

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2022 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

Senate Bill 442

BY SENATORS NELSON, CLEMENTS, TRUMP, PLYMALE,
AND HAMILTON

[Introduced January 20, 2022; referred
to the Committee on Pensions; and then to the
Committee on Finance]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §5-10-14 and §5-10-30 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as
2 amended, all relating to service credit, retroactive provisions, and the refund of
3 accumulated contributions for certain members of the West Virginia Public Employees
4 Retirement System.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 10. WEST VIRGINIA PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT ACT.

§5-10-14. Service credit; retroactive provisions.

1 (a) The board of trustees shall credit each member with the prior service and contributing
2 service to which he or she is entitled based upon rules adopted by the board of trustees and
3 based upon the following:

4 (1) In no event may less than 10 days of service rendered by a member in any calendar
5 month be credited as a month of service: *Provided*, That for employees of the State Legislature
6 whose term of employment is otherwise classified as temporary and who are employed to perform
7 services required by the Legislature for its regular sessions or during the interim between regular
8 sessions and who have been or are employed during regular sessions or during the interim
9 between regular sessions in seven consecutive calendar years, service credit of one month shall
10 be awarded for each 10 days employed in the interim between regular sessions, which interim
11 days shall be cumulatively calculated so that any 10 days, regardless of calendar month or year,
12 shall be calculated toward any award of one month of service credit;

13 (2) Except for hourly employees, and those persons who first become members of the
14 retirement system on or after July 1, 2015, 10 or more months of service credit earned in any
15 calendar year shall be credited as a year of service: *Provided*, That no more than one year of
16 service may be credited to any member for all service rendered by him or her in any calendar
17 year and no days may be carried over by a member from one calendar year to another calendar
18 year where the member has received a full-year credit for that year; and

19 (3) Service may be credited to a member who was employed by a political subdivision if

20 his or her employment occurred within a period of 30 years immediately preceding the date the
21 political subdivision became a participating public employer.

22 (b) The board of trustees shall grant service credit to ~~employees of boards of health, the~~
23 ~~Clerk of the House of Delegates and the Clerk of the State Senate or to~~ any former and present
24 member of the State Teachers Retirement System who have been contributing members in the
25 Public Employees Retirement System for more than three years, for service previously credited
26 by the State Teachers Retirement System and shall require the transfer of the member's
27 accumulated contributions to the system and shall also require a deposit, with reinstatement
28 interest as set forth in the board's Rule, Refund, Reinstatement, Retroactive Service, Loan and
29 Correction of Error Interest Factors, 162 C. S. R. 7, of any withdrawals of contributions any time
30 prior to the member's retirement: Provided, That members of the State Teachers Retirement
31 System who first became a member of the State Teachers Retirement System on or after July 1,
32 2015, may only transfer to the Public Employees Retirement System if they first became a
33 member of the Public Employees Retirement System on or after July 1, 2015. Repayment of
34 withdrawals shall be as directed by the Board of Trustees.

35 (c) Court reporters who are acting in an official capacity, although paid by funds other than
36 the county commission or State Auditor, may receive prior service credit for time served in that
37 capacity.

38 (d) Active members who previously worked in Comprehensive Employment and Training
39 Act (CETA) may receive service credit for time served in that capacity: *Provided*, That in order to
40 receive service credit under the provisions of this subsection the following conditions must be
41 met: (1) The member must have moved from temporary employment with the participating
42 employer to permanent full-time employment with the participating employer within 120 days
43 following the termination of the member's CETA employment; (2) the board must receive evidence
44 that establishes to a reasonable degree of certainty as determined by the board that the member
45 previously worked in CETA; and (3) the member shall pay to the board an amount equal to the

46 employer and employee contribution plus interest at the amount set by the board for the amount
47 of service credit sought pursuant to this subsection: *Provided, however,* That the maximum
48 service credit that may be obtained under the provisions of this subsection is two years: *Provided*
49 *further,* That a member must apply and pay for the service credit allowed under this subsection
50 and provide all necessary documentation by March 31, 2003: *And provided further,* That the board
51 shall exercise due diligence to notify affected employees of the provisions of this subsection.

52 (e) (1) Employees of the State Legislature whose terms of employment are otherwise
53 classified as temporary and who are employed to perform services required by the Legislature for
54 its regular sessions or during the interim time between regular sessions shall receive service
55 credit for the time served in that capacity in accordance with the following: For purposes of this
56 section, the term "regular session" means day one through day 60 of a 60-day legislative session
57 or day one through day 30 of a 30-day legislative session. Employees of the State Legislature
58 whose term of employment is otherwise classified as temporary and who are employed to perform
59 services required by the Legislature for its regular sessions or during the interim time between
60 regular sessions and who have been or are employed during regular sessions or during the interim
61 time between regular sessions in seven consecutive calendar years, as certified by the clerk of
62 the house in which the employee served, shall receive service credit of six months for all regular
63 sessions served, as certified by the clerk of the house in which the employee served, or shall
64 receive service credit of three months for each regular 30-day session served prior to 1971:
65 *Provided,* That employees of the State Legislature whose term of employment is otherwise
66 classified as temporary and who are employed to perform services required by the Legislature for
67 its regular sessions and who have been or are employed during the regular sessions in 13
68 consecutive calendar years as either temporary employees or full-time employees or a
69 combination thereof, as certified by the clerk of the house in which the employee served, shall
70 receive a service credit of 12 months for each regular session served, as certified by the clerk of
71 the house in which the employee served: *Provided, however,* That the amendments made to this

72 subsection during the 2002 regular session of the Legislature only apply to employees of the
73 Legislature who are employed by the Legislature as either temporary employees or full-time
74 employees as of January 1, 2002, or who become employed by the Legislature as temporary or
75 full-time employees for the first time after January 1, 2002. Employees of the State Legislature
76 whose terms of employment are otherwise classified as temporary and who are employed to
77 perform services required by the Legislature during the interim time between regular sessions
78 shall receive service credit of one month for each 10 days served during the interim between
79 regular sessions, which interim days shall be cumulatively calculated so that any 10 days,
80 regardless of calendar month or year, shall be calculated toward any award of one month of
81 service credit: *Provided further*, That no more than one year of service may be credited to any
82 temporary legislative employee for all service rendered by that employee in any calendar year
83 and no days may be carried over by a temporary legislative employee from one calendar year to
84 another calendar year where the member has received a full year credit for that year. Service
85 credit awarded for legislative employment pursuant to this section shall be used for the purpose
86 of calculating that member's retirement annuity, pursuant to §5-10-22 of this code, and
87 determining eligibility as it relates to credited service, notwithstanding any other provision of this
88 section. Certification of employment for a complete legislative session and for interim days shall
89 be determined by the clerk of the house in which the employee served, based upon employment
90 records. Service of 55 days of a regular session constitutes an absolute presumption of service
91 for a complete legislative session and service of 27 days of a 30-day regular session occurring
92 prior to 1971 constitutes an absolute presumption of service for a complete legislative session.
93 Once a legislative employee has been employed during regular sessions for seven consecutive
94 years or has become a full-time employee of the Legislature, that employee shall receive the
95 service credit provided in this section for all regular and interim sessions and interim days worked
96 by that employee, as certified by the clerk of the house in which the employee served, regardless
97 of when the session or interim legislative employment occurred: *And provided further*, That regular

98 session legislative employment for seven consecutive years may be served in either or both
99 houses of the Legislature.

100 (2) For purposes of this section, employees of the Joint Committee on Government and
101 Finance are entitled to the same benefits as employees of the House of Delegates or the Senate:
102 *Provided*, That for joint committee employees whose terms of employment are otherwise
103 classified as temporary, employment in preparation for regular sessions, certified by the legislative
104 manager as required by the Legislature for its regular sessions, shall be considered the same as
105 employment during regular sessions to meet service credit requirements for sessions served.

106 (f) Any employee may purchase retroactive service credit for periods of employment in
107 which contributions were not deducted from the employee's pay. In the purchase of service credit
108 for employment prior to 1989 in any department, including the Legislature, which operated from
109 the General Revenue Fund and which was not expressly excluded from budget appropriations in
110 which blanket appropriations were made for the state's share of public employees' retirement
111 coverage in the years prior to 1989, the employee shall pay the employee's share. Other
112 employees shall pay the state's share and the employee's share to purchase retroactive service
113 credit. Where an employee purchases service credit for employment which occurred after 1988,
114 that employee shall pay for the employee's share and the employer shall pay its share for the
115 purchase of retroactive service credit: *Provided*, That no legislative employee and no current or
116 former member of the Legislature may be required to pay any interest or penalty upon the
117 purchase of retroactive service credit in accordance with the provisions of this section where the
118 employee was not eligible to become a member during the years for which he or she is purchasing
119 retroactive credit or had the employee attempted to contribute to the system during the years for
120 which he or she is purchasing retroactive service credit and the contributions would have been
121 refused by the board: *Provided, however*, That a current legislative employee purchasing
122 retroactive credit under this section shall do so within 24 months of beginning contributions to the
123 retirement system as a legislative employee or no later than December 31, 2016, whichever

124 occurs later: *Provided further*, That once a legislative employee becomes a member of the
125 retirement system, he or she may purchase retroactive service credit for any time he or she was
126 employed by the Legislature and did not receive service credit. Any service credit purchased shall
127 be credited as six months for each 60-day session worked, three months for each 30-day session
128 worked or 12 months for each 60-day session for legislative employees who have been employed
129 during regular sessions in 13 consecutive calendar years, as certified by the clerk of the house in
130 which the employee served, and credit for interim employment as provided in this subsection: *And*
131 *provided further*, That this legislative service credit shall also be used for months of service in
132 order to meet the 60-month requirement for the payments of a temporary legislative employee
133 member's retirement annuity: *And provided further*, That no legislative employee may be required
134 to pay for any service credit beyond the actual time he or she worked regardless of the service
135 credit which is credited to him or her pursuant to this section: *And provided further*, That any
136 legislative employee may request a recalculation of his or her credited service to comply with the
137 provisions of this section at any time.

138 (g) (1) Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, the seven consecutive calendar
139 years requirement and the 13 consecutive calendar years requirement and the service credit
140 requirements set forth in this section shall be applied retroactively to all periods of legislative
141 employment prior to the passage of this section, including any periods of legislative employment
142 occurring before the seven consecutive and 13 consecutive calendar years referenced in this
143 section: *Provided*, That the employee has not retired prior to the effective date of the amendments
144 made to this section in the 2002 regular session of the Legislature.

145 (2) The requirement of seven consecutive years and the requirement of 13 consecutive
146 years apply retroactively to all legislative employment prior to the effective date of the 2006
147 amendments to this section.

148 (h) The board of trustees shall grant service credit to any former or present member of the
149 State Police Death, Disability and Retirement Fund who has been a contributing member of this

150 system for more than three years for service previously credited by the State Police Death,
151 Disability and Retirement Fund if the member transfers all of his or her contributions to the State
152 Police Death, Disability and Retirement Fund to the system created in this article, including
153 repayment of any amounts withdrawn any time from the State Police Death, Disability and
154 Retirement Fund by the member seeking the transfer allowed in this subsection: *Provided*, That
155 there shall be added by the member to the amounts transferred or repaid under this subsection
156 an amount which shall be sufficient to equal the contributions he or she would have made had
157 the member been under the Public Employees Retirement System during the period of his or her
158 membership in the State Police Death, Disability and Retirement Fund, excluding contributions
159 on lump sum payment for annual leave, plus interest at a rate determined by the board.

160 (i) The provisions of §5-10-22h of this code are not applicable to the amendments made
161 to this section during the 2006 regular session.

§5-10-30. Refund of accumulated contributions.

1 (a) In the event a member leaves the employ of a participating public employer prior to the
2 date ~~he~~ the member becomes entitled to retire with an annuity payable by the retirement system,
3 ~~he~~ the member shall be paid, upon ~~his~~ the member's written application filed with the board of
4 trustees, ~~his~~ their accumulated contributions ~~standing to his credit in the members deposit fund,~~
5 if ~~his~~ the member's separation from the employ of a participating public employer occurs
6 subsequent to a period of two years ~~from and after the date he last became a member of the~~
7 ~~system of contributing service.~~ If ~~his~~ the member's said separation from the employ of a
8 participating public employer occurs ~~within a period of~~ prior to two years ~~from and after the date~~
9 ~~he last became a member of the system~~ of contributing service, ~~he~~ the member shall be paid ~~his~~
10 their accumulated contributions ~~standing to his credit in the members deposit fund~~ less the total
11 regular interest credited to ~~his~~ their individual account ~~therein; and the said total interest credit~~
12 ~~shall be transferred to the income fund.~~

13 (b) In the event a member dies and does not leave a beneficiary entitled to an annuity

14 payable by the retirement system, ~~his~~ the member's accumulated contributions ~~standing to his~~
15 ~~credit in the members deposit fund~~ at the time of his their death shall be paid to such person or
16 persons as he shall have nominated by written designation duly executed and filed with the board
17 of trustees. If there be no such designated person or persons surviving the said member, ~~his~~ their
18 said accumulated contributions shall be paid to ~~his~~ their estate.

19 ~~(c) Refunds of a member's contributions or accumulated contributions, as the case may~~
20 ~~be, may be made in equal installments according to such rules and regulations as the board of~~
21 ~~trustees may from time to time adopt.~~

22 ~~(d)~~(c) In the event a member dies and a refund of his the member's contributions is due
23 to be made to an infant child or children by reason of being the person or persons nominated by
24 written designation duly executed and filed with the retirement system, and the amount of said
25 refund is less than \$1,000, then, and in said event, the board of trustees may make said refund,
26 upon written application, to the closest relative or natural guardian for the use of said infant child
27 or children. The board of trustees may, at its discretion, require that said relative or natural
28 guardian post bond with the retirement system to insure that said money will be used for the
29 benefit of said infant child or children. In any event, before said refund is made to said relative or
30 natural guardian of the said infant or infants, said relative or natural guardian shall give the
31 retirement system an indemnifying release of said sums so paid over.

32 (d) In the event a member leaves the employ of a participating public employer and is
33 entitled to retire with an annuity payable by the retirement system, but will be subject to an annuity
34 reduction at any time due to the 105 percent provision contained in §5-10-17(b) of this code, the
35 member may be paid, upon the member's written application filed with the board of trustees, their
36 accumulated contributions.