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SENATE BILL NO. 1299

Offered January 20, 2005

A *BILL to amend and reenact § 51.1-155 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the average final compensation retirement multiplier for teachers.*

Patrons—Reynolds; Delegate: Armstrong

Unanimous consent to introduce

Referred to Committee on Finance

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 51.1-155 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 51.1-155. Service retirement allowance.

A. Retirement allowance. - A member shall receive an annual retirement allowance, payable for life, as follows:

1. Normal retirement. - The allowance shall equal 1.70 percent of his average final compensation multiplied by the amount of his creditable service. *However, for any teacher with 25 or more years of creditable service earned as a teacher, the allowance shall equal 2.0 percent of his average final compensation multiplied by the amount of his creditable service.*

2. Early retirement; applicable to teachers, state employees, and certain others. - The allowance shall be determined in the same manner as for normal retirement with creditable service and average final compensation being determined as of the date of actual retirement. If the member has less than 30 years of service at retirement, the amount of the retirement allowance shall be reduced on an actuarial equivalent basis for the period by which the actual retirement date precedes the earlier of (i) his normal retirement date or (ii) the first date on which he would have completed a total of 30 years of creditable service. The provisions of this subdivision shall apply to teachers and state employees. These provisions shall also apply to employees of any political subdivision that participates in the retirement system if the political subdivision makes the election provided in subdivision 3 of this subsection.

3. Early retirement; applicable to employees of certain political subdivisions. - The allowance shall be determined in the same manner as for normal retirement with creditable service and average final compensation being determined as of the date of actual retirement. If the creditable service of the member equals 30 or more years but the sum of his age at retirement plus his creditable service at retirement is less than 90, the amount of the retirement allowance shall be reduced on an actuarial equivalent basis for the period by which the actual retirement date precedes the earlier of (i) his normal retirement date or (ii) the first date on which the sum of his then attained age plus his then creditable service would have been equal to 90 or more had he remained in service until such date. If the member has less than 30 years of creditable service, the retirement allowance shall be reduced for the period by which the actual retirement date precedes the earlier of (i) his normal retirement date or (ii) the first date on which he would have completed a total of at least 30 years of creditable service and his then creditable service plus his then attained age would have been equal to 90 or more.

The provisions of this subdivision shall apply to the employees of any political subdivision that participates in the retirement system. The participating political subdivision may, however, elect to provide its employees with the early retirement allowance set forth in subdivision 2 of this subsection. Any election pursuant to this subdivision shall be set forth in a legally adopted resolution.

4. Additional allowance. - In addition to the allowance payable under subdivisions 1, 2, and 3 of this subsection, a member shall receive an additional allowance which shall be the actuarial equivalent, for his attained age at the time of retirement, of the excess of his accumulated contributions transferred from the abolished system to the retirement system, including interest credited at the rate of two percent compounded annually since the transfer to the date of retirement, over the annual amounts equal to four percent of his annual creditable compensation at the date of abolishment for a period equal to his period of membership in the abolished system.

5. 50/10 retirement. - The allowance shall be payable in a monthly stream of payments equal to the greater of (i) the actuarial equivalent of the benefit the member would have received had he terminated service and deferred retirement to age 55 or (ii) the actuarially calculated present value of the member's accumulated contributions, including accrued interest.

B. Beneficiary serving in position covered by this title.

1. Except as provided in subdivisions 2 and 3, if a beneficiary of a service retirement allowance under this chapter is at any time in service as an employee in a position covered for retirement purposes

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59 under the provisions of this or any chapter other than Chapter 7 (§ 51.1-700 et seq.) of this title, his
60 retirement allowance shall cease while so employed. Any member who retires and later returns to
61 covered employment shall not be entitled to select a different retirement option for a subsequent
62 retirement.

63 2. Active members of the General Assembly who are eligible to receive a retirement allowance under
64 this title, excluding their service as a member of the General Assembly, shall be eligible to receive a
65 retirement allowance based on their creditable service and average final compensation for service other
66 than as a member of the General Assembly. Such members of the General Assembly shall continue to
67 be reported as any other members of the retirement system. Upon ceasing to serve in the General
68 Assembly, members of the General Assembly receiving a retirement allowance based on their creditable
69 service and average final compensation for service other than as a member of the General Assembly
70 shall have their retirement allowance recomputed prospectively to include their service as a member of
71 the General Assembly. Active members of the General Assembly shall be prohibited from receiving a
72 service retirement allowance under this title based solely on their service as a member of the General
73 Assembly.

74 3. (Effective if contingency is met and expires July 1, 2005 - See note) Any person receiving a
75 service retirement allowance under this chapter, who is hired as a local school board instructional or
76 administrative employee required to be licensed by the Board of Education, may elect to continue to
77 receive the retirement allowance during such employment, under the following conditions:

78 a. The person's retirement allowance is based in whole or in part on service as a local school board
79 instructional or administrative employee required to be licensed by the Board of Education; and

80 b. The person has been receiving such retirement allowance for a period of at least 30 days
81 preceding his employment; and

82 c. At the time the person is employed, the position to which he is assigned is among those identified
83 by the Superintendent of Public Instruction pursuant to subdivision 4 of § 22.1-23; and

84 d. The person is hired pursuant to a contract that does not exceed one year in duration.

85 e. ~~Repealed.~~

86 Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to restrict the total number of years that any one
87 person may participate under the provisions of this subdivision, provided that all applicable conditions
88 are met.

89 If the person elects to continue to receive the retirement allowance during the period of such
90 employment, then his service performed and compensation received during such period of time will not
91 increase, decrease, or affect in any way his retirement benefits before, during, or after such employment.

92 3. (Effective if contingency is not met and expires July 1, 2005 - See note) Any person receiving a
93 service retirement allowance under this chapter, who is hired as a local school board instructional or
94 administrative employee required to be licensed by the Board of Education, may elect to continue to
95 receive the retirement allowance during such employment, under the following conditions:

96 (a) The person's retirement allowance is based in whole or in part on service as a local school board
97 instructional or administrative employee required to be licensed by the Board of Education;

98 (b) The person has been receiving such retirement allowance for a certain period of time preceding
99 his employment as provided by law;

100 (c) The person is not receiving a retirement benefit pursuant to an early retirement incentive program
101 from any local school division within the Commonwealth; and

102 (d) At the time the person is employed, the position to which he is assigned is among those
103 identified by the Superintendent of Public Instruction pursuant to subdivision 4 of § 22.1-23, by the
104 relevant division superintendent, pursuant to § 22.1-70.3, or by the relevant local school board, pursuant
105 to subdivision 9 of § 22.1-79.

106 If the person elects to continue to receive the retirement allowance during the period of such
107 employment, then his service performed and compensation received during such period of time will not
108 increase, decrease, or affect in any way his retirement benefits before, during, or after such employment.

109 **2. That the provisions of this act shall be applicable to teachers, as such term is defined under**
110 **§ 51.1-124.3 of the Code of Virginia, retiring on or after July 1, 2005, who have not retired prior**
111 **to such date under the Virginia Retirement System (§ 51.1-124.1 et seq.), the State Police Officers'**
112 **Retirement System (§ 51.1-200 et seq.), or the Virginia Law Officers' Retirement System**
113 **(§ 51.1-211 et seq.).**