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**SENATE BILL NO. 56**

Offered January 12, 2000

*A BILL to amend and reenact § 51.1-124.3 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the Virginia Retirement System.*

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Patron—Trumbo

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Referred to Committee on Finance

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:****1. That § 51.1-124.3 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 51.1-124.3. Definitions.

As used in this chapter, unless the context requires a different meaning:

"Abolished system" means the Virginia Retirement Act, §§ 51-30 through 51-111, repealed by Chapter 1 of the Acts of Assembly of 1952.

"Accumulated contributions" means the sum of all amounts deducted from the compensation of a member and credited to his individual account in the member's contribution account, all amounts the member may contribute to purchase creditable service, all member contributions contributed by the employer on behalf of the employee, on or after July 1, 1990, except those amounts contributed on behalf of members of the General Assembly who are otherwise retired under the provisions of this chapter, and all interest accruing to these funds. If a member is retired for disability from a cause which is compensable under the Virginia Workers' Compensation Act (§ 65.2-100 et seq.), dies in service prior to retirement, or requests a refund of contributions in accordance with § 51.1-161, "accumulated contributions" shall include all member contributions paid by the employer on behalf of the member on and after July 1, 1980, and all interest which would have accrued to these funds.

"Actuarial equivalent" means a benefit of equal value when computed upon the basis of actuarial tables adopted by the Board.

"Average final compensation" means the average annual creditable compensation of a member during his thirty-six highest consecutive months of creditable service or during the entire period of his creditable service if less than thirty-six months. If a member ceased employment prior to July 1, 1974, "average final compensation" means the average annual creditable compensation during the five highest consecutive years of creditable service.

"Beneficiary" means any person entitled to receive benefits under this chapter.

"Board" means the Board of Trustees of the Virginia Retirement System.

"Creditable compensation" means the full compensation payable annually to an employee working full time in his covered position *and, in the case of teachers, includes all taxable compensation paid to such teachers plus employee elective salary reductions or similar deferral contributions excluded from taxable pay by reason of any elective deferral or contribution permitted by § 415 (c) (3) (D) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.* In cases where compensation includes maintenance or other perquisites, the Board shall fix the value of that part of the compensation not paid in money. Remuneration received by members of the General Assembly not otherwise retired under the provisions of this chapter pursuant to §§ 30-19.11 and 30-19.12 shall be deemed creditable compensation. In addition, for any member of the General Assembly, creditable compensation shall include the full amount of salaries payable to such member for working in covered positions, regardless of whether a contractual salary is reduced and not paid to such member because of service in the General Assembly.

"Creditable service" means prior service plus membership service for which credit is allowable. Creditable service may include sick leave credit accumulated as of the employee's retirement date as certified by the employer to the Board as set forth in § 51.1-142.1.

"Employee" means any teacher, state employee, officer, or employee of a locality participating in the Retirement System.

"Employer" means the Commonwealth in the case of a state employee, the local public school board in the case of a teacher, or the political subdivision participating in the Retirement System.

"Joint Rules Committee" means those members of the House of Delegates and the Senate designated by the Speaker of the House and the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Rules, respectively, to meet with each other and to act jointly on behalf of the Committee on Rules for each house.

"Local officer" means the treasurer, commissioner of the revenue, attorney for the Commonwealth, clerk of a circuit court, or sheriff of any county or city, or deputy or employee of any such officer.

"Medical Board" means the board of physicians as provided by this chapter.

"Member" means any person included in the membership of the Retirement System.

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59 "Membership service" means service as an employee rendered while a contributing member of the  
60 Retirement System except as provided in this chapter.

61 "Normal retirement date" means a member's sixty-fifth birthday.

62 "Political subdivision" means any county, city, or town, any political entity, subdivision, branch, or  
63 unit of the Commonwealth, or any commission, public authority, or body corporate created by or under  
64 an act of the General Assembly specifying the powers, privileges, or authority capable of exercise by the  
65 commission, public authority, or body corporate.

66 "Primary social security benefit" means, with respect to any member, the primary insurance amount  
67 to which the member is entitled, for old age or disability, as the case may be, pursuant to the provisions  
68 of the federal Social Security Act as in effect at his date of retirement, under the provisions of this  
69 chapter except as otherwise specifically provided.

70 "Prior service" means service rendered prior to becoming a member of the Retirement System.

71 "Retirement allowance" means the retirement payments to which a member is entitled.

72 "Retirement System" means the Virginia Retirement System.

73 "Service" means service as an employee.

74 "State employee" means any person who is regularly employed full time on a salaried basis, whose  
75 tenure is not restricted as to temporary or provisional appointment, in the service of, and whose  
76 compensation is payable, no more often than biweekly, in whole or in part, by the Commonwealth or  
77 any department, institution, or agency thereof. "State employee" shall include the Governor, Lieutenant  
78 Governor, Attorney General, and members of the General Assembly but shall not include (i) any local  
79 officer, (ii) any employee of a political subdivision of the Commonwealth, (iii) individuals employed by  
80 the Department for the Visually Handicapped pursuant to § 63.1-73, (iv) any member of the State Police  
81 Officers' Retirement System, or (v) any member of the Judicial Retirement System.

82 "Teacher" means any person who is regularly employed full time on a salaried basis as a professional  
83 or clerical employee of a county, city, or other local public school board.