

Public Retirement

Am. H.B. 362

Reps. Carfagna and Ramos, Antonio, Ashford, Blessing, Boyd, Brenner, Brown, Celebrezze, Craig, Faber, Fedor, Galonski, Ginter, Holmes, Howse, Ingram, T. Johnson, Koehler, Landis, Lang, Leland, Lepore-Hagan, O'Brien, Patton, Perales, Reece, Reineke, Rezabek, Riedel, Roegner, Rogers, Sheehy, R. Smith, Sprague, Strahorn, Sweeney, Sykes, Thompson, West, Wiggam, Young, Rosenberger

Sens. Beagle, Bacon, Hottinger, Hackett, Terhar, Balderson, Brown, Burke, Coley, Dolan, Eklund, Hoagland, Huffman, Jordan, LaRose, Lehner, Manning, McColley, Obhof, O'Brien, Oelslager, Peterson, Sykes, Tavares, Thomas, Uecker, Wilson, Yuko

Effective date: May 11, 2018

- For individuals who become State Highway Patrol Retirement System (SHPRS) members on or after January 1, 2020, increases to age 52 (from 48) the minimum age at which a member may retire with an unreduced pension.
- Reduces the off-duty disability retirement pension for an SHPRS member with less than 20 years' service who initially qualifies for the pension on or after May 11, 2018 (the act's effective date), by basing the minimum pension on at least 12 years instead of 20 years of service.
- Revises the monthly survivor pension for the surviving spouse of a deceased SHPRS member who dies on or after May 11, 2018, or the surviving spouse of an SHPRS retiree who retires on or after that date.
- To qualify for a survivor pension, requires the surviving spouse of an SHPRS member or retiree who dies or retires on or after May 11, 2018, to have been married to the member or retiree while the member or retiree was in the active service of the State Highway Patrol.

Sub. H.B. 572

Reps. Scherer and Howse, Schuring, K. Smith, Antonio, Boccieri, Brenner, Dever, Patterson, Ramos, Anielski, Arndt, Ashford, Barnes, Boyd, Brown, Celebrezze, Clyde, Craig, Edwards, Galonski, Gavarone, Ginter, Green, Holmes, Ingram, Kelly, Leland, Lepore-Hagan, Miller, O'Brien, Patton, Pelanda, Perales, Rezabek, Rogers, Sheehy, Sykes, West

Sens. Hottinger, Beagle, Bacon, Hackett, Burke, Eklund, Gardner, Kunze, Tavares, Uecker, Wilson, Yuko

Effective date: March 22, 2019

Public Employees Retirement System

- Requires the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) Board to grant a full year of service credit to a PERS member employed as a nonteaching school employee of a county board of developmental disabilities if the member performs full-time services in the position for at least nine months of the year and is paid earnable salary in each month of that year.
- Requires that service credit also be granted as described above for the period beginning January 1, 2017, through March 22, 2019 (the act's effective date), if specified conditions are met.
- Changes the minimum service a PERS member needs to qualify for a retirement allowance or disability benefit from 60 or more calendar months of contributing service to five years of contributing service.
- Specifies that the minimum service requirement described above does not apply to a member who, on March 22, 2019, has at least 60 months of contributing service and (1) is age 60 years or older or (2) is receiving disability benefits and later applies for a retirement allowance.
- Permits PERS to make a single payment of a retirement allowance, survivor benefit, or annuity if the monthly payment would be less than \$50.
- Permits the PERS Board to waive the requirement that a disability benefit recipient file required information with the Board for any reason specified in rules adopted by the Board.

Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund

- Provides that any appointed member of the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund (OP&F) Board of Trustees, including a member appointed to fill a vacancy, continues in office after the member's term expires until the member's successor takes office.
- Removes two outdated provisions related to a member of the OP&F Board who is a municipal fiscal officer.

State Teachers Retirement System

- Permits, rather than requires, the State Teachers Retirement System (STRS) Board to require a disability benefit recipient to submit to an annual medical examination.
- Requires the Board to appoint a medical review board to evaluate a medical examiner's report if an examiner determines that a recipient is no longer incapable of returning to work following an examination.
- Authorizes the STRS Board to release personal history records containing confidential information on the request of specified outside entities.

- Permits a person who holds both an STRS position and a higher paid PERS or School Employees Retirement System (SERS) position to retire from the PERS or SERS position under coordination of benefits provisions or a defined contribution plan and continue in the STRS position.
- Removes the five-year limit on the amount of prior STRS defined contribution plan service credit that a member can purchase in the defined benefit plan.
- Specifies that a retirant may not elect a joint and survivor benefit that would result in a monthly payment of \$100 or less to a beneficiary after the retirant's death unless the retirant is required to select that benefit under continuing law.
- Requires all employee and employer contributions to be remitted at intervals required by STRS.
- Removes the requirement that the employer contribution amount be certified by the Secretary of the STRS Board.
- Removes a retirant's or disability benefit recipient's sponsored dependents from being eligible for health care coverage under an STRS policy or contract.

School Employees Retirement System

- Provides that teachers and faculty members at community (charter) schools and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) schools are not members of SERS.
- Permits SERS to provide information about a member, former member, contributor, former contributor, retirant, or beneficiary to specified outside entity.

Am. Sub. S.B. 296

Sens. Hottinger, Manning, Hoagland, Thomas, Obhof, Uecker, Oelslager, Beagle, Balderson, Brown, Burke, Coley, Dolan, Eklund, Gardner, Hackett, Huffman, Kunze, Lehner, McColley, O'Brien, Peterson, Schiavoni, Sykes, Terhar, Yuko

Reps. Anielski, Antonio, Blessing, Brinkman, Greenspan, LaTourette, Patton, Perales, Riedel, Ryan, Scherer, Schuring, Seitz, K. Smith, Strahorn, R. Smith

Effective date: Emergency, December 27, 2018

Death Benefit Fund

- Increases death benefits paid by the Ohio Public Safety Officers Death Benefit Fund to survivors of officers (law enforcement officers and firefighters) killed in the line of duty by:
 - Eliminating a requirement that the death benefit amount be reduced by any survivor benefits or annuity payable by the officer's retirement system;

- Extending payment of the initial death benefit to the date the officer would have been eligible to retire with the maximum age and service pension for the officer's position, instead of the date the officer would first have been eligible to retire;
- Increasing the "transitional benefit" paid after the officer's maximum pension eligibility date to 75% of the officer's salary, rather than 50%.
- Specifies that survivors already receiving the transitional benefit who are within the extension period will receive the initial death benefit instead of the reduced transitional benefit until the deceased officer's maximum pension eligibility date.
- Permits Death Benefit Fund recipients to elect to participate in any medical, dental, or vision benefit that the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) contracts or provides for state employees, and permits the parent, guardian, or person responsible for a surviving child to make that election on the child's behalf.
- Requires the survivor to pay the percentage of the premium or cost of those benefits that would be paid by a state employee who elected that coverage, and requires DAS to pay the percentage that would be paid by a state employer for an employee who elects coverage.
- Requires the DAS Director to prescribe procedures for the administration of benefits elected by Death Benefit Fund recipients, and requires the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund Board of Trustees to provide any information to DAS that DAS requires for the administration of those benefits.

Public official compensation

- Increases the compensation of General Assembly members by 4% in 2019, 4% in 2020, 3% in 2021, and 1.75% in 2022 through 2028, and increases the supplements provided to General Assembly members who serve certain roles on committees.
- Increases the Lieutenant Governor's statutory salary to match the salaries of the Secretary of State, Auditor of State, Treasurer of State, and Attorney General and allows the Lieutenant Governor to accept the salary of the head of an office within the Governor's office in lieu of the Lieutenant Governor's statutory salary.
- Increases the compensation of statewide executive officers (Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Auditor of State, Treasurer of State, and Attorney General) by 4% in 2019, 4% in 2020, 3% in 2021, and 1.75% in 2022 through 2028.
- Increases the compensation of judges by 1.75% in 2020 through 2028.
- Increases the compensation of county commissioners, county auditors, county treasurers, county recorders, county engineers, coroners, and clerks of courts of common pleas by 5% in 2019, 5% in 2020, and 1.75% in 2021 through 2028.

- Increases the compensation of county sheriffs and county prosecuting attorneys by 1.75% in 2020 through 2028.
- Increases the compensation of township trustees, township fiscal officers, and members of boards of elections by 1.75% in 2019 through 2028.
- Creates the Public Office Compensation Advisory Commission and requires it annually to submit a compensation plan and report to the General Assembly regarding the Commission's recommended compensation amounts for the public officers listed above.

InnovateOhio

- Creates the Office of InnovateOhio within the Office of the Governor and requires the Governor to appoint the Director and necessary personnel and to set the duties of the Office.