

# WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

## 2020 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

### Senate Bill 179

FISCAL  
NOTE

BY SENATORS BLAIR AND ROMANO

[Introduced January 9, 2020; referred  
to the Committee on Pensions; and then to the  
Committee on Finance]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §5-10-2 and §5-10-52 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as  
 2 amended; to amend said code by adding thereto a new section, designated §5-10-56; and  
 3 to amend said code by adding thereto a new section, designated §18-7A-17c, all relating  
 4 to retirement and pension benefits of certain members of the West Virginia Public  
 5 Employees Retirement System and the West Virginia Teachers Retirement System who  
 6 serve in the Legislature; providing that persons who first become members of the  
 7 retirement system after June 30, 2020, shall have their final average salary calculated  
 8 based on total years of service; and providing that members of the Legislature shall  
 9 receive one day of credited service for each day paid.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

**CHAPTER 5. GENERAL POWERS AND AUTHORITY OF THE  
 GOVERNOR, SECRETARY OF STATE, AND ATTORNEY GENERAL;  
 BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS; MISCELLANEOUS AGENCIES,  
 COMMISSIONS, OFFICES, PROGRAMS, ETC.**

**ARTICLE 10. WEST VIRGINIA PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT ACT.**

**§5-10-2. Definitions.**

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

3 (1) "Accumulated contributions" means the sum of all amounts deducted from the  
 4 compensations of a member and credited to his or her individual account in the member's deposit  
 5 fund, together with regular interest on the contributions;

6 (2) "Accumulated net benefit" means the aggregate amount of all benefits paid to or on  
 7 behalf of a retired member;

8 (3) "Actuarial equivalent" means a benefit of equal value computed upon the basis of a

9 mortality table and regular interest adopted by the Board of Trustees from time to time: *Provided,*  
10 That when used in the context of compliance with the federal maximum benefit requirements of  
11 Section 415 of the Internal Revenue Code, actuarial equivalent shall be computed using the  
12 mortality tables and interest rates required to comply with those requirements;

13 (4) "Annuity" means an annual amount payable by the retirement system throughout the  
14 life of a person. All annuities shall be paid in equal monthly installments, rounding to the upper  
15 cent for any fraction of a cent;

16 (5) "Annuity reserve" means the present value of all payments to be made to a retirant or  
17 beneficiary of a retirant on account of any annuity, computed upon the basis of mortality and other  
18 tables of experience, and regular interest, adopted by the Board of Trustees from time to time;

19 (6) "Beneficiary" means any person, except a retirant, who is entitled to, or will be entitled  
20 to, an annuity or other benefit payable by the retirement system;

21 (7) "Board of trustees" or "board" means the Board of Trustees of the West Virginia  
22 Consolidated Public Retirement System;

23 (8) "Compensation" means the remuneration paid a member by a participating public  
24 employer for personal services rendered by the member to the participating public employer. In  
25 the event a member's remuneration is not all paid in money, his or her participating public  
26 employer shall fix the value of the portion of the remuneration which is not paid in money.

27 ~~Provided, That members~~ Members hired in a position for the first time on or after July 1, 2014,  
28 who receive nonmonetary remuneration shall not have nonmonetary remuneration included in  
29 compensation for retirement purposes and nonmonetary remuneration may not be used in  
30 calculating a member's final average salary. Any lump sum or other payments paid to members  
31 that do not constitute regular salary or wage payments are not considered compensation for the  
32 purpose of withholding contributions for the system or for the purpose of calculating a member's  
33 final average salary. These payments include, but are not limited to, attendance or performance  
34 bonuses, one-time flat fee or lump sum payments, payments paid as a result of excess budget,

35 or employee recognition payments. The board shall have final power to decide whether the  
36 payments shall be considered compensation for purposes of this article;

37 (9) "Contributing service" means service rendered by a member within this state and for  
38 which the member made contributions to a public retirement system account of this state, to the  
39 extent credited him or her as provided by this article;

40 (10) "Credited service" means the sum of a member's prior service credit, military service  
41 credit, workers' compensation service credit, and contributing service credit standing to his or her  
42 credit as provided in this article;

43 (11) "Employee" means any person who serves regularly as an officer or employee, full-  
44 time, on a salary basis, whose tenure is not restricted as to temporary or provisional appointment,  
45 in the service of, and whose compensation is payable, in whole or in part, by any political  
46 subdivision, or an officer or employee whose compensation is calculated on a daily basis and  
47 paid monthly or on completion of assignment, including technicians and other personnel  
48 employed by the West Virginia National Guard whose compensation, in whole or in part, is paid  
49 by the federal government. ~~Provided, That an~~ An employee of the Legislature whose term of  
50 employment is otherwise classified as temporary and who is employed to perform services  
51 required by the Legislature for its regular sessions or during the interim between regular sessions  
52 and who has been or is employed during regular sessions or during the interim between regular  
53 sessions in seven or more consecutive calendar years, as certified by the clerk of the house in  
54 which the employee served, is an employee, any provision to the contrary in this article  
55 notwithstanding, and is entitled to credited service in accordance with provisions of §5-10-14 of  
56 this code. ~~Provided, however, That members~~ Members of the legislative body of any political  
57 subdivision and ~~judges of the state Court of Claims~~ commissioners of the West Virginia Legislative  
58 Claims Commission are employees receiving one year of service credit for each one-year term  
59 served and prorated service credit for any partial term served, anything contained in this article to  
60 the contrary notwithstanding. ~~Provided further, That only~~ Only a compensated board member of

61 a participating public employer appointed to a board of a nonlegislative body for the first time on  
62 or after July 1, 2014, who normally is required to work 12 months per year and 1,040 hours of  
63 service per year is an employee. In any case of doubt as to who is an employee within the meaning  
64 of this article, the board of trustees shall decide the question;

65 (12) "Employer error" means an omission, misrepresentation, or violation of relevant  
66 provisions of this code or of the West Virginia Code of State ~~Regulations~~ Rules or the relevant  
67 provisions of both this code and of the West Virginia Code of State ~~Regulations~~ Rules by the  
68 participating public employer that has resulted in an underpayment or overpayment of  
69 contributions required. A deliberate act contrary to the provisions of this section by a participating  
70 public employer does not constitute employer error;

71 (13) "Final average salary" means either of the following: *Provided*, That salaries for  
72 determining benefits during any determination period may not exceed the maximum  
73 compensation allowed as adjusted for cost of living in accordance with §5-10D-7 of this code and  
74 Section 401(a)(17) of the Internal Revenue Code: *Provided, however*, That the provisions of §5-  
75 10-22h of this code are not applicable to the amendments made to this subdivision during the  
76 2011 regular session of the Legislature:

77 (A) The average of the highest annual compensation received by a member, including a  
78 member of the Legislature who participates in the retirement system in the year 1971 or thereafter,  
79 during any period of three consecutive years of credited service contained within the member's  
80 15 years of credited service immediately preceding the date his or her employment with a  
81 participating public employer last terminated: *Provided*, That for persons who were first hired on  
82 or after July 1, 2015, any period of five consecutive years of contributing service contained within  
83 the member's 15 years of credited service immediately preceding the date his or her employment  
84 with a participating public employer last terminated. For a member of the Legislature who made  
85 his or her first contribution to the member's deposit fund after June 30, 2020, final average salary  
86 is computed as provided in §5-10-52 of this code; or

87 (B) If the member has less than five years of credited service, the average of the annual  
88 rate of compensation received by the member during his or her total years of credited service;  
89 and in determining the annual compensation, under either §5-10-2(13)(A) or §5-10-2(13)(B) of  
90 this code, of a member of the Legislature who participates in the retirement system as a member  
91 of the Legislature in the year 1971, or in any year thereafter, his or her actual legislative  
92 compensation (the total of all compensation paid under §4-2A-2, §4-2A-3, §4-2A-4, and §4-2A-5  
93 of this code), in the year 1971, or in any year thereafter, plus any other compensation he or she  
94 receives in any year from any other participating public employer including the State of West  
95 Virginia, without any multiple in excess of one times his or her actual legislative compensation  
96 and other compensation, shall be used. ~~Provided, That final~~ Final average salary for any former  
97 member of the Legislature or for any member of the Legislature in the year 1971 who, in either  
98 event, was a member of the Legislature on November 30, 1968, or November 30, 1969, or  
99 November 30, 1970, or on November 30 in any one or more of those three years and who  
100 participated in the retirement system as a member of the Legislature in any one or more of those  
101 years means: (i) Either, notwithstanding the provisions of this subdivision preceding this proviso,  
102 \$1,500 multiplied by eight, plus the highest other compensation the former member or member  
103 received in any one of the three years from any other participating public employer including the  
104 State of West Virginia; or (ii) final average salary determined in accordance with paragraph (A) or  
105 (B) of this subdivision, whichever computation produces the higher final average salary, and in  
106 determining the annual compensation under subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, the legislative  
107 compensation of the former member shall be computed on the basis of \$1,500 multiplied by eight,  
108 and the legislative compensation of the member shall be computed on the basis set forth in the  
109 provisions of this ~~subdivision immediately preceding this paragraph~~ section or on the basis of  
110 \$1,500 multiplied by eight, whichever computation ~~as to the member~~ produces the higher annual  
111 compensation;

112 (14) "Internal Revenue Code" means the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended,

113 codified at Title 26 of the United States Code;

114 (15) "Limited credited service" means service by employees of the West Virginia  
115 Educational Broadcasting Authority, in the employment of West Virginia University, during a  
116 period when the employee made contributions to another retirement system, as required by West  
117 Virginia University, and did not make contributions to the Public Employees Retirement System.

118 ~~Provided, That while~~ While limited credited service can be used for the formula set forth in §5-10-  
119 21(e) of this code, it may not be used to increase benefits calculated under §5-10-22 of this code;

120 (16) "Member" means any person who has accumulated contributions standing to his or  
121 her credit in the member's deposit fund;

122 (17) "Participating public employer" means the State of West Virginia, any board,  
123 commission, department, institution, or spending unit and includes any agency created by rule of  
124 the Supreme Court of Appeals having full-time employees, which for the purposes of this article  
125 is considered a department of state government; and any political subdivision in the state which  
126 has elected to cover its employees, as defined in this article, under the West Virginia Public  
127 Employees Retirement System;

128 (18) "Plan year" means the same as referenced in §5-10-42 of this code;

129 (19) "Political subdivision" means the State of West Virginia, a county, city, or town in the  
130 state; a school corporation or corporate unit; any separate corporation or instrumentality  
131 established by one or more counties, cities, or towns, as permitted by law; any corporation or  
132 instrumentality supported in most part by counties, cities, or towns; and any public corporation  
133 charged by law with the performance of a governmental function and whose jurisdiction is  
134 coextensive with one or more counties, cities, or towns. ~~Provided, That any~~ Any mental health  
135 agency participating in the Public Employees Retirement System before July 1, 1997, is  
136 considered a political subdivision solely for the purpose of permitting those employees who are  
137 members of the Public Employees Retirement System to remain members and continue to  
138 participate in the retirement system at their option after July 1, 1997. ~~Provided, however, That~~

139 ~~the~~ The Regional Community Policing Institute which participated in the Public Employees  
140 Retirement System before July 1, 2000, is considered a political subdivision solely for the purpose  
141 of permitting those employees who are members of the Public Employees Retirement System to  
142 remain members and continue to participate in the Public Employees Retirement System after  
143 July 1, 2000;

144 (20) "Prior service" means service rendered prior to July 1, 1961, to the extent credited a  
145 member as provided in this article;

146 (21) "Regular interest" means the rate or rates of interest per annum, compounded  
147 annually, as the Board of Trustees adopts from time to time;

148 (22) "Required beginning date" means April 1 of the calendar year following the later of:

149 (A) The calendar year in which the member attains age 70 1/2 years of age; or

150 (B) The calendar year in which a member who has attained the age 70 1/2 years of age  
151 and who ceases providing service covered under this system to a participating employer;

152 (23) "Retirant" means any member who commences an annuity payable by the retirement  
153 system;

154 (24) "Retirement" means a member's withdrawal from the employ of a participating public  
155 employer and the commencement of an annuity by the retirement system;

156 (25) "Retirement system" or "system" means the West Virginia Public Employees  
157 Retirement System created and established by this article;

158 (26) "Retroactive service" means: ~~(4)~~ (A) Service between July 1, 1961, and the date an  
159 employer decides to become a participating member of the Public Employees Retirement System;

160 ~~(2)~~ (B) service prior to July 1, 1961, for which the employee is not entitled to prior service at no  
161 cost in accordance with 162 CSR 5.13; and ~~(3)~~ (C) service of any member of a legislative body

162 or employees of the State Legislature whose term of employment is otherwise classified as  
163 temporary for which the employee is eligible, but for which the employee did not elect to participate

164 at that time;

165 (27) "Service" means personal service rendered to a participating public employer by an  
 166 employee of a participating public employer; and

167 (28) "State" means the State of West Virginia.

**§5-10-52. Specific provisions relating to certain members of the Legislature and certain service by members of the Legislature.**

1 (a) The provisions of this article specifying that a legislator may be a member of the  
 2 retirement system and at the same time also a member of another state or political subdivision  
 3 retirement program and may receive credit in the retirement system from two or more public  
 4 employments simultaneously and authorizing automatic increases in the annuities of retired  
 5 legislators based upon increases in compensation paid to members of the Legislature shall not  
 6 be applicable to any member of the Legislature who first becomes a member of the retirement  
 7 system as a member of the Legislature during the year 1971, or any year thereafter, nor shall  
 8 such provisions be applicable to the computation of service, credited service, or benefits for any  
 9 period of service as a member of the Legislature for the year 1971, or any year thereafter.

10 (b) Notwithstanding §5-10-2(13) of this code and 162 CSR 5-5 of the rules governing the  
 11 Public Employees Retirement System, "final average salary" means the average of the total  
 12 compensation received by a member from January 1 through December 31 during his or her total  
 13 years of credited service for any member meeting the following criteria:

14 (1) The member served as a member of the Legislature and, after June 30, 2020, made  
 15 his or her first contribution to the member's deposit fund.

16 (2) The member thereafter claims retirement benefits under this article based, in whole or  
 17 in part, on his or her years of contributing service as a member of the Legislature.

**§5-10-56. Calculating service credit for work as a legislator after certain date.**

1 Other provisions in this code notwithstanding, a person who serves as a member of the  
 2 Legislature and makes his or her first contribution to the member's deposit fund after June 30,  
 3 2020, shall receive one day of credited service for each day paid for a regular, special,

4 extraordinary, interim, or extended session or for any day the member may be called to official  
5 duty by the leadership of the member’s respective chamber. No more than one day of credit  
6 service may be earned for any calendar day. The board shall credit a member of the Legislature  
7 under the provisions of this section one month of credited service for each calendar month in  
8 which he or she is paid for 10 or more days.

**CHAPTER 18. EDUCATION.**

**ARTICLE 7A. STATE TEACHERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM.**

**§18-7A-17c. Calculating service credit for work as a legislator after certain date.**

1 Other provisions in this code notwithstanding, a person who serves as a member of the  
2 Legislature and makes his or her first contribution to the member’s deposit fund after June 30,  
3 2020, and who is or becomes a member of the Teachers Retirement System, shall receive one  
4 day of credited service for each day paid for regular, special, extraordinary, interim, or extended  
5 session, or for any day the member may be called to official duty by the leadership of the  
6 member’s respective chamber. No more than one day of credited service may be earned for any  
7 calendar day.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to amend calculation of service credit for pension for new legislators.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.