand Dollars

816 (\$6,000.00), plus fringe benefits, in addition to any other
817 compensation to which the employee may be entitled:

818 (i) Any licensed teacher or retired teacher
819 employed by a school district under the authority of Section
820 25-11-126 who has met the requirements and acquired a Master
821 Teacher certificate from the National Board for Professional
822 Teaching Standards and who is employed by a local school board or
823 the State Board of Education as a teacher and not as an
824 administrator. Such teacher shall submit documentation to the
825 State Department of Education that the certificate was received
826 prior to October 15 in order to be eligible for the full salary
827 supplement in the current school year, or the teacher shall submit
828 such documentation to the State Department of Education prior to
829 February 15 in order to be eligible for a prorated salary
830 supplement beginning with the second term of the school year.

831 (ii) A licensed nurse who has met the requirements
832 and acquired a certificate from the National Board for
833 Certification of School Nurses, Inc., and who is employed by a
834 local school board or the State Board of Education as a school
835 nurse and not as an administrator. The licensed school nurse
836 shall submit documentation to the State Department of Education
837 that the certificate was received before October 15 in order to be
838 eligible for the full salary supplement in the current school
839 year, or the licensed school nurse shall submit the documentation
840 to the State Department of Education before February 15 in order

841 to be eligible for a prorated salary supplement beginning with the
842 second term of the school year.

843 (iii) Any licensed school counselor who has met
844 the requirements and acquired a National Certified School
845 Counselor (NCSC) endorsement from the National Board of Certified
846 Counselors and who is employed by a local school board or the
847 State Board of Education as a counselor and not as an
848 administrator. Such licensed school counselor shall submit
849 documentation to the State Department of Education that the
850 endorsement was received prior to October 15 in order to be
851 eligible for the full salary supplement in the current school
852 year, or the licensed school counselor shall submit such
853 documentation to the State Department of Education prior to
854 February 15 in order to be eligible for a prorated salary
855 supplement beginning with the second term of the school year.
856 However, any school counselor who started the National Board for
857 Professional Teaching Standards process for school counselors
858 between June 1, 2003, and June 30, 2004, and completes the
859 requirements and acquires the Master Teacher certificate shall be
860 entitled to the master teacher supplement, and those counselors
861 who complete the process shall be entitled to a one-time
862 reimbursement for the actual cost of the process as outlined in
863 paragraph (b) of this subsection.

864 (iv) Any licensed speech-language pathologist and
865 audiologist who has met the requirements and acquired a
866 Certificate of Clinical Competence from the American

867 Speech-Language-Hearing Association and any certified academic
868 language therapist (CALT) who has met the certification
869 requirements of the Academic Language Therapy Association and who
870 is employed by a local school board. The licensed speech-language
871 pathologist and audiologist and certified academic language
872 therapist shall submit documentation to the State Department of
873 Education that the certificate or endorsement was received before
874 October 15 in order to be eligible for the full salary supplement
875 in the current school year, or the licensed speech-language
876 pathologist and audiologist and certified academic language
877 therapist shall submit the documentation to the State Department
878 of Education before February 15 in order to be eligible for a
879 prorated salary supplement beginning with the second term of the
880 school year.

881 (v) Any licensed athletic trainer who has met the
882 requirements and acquired Board Certification for the Athletic
883 Trainer from the Board of Certification, Inc., and who is employed
884 by a local school board or the State Board of Education as an
885 athletic trainer and not as an administrator. The licensed
886 athletic trainer shall submit documentation to the State
887 Department of Education that the certificate was received before
888 October 15 in order to be eligible for the full salary supplement
889 in the current school year, or the licensed athletic trainer shall
890 submit the documentation to the State Department of Education
891 before February 15 in order to be eligible for a prorated salary
892 supplement beginning with the second term of the school year.

893 (b) An employee shall be reimbursed for the actual cost
894 of completing each component of acquiring the certificate or
895 endorsement, excluding any costs incurred for postgraduate
896 courses, not to exceed Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) for each
897 component, not to exceed four (4) components, for a teacher,
898 school counselor or speech-language pathologist and audiologist,
899 regardless of whether or not the process resulted in the award of
900 the certificate or endorsement. A local school district or any
901 private individual or entity may pay the cost of completing the
902 process of acquiring the certificate or endorsement for any
903 employee of the school district described under paragraph (a), and
904 the State Department of Education shall reimburse the school
905 district for such cost, regardless of whether or not the process
906 resulted in the award of the certificate or endorsement. If a
907 private individual or entity has paid the cost of completing the
908 process of acquiring the certificate or endorsement for an
909 employee, the local school district may agree to directly
910 reimburse the individual or entity for such cost on behalf of the
911 employee.

912 (c) All salary supplements, fringe benefits and process
913 reimbursement authorized under this subsection shall be paid
914 directly by the State Department of Education to the local school
915 district and shall be in addition to its adequate education
916 program allotments and not a part thereof in accordance with
917 regulations promulgated by the State Board of Education. Local
918 school districts shall not reduce the local supplement paid to any

919 employee receiving such salary supplement, and the employee shall
920 receive any local supplement to which employees with similar
921 training and experience otherwise are entitled. However, an
922 educational employee shall receive the salary supplement in the
923 amount of Six Thousand Dollars (\$6,000.00) for only one (1) of the
924 qualifying certifications authorized under paragraph (a) of this
925 subsection. No school district shall provide more than one (1)
926 annual salary supplement under the provisions of this subsection
927 to any one (1) individual employee holding multiple qualifying
928 national certifications.

929 (d) If an employee for whom such cost has been paid, in
930 full or in part, by a local school district or private individual
931 or entity fails to complete the certification or endorsement
932 process, the employee shall be liable to the school district or
933 individual or entity for all amounts paid by the school district
934 or individual or entity on behalf of that employee toward his or
935 her certificate or endorsement.

936 (3) The following employees shall receive an annual salary
937 supplement in the amount of Four Thousand Dollars (\$4,000.00),
938 plus fringe benefits, in addition to any other compensation to
939 which the employee may be entitled:

940 Effective July 1, 2016, if funds are available for that
941 purpose, any licensed teacher or retired teacher employed by a
942 local school district under the authority of Section 25-11-126 who
943 has met the requirements and acquired a Master Teacher Certificate
944 from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards and

945 who is employed in a public school district located in one (1) of
946 the following counties: Claiborne, Adams, Jefferson, Wilkinson,
947 Amite, Bolivar, Coahoma, Leflore, Quitman, Sharkey, Issaquena,
948 Sunflower, Washington, Holmes, Yazoo and Tallahatchie. The salary
949 supplement awarded under the provisions of this subsection (3)
950 shall be in addition to the salary supplement awarded under the
951 provisions of subsection (2) of this section.

952 Teachers who meet the qualifications for a salary supplement
953 under this subsection (3) who are assigned for less than one (1)
954 full year or less than full time for the school year shall receive
955 the salary supplement in a prorated manner, with the portion of
956 the teacher's assignment to the critical geographic area to be
957 determined as of June 15th of the school year.

958 (4) (a) This section shall be known and may be cited as the
959 "Mississippi Performance-Based Pay (MPBP)" plan. In addition to
960 the minimum base pay described in this section, only after full
961 funding of MAEP and if funds are available for that purpose, the
962 State of Mississippi may provide monies from state funds to school
963 districts for the purposes of rewarding licensed teachers,
964 administrators and nonlicensed personnel at individual schools
965 showing improvement in student test scores. The MPBP plan shall
966 be developed by the State Department of Education based on the
967 following criteria:

968 (i) It is the express intent of this legislation
969 that the MPBP plan shall utilize only existing standards of

970 accreditation and assessment as established by the State Board of
971 Education.

972 (ii) To ensure that all of Mississippi's teachers,
973 administrators and nonlicensed personnel at all schools have equal
974 access to the monies set aside in this section, the MPBP program
975 shall be designed to calculate each school's performance as
976 determined by the school's increase in scores from the prior
977 school year. The MPBP program shall be based on a standardized
978 scores rating where all levels of schools can be judged in a
979 statistically fair and reasonable way upon implementation. At the
980 end of each year, after all student achievement scores have been
981 standardized, the State Department of Education shall implement
982 the MPBP plan.

983 (iii) To ensure all teachers cooperate in the
984 spirit of teamwork, individual schools shall submit a plan to the
985 local school district to be approved before the beginning of each
986 school year beginning July 1, 2008. The plan shall include, but
987 not be limited to, how all teachers, regardless of subject area,
988 and administrators will be responsible for improving student
989 achievement for their individual school.

990 (b) The State Board of Education shall develop the
991 processes and procedures for designating schools eligible to
992 participate in the MPBP. State assessment results, growth in
993 student achievement at individual schools and other measures
994 deemed appropriate in designating successful student achievement
995 shall be used in establishing MPBP criteria.

996 (5) (a) If funds are available for that purpose, each
997 school in Mississippi shall have mentor teachers, as defined by
998 Sections 37-9-201 through 37-9-213, who shall receive additional
999 base compensation provided for by the State Legislature in the
1000 amount of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) per each beginning
1001 teacher that is being mentored. The additional state compensation
1002 shall be limited to those mentor teachers that provide mentoring
1003 services to beginning teachers. For the purposes of such funding,
1004 a beginning teacher shall be defined as any teacher in any school
1005 in Mississippi that has less than one (1) year of classroom
1006 experience teaching in a public school. For the purposes of such
1007 funding, no full-time academic teacher shall mentor more than two
1008 (2) beginning teachers.

1009 (b) To be eligible for this state funding, the
1010 individual school must have a classroom management program
1011 approved by the local school board.

1012 (6) Effective with the 2014-2015 school year, the school
1013 districts participating in the Pilot Performance-Based
1014 Compensation System pursuant to Section 37-19-9 may award
1015 additional teacher and administrator pay based thereon.

1016 **SECTION 6.** Section 25-11-123, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1017 amended as follows:

1018 25-11-123. All of the assets of the system shall be credited
1019 according to the purpose for which they are held to one (1) of
1020 four (4) reserves; namely, the annuity savings account, the

1021 annuity reserve, the employer's accumulation account, and the
1022 expense account.

1023 (a) **Annuity savings account.** In the annuity savings account
1024 shall be accumulated the contributions made by members to provide
1025 for their annuities, including interest thereon which shall be
1026 posted monthly. Credits to and charges against the annuity
1027 savings account shall be made as follows:

1028 (1) Beginning July 1, 2010, except as otherwise
1029 provided in Section 25-11-126, the employer shall cause to be
1030 deducted from the salary of each member on each and every payroll
1031 of the employer for each and every payroll period nine percent
1032 (9%) of earned compensation as defined in Section 25-11-103.
1033 Future contributions shall be fixed biennially by the board on the
1034 basis of the liabilities of the retirement system for the various
1035 allowances and benefits as shown by actuarial valuation; however,
1036 any member earning at a rate less than Sixteen Dollars and
1037 Sixty-seven Cents (\$16.67) per month, or Two Hundred Dollars
1038 (\$200.00) per year, shall contribute not less than One Dollar
1039 (\$1.00) per month, or Twelve Dollars (\$12.00) per year.

1040 (2) The deductions provided in paragraph (1) of this
1041 subsection shall be made notwithstanding that the minimum
1042 compensation provided by law for any member is reduced by the
1043 deduction. Every member shall be deemed to consent and agree to
1044 the deductions made and provided for in paragraph (1) of this
1045 subsection and shall receipt for his full salary or compensation,
1046 and payment of salary or compensation less the deduction shall be

1047 a full and complete discharge and acquittance of all claims and
1048 demands whatsoever for the services rendered by the person during
1049 the period covered by the payment, except as to the benefits
1050 provided under Articles 1 and 3. The board shall provide by rules
1051 for the methods of collection of contributions from members and
1052 the employer. The board shall have full authority to require the
1053 production of evidence necessary to verify the correctness of
1054 amounts contributed.

1055 (b) **Annuity reserve.** The annuity reserve shall be the
1056 account representing the actuarial value of all annuities in
1057 force, and to it shall be charged all annuities and all benefits
1058 in lieu of annuities, payable as provided in this article. If a
1059 beneficiary retired on account of disability is restored to active
1060 service with a compensation not less than his average final
1061 compensation at the time of his last retirement, the remainder of
1062 his contributions shall be transferred from the annuity reserve to
1063 the annuity savings account and credited to his individual account
1064 therein, and the balance of his annuity reserve shall be
1065 transferred to the employer's accumulation account.

1066 (c) **Employer's accumulation account.** The employer's
1067 accumulation account shall represent the accumulation of all
1068 reserves for the payment of all retirement allowances and other
1069 benefits payable from contributions made by the employer, and
1070 against this account shall be charged all retirement allowances
1071 and other benefits on account of members. Credits to and charges

1072 against the employer's accumulation account shall be made as
1073 follows:

1074 (1) On account of each member there shall be paid
1075 monthly into the employer's accumulation account by the employers
1076 for the preceding fiscal year an amount equal to a certain
1077 percentage of the total earned compensation, as defined in Section
1078 25-11-103, of each member. * * * ~~The percentage rate of those~~
1079 ~~contributions shall be fixed biennially by the board on the basis~~
1080 ~~of the liabilities of the retirement system for the various~~
1081 ~~allowances and benefits as shown by actuarial valuation.~~
1082 ~~Beginning January 1, 1990, the rate shall be fixed at nine and~~
1083 ~~three-fourths percent (9-3/4%). The board shall reduce the~~
1084 ~~employer's contribution rate by one percent (1%) from and after~~
1085 ~~July 1 of the year following the year in which the board~~
1086 ~~determines and the board's actuary certifies that the employer's~~
1087 ~~contribution rate can be reduced by that amount without causing~~
1088 ~~the unfunded accrued actuarial liability amortization period for~~
1089 ~~the retirement system to exceed twenty (20) years. Political~~
1090 ~~subdivisions joining Article 3 of the Public Employees' Retirement~~
1091 ~~System after July 1, 1968, may adjust the employer's contributions~~
1092 ~~by agreement with the Board of Trustees of the Public Employees'~~
1093 ~~Retirement System to provide service credits for any period before~~
1094 ~~execution of the agreement based upon an actuarial determination~~
1095 ~~of employer's contribution rates. From and after the effective~~
1096 ~~date of this act, the increase in the employer's contribution rate~~

1097 scheduled to take effect on July 1, 2024, is rescinded and shall
1098 not take effect.

1099 (2) For the public good, any recommendation by the
1100 board to adjust the employer contributions shall be accompanied by
1101 at least two (2) assessments from actuaries who are independent
1102 from each other and the retirement plan. The actuaries shall
1103 analyze the economic impact of any such recommendation to the
1104 system and state, including, but not limited to, information
1105 showing the fiscal impact to every agency and arm of the state,
1106 including, but not limited to, state agencies, cities, counties
1107 and school districts. The actuarial assessments, with any such
1108 recommendation to adjust the employer contributions, shall be
1109 submitted to the Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the House,
1110 Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee and Chairman of
1111 the House Appropriations Committee.

1112 (3) The board shall have the authority to make
1113 recommendations regarding additional funding sources for the
1114 retirement plan, including employer contribution increases, based
1115 on the assets and liabilities of the retirement plan, and the
1116 analyses required by paragraph (2) of this subsection (c). The
1117 Legislature shall have the sole authority to implement any such
1118 recommendations.

1119 (4) This section shall not be construed to provide
1120 authority to reduce or eliminate any earned benefits to be
1121 provided by the state to persons drawing a retirement allowance or
1122 to members of the system as of the effective date of this act.

1123 (* * *25) On the basis of regular interest and of such
1124 mortality and other tables as are adopted by the board of
1125 trustees, the actuary engaged by the board to make each valuation
1126 required by this article during the period over which the accrued
1127 liability contribution is payable, immediately after making that
1128 valuation, shall determine the uniform and constant percentage of
1129 the earnable compensation of each member which, if contributed by
1130 the employer on the basis of compensation of the member throughout
1131 his entire period of membership service, would be sufficient to
1132 provide for the payment of any retirement allowance payable on his
1133 account for that service. The percentage rate so determined shall
1134 be known as the "normal contribution rate." After the accrued
1135 liability contribution has ceased to be payable, the normal
1136 contribution rate shall be the percentage rate of the salary of
1137 all members obtained by deducting from the total liabilities on
1138 account of membership service the amount in the employer's
1139 accumulation account, and dividing the remainder by one percent
1140 (1%) of the present value of the prospective future salaries of
1141 all members as computed on the basis of the mortality and service
1142 tables adopted by the board of trustees and regular interest. The
1143 normal rate of contributions shall be determined by the actuary
1144 after each valuation.

1145 (* * *36) The total amount payable in each year to the
1146 employer's accumulation account shall not be less than the sum of
1147 the percentage rate known as the "normal contribution rate" and
1148 the "accrued liability contribution rate" of the total

1149 compensation earnable by all members during the preceding year,
1150 provided that the payment by the employer shall be sufficient,
1151 when combined with the amounts in the account, to provide the
1152 allowances and other benefits chargeable to this account during
1153 the year then current.

1154 (* * *47) The accrued liability contribution shall be
1155 discontinued as soon as the accumulated balance in the employer's
1156 accumulation account shall equal the present value, computed on
1157 the basis of the normal contribution rate then in force, or the
1158 prospective normal contributions to be received on account of all
1159 persons who are at that time members.

1160 (* * *58) All allowances and benefits in lieu thereof,
1161 with the exception of those payable on account of members who
1162 receive no prior service credit, payable from contributions of the
1163 employer, shall be paid from the employer's accumulation account.

1164 (* * *69) Upon the retirement of a member, an amount
1165 equal to his retirement allowance shall be transferred from the
1166 employer's accumulation account to the annuity reserve.

1167 (* * *710) The employer's accumulation account shall
1168 be credited with any assets authorized by law to be credited to
1169 the account.

1170 (d) **Expense account.** The expense account shall be the
1171 account to which the expenses of the administration of the system
1172 shall be charged, exclusive of amounts payable as retirement
1173 allowances and as other benefits provided herein. The Legislature
1174 shall make annual appropriations in amounts sufficient to

1175 administer the system, which shall be credited to this account.
1176 There shall be transferred to the State Treasury from this
1177 account, not less than once per month, an amount sufficient for
1178 payment of the estimated expenses of the system for the succeeding
1179 thirty (30) days. Any interest earned on the expense account
1180 shall accrue to the benefit of the system. However,
1181 notwithstanding the provisions of Sections 25-11-15(10) and
1182 25-11-105(f) (v)5, all expenses of the administration of the system
1183 shall be paid from the interest earnings, provided the interest
1184 earnings are in excess of the actuarial interest assumption as
1185 determined by the board, and provided the present cost of the
1186 administrative expense fee of two percent (2%) of the
1187 contributions reported by the political subdivisions and
1188 instrumentalities shall be reduced to one percent (1%) from and
1189 after July 1, 1983, through June 30, 1984, and shall be eliminated
1190 thereafter.

1191 (e) **Collection of contributions.** The employer shall cause
1192 to be deducted on each and every payroll of a member for each and
1193 every payroll period, beginning subsequent to January 31, 1953,
1194 the contributions payable by the member as provided in Articles 1
1195 and 3.

1196 The employer shall make deductions from salaries of employees
1197 as provided in Articles 1 and 3 and shall transmit monthly, or at
1198 such time as the board of trustees designates, the amount
1199 specified to be deducted to the Executive Director of the Public
1200 Employees' Retirement System. The executive director, after

1201 making a record of all those receipts, shall deposit such amounts
1202 as provided by law.

1203 (f) (1) Upon the basis of each actuarial valuation provided
1204 herein, the board of trustees shall biennially determine the
1205 normal contribution rate and the accrued liability contribution
1206 rate as provided in this section. The sum of these two (2) rates
1207 shall be known as the "employer's contribution rate." The
1208 percentage rate of those contributions shall be fixed biennially
1209 by the board on the basis of the liabilities of the retirement
1210 system for the various allowances and benefits as shown by
1211 actuarial valuation.

1212 (2) The amount payable by the employer on account of
1213 normal and accrued liability contributions shall be determined by
1214 applying the employer's contribution rate to the amount of
1215 compensation earned by employees who are members of the system.
1216 Monthly, or at such time as the board of trustees designates, each
1217 department or agency shall compute the amount of the employer's
1218 contribution payable, with respect to the salaries of its
1219 employees who are members of the system, and shall cause that
1220 amount to be paid to the board of trustees from the personal
1221 service allotment of the amount appropriated for the operation of
1222 the department or agency, or from funds otherwise available to the
1223 agency, for the payment of salaries to its employees.

1224 (3) Except as otherwise provided in Section 25-11-106:

1225 (i) Constables shall pay employer and employee
1226 contributions on their net fee income as well as the employee
1227 contributions on all direct treasury or county payroll income.

1228 (ii) The county shall be responsible for the
1229 employer contribution on all direct treasury or county payroll
1230 income of constables.

1231 (4) Except as otherwise provided in Section
1232 25-11-106.1, chancery and circuit clerks shall be responsible for
1233 both the employer and employee share of contributions on the
1234 proportionate share of net income attributable to fees, as well as
1235 the employee share of net income attributable to direct treasury
1236 or county payroll income, and the employing county shall be
1237 responsible for the employer contributions on the net income
1238 attributable to direct treasury or county payroll income.

1239 (5) Once each year, under procedures established by the
1240 system, each employer shall submit to the Public Employees'
1241 Retirement System a copy of their report to Social Security of all
1242 employees' earnings.

1243 (6) The board shall provide by rules for the methods of
1244 collection of contributions of employers and members. The amounts
1245 determined due by an agency to the various funds as specified in
1246 Articles 1 and 3 are made obligations of the agency to the board
1247 and shall be paid as provided herein. Failure to deduct those
1248 contributions shall not relieve the employee and employer from
1249 liability thereof. Delinquent employee contributions and any
1250 accrued interest shall be the obligation of the employee and

1251 delinquent employer contributions and any accrued interest shall
1252 be the obligation of the employer. The employer may, in its
1253 discretion, elect to pay any or all of the interest on delinquent
1254 employee contributions. From and after July 1, 1996, under rules
1255 and regulations established by the board, all employers are
1256 authorized and shall transfer all funds due to the Public
1257 Employees' Retirement System electronically and shall transmit any
1258 wage or other reports by computerized reporting systems.

1259 **SECTION 7.** Section 25-11-105, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1260 brought forward as follows:

1261 25-11-105. **I. THOSE WHO ARE ELIGIBLE FOR MEMBERSHIP**

1262 The membership of this retirement system shall be composed as
1263 follows:

1264 (a) (i) All persons who become employees in the state
1265 service after January 31, 1953, and whose wages are subject to
1266 payroll taxes and are lawfully reported on IRS Form W-2, except
1267 those specifically excluded, or as to whom election is provided in
1268 Articles 1 and 3, shall become members of the retirement system as
1269 a condition of their employment.

1270 (ii) From and after July 1, 2002, any individual
1271 who is employed by a governmental entity to perform professional
1272 services shall become a member of the system if the individual is
1273 paid regular periodic compensation for those services that is
1274 subject to payroll taxes, is provided all other employee benefits
1275 and meets the membership criteria established by the regulations
1276 adopted by the board of trustees that apply to all other members

1277 of the system; however, any active member employed in such a
1278 position on July 1, 2002, will continue to be an active member for
1279 as long as they are employed in any such position.

1280 (b) All persons who become employees in the state
1281 service after January 31, 1953, except those specifically excluded
1282 or as to whom election is provided in Articles 1 and 3, unless
1283 they file with the board before the lapse of sixty (60) days of
1284 employment or sixty (60) days after the effective date of the
1285 cited articles, whichever is later, on a form prescribed by the
1286 board, a notice of election not to be covered by the membership of
1287 the retirement system and a duly executed waiver of all present
1288 and prospective benefits that would otherwise inure to them on
1289 account of their participation in the system, shall become members
1290 of the retirement system; however, no credit for prior service
1291 will be granted to members who became members of the system before
1292 July 1, 2007, until they have contributed to Article 3 of the
1293 retirement system for a minimum period of at least four (4) years,
1294 or to members who became members of the system on or after July 1,
1295 2007, until they have contributed to Article 3 of the retirement
1296 system for a minimum period of at least eight (8) years. Those
1297 members shall receive credit for services performed before January
1298 1, 1953, in employment now covered by Article 3, but no credit
1299 shall be granted for retroactive services between January 1, 1953,
1300 and the date of their entry into the retirement system, unless the
1301 employee pays into the retirement system both the employer's and
1302 the employee's contributions on wages paid him during the period

1303 from January 31, 1953, to the date of his becoming a contributing
1304 member, together with interest at the rate determined by the board
1305 of trustees. Members reentering after withdrawal from service
1306 shall qualify for prior service under the provisions of Section
1307 25-11-117. From and after July 1, 1998, upon eligibility as noted
1308 above, the member may receive credit for such retroactive service
1309 provided:

1310 (i) The member shall furnish proof satisfactory to
1311 the board of trustees of certification of that service from the
1312 covered employer where the services were performed; and

1313 (ii) The member shall pay to the retirement system
1314 on the date he or she is eligible for that credit or at any time
1315 thereafter before the date of retirement the actuarial cost for
1316 each year of that creditable service. The provisions of this
1317 subparagraph (ii) shall be subject to the limitations of Section
1318 415 of the Internal Revenue Code and regulations promulgated under
1319 Section 415.

1320 Nothing contained in this paragraph (b) shall be construed to
1321 limit the authority of the board to allow the correction of
1322 reporting errors or omissions based on the payment of the employee
1323 and employer contributions plus applicable interest.

1324 (c) All persons who become employees in the state
1325 service after January 31, 1953, and who are eligible for
1326 membership in any other retirement system shall become members of
1327 this retirement system as a condition of their employment, unless

1328 they elect at the time of their employment to become a member of
1329 that other system.

1330 (d) All persons who are employees in the state service
1331 on January 31, 1953, and who are members of any nonfunded
1332 retirement system operated by the State of Mississippi, or any of
1333 its departments or agencies, shall become members of this system
1334 with prior service credit unless, before February 1, 1953, they
1335 file a written notice with the board of trustees that they do not
1336 elect to become members.

1337 (e) All persons who are employees in the state service
1338 on January 31, 1953, and who under existing laws are members of
1339 any fund operated for the retirement of employees by the State of
1340 Mississippi, or any of its departments or agencies, shall not be
1341 entitled to membership in this retirement system unless, before
1342 February 1, 1953, any such person indicates by a notice filed with
1343 the board, on a form prescribed by the board, his individual
1344 election and choice to participate in this system, but no such
1345 person shall receive prior service credit unless he becomes a
1346 member on or before February 1, 1953.

1347 (f) Each political subdivision of the state and each
1348 instrumentality of the state or a political subdivision, or both,
1349 is authorized to submit, for approval by the board of trustees, a
1350 plan for extending the benefits of this article to employees of
1351 any such political subdivision or instrumentality. Each such plan
1352 or any amendment to the plan for extending benefits thereof shall
1353 be approved by the board of trustees if it finds that the plan, or

1354 the plan as amended, is in conformity with such requirements as
1355 are provided in Articles 1 and 3; however, upon approval of the
1356 plan or any such plan previously approved by the board of
1357 trustees, the approved plan shall not be subject to cancellation
1358 or termination by the political subdivision or instrumentality.
1359 No such plan shall be approved unless:

1360 (i) It provides that all services that constitute
1361 employment as defined in Section 25-11-5 and are performed in the
1362 employ of the political subdivision or instrumentality, by any
1363 employees thereof, shall be covered by the plan, with the
1364 exception of municipal employees who are already covered by
1365 existing retirement plans; however, those employees in this class
1366 may elect to come under the provisions of this article;

1367 (ii) It specifies the source or sources from which
1368 the funds necessary to make the payments required by paragraph (d)
1369 of Section 25-11-123 and of paragraph (f)(v)2 and 3 of this
1370 section are expected to be derived and contains reasonable
1371 assurance that those sources will be adequate for that purpose;

1372 (iii) It provides for such methods of
1373 administration of the plan by the political subdivision or
1374 instrumentality as are found by the board of trustees to be
1375 necessary for the proper and efficient administration thereof;

1376 (iv) It provides that the political subdivision or
1377 instrumentality will make such reports, in such form and
1378 containing such information, as the board of trustees may from
1379 time to time require;

1380 (v) It authorizes the board of trustees to
1381 terminate the plan in its entirety in the discretion of the board
1382 if it finds that there has been a failure to comply substantially
1383 with any provision contained in the plan, the termination to take
1384 effect at the expiration of such notice and on such conditions as
1385 may be provided by regulations of the board and as may be
1386 consistent with applicable federal law.

1387 1. The board of trustees shall not finally
1388 refuse to approve a plan submitted under paragraph (f), and shall
1389 not terminate an approved plan without reasonable notice and
1390 opportunity for hearing to each political subdivision or
1391 instrumentality affected by the board's decision. The board's
1392 decision in any such case shall be final, conclusive and binding
1393 unless an appeal is taken by the political subdivision or
1394 instrumentality aggrieved by the decision to the Circuit Court of
1395 the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, in
1396 accordance with the provisions of law with respect to civil causes
1397 by certiorari.

1398 2. Each political subdivision or
1399 instrumentality as to which a plan has been approved under this
1400 section shall pay into the contribution fund, with respect to
1401 wages (as defined in Section 25-11-5), at such time or times as
1402 the board of trustees may by regulation prescribe, contributions
1403 in the amounts and at the rates specified in the applicable
1404 agreement entered into by the board.

1405 3. Every political subdivision or
1406 instrumentality required to make payments under paragraph (f)(v)2
1407 of this section is authorized, in consideration of the employees'
1408 retention in or entry upon employment after enactment of Articles
1409 1 and 3, to impose upon its employees, as to services that are
1410 covered by an approved plan, a contribution with respect to wages
1411 (as defined in Section 25-11-5) not exceeding the amount provided
1412 in Section 25-11-123(d) if those services constituted employment
1413 within the meaning of Articles 1 and 3, and to deduct the amount
1414 of the contribution from the wages as and when paid.

1415 Contributions so collected shall be paid into the contribution
1416 fund as partial discharge of the liability of the political
1417 subdivisions or instrumentalities under paragraph (f)(v)2 of this
1418 section. Failure to deduct the contribution shall not relieve the
1419 employee or employer of liability for the contribution.

1420 4. Any state agency, school, political
1421 subdivision, instrumentality or any employer that is required to
1422 submit contribution payments or wage reports under any section of
1423 this chapter shall be assessed interest on delinquent payments or
1424 wage reports as determined by the board of trustees in accordance
1425 with rules and regulations adopted by the board and delinquent
1426 payments, assessed interest and any other amount certified by the
1427 board as owed by an employer, may be recovered by action in a
1428 court of competent jurisdiction against the reporting agency
1429 liable therefor or may, upon due certification of delinquency and
1430 at the request of the board of trustees, be deducted from any

1431 other monies payable to the reporting agency by any department or
1432 agency of the state.

1433 5. Each political subdivision of the state
1434 and each instrumentality of the state or a political subdivision
1435 or subdivisions that submit a plan for approval of the board, as
1436 provided in this section, shall reimburse the board for coverage
1437 into the expense account, its pro rata share of the total expense
1438 of administering Articles 1 and 3 as provided by regulations of
1439 the board.

1440 (g) The board may, in its discretion, deny the right of
1441 membership in this system to any class of employees whose
1442 compensation is only partly paid by the state or who are occupying
1443 positions on a part-time or intermittent basis. The board may, in
1444 its discretion, make optional with employees in any such classes
1445 their individual entrance into this system.

1446 (h) An employee whose membership in this system is
1447 contingent on his own election, and who elects not to become a
1448 member, may thereafter apply for and be admitted to membership;
1449 but no such employee shall receive prior service credit unless he
1450 becomes a member before July 1, 1953, except as provided in
1451 paragraph (b).

1452 (i) If any member of this system changes his employment
1453 to any agency of the state having an actuarially funded retirement
1454 system, the board of trustees may authorize the transfer of the
1455 member's creditable service and of the present value of the
1456 member's employer's accumulation account and of the present value

1457 of the member's accumulated membership contributions to that other
1458 system, provided that the employee agrees to the transfer of his
1459 accumulated membership contributions and provided that the other
1460 system is authorized to receive and agrees to make the transfer.

1461 If any member of any other actuarially funded system
1462 maintained by an agency of the state changes his employment to an
1463 agency covered by this system, the board of trustees may authorize
1464 the receipt of the transfer of the member's creditable service and
1465 of the present value of the member's employer's accumulation
1466 account and of the present value of the member's accumulated
1467 membership contributions from the other system, provided that the
1468 employee agrees to the transfer of his accumulated membership
1469 contributions to this system and provided that the other system is
1470 authorized and agrees to make the transfer.

1471 (j) Wherever state employment is referred to in this
1472 section, it includes joint employment by state and federal
1473 agencies of all kinds.

1474 (k) Employees of a political subdivision or
1475 instrumentality who were employed by the political subdivision or
1476 instrumentality before an agreement between the entity and the
1477 Public Employees' Retirement System to extend the benefits of this
1478 article to its employees, and which agreement provides for the
1479 establishment of retroactive service credit, and who became
1480 members of the retirement system before July 1, 2007, and have
1481 remained contributors to the retirement system for four (4) years,
1482 or who became members of the retirement system on or after July 1,

1483 2007, and have remained contributors to the retirement system for
1484 eight (8) years, may receive credit for that retroactive service
1485 with the political subdivision or instrumentality, provided that
1486 the employee and/or employer, as provided under the terms of the
1487 modification of the joinder agreement in allowing that coverage,
1488 pay into the retirement system the employer's and employee's
1489 contributions on wages paid the member during the previous
1490 employment, together with interest or actuarial cost as determined
1491 by the board covering the period from the date the service was
1492 rendered until the payment for the credit for the service was
1493 made. Those wages shall be verified by the Social Security
1494 Administration or employer payroll records. Effective July 1,
1495 1998, upon eligibility as noted above, a member may receive credit
1496 for that retroactive service with the political subdivision or
1497 instrumentality provided:

1498 (i) The member shall furnish proof satisfactory to
1499 the board of trustees of certification of those services from the
1500 political subdivision or instrumentality where the services were
1501 rendered or verification by the Social Security Administration;
1502 and

1503 (ii) The member shall pay to the retirement system
1504 on the date he or she is eligible for that credit or at any time
1505 thereafter before the date of retirement the actuarial cost for
1506 each year of that creditable service. The provisions of this
1507 subparagraph (ii) shall be subject to the limitations of Section

1508 415 of the Internal Revenue Code and regulations promulgated under
1509 Section 415.

1510 Nothing contained in this paragraph (k) shall be construed to
1511 limit the authority of the board to allow the correction of
1512 reporting errors or omissions based on the payment of employee and
1513 employer contributions plus applicable interest. Payment for that
1514 time shall be made beginning with the most recent service. Upon
1515 the payment of all or part of the required contributions, plus
1516 interest or the actuarial cost as provided above, the member shall
1517 receive credit for the period of creditable service for which full
1518 payment has been made to the retirement system.

1519 (l) Through June 30, 1998, any state service eligible
1520 for retroactive service credit, no part of which has ever been
1521 reported, and requiring the payment of employee and employer
1522 contributions plus interest, or, from and after July 1, 1998, any
1523 state service eligible for retroactive service credit, no part of
1524 which has ever been reported to the retirement system, and
1525 requiring the payment of the actuarial cost for that creditable
1526 service, may, at the member's option, be purchased in quarterly
1527 increments as provided above at the time that its purchase is
1528 otherwise allowed.

1529 (m) All rights to purchase retroactive service credit
1530 or repay a refund as provided in Section 25-11-101 et seq. shall
1531 terminate upon retirement.

1532 **II. THOSE WHO ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR MEMBERSHIP**

3 OF THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM LAWS AND INCLUDE HEALTH
4 CARE COLLABORATIVES IN THE DEFINITION; TO AMEND SECTION 25-11-127,
5 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO EXEMPT CERTAIN PEOPLE EMPLOYED BY OR
6 PAID FOR ANY SERVICE BY A HEALTH CARE COLLABORATIVE OR OTHER
7 ORGANIZATION; TO CONFORM TO NEW SECTION 25-11-126; TO CREATE NEW
8 SECTION 25-11-126, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE THAT
9 PERSONS WHO HAVE AT LEAST 30 YEARS OF CREDITABLE SERVICE IN THE
10 PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM, WHO WERE EMPLOYED AS PUBLIC
11 SCHOOL TEACHERS AT THE TIME OF THEIR RETIREMENT AND WHO HAVE BEEN
12 RETIRED AT LEAST 90 DAYS AND RECEIVING A RETIREMENT ALLOWANCE, MAY
13 BE EMPLOYED AS TEACHERS IN CERTAIN PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS AFTER
14 THEIR RETIREMENT AND RECEIVE A RETIREMENT ALLOWANCE FROM THE
15 PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM DURING THEIR EMPLOYMENT AS
16 TEACHERS IN ADDITION TO A SET SALARY; TO PROVIDE THAT SUCH RETIRED
17 TEACHERS SHALL BE ELIGIBLE TO RETURN TO TEACHING AND CONTINUE TO
18 RECEIVE A RETIREMENT BENEFIT FOR A TOTAL OF FIVE YEARS; TO
19 STIPULATE THE AMOUNT TO BE PAID BY SCHOOL DISTRICTS, WHICH AVAIL
20 THEMSELVES OF REEMPLOYING RETIRED TEACHERS TO PERS; TO PROVIDE
21 THAT ANY TIME WORKED BY A RETIRED TEACHER IN A SCHOOL DISTRICT
22 THAT IS LESS THAN A FULL CONTRACTUAL TERM OF TRADITIONAL TEACHERS
23 SHALL CONSTITUTE ONE OF THE FIVE YEARS OF POST-RETIREMENT TEACHING
24 ELIGIBILITY AND THE SALARY AUTHORIZED FOR SUCH INDIVIDUAL SHALL BE
25 PRORATED FOR ANY TIME WORKED LESS THAN A FULL ACADEMIC YEAR; TO
26 PROVIDE THAT A RETIRED TEACHER SHALL NOT BE RESTRICTED TO TEACHING
27 IN ONE SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR HIS OR HER PERIOD OF POST-RETIREMENT
28 TEACHING ELIGIBILITY; TO PROVIDE THAT SCHOOL DISTRICTS MAY EMPLOY
29 RETIRED TEACHERS BASED ON CERTAIN CRITICAL TEACHER SHORTAGE
30 CRITERIA DEVELOPED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION; TO AMEND
31 SECTION 37-19-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE FOR THE
32 SALARY FOR RETIRED TEACHERS RETURNING TO THE CLASSROOM; TO ALLOW
33 RETIRED TEACHERS WHO HAD RECEIVED NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION
34 PRIOR TO RETIREMENT TO CONTINUE RECEIVING THE ANNUAL SUPPLEMENT
35 FOR SUCH CERTIFICATION; TO AMEND SECTIONS 25-11-123, MISSISSIPPI
36 CODE OF 1972, IN CONFORMITY THERETO; TO PROVIDE THAT THE INCREASE
37 IN THE EMPLOYER'S CONTRIBUTION RATE THAT IS SCHEDULED TO TAKE
38 EFFECT ON JULY 1, 2024, IS RESCINDED AND SHALL NOT TAKE EFFECT; TO
39 REQUIRE THAT ANY RECOMMENDATION BY THE BOARD TO ADJUST EMPLOYER
40 CONTRIBUTIONS BE ACCOMPANIED BY AT LEAST TWO INDEPENDENT ACTUARIAL
41 ASSESSMENTS; TO ALLOW THE BOARD TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING
42 ADDITIONAL FUNDING SOURCES FOR THE RETIREMENT PLAN, INCLUDING
43 EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION INCREASES, BASED ON THE PLAN'S ASSETS AND
44 LIABILITIES, AND THE REQUIRED ACTUARIAL ASSESSMENTS; TO RESERVE TO
45 THE LEGISLATURE THE AUTHORITY TO IMPLEMENT SUCH RECOMMENDATIONS;
46 TO SPECIFY THAT THE SECTION SHALL NOT BE CONSTRUED TO PROVIDE
47 AUTHORITY TO REDUCE OR ELIMINATE ANY EARNED BENEFITS PROVIDED BY
48 THE STATE TO CURRENT RETIREES OR CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE RETIREMENT
49 SYSTEM; TO BRING FORWARD SECTION 25-11-105, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
50 1972, FOR THE PURPOSE OF POSSIBLE AMENDMENT; AND FOR RELATED
51 PURPOSES.

SS26\HB1618A.2J

Amanda White
Secretary of the Senate