

SECOND REGULAR SESSION
HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE BILL NO. 501
89TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Reported from the Committee on Retirement, April 17, 1998, with recommendation that the House Committee Substitute for Senate Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 501 Do Pass.
ANNE C. WALKER, Chief Clerk
L2540.06C

AN ACT

To repeal sections 169.020, 169.070, 169.597 and 169.670, RSMo Supp. 1997, relating to public school retirement systems, and to enact in lieu thereof four new sections relating to the same subject, with an emergency clause.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Sections 169.020, 169.070, 169.597 and 169.670, RSMo Supp. 1997, are repealed and four new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 169.020, 169.070, 169.597 and 169.670, to read as follows:

169.020. 1. For the purpose of providing retirement allowances and other benefits for public school teachers, there is hereby created and established a retirement system which shall be a body corporate, shall be under the management of a board of trustees herein described, and shall be known as "The Public School Retirement System of Missouri". Such system shall, by and in [said] **such** name, sue and be sued, transact all of its business, invest all of its funds, and hold all of its cash, securities, and other property. The system so created shall include all school districts in this state, except those in cities that had populations of four hundred thousand or more according to the latest United States decennial census, and such others as are or hereafter may be included in a similar system or in similar systems established by law and made operative; provided, that teachers in school districts of more than four hundred thousand inhabitants who are or may become members of a local retirement system may become members of this system with the same legal benefits as accrue to present members of such state system on the terms and under the conditions provided for in section 169.021. The system hereby established shall begin operations on the first day of July next following the date upon which sections 169.010 to 169.130 shall take effect.

2. The general administration and the responsibility for the proper operation of the retirement system and for making effective the provisions of sections 169.010 to 169.141 are hereby vested in a board of trustees [of seven persons as follows: Two persons to be appointed as trustees by the state board of education; four persons to be elected as trustees by the members and retired members of the public school retirement system created by sections 169.010 to 169.141 and the nonteacher school employee retirement system created by sections 169.600 to 169.715; the state commissioner of education who shall serve as trustee by virtue of the commissioner's office]. **Elected or appointed**

EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

members of the board of trustees on the effective date of this section shall continue to serve until their terms expire. After the effective date of this section and after the current members terms have expired, the board of trustees shall have nine members as follows:

(1) One member of a school board for a public school in this state to be appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the senate;

(2) One person with investment experience to be appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the senate;

(3) Four members of the retirement system created by sections 169.010 to 169.141 to be elected by the members of the system;

(4) One member of the nonteacher school employee retirement system created by sections 169.600 to 169.715 to be elected by the members of the nonteacher school employee retirement system;

(5) Two members who are retirees of the retirement system created by sections 169.010 to 169.141 to be elected by the retired members of the system.

3. Trustees appointed and elected shall be chosen for terms of four years [from the first day of July next following their appointment or election, except that one of the elected trustees shall be a member of the nonteacher school employee retirement system and shall be initially elected for a term of three years from July 1, 1991. The initial term of one other elected trustee shall commence on July 1, 1992.]; **except the members initially appointed or elected after August 28, 1998, whose terms shall be staggered to provide that no more than three members' terms expire in any one year.**

4. [Trustees appointed by the state board of education shall be residents of school districts included in the retirement system, but not employees of such districts. At least one trustee so appointed shall be a retired member of the public school retirement system or the nonteacher school employee retirement system. Three elected trustees shall be members of the public school retirement system and one elected trustee shall be a member of the nonteacher school employee retirement system.

5.] The elections of the trustees shall be arranged for, managed and conducted by the board of trustees of the retirement system.

[6.] **5.** If a vacancy occurs in the office of trustee, the vacancy shall be filled for the unexpired term in the same manner as the office was previously filled.

[7.] **6.** Trustees of the retirement system shall serve without compensation but they shall be reimbursed for expenses necessarily incurred through service on the board of trustees.

[8.] **7.** Each trustee shall be commissioned by the governor, and before entering upon the duties of the trustee's office, shall take and subscribe to an oath or affirmation to support the Constitution of the United States, and of the state of Missouri and to demean himself or herself faithfully in the trustee's office. Such oath as subscribed to shall be filed in the office of secretary of state of this state.

[9.] **8.** Each trustee shall be entitled to one vote in the board of trustees. [Four] **Five** votes shall be necessary for a decision by the trustees at any meeting of the board of trustees. Unless otherwise expressly provided herein, a meeting need not be called or held to make any decision on a matter before the board. Each member must be sent by the executive director a copy of the matter to be decided with full information from the files of the board of trustees. The unanimous decision of [four] **five** trustees may decide the issue by signing a document declaring their decision and sending such written instrument to the executive director of the board, provided that no other member of the board of trustees shall send a dissenting decision to the executive director of the board within fifteen

days after such document and information was mailed to the trustee. If any member is not in agreement with [four] **five** members the matter is to be passed on at a regular board meeting or a special meeting called for the purpose.

[10.] **9.** The board of trustees shall elect one of their number as chairman, and shall employ a full-time executive director, not one of their number, who shall be the executive officer of the board. Other employees of the board shall be chosen only upon the recommendation of the executive director.

[11.] **10.** The board of trustees shall employ an actuary who shall be its technical adviser on matters regarding the operation of the retirement system, and shall perform such duties as are essential in connection therewith, including the recommendation for adoption by the board of mortality and other necessary tables, and the recommendation of the level rate of contributions required for operation of the system.

[12.] **11.** As soon as practicable after the establishment of the retirement system, and annually thereafter, the actuary shall make a valuation of the system's assets and liabilities on the basis of such tables as have been adopted.

[13.] **12.** At least once in the three-year period following the establishment of the retirement system, and in each five-year period thereafter, the board of trustees shall cause to be made an actuarial investigation into the mortality, service, and compensation experience of the members and beneficiaries of the system, and shall make any changes in the mortality, service, and other tables then in use which the results of the investigation show to be necessary.

[14.] **13.** Subject to the limitations of sections 169.010 to 169.141 and 169.600 to 169.715, the board of trustees shall formulate and adopt rules and regulations for the government of its own proceedings and for the administration of the retirement system.

[15.] **14.** The board of trustees shall determine and decide all questions of doubt as to what constitutes employment within the meaning of sections 169.010 to 169.141 and 169.600 to 169.715, the amount of benefits to be paid to members, retired members, beneficiaries and survivors and the amount of contributions to be paid by employer and employee. The executive director shall notify by registered mail both employer and member, retired member, beneficiary or survivor interested in such determination. Any member, retired member, beneficiary or survivor, district or employer adversely affected by such determination, at any time within thirty days after being notified of such determination, may appeal to the circuit court of Cole County. Such appeal shall be tried and determined anew in the circuit court and such court shall hear and consider any and all competent testimony relative to the issues in the case, which may be offered by either party thereto. The circuit court shall determine the rights of the parties under sections 169.010 to 169.141 and 169.600 to 169.715 using the same standard provided in section 536.150, RSMo, and the judgment or order of such circuit court shall be binding upon the parties and the board shall carry out such judgment or order unless an appeal is taken from such decision of the circuit court. Appeals may be had from the circuit court by the employer, member, retired member, beneficiary, survivor or the board, in the manner provided by the civil code.

[16.] **15.** The board of trustees shall keep a record of all its proceedings, which shall be open to public inspection. It shall prepare annually a comprehensive annual financial report, the financial section of which shall be prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards and shall include the independent auditor's opinion letter. The report shall also include information on the actuarial status and the investments of the system. The reports shall be preserved by the executive director and made available for public inspection.

[17.] **16.** The board of trustees shall provide for the maintenance of an individual account with each member, setting forth such data as may be necessary for a ready determination of the member's earnings, contributions, and interest accumulations. It shall also collect and keep in convenient form such data as shall be necessary for the preparation of the required mortality and service tables and for the compilation of such other information as shall be required for the valuation of the system's assets and liabilities. All individually identifiable information pertaining to members, retirees, beneficiaries and survivors shall be confidential.

[18.] **17.** The board of trustees shall meet regularly at least twice each year, with the dates of such meetings to be designated in the rules and regulations adopted by the board. Such other meetings as are deemed necessary may be called by the chairman of the board or by any [four] **five** members acting jointly.

[19.] **18.** The headquarters of the retirement system shall be in Jefferson City, where suitable office space, utilities and other services and equipment necessary for the operation of the system shall be provided by the board of trustees and all costs shall be paid from funds of the system. All suits in which the board of trustees, the board's members or employees or the retirement system established by sections 169.010 to 169.141 or 169.600 to 169.715 are parties shall be brought in Cole County.

[20.] **19.** The board may appoint an attorney or firm of attorneys to be the legal advisor to the board and to represent the board in legal proceedings, however, if the board does not make such an appointment, the attorney general shall be the legal advisor of the board of trustees, and shall represent the board in all legal proceedings.

[21.] **20.** The board of trustees shall arrange for adequate surety bonds covering the executive director. When approved by the board, such bonds shall be deposited in the office of the secretary of state of this state.

[22.] **21.** The board shall arrange for annual audits of the records and accounts of the system by a firm of certified public accountants, the state auditor shall review the audit of the records and accounts of the system at least once every three years and shall report the results to the board of trustees and the governor.

[23.] **22.** The board by its rules may establish an interest charge to be paid by the employer on any payments of contributions which are delinquent. The rate charged shall not exceed the actuarially assumed rate of return on invested funds of the pertinent system.

169.070. 1. The retirement allowance of a member whose age at retirement is sixty years or more and whose creditable service is five years or more, or who has attained age fifty-five and whose creditable service is twenty-five years or more or whose creditable service is thirty years or more regardless of age, may be the sum of the following items, not to exceed one hundred percent of the member's final average salary:

(1) Two and [three-tenths] **five-tenths** percent of the member's final average salary for each year of membership service;

(2) Six-tenths of the amount payable for a year of membership service for each year of prior service not exceeding thirty years.

In lieu of the retirement allowance otherwise provided in subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection, a member may elect to receive a retirement allowance of:

(3) Between July 1, [1996] **1998**, and July 1, [1998] **2000**, two and [two-tenths] **four-tenths** percent of the member's final average salary for each year of membership service, if the member's creditable service is twenty-nine years or more but less than thirty years, and the member has not

attained age fifty-five;

(4) Between July 1, [1996] **1998**, and July 1, [1998] **2000**, two and [fifteen-hundredths] **thirty-five-hundredths** percent of the member's final average salary for each year of membership service, if the member's creditable service is twenty-eight years or more but less than twenty-nine years, and the member has not attained age fifty-five;

(5) Between July 1, [1996] **1998**, and July 1, [1998] **2000**, two and [one-tenth] **three-tenths** percent of the member's final average salary for each year of membership service, if the member's creditable service is twenty-seven years or more but less than twenty-eight years, and the member has not attained age fifty-five;

(6) Between July 1, [1996] **1998**, and July 1, [1998] **2000**, two and [five-hundredths] **twenty-five-hundredths** percent of the member's final average salary for each year of membership service, if the member's creditable service is twenty-six years or more but less than twenty-seven years, and the member has not attained age fifty-five;

(7) Between July 1, [1996] **1998**, and July 1, [1998] **2000**, two and **two-tenths** percent of the member's final average salary for each year of membership service, if the member's creditable service is twenty-five years or more but less than twenty-six years, and the member has not attained age fifty-five.

2. In lieu of the retirement allowance provided in subsection 1 of this section, a member whose age is sixty years or more on September 28, 1975, may elect to have the member's retirement allowance calculated as a sum of the following items:

(1) Sixty cents plus one and five-tenths percent of the member's final average salary for each year of membership service;

(2) Six-tenths of the amount payable for a year of membership service for each year of prior service not exceeding thirty years;

(3) Three-fourths of one percent of the sum of subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection for each month of attained age in excess of sixty years but not in excess of age sixty-five.

3. (1) In lieu of the retirement allowance provided either in subsection 1 or 2 of this section, collectively called "option 1", a member whose creditable service is twenty-five years or more or who has attained the age of fifty-five with five or more years of creditable service may elect in the member's application for retirement to receive the actuarial equivalent of the member's retirement allowance in reduced monthly payments for life during retirement with the provision that:

Option 2. Upon the member's death the reduced retirement allowance shall be continued throughout the life of and paid to such person as has an insurable interest in the life of the member as the member shall have nominated in the member's election of the option, and provided further that if the person so nominated dies before the retired member, the retirement allowance will be increased to the amount the retired member would be receiving had the retired member elected option 1;

OR

Option 3. Upon the death of the member three-fourths of the reduced retirement allowance shall be continued throughout the life of and paid to such person as has an insurable interest in the life of the member and as the member shall have nominated in an election of the option, and provided further that if the person so nominated dies before the retired member, the retirement allowance will be increased to the amount the retired member would be receiving had the member elected option 1;

OR

Option 4. Upon the death of the member one-half of the reduced retirement allowance shall be continued throughout the life of, and paid to, such person as has an insurable interest in the life

of the member and as the member shall have nominated in an election of the option, and provided further that if the person so nominated dies before the retired member, the retirement allowance shall be increased to the amount the retired member would be receiving had the member elected option 1;

OR

Option 5. Upon the death of the member prior to the member having received one hundred twenty monthly payments of the member's reduced allowance, the remainder of the one hundred twenty monthly payments of the reduced allowance shall be paid to such beneficiary as the member shall have nominated in the member's election of the option or in a subsequent nomination. If there is no beneficiary so nominated who survives the member for the remainder of the one hundred twenty monthly payments, the reserve for the remainder of such one hundred twenty monthly payments shall be paid to the estate of the last person to receive a monthly allowance;

OR

Option 6. Upon the death of the member prior to the member having received sixty monthly payments of the member's reduced allowance, the remainder of the sixty monthly payments of the reduced allowance shall be paid to such beneficiary as the member shall have nominated in the member's election of the option or in a subsequent nomination. If there is no beneficiary so nominated who survives the member for the remainder of the sixty monthly payments, the reserve of the remainder of such sixty monthly payments shall be paid to the estate of the last person to receive a monthly allowance.

(2) The election of an option may be made only in the application for retirement and such application must be filed prior to the date on which the retirement of the member is to be effective; provided, that if either the member or the person nominated to receive the survivorship payments dies before the effective date of retirement, the option shall not be effective, except that if the member or a person retired on disability retirement dies after acquiring twenty-five or more years of creditable service or after attaining the age of fifty-five years and acquiring five or more years of creditable service and before retirement, except retirement with disability benefits, the spouse of the member, if named as the beneficiary, may elect to receive either survivorship benefits under option 2 or a payment of the accumulated contributions of the member; provided that, if survivorship benefits under option 2 are elected and the member at the time of death would have been eligible to receive an actuarial equivalent of the member's retirement allowance, the spouse may further elect to defer the option 2 payments until the date the member would have been eligible to receive the retirement allowance provided in subsection 1 or 2 of this section. If the member or a person retired on disability retirement dies before attaining age fifty-five but after acquiring five but fewer than twenty-five years of creditable service, the spouse of the member, if named as the beneficiary, may elect to receive either a payment of the member's accumulated contributions, or survivorship benefits under option 2 to begin on the date the member would first have been eligible to receive an actuarial equivalent of the member's retirement allowance, or to begin on the date the member would first have been eligible to receive the retirement allowance provided in subsection 1 or 2 of this section.

4. If the total of the retirement allowance paid to an individual before the death of the individual is less than the accumulated contributions at the time of retirement, the difference shall be paid to the beneficiary of the individual, or to the estate of the individual, if there be no beneficiary. If an optional benefit as provided in option 2, 3 or 4 in subsection 3 of this section had been elected, and the beneficiary dies after receiving the optional benefit, and if the total retirement allowance paid to the retired individual and the beneficiary of the retired individual is less than the total of the contributions, the difference shall be paid to the estate of the beneficiary unless the retired individual

designates a different recipient with the board at or after retirement.

5. If a member dies before receiving a retirement allowance, the member's accumulated contributions at the time of the death of the member shall be paid to the beneficiary of the member or to the estate of the member, if there be no beneficiary; except that, no such payment shall be made if the beneficiary elects option 2 in subsection 3 of this section, unless the beneficiary dies before having received benefits pursuant to that subsection equal to the accumulated contributions of the member, in which case the amount of accumulated contributions in excess of the total benefits paid pursuant to that subsection shall be paid to the estate of the beneficiary.

6. If a member ceases to be a public school employee as herein defined and certifies to the board of trustees that such cessation is permanent, or if the membership of the person is otherwise terminated, the member shall be paid the member's accumulated contributions with interest.

7. Notwithstanding any provisions of sections 169.010 to 169.141 to the contrary, if a member ceases to be a public school employee after acquiring five or more years of membership service in Missouri, the member may at the option of the member leave the member's contributions with the retirement system and claim a retirement allowance any time after reaching the minimum age for voluntary retirement. When the member's claim is presented to the board, the member shall be granted an allowance as provided in sections 169.010 to 169.141 on the basis of the member's age, years of service, and the provisions of the law in effect at the time the member requests the member's retirement to become effective.

8. The retirement allowance of a member retired because of disability shall be nine-tenths of the allowance to which the member's creditable service would entitle the member if the member's age were sixty, or fifty percent of one-twelfth of the annual salary rate used in determining the member's contributions during the last school year for which the member received a year of creditable service immediately prior to the member's disability, whichever is greater, except that no such allowance shall exceed the retirement allowance to which the member would have been entitled upon retirement at age sixty if the member had continued to teach from the date of disability until age sixty at the same salary rate.

9. Notwithstanding any provisions of sections 169.010 to 169.141 to the contrary, from October 13, 1961, the contribution rate pursuant to sections 169.010 to 169.141 shall be multiplied by the factor of two-thirds for any member of the system for whom federal Old Age and Survivors Insurance tax is paid from state or local tax funds on account of the member's employment entitling the person to membership in the system. The monetary benefits for a member who elected not to exercise an option to pay into the system a retroactive contribution of four percent on that part of the member's annual salary rate which was in excess of four thousand eight hundred dollars but not in excess of eight thousand four hundred dollars for each year of employment in a position covered by this system between July 1, 1957, and July 1, 1961, as provided in subsection 10 of this section as it appears in RSMo 1969, shall be the sum of:

(1) For years of service prior to July 1, 1946, six-tenths of the full amount payable for years of membership service;

(2) For years of membership service after July 1, 1946, in which the full contribution rate was paid, full benefits under the formula in effect at the time of the member's retirement;

(3) For years of membership service after July 1, 1957, and prior to July 1, 1961, the benefits provided in this section as it appears in RSMo 1959; except that if the member has at least thirty years of creditable service at retirement the member shall receive the benefit payable pursuant to that section as though the member's age were sixty-five at retirement;

(4) For years of membership service after July 1, 1961, in which the two-thirds contribution rate was paid, two-thirds of the benefits under the formula in effect at the time of the member's retirement.

10. The monetary benefits for each other member for whom federal Old Age and Survivors Insurance tax is or was paid at any time from state or local funds on account of the member's employment entitling the member to membership in the system shall be the sum of:

(1) For years of service prior to July 1, 1946, six-tenths of the full amount payable for years of membership service;

(2) For years of membership service after July 1, 1946, in which the full contribution rate was paid, full benefits under the formula in effect at the time of the member's retirement;

(3) For years of membership service after July 1, 1957, in which the two-thirds contribution rate was paid, two-thirds of the benefits under the formula in effect at the time of the member's retirement.

11. Any retired member of the system who was retired prior to September 1, 1972, or beneficiary receiving payments under option 1 or option 2 of subsection 3 of this section, as such option existed prior to September 1, 1972, will be eligible to receive an increase in the retirement allowance of the member of two percent for each year, or major fraction of more than one-half of a year, which the retired member has been retired prior to July 1, 1975. This increased amount shall be payable commencing with January, 1976, and shall thereafter be referred to as the member's retirement allowance. The increase provided for in this subsection shall not affect the retired member's eligibility for compensation provided for in section 169.580 or 169.585, nor shall the amount being paid pursuant to these sections be reduced because of any increases provided for in this section.

12. If the board of trustees determines that the cost of living, as measured by generally accepted standards, increases two percent or more in the preceding fiscal year, the board shall increase the retirement allowances which the retired members or beneficiaries are receiving by two percent of the amount being received by the retired member or the beneficiary at the time the annual increase is granted by the board; with the provision that the increases provided for in this subsection shall not become effective until the fourth January first following the member's retirement or January 1, 1977, whichever later occurs. Commencing with January 1, 1992, if the board of trustees determines that the cost of living has increased five percent or more in the preceding fiscal year, the board shall increase the retirement allowances by five percent. The total of the increases granted to a retired member or the beneficiary after December 31, 1976, may not exceed seventy-five percent of the retirement allowance established at retirement or as previously adjusted by other subsections[; provided that, prior to August 28, 1994, no increase in the allowance shall be granted in excess of fifty-six percent of the allowance established at retirement or as previously adjusted]. If the cost of living increases less than five percent, the board of trustees may determine the percentage of increase to be made in retirement allowances, but at no time can the increase exceed five percent per year. If the cost of living decreases in a fiscal year, there will be no increase in allowances for retired members on the following January first.

13. The board of trustees may reduce the amounts which have been granted as increases to a member pursuant to subsection 12 of this section if the cost of living, as determined by the board and as measured by generally accepted standards, is less than the cost of living was at the time of the first increase granted to the member; except that, the reductions shall not exceed the amount of increases which have been made to the member's allowance after December 31, 1976.

14. Any application for retirement shall include a sworn statement by the member certifying that the spouse of the member at the time the application was completed was aware of the application and the plan of retirement elected in the application.

15. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any person retired prior to September 28, 1983, who is receiving a reduced retirement allowance under option 1 or option 2 of subsection 3 of this section, as such option existed prior to September 28, 1983, and whose beneficiary nominated to receive continued retirement allowance payments under the elected option dies or has died, shall upon application to the board of trustees have his or her retirement allowance increased to the amount he or she would have been receiving had the option not been elected, actuarially adjusted to recognize any excessive benefits which would have been paid to him or her up to the time of application.

16. Benefits paid pursuant to the provisions of the public school retirement system of Missouri shall not exceed the limitations of section 415 of title 26 of the United States Code.

17. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, any person retired before, on, or after May 26, 1994, shall be made, constituted, appointed and employed by the board as a special consultant on the matters of education, retirement and aging, and upon request shall give written or oral opinions to the board in response to such requests. As compensation for such duties the person shall receive an amount based on the person's years of service so that the total amount received pursuant to sections 169.010 to 169.141 shall be at least the minimum amounts specified in subdivisions (1) to (4) of this subsection. In determining the minimum amount to be received, the amounts in subdivisions (3) and (4) of this subsection shall be adjusted in accordance with the actuarial adjustment, if any, that was applied to the person's retirement allowance. In determining the minimum amount to be received, beginning September 1, 1996, the amounts in subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection shall be adjusted in accordance with the actuarial adjustment, if any, that was applied to the person's retirement allowance due to election of an optional form of retirement having a continued monthly payment after the person's death. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, no person retired before, on, or after May 26, 1994, shall receive a retirement benefit pursuant to sections 169.010 to 169.141, based on the person's years of service less than the following amounts:

- (1) Thirty or more years of service, one thousand two hundred dollars;
- (2) At least twenty-five years but less than thirty years, one thousand dollars;
- (3) At least twenty years but less than twenty-five years, eight hundred dollars;
- (4) At least fifteen years but less than twenty years, six hundred dollars.

18. Notwithstanding any other provisions of law to the contrary, any person retired prior to May 26, 1994, shall be made, constituted, appointed and employed by the board as a special consultant on the matters of education, retirement or aging and upon request shall give written or oral opinions to the board in response to such requests. Beginning September 1, 1996, as compensation for such service, the member shall have added, pursuant to this subsection, to the member's monthly annuity as provided by this section a dollar amount equal to the lesser of sixty dollars or the product of two dollars multiplied by the member's number of years of creditable service. The total compensation provided by this section including the compensation provided by this subsection shall be used in calculating any future cost-of-living adjustments provided by subsection 12 of this section.

19. Any member who has retired prior to the effective date of this section, and the designated beneficiary of a deceased retired member shall be made, constituted, appointed and employed by the board as a special consultant on the matters of education, retirement and aging, and upon request shall give written or oral opinions to the board in response to such

requests. As compensation for such duties the person shall receive a payment equivalent to eight and seven-tenths percent of the previous month's benefit, which shall be added to the member or beneficiary's monthly annuity and which shall not be subject to the provisions of subsections 12 and 13 of this section for the purposes of the limit on the total amount of increases which may be received.

169.597. Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter to the contrary, the board of trustees of any retirement system or the governing body of any political subdivision which funds such retirement system shall have standing to seek a declaratory judgment concerning the application of article X, section 21 of the Missouri Constitution to the provisions of this [act] **chapter**. In the event a final judgment is rendered by a court which judgment determines that any provision of this [act] **chapter** constitutes a new activity or service or increase in the level of an activity or service beyond that required by existing law pursuant to article X, section 21 of the Missouri Constitution, or any successor to that section, that provision of this [act] **chapter** shall be void ab initio and any new benefit or feature required by such provision of this [act] **chapter** shall be deemed not to have accrued and shall not be payable to members.

169.670. 1. The retirement allowance of a member whose age at retirement is sixty years or more and whose creditable service is five years or more, or who has attained the age of fifty-five years of age and has at least twenty-five years of creditable service, or whose creditable service is thirty years or more regardless of age, shall be the sum of the following items:

(1) For each year of membership service, one and thirty-five hundredths percent of the member's final average salary;

(2) Six-tenths of the amount payable for a year of membership service for each year of prior service;

(3) Eighty-five one-hundredths of one percent of any amount by which the member's average compensation for services rendered prior to July 1, 1973, exceeds the average monthly compensation on which federal social security taxes were paid during the period over which such average compensation was computed, for each year of membership service credit for services rendered prior to July 1, 1973, plus six-tenths of the amount payable for a year of membership service for each year of prior service credit; and

(4) In lieu of the retirement allowance otherwise provided by subdivisions (1) to (3) of this subsection, between July 1, 1996, and July 1, [1998] **2000**, a member may elect to receive a retirement allowance of:

(a) One and thirty-three hundredths percent of the member's final average salary for each year of membership service, if the member's creditable service is twenty-nine years or more but less than thirty years and the member has not attained the age of fifty-five;

(b) One and thirty-one hundredths percent of the member's final average salary for each year of membership service, if the member's creditable service is twenty-eight years or more but less than twenty-nine years, and the member has not attained the age of fifty-five;

(c) One and twenty-nine hundredths percent of the member's final average salary for each year of membership service, if the member's creditable service is twenty-seven years or more but less than twenty-eight years and the member has not attained the age of fifty-five;

(d) One and twenty-seven hundredths percent of the member's final average salary for each year of membership service, if the member's creditable service is twenty-six years or more but less than twenty-seven years and the member has not attained the age of fifty-five;

(e) One and twenty-five hundredths percent of the member's final average salary for each year

of membership service, if the member's creditable service is twenty-five years or more but less than twenty-six years and the member has not attained the age of fifty-five.

2. If the board of trustees determines that the cost of living, as measured by generally accepted standards, increases five percent or more in the preceding fiscal year, the board shall increase the retirement allowances which the retired members or beneficiaries are receiving by five percent of the amount being received by the retired member or the beneficiary at the time the annual increase is granted by the board; provided that, the increase provided in this subsection shall not become effective until the fourth January first following a member's retirement or January 1, 1982, whichever occurs later, and the total of the increases granted to a retired member or the beneficiary after December 31, 1981, may not exceed [sixty-five] **seventy-five** percent of the retirement allowance established at retirement or as previously adjusted by other provisions of law. If the cost of living increases less than five percent, the board of trustees may determine the percentage of increase to be made in retirement allowances, but at no time can the increase exceed five percent per year. If the cost of living decreases in a fiscal year, there will be no increase in allowances for retired members on the following January first.

3. The board of trustees may reduce the amounts which have been granted as increases to a member pursuant to subsection 2 of this section if the cost of living, as determined by the board and as measured by generally accepted standards, is less than the cost of living was at the time of the first increase granted to the member; provided that, the reductions shall not exceed the amount of increases which have been made to the member's allowance after December 31, 1981.

4. (1) In lieu of the retirement allowance provided in subsection 1 of this section, called "option 1", a member whose creditable service is thirty years or more or who has attained age fifty-five with five or more years of creditable service may elect, in the application for retirement, to receive the actuarial equivalent of the member's retirement allowance in reduced monthly payments for life during retirement with the provision that:

Option 2. Upon the member's death, the reduced retirement allowance shall be continued throughout the life of and paid to such person as has an insurable interest in the life of the member as the member shall have nominated in the member's election of the option, and provided further that if the person so nominated dies before the retired member, the retirement allowance will be increased to the amount the retired member would be receiving had the member elected option 1;

OR

Option 3. Upon the death of the member three-fourths of the reduced retirement allowance shall be continued throughout the life of and paid to such person as has an insurable interest in the life of the member and as the member shall have nominated in an election of the option, and provided further that if the person so nominated dies before the retired member, the retirement allowance will be increased to the amount the retired member would be receiving had the member elected option 1;

OR

Option 4. Upon the death of the member one-half of the reduced retirement allowance shall be continued throughout the life of, and paid to, such person as has an insurable interest in the life of the member and as the member shall have nominated in an election of the option, and provided further that if the person so nominated dies before the retired member, the retirement allowance shall be increased to the amount the retired member would be receiving had the member elected option 1;

OR

Option 5. Upon the death of the member prior to the member having received one hundred twenty monthly payments of the member's reduced allowance, the remainder of the one hundred

twenty monthly payments of the reduced allowance shall be paid to such beneficiary as the member shall have nominated in the member's election of the option or in a subsequent nomination. If there is no beneficiary so nominated who survives the member for the remainder of the one hundred twenty monthly payments, the reserve for the remainder of such one hundred twenty monthly payments shall be paid to the estate of the last person to receive a monthly allowance;

OR

Option 6. Upon the death of the member prior to the member having received sixty monthly payments of the member's reduced allowance, the remainder of the sixty monthly payments of the reduced allowance shall be paid to such beneficiary as the member shall have nominated in the member's election of the option or in a subsequent nomination. If there is no beneficiary so nominated who survives the member for the remainder of the sixty monthly payments, the reserve for the remainder of such sixty monthly payments shall be paid to the estate of the last person to receive a monthly allowance[.];

OR

Option 7. A plan of variable monthly benefit payments which provides, in conjunction with the member's retirement benefits under the federal social security laws, level or near level retirement benefit payments to the member for life during retirement, and if authorized, to an appropriate beneficiary designated by the member. Such a plan shall be actuarially equivalent to the retirement allowance under option 1 and shall be available for election only if established by the board of trustees under duly adopted rules.

(2) The election of an option may be made only in the application for retirement and such application must be filed prior to the date on which the retirement of the member is to be effective; provided, if either the member or the person nominated dies before the effective date of retirement, the option shall not be effective, except that if the member or a person retired on disability retirement dies after attaining age fifty-five and acquiring five or more years of creditable service or after acquiring thirty or more years of creditable service and before retirement, except retirement with disability benefits, the member's spouse, if named as the member's beneficiary, may elect to receive either survivorship payments under option 2 or a payment of the member's accumulated contributions; provided that, if survivorship benefits under option 2 are elected and the member at the time of death would have been eligible to receive an actuarial equivalent of the member's retirement allowance, the spouse may further elect to defer the option 2 payments until the date the member would have been eligible to receive the retirement allowance provided in subsection 1 of this section. If the member or a person retired on disability retirement dies before attaining age fifty-five but after acquiring five but fewer than thirty years of creditable service, the person's spouse, if named as the person's beneficiary, may elect to receive either a payment of the person's accumulated contributions, or survivorship benefits under option 2 to begin on the date the member would first have been eligible to receive an actuarial equivalent of the person's retirement allowance, or to begin on the date the member would first have been eligible to receive the retirement allowance provided in subsection 1 of this section.

5. If the total of the retirement allowances paid to an individual before the person's death is less than the person's accumulated contributions at the time of the person's retirement, the difference shall be paid to the person's beneficiary or to the person's estate; provided, however, that if an optional benefit, as provided in option 2, 3 or 4 in subsection 4, had been elected and the beneficiary dies after receiving the optional benefit, then, if the total retirement allowances paid to the retired individual and the individual's beneficiary are less than the total of the contributions, the difference

shall be paid to the estate of the beneficiary unless the retired individual designates a different recipient with the board at or after retirement.

6. If a member dies before receiving a retirement allowance, the member's accumulated contributions at the time of the member's death shall be paid to the member's beneficiary or to the member's estate, if there be no beneficiary; provided, however, that no such payment shall be made if the beneficiary elects option 2 in subsection 4 of this section, unless the beneficiary dies before having received benefits pursuant to that subsection equal to the accumulated contributions of the member, in which case the amount of accumulated contributions in excess of the total benefits paid pursuant to that subsection shall be paid to the estate of the beneficiary.

7. If a member ceases to be an employee as defined in section 169.600 and certifies to the board of trustees that such cessation is permanent or if the person's membership is otherwise terminated, the person shall be paid the person's accumulated contributions with interest.

8. Notwithstanding any provisions of sections 169.600 to 169.715 to the contrary, if a member ceases to be an employee as defined in section 169.600 after acquiring five or more years of creditable service, the member may, at the option of the member, leave the member's contributions with the retirement system and claim a retirement allowance any time after the member reaches the minimum age for voluntary retirement. When the member's claim is presented to the board, the member shall be granted an allowance as provided in sections 169.600 to 169.715 on the basis of the member's age and years of service.

9. The retirement allowance of a member retired because of disability shall be nine-tenths of the allowance to which the member's creditable service would entitle the member if the member's age were sixty.

10. Notwithstanding any provisions of sections 169.600 to 169.715 to the contrary, any member who is a member prior to October 13, 1969, may elect to have the member's retirement allowance computed in accordance with sections 169.600 to 169.715 as they existed prior to October 13, 1969.

11. Any application for retirement shall include a sworn statement by the member certifying that the spouse of the member at the time the application was completed was aware of the application and the plan of retirement elected in the application.

12. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any person retired prior to August 14, 1984, who is receiving a reduced retirement allowance under option 1 or 2 of subsection 4 of this section, as the option existed prior to August 14, 1984, and whose beneficiary nominated to receive continued retirement allowance payments under the elected option dies or has died, shall upon application to the board of trustees have the person's retirement allowance increased to the amount the person would have been receiving had the person not elected the option, actuarially adjusted to recognize any excessive benefits which would have been paid to the person up to the time of the application.

13. Benefits paid pursuant to the provisions of the nonteacher school employee retirement system of Missouri shall not exceed the limitations of section 415 of title 26 of the United States Code.

Section B. Because of the need to meet crucial deadlines ensuring timely application of pension laws to the public school retirement system section A of this act is deemed necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health, welfare, peace and safety, and is hereby declared to be an emergency act within the meaning of the constitution, and section A of this act shall be in full force and effect when it is signed by the governor or July 1, 1998, whichever later occurs.