

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2023 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

Senate Bill 449

BY SENATORS NELSON, DEEDS, OLIVERIO, AND HUNT

[Introduced January 24, 2023; referred
to the Committee on Pensions; and then to the
Committee on Finance]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §5-10C-3, §5-10C-4, and §5-10C-5 of the Code of West Virginia,
2 1931, as amended; all relating to government employees' retirement plans; updating
3 definitions; clarifying pick-up contributions for nonteachers; and inserting new retirement
4 plan in savings clause.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 10C. GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT PLANS.

§5-10C-3. Definitions.

1 The following words and phrases as used in this article, unless a different meaning is
2 clearly indicated by the context, have the following meanings:

3 (1) "Accumulated contributions" means the sum of all amounts credited to a member's
4 individual account in the member's deposit fund and includes both contributions deducted from
5 the compensation of a member and contributions of a member picked up and paid by the
6 member's participating public employer, plus applicable interest thereon.

7 (2) "Board of trustees" means, as appropriate: The Consolidated Public Retirement Board
8 created in article ten-d of this chapter; the Higher Education Policy Commission; the West Virginia
9 Council for Community and Technical College Education; the institutional governing boards
10 responsible for the higher education retirement plan and supplemental retirement plan; or the
11 boards of trustees of the firemen's and policemen's pension and relief funds created in §8-22-1
12 *et seq.* of this code.

13 (3) "Employee" means any person, whether appointed, elected or under contract,
14 providing services for a public employer for which compensation is paid and who is a member of
15 the applicable retirement system.

16 (4) "Member" means any person who has accumulated contributions standing to his or
17 her credit in a retirement system.

18 (5) "Member contributions" means, as appropriate: The contributions required by §5-10-
19 29 of this code from employees who are members of the West Virginia Public Employees

20 Retirement System; the contributions required by section §15-2-26 of this code from employees
21 who are members of the West Virginia State Police Death, Disability and Retirement Fund; the
22 contributions required by §7-14D-7 of this code from employees who are members of the Deputy
23 Sheriff Retirement System; the contributions required by §18-7A-14 of this code from employees
24 who are members of the State Teachers Retirement System; the contributions authorized or
25 required by §18-7A-14a of said chapter or by §18-23-4a of said chapter from employees who are
26 members of the West Virginia higher education retirement plan and supplemental retirement plan;
27 the contributions required by §51-9-4 of this code from employees who are members of the
28 Judges' Retirement System; the contributions required by §8-22-19 of this code from employees
29 who are members of municipal firemen's and policemen's pension and relief funds; the
30 contributions required by §8-22A-8 of this code from employees who are members of the
31 Municipal Police Officers and Firefighters Retirement System; the contributions required by §18-
32 7B-9 of this code from employees who are members of the Teachers' Defined Contribution
33 Retirement System; the contributions required by §15-2A-5 of this code from the employees who
34 are members of the West Virginia State Police Retirement System; ~~or~~ the contributions required
35 by §16-5V-8 of this code from employees who are members of the West Virginia Emergency
36 Medical Services Retirement System; or the contributions required by §20-18-8 of this code from
37 employees who are members of the West Virginia Natural Resources Police Officers Retirement
38 System.

39 (6) "Participating public employer" means the State of West Virginia, any board,
40 commission, department, institution or spending unit and includes any agency with full-time
41 employees, created by rule of the Supreme Court of Appeals, which for the purpose of this article
42 shall be considered a department of state government and county boards of education with
43 respect to teachers and nonteachers employed by them; any political subdivision in the state
44 which has elected to cover its employees, as defined in this article, under the West Virginia Public
45 Employees Retirement System; any political subdivision in the state which has elected to cover

46 its employees, as defined in this article, under the Deputy Sheriff Retirement System; any political
47 subdivision in the state which has elected to cover its employees, as defined in this article, under
48 the West Virginia Emergency Medical Services Retirement System; ~~and~~ any political subdivision
49 in this state which is subject to the provisions of articles twenty-two and twenty-two-a, chapter
50 eight of this code; and any public charter school established pursuant to §18-5G-1 et seq. of this
51 code which has elected to participate in, and cover its employees under, either the State Teachers
52 Retirement System or the Teachers' Defined Contribution Retirement System.

53 (7) "Political subdivision" means the State of West Virginia, a county, city or town in the
54 state; a school corporation or corporate unit; any separate corporation or instrumentality
55 established by one or more counties, cities or towns, as permitted by law; any corporation or
56 instrumentality supported in most part by counties, cities or towns; any public corporation charged
57 by law with the performance of a governmental function and whose jurisdiction is coextensive with
58 one or more counties, cities or towns, any agency or organization established by or approved by
59 the Department of Health and Human Resources for the provision of community health or mental
60 retardation services and which is supported in part by state, county or municipal funds.

61 (8) "Retirement system" means, as appropriate: The West Virginia Public Employees
62 Retirement System created in §5-10-1 et seq. of this code; the West Virginia State Police Death,
63 Disability and Retirement Fund created in §15-2-26 through §15-2-39a of this code, inclusive; the
64 West Virginia Deputy Sheriff Retirement System created in §7-14D-1 et seq. of this code; the
65 state Teachers Retirement System created in §18-7A-1 et seq. of this code; the West Virginia
66 higher education retirement plan and supplemental retirement plan created in §18-7A-14a of this
67 code and §18-23-4a of this code; the Judges' Retirement System created in §51-9-1 et seq. of
68 this code; the firemen's or policemen's pension and relief funds created in §8-22-16 of this code;
69 the Municipal Police Officers and Firefighters Retirement System created in §8-22A-4 of this code;
70 the Teachers' Defined Contribution Retirement System created in article seven-b, chapter
71 eighteen of this code; the West Virginia State Police Retirement System created in article two-a,

72 chapter fifteen of this code; ~~or~~ the West Virginia Emergency Medical Services Retirement System
73 created in §16-5V-1 *et seq.* of this code; or the West Virginia Natural Resources Police Officers
74 Retirement System created in article eighteen, chapter twenty of this code.

75 (9) "Teacher" and "nonteacher" ~~has~~ have the ~~meaning~~ meanings ascribed to the ~~term~~
76 terms "teacher member" and "nonteaching member" in §18-7A-3 of this code.

§5-10C-4. Pick-up of members' contributions by participating public employers.

1 (a) The State of West Virginia for its public employees and county boards of education for
2 its teachers and nonteachers shall pick-up and pay the contributions which the employees are
3 required by law to make to the retirement system in which they are a member for all compensation
4 earned by its member employees after June 30, 1986. Any political subdivision that is a
5 participating public employer in the West Virginia Public Employees Retirement System shall pick-
6 up and pay the contributions which the employees are required by law to make to the retirement
7 system in which they are members for all compensation earned by its member employees after
8 January 1, 1995. Public employers participating in the Municipal Police Officers and Firefighters
9 Retirement System shall pick-up and pay the contributions which the employees are required by
10 law to make to the system in which they are members for all compensation earned by its member
11 employees beginning January 1, 2010. Counties shall pick-up and pay the contributions which
12 the employees are required by law to make to the Deputy Sheriff Retirement System in which
13 they are members for all compensation earned by its member employees after June 30, 1998.
14 Any election made by a political subdivision to pick-up and pay employee contributions prior to
15 January 1, 1995, remains in effect and is not altered or amended by the amendments made to
16 this section during the regular legislative session, 1995. Unless a different commencement date
17 for pick-up is specifically stated in this section, all participating public employers under this article,
18 with respect to retirement systems subject to this article, shall pick-up and pay the contributions
19 which their employees are required by law to make to the retirement system in which they are a
20 member from and after the commencement of the required employee contributions.

21 (b) When the participating public employer picks up and pays the contributions of its
22 member employees, the contributions, although designated by statute as employee contributions,
23 shall be treated as employer contributions in determining the tax treatment thereof under article
24 twenty-one, chapter eleven of this code and the federal Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as
25 amended, and the contributions shall not be included in the gross income of the employee in
26 determining his or her tax treatment under those provisions until they are distributed or made
27 available to the employee or his or her beneficiary. The participating public employer shall pay
28 these employee contributions from the same source of funds used in paying compensation to the
29 employee, by effecting an equal cash reduction in the gross salary of the employee, or by an off-
30 set against future salary increases, or by a combination of reduction in gross salary and off-set
31 against future salary increases. In no event shall any employee of a participating public employer
32 have the right to opt out of pick-up or to elect to receive the picked-up and contributed amounts
33 directly instead of having them paid by the participating public employer into the retirement system
34 pursuant to this article.

35 (c) When employee contributions are picked up and paid by the participating public
36 employer, they shall be treated by the board of trustees in the same manner and to the same
37 extent as employee contributions made prior to the date on which employee contributions are
38 picked up by the participating public employer.

39 (d) The amount of employee contributions picked up by the participating public employer
40 shall be paid to the retirement system in the manner and form and in the frequency required by
41 the board of trustees and shall be accompanied by supporting data that the board of trustees may
42 prescribe. When paid to the retirement system, each of these amounts shall be credited to the
43 deposit fund account of the member for whom the contribution was picked up and paid by the
44 participating public employer.

§5-10C-5. Savings clause.

1 In enacting this article, it is the intent of the Legislature that the retirement plan created
2 pursuant to this article and those created pursuant to §5-10-1 *et seq.*; §7-14D-1 *et seq.*; §8-22A-

3 1 *et seq.*; §15-2-1 *et seq.*; §18-7A-1 *et seq.*; §51-9-1 *et seq.*; §18-23-4a; §8-22-16; §18-7B-1 *et*
4 *seq.*; §15-2A-1 *et seq.*; ~~and~~ §16-5-1 *et seq.*; and §20-18-1 *et seq.* of this code qualify under
5 Section 401 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and that the member
6 contributions picked up by the participating public employer qualify under Subsection (h), Section
7 414 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. If the United States Internal Revenue
8 Service does not approve of certain sections or phraseology of certain sections of this article as
9 being in compliance with the statutes or regulations governing the Internal Revenue Service, the
10 respective boards of trustees, in the adoption of the deferred compensation plan, shall adopt the
11 terminology with respect to those sections that comply with the statutes or regulations governing
12 the Internal Revenue Service.