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HOUSE BILL NO. 2410**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE**(Proposed by the House Committee on Appropriations
on February 2, 2011)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Delegate Putney)

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 51.1-135, 51.1-138, 51.1-145, 51.1-201, 51.1-202, 51.1-212, 51.1-213, 51.1-301, 51.1-601.1, 51.1-603.1, 51.1-611, 51.1-1100, 51.1-1400, 51.1-1401, 51.1-1402, 51.1-1403, and 51.1-1405 of the Code of Virginia, and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 51.1-126.5:1 and by adding in Title 51.1 a chapter numbered 11.1, containing articles numbered 1 through 4, consisting of sections numbered 51.1-1150 through 51.1-1183, relating to the Virginia Retirement System; optional defined contribution retirement program for state and local employees.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 51.1-135, 51.1-138, 51.1-145, 51.1-201, 51.1-202, 51.1-212, 51.1-213, 51.1-301, 51.1-601.1, 51.1-603.1, 51.1-611, 51.1-1100, 51.1-1400, 51.1-1401, 51.1-1402, 51.1-1403, and 51.1-1405 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted and that the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 51.1-126.5:1 and by adding in Title 51.1 a chapter numbered 11.1, containing articles numbered 1 through 4, consisting of sections numbered 51.1-1150 through 51.1-1183, as follows:

§ 51.1-126.5:1. Optional defined contribution retirement program.

A. For purposes of this section, "optional defined contribution retirement program" means a retirement program covering any employee in a position covered for retirement purposes under the provisions of Chapter 1 (§ 51.1-124.1 et seq.), 2 (§ 51.1-200 et seq.), 2.1 (§ 51.1-211 et seq.), or 3 (§ 51.1-300 et seq.) for retirement purposes other than the Virginia Retirement System defined benefit retirement plan established under this chapter. Persons who are participants in, or eligible to be participants in, the optional retirement plans established under §§ 51.1-126, 51.1-126.1, 51.1-126.3, 51.1-126.4, 51.1-126.5, 51.1-126.6, and 51.1-126.7 shall not be eligible to participate in the optional defined contribution retirement program.

The Board shall maintain this optional defined contribution retirement program, and any employer is authorized to make contributions under such program to the plans for the benefit of its employees participating in such program. Every employee who is (i) a person who becomes a member on or after July 1, 2010, and (ii) hired on or after January 1, 2012, shall make an irrevocable election to participate in either (a) the otherwise applicable defined benefit retirement plan established by this title and administered by the Virginia Retirement System or (b) this optional defined contribution retirement program.

Such election shall be exercised no later than 60 days from the time of the employee's entry upon the performance of his duties. If an election is not made within such 60 days, such employee shall be deemed to have elected to participate in the otherwise applicable defined benefit retirement plan established by this title and administered by the Virginia Retirement System.

B. 1. The employer shall make a mandatory contribution on behalf of an employee participating in the optional defined contribution retirement program in the amount of five percent of creditable compensation. In addition, the employer shall make a matching contribution on behalf of the employee, based on the employee's voluntary contributions under subdivision C 2, up to a maximum of 3.5 percent of creditable compensation for the payroll period, as follows: 100 percent of up to 3.5 percent of creditable compensation contributed by the employee to such plan for the payroll period, over and above the mandatory employee contribution. The matching contribution by the employer shall be made to the appropriate cash match plan established for the employee under § 51.1-608.

2. The total amount contributed by the employer under subdivision 1 shall vest to the employee's benefit according to the following schedule:

a. Upon completion of one year of continuous participation in the defined contribution retirement program, 20 percent.

b. Upon completion of two years of continuous participation in the defined contribution retirement program, 40 percent.

c. Upon completion of three years of continuous participation in the defined contribution retirement program, 60 percent.

d. Upon completion of four years of continuous participation in the defined contribution retirement program, 80 percent.

e. Upon completion of five years of continuous participation in the defined contribution retirement program, 100 percent.

60 If an employee terminates employment with an employer prior to the end of this vesting period,
61 contributions made by an employer on behalf of the employee under subdivision 1 that are not vested,
62 shall be forfeited. The Board may establish a forfeiture account and may specify the uses of the
63 forfeiture account.

64 3. An employee may direct the investment of contributions made by an employer under subdivision B
65 1.

66 4. No loans or hardship distributions shall be available from contributions made by an employer
67 under subdivision B 1.

68 C. 1. An employee participating in the optional defined contribution retirement program shall,
69 pursuant to procedures established by the Board, make mandatory contributions on a salary reduction
70 basis in accordance with § 414(h) of the Internal Revenue Code in the amount of five percent of
71 creditable compensation.

72 2. An employee participating in the optional defined contribution retirement program may make
73 voluntary contributions to the program, in increments of half percentages of creditable compensation, in
74 an amount not to exceed 3.5 percent of creditable compensation or the limit on elective deferrals
75 pursuant to § 457(b) of the Internal Revenue Code, whichever is less. The contribution by the employee
76 shall be made to the appropriate deferred compensation plan established by the employee under
77 § 51.1-602.

78 3. No loans or hardship distributions shall be available from contributions made by an employee
79 under this subsection.

80 D. With respect to any employee who elects, pursuant to subsection A, to participate in the otherwise
81 applicable defined benefit retirement plan established by this title and administered by the Virginia
82 Retirement System, the employer shall collect and pay all employee and employer contributions to the
83 Virginia Retirement System for retirement and group life insurance in accordance with the provisions of
84 Chapter 1 (§ 51.1-124.1 et seq.) for such employee.

85 E. 1. The Board shall develop policies and procedures for administering the optional defined
86 contribution retirement program it maintains, including the establishment of guidelines for employee
87 elections and deferrals under the program.

88 2. No employee who is an active member in the optional defined contribution retirement program
89 maintained by the Board shall also be (i) an active member of the retirement system or beneficiary
90 other than a contingent annuitant or (ii) an active member of any other optional retirement plan
91 maintained under the provisions of Chapter 1 (§ 51.1-124.1 et seq.).

92 3. If a member of the optional defined contribution retirement program maintained under this section
93 is at any time in service as an employee in a position covered for retirement purposes under the
94 provisions of Chapter 1 (§ 51.1-124.1 et seq.), 2 (§ 51.1-200 et seq.), 2.1 (§ 51.1-211 et seq.), or 3
95 (§ 51.1-300 et seq.), his benefit payments under the optional defined contribution retirement program
96 maintained under this section shall be suspended while so employed; provided, however, reemployment
97 shall have no effect on the payment under the optional defined contribution retirement program
98 maintained under this section if the benefits are being paid in an annuity form under an annuity
99 contract purchased with the member's account balance.

100 4. Any administrative fee imposed pursuant to subdivision A 13 of § 51.1-124.22 on any employer for
101 administering and overseeing the optional defined contribution retirement program established pursuant
102 to this section shall be charged for each employee participating in such program and shall be for costs
103 incurred by the Virginia Retirement System that are directly related to the administration and oversight
104 of such program.

105 5. The creditable compensation for any employee on whose behalf employee or employer
106 contributions are made into the optional defined contribution retirement program shall not exceed the
107 limit on compensation as adjusted by the Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service pursuant to the
108 transition provisions applicable to eligible participants under state and local governmental plans under
109 § 401(a)(17) of the Internal Revenue Code as amended in 1993 and as contained in § 13212(d)(3) of the
110 Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 (P. L. 103-66).

111 6. The Board may contract with private corporations or institutions, subject to the standards set forth
112 in § 51.1-124.30, to provide investment products as well as any other goods and services related to the
113 administration of the optional defined contribution retirement program. The Virginia Retirement System
114 is hereby authorized to perform related services, including but not limited to, providing consolidated
115 billing, individual and collective recordkeeping and accountings, and asset purchase, control, and
116 safekeeping.

117 F. A person who participates in the otherwise applicable defined benefit retirement plan established
118 by this title and administered by the Virginia Retirement System under this chapter may make an
119 irrevocable election to participate in the optional defined contribution retirement program. Such election
120 shall be exercised no later than March 31, 2012. If an election is not made by March 31, 2012, such
121 employee shall be deemed to have elected not to participate in the optional defined contribution

retirement program and shall continue to participate in his current retirement plan. The Board is authorized to allow transfers of the amount of the accumulated contributions and interest of each member of the Virginia Retirement System defined benefit retirement plan.

§ 51.1-135. Compulsory membership.

Membership in the retirement system shall be compulsory for all eligible employees who enter service after the effective date of coverage. *For purposes of this section, "membership in the retirement system" includes an eligible employee's participation in the optional defined contribution retirement program pursuant to § 51.1-126.5:1.*

§ 51.1-138. Benefits.

A. Employees who become members under this article and on whose behalf contributions are paid as provided in this article shall be entitled to benefits under the retirement system.

B. By resolution legally adopted and approved by the Board, the employer may elect to provide benefits equivalent to those provided under the State Police Officers' Retirement System, as set out in Chapter 2 (§ 51.1-200 et seq.) ~~of this title~~ except for § 51.1-209, and except that the employer may elect to establish the retirement allowance pursuant to the allowance provided in clause (i) or (ii) in subsection A of § 51.1-206, in lieu of the benefits that would otherwise be provided hereunder for any employees who are employed in (i) law-enforcement positions comparably hazardous to that of a state police officer, including any sworn law-enforcement officer who has the duty and obligation to enforce the penal and traffic laws of this Commonwealth as directed by his superior officer, if so certified by his appointing authority, (ii) positions as full-time salaried firefighters, (iii) positions as full-time salaried emergency medical technicians, or (iv) positions as regional jail superintendents and jail officers of regional jail farms, regional jails or jail authorities, as approved by the respective jail board or authority and by the participating political subdivisions of such entities. Sheriffs of political subdivisions and superintendents of regional jails which participate in the retirement system shall receive benefits equivalent to those of state police officers, except for the benefits provided under § 51.1-209, regardless of whether the employer has elected to provide equivalent benefits as set out in this subsection.

C. Each employer providing the benefits of subsection B for its employees prior to July 1, 1990, may elect to provide for the early retirement of employees as set forth in this subsection in lieu of the early retirement and death before retirement provisions of the State Police Officers' Retirement System. Such election must be made to the Board in writing prior to July 1, 1990. Any member in service on or after his fifty-fifth birthday with five or more years of creditable service (i) while earning the benefits permitted by this section, (ii) as a member in the retirement system established by Chapter 2 (§ 51.1-200 et seq.) ~~of this title~~, or (iii) as a member in the retirement system established by Chapter 2.1 (§ 51.1-211 et seq.) ~~of this title~~ may retire upon written notification to the Board setting forth at what time the retirement is to become effective. The effective date shall be after his last day of service but shall not be more than 90 days prior to the filing of such notice. The member shall receive an allowance that shall be determined in the same manner as for retirement at an employee's normal retirement with creditable service and average final compensation being determined as of the date of his 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 (a) the member's normal retirement date or (b) the first date on or after the member's fifty-fifth birthday on which the member would have completed a total of 30 years of creditable service. Effective December 31, 2003, any employee in service on June 30, 2002, and July 1, 2002, who is credited with five or more years of creditable service rendered under this chapter and earning the benefits permitted by this section, Chapter 2 (§ 51.1-200 et seq.), or Chapter 2.1 (§ 51.1-211 et seq.) ~~of this title~~ shall not be subject to the vesting requirements of this section, and §§ 51.1-205 and 51.1-216.

Members retiring under the provisions of this subsection shall be entitled to receive post-retirement supplements as provided in § 51.1-166. In computing the amount of any supplement, any additional allowances being paid under the provisions of subsection B of § 51.1-206 shall be disregarded. In the case of death before retirement, members whose employers elect to provide benefits in accordance with the provisions of this subsection and who have not attained the age of 50 on the date of death shall be assumed to be 50 years of age for the purposes of reducing the benefits on an actuarial equivalent basis.

D. Beginning July 1, 2008, each county and city participating in the Virginia Retirement System shall provide the benefit coverage described in subsection B to each deputy sheriff, regardless of whether the deputy sheriff's salary is funded or reimbursed in whole or in part by the Compensation Board.

E. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection C, beginning July 1, 2009, the City of Danville shall provide to each deputy sheriff the benefit coverage described in subsection B.

F. Beginning July 1, 2009, each regional jail board and regional jail authority participating in the Virginia Retirement System and each county and city participating in such board or authority shall provide the benefit coverage described in subsection B to each sworn officer of a regional jail,

183 regardless of whether the regional jail officer's salary is funded or reimbursed in whole or in part by the
184 State Compensation Board.

185 G. Beginning July 1, 2010, any county or city that (i) participates in the Virginia Retirement System
186 pursuant to Chapter 1 (§ 51.1-124.1 et seq.), (ii) has in effect a retirement supplement for deputy sheriffs
187 (in addition to the annual retirement allowance provided under the Virginia Retirement System) that
188 exceeds the allowance set forth in subsection B of § 51.1-206 hereof, and (iii) provides the same level
189 of retirement benefits to all of its deputy sheriffs, may, by resolution legally adopted, elect to provide
190 the benefits coverage under subsection B hereof except for the allowance described in subsection B of
191 § 51.1-206. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the additional costs of such election shall be
192 borne solely by such county or city.

193 H. The retirement system shall not be liable for the payment of any retirement allowances or other
194 benefits on behalf of a member or beneficiary of a member for which reserves have not been previously
195 created from funds contributed by the employer or the members for such benefits.

196 *I. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any person participating in the optional defined contribution*
197 *retirement program established pursuant to § 51.1-126.5:1 shall not be entitled to the benefits under this*
198 *section.*

199 § 51.1-145. Employer contributions.

200 A. The total annual employer contribution for each employer, expressed as a percentage of the
201 annual membership payroll, shall be determined in a manner so as to remain relatively level from year
202 to year. Each employer shall contribute an amount equal to the sum of the normal contribution, any
203 accrued liability contribution, and any supplementary contribution. The contribution rates for each
204 employer shall be determined after each valuation and shall remain in effect until a new valuation is
205 made. All contribution rates shall be computed in accordance with recognized actuarial principles on the
206 basis of methods and assumptions approved by the Board.

207 B. The normal employer contribution for any period shall be determined as a percentage, equal to the
208 normal contribution rate, of the total covered compensation of the members employed during the period.

209 C. The normal contribution rate for any employer shall be determined as the percentage represented
210 by the ratio of (i) the annual normal cost to provide the benefits of the retirement system with respect to
211 members employed by the employer in excess of the members' contributions to (ii) the total annual
212 compensation of the members.

213 D. The accrued liability contribution for any employer for any period shall be determined as a
214 percentage, equal to the accrued liability contribution rate, of the total compensation of the members
215 during the period.

216 E. The accrued liability contribution rate for any employer shall be a percentage of the total annual
217 compensation of the members, determined so that a continuation of annual contributions by the
218 employer at the same percentage of total annual compensation over a period of 40 years will be
219 sufficient to amortize the unfunded accrued liability with respect to the employer.

220 F. The unfunded accrued liability with respect to any employer as of any valuation date shall be
221 determined as the excess of (i) the then present value of the benefits to be provided under the retirement
222 system in the future to members and former members over (ii) the sum of the assets of the retirement
223 system then currently in the members' contribution account and in the employer's retirement allowance
224 account, plus the then present value of the stipulated contributions to be made in the future by the
225 members, plus the then present value of the normal contributions expected to be made in the future by
226 the employer.

227 G. The supplementary contribution for any employer for any period shall be determined as a
228 percentage, equal to the supplementary contribution rate, of the total compensation of the members
229 employed during the period.

230 H. Until July 1, 1997, the supplementary contribution rate for any employer shall be determined as
231 the percentage represented by the ratio of (i) the average annual amount of post-retirement supplements,
232 as provided for in this chapter, which is anticipated to become payable during the period to which the
233 rate will be applicable with respect to former members to (ii) the total annual compensation of the
234 members.

235 I. The Board shall certify to each employer the applicable contribution rate and any changes in the
236 rate.

237 J. The employer contribution for the year shall be increased to the extent necessary to overcome any
238 insufficiency if the contributions for any employer, when combined with the amount of the retirement
239 allowance account of the employer, are insufficient to provide the benefits payable during the year.

240 K. The appropriation bill which is submitted to the General Assembly by the Governor prior to each
241 regular session that begins in an even-numbered year shall include the contributions which will become
242 due and payable to the retirement allowance account from the state treasury during the following
243 biennium. The amount of the contributions shall be based on the contribution rates certified by the
244 Board pursuant to subsection I of this section that are applicable to the Commonwealth as an employer

and the anticipated compensation during the biennium of the members of the retirement system on behalf of whom the Commonwealth is the employer.

L. In the case of all teachers whose compensation is paid exclusively out of funds derived from local revenues and appropriations from the general fund of the state treasury, the Commonwealth shall contribute to the extent specified in the appropriations act. In the case of any teacher whose compensation is paid out of funds derived in whole or in part from any special fund or from a contributor other than the Commonwealth or a political subdivision thereof, contributions shall be paid out of the special fund or by the other contributor in proportion to that part of the compensation derived therefrom. In the case of all state employees whose compensation is paid exclusively by the Commonwealth out of the general fund of the state treasury, the Commonwealth shall be the sole contributor, and all contributions shall be paid out of the general fund. In the case of a state employee whose compensation is paid in whole or in part out of any special fund or by any contributor other than the Commonwealth, contributions on behalf of the employee shall be paid out of the special fund or by the other contributor in proportion to that part of the employee's compensation derived therefrom. The governing body of each political subdivision is hereby authorized to make appropriations from the funds of the political subdivision necessary to pay its proportionate share of contributions on behalf of every state employee whose compensation is paid in part by the political subdivision. In the case of each person who has elected to remain a member of a local retirement system, the Commonwealth shall reimburse the local employer an amount equal to the product of the compensation of the person and the employer contribution rate as used to determine the employer contribution for state employees under this section. Each employer shall keep such records and periodically furnish such information as the Board may require and shall inform new employees of their duties and obligations in connection with the retirement system.

M. The employer contribution rate established for each employer may include the cost to administer any defined contribution plan administered by the Virginia Retirement System and available to the employer. The portion of such contribution designated to cover administrative costs of the defined contribution plans shall not be deposited into the trust fund established for the defined benefit plans but shall be separately accounted for and used solely to defray the administrative costs associated with the various defined contributions plans. This provision shall supplement the authority of the Board under §§ 51.1-124.22 and 51.1-602 to charge and collect administrative fees to employers whose employees have available the various defined contribution plans administered by the Virginia Retirement System.

N. *The employer contribution rate established for each employer may include the annual rate of contribution payable by such employer with respect to employees enrolled in the optional defined contribution retirement program established under § 51.1-126.5:1, to be assessed as surcharges for the amortization of unfunded liabilities of the defined benefit plans administered by the Virginia Retirement System.*

§ 51.1-201. Definitions.

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

"Employee" means a state police officer.

"Member" means any person included in the membership of the retirement system as provided in this chapter, *except that any person participating in the optional defined contribution retirement program established pursuant to § 51.1-126.5:1 shall not be considered a member.*

"Normal retirement date" means a member's sixtieth birthday.

"Retirement system" means the State Police Officers' Retirement System.

§ 51.1-202. Membership in retirement system.

Membership in the retirement system shall be compulsory for all state police officers. *However, such compulsory membership requirement shall be deemed to have been met by any employee participating in the optional defined contribution retirement program described under § 51.1-126.5:1.*

§ 51.1-212. Definitions.

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

"Employee" means any (i) member of the Capitol Police Force as described in § 30-34.2:1, (ii) campus police officer appointed under the provisions of Chapter 17 (§ 23-232 et seq.) of Title 23, (iii) conservation police officer in the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries appointed under the provisions of Chapter 2 (§ 29.1-200 et seq.) of Title 29.1, (iv) special agent of the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control appointed under the provisions of Chapter 1 (§ 4.1-100 et seq.), (v) law-enforcement officer employed by the Virginia Marine Resources Commission as described in § 9.1-101, (vi) correctional officer as the term is defined in § 53.1-1, and including correctional officers employed at a juvenile correction facility as the term is defined in § 66-25.3, (vii) any parole officer appointed pursuant to § 53.1-143, and (viii) any commercial vehicle enforcement officer employed by the Department of State Police.

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

306 this chapter *except that any person participating in the optional defined contribution retirement program*
307 *established pursuant to § 51.1-126.5:1 shall not be considered a member.*

308 "Normal retirement date" means a member's sixtieth birthday.

309 "Retirement System" means the Virginia Law Officers' Retirement System.

310 § 51.1-213. Membership in Retirement System.

311 Membership in the Retirement System shall be compulsory for all employees. *However, such*
312 *compulsory membership requirement shall be deemed to have been met by any employee participating in*
313 *the optional defined contribution retirement program described under § 51.1-126.5:1.*

314 § 51.1-301. Definitions.

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

316 "Appointing authority" means the General Assembly or the Governor.

317 "Creditable service" means prior service plus membership service, as further defined in and modified
318 by § 51.1-303, for which credit is allowable under this chapter.

319 "Judge" means any justice or judge of a court of record of the Commonwealth, any member of the
320 State Corporation Commission or Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission, any judge of a district
321 court of the Commonwealth other than a substitute judge of such district court, and any executive
322 secretary of the Supreme Court assuming such position between December 1, 1975, and January 31,
323 1976, *except that any person participating in the optional defined contribution retirement program*
324 *established pursuant to § 51.1-126.5:1 shall not be considered a judge as provided in this chapter.*

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

326 "Previous systems" means the systems established under the provisions of Chapters 2 (§ 51-3 et seq.)
327 and 2.2 (§ 51-29.8 et seq.) of Title 51, and, in the case of judges of regional juvenile and domestic
328 relations courts, the Virginia Retirement System.

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

333 "Retirement system" means the Judicial Retirement System.

334 "Service" means service as a judge.

335 § 51.1-601.1. Participation in plan by certain employees.

336 All employees of the Commonwealth and its agencies commencing employment or who are
337 reemployed on or after January 1, 2008, in a position covered by the Virginia Retirement System, and
338 who have not elected to participate in a plan established pursuant to (i) § 403(b) of the Internal Revenue
339 Code of 1986, as amended, or (ii) § 51.1-126.5:1, shall participate in the plan described in § 51.1-602,
340 unless such employee elects, in a manner prescribed by the Board, not to participate in such plan. The
341 amount of the deferral for any such employee participating in the plan shall equal, on a semimonthly
342 basis, \$20 of otherwise payable compensation, unless the employee elects to defer a different amount.

343 § 51.1-603.1. Participation by employees of political subdivisions in deferred compensation plan of
344 Virginia Retirement System.

345 The Virginia Retirement System may enter into an agreement with any political subdivision of the
346 Commonwealth to permit participation by the political subdivision's employees in the deferred
347 compensation plan established and administered by the Board pursuant to § 51.1-602, *except that*
348 *political subdivisions of the Commonwealth otherwise participating in the retirement system pursuant to*
349 *Article 5 (§ 51.1-130 et seq.) of Chapter 1 shall participate in the deferred compensation plan*
350 *established and administered by the Board pursuant to § 51.1-602 to the extent necessary to provide*
351 *benefits under the optional defined contribution retirement program described in § 51.1-126.5:1.*

352 § 51.1-611. Participation by employees of political subdivisions in cash match plan of Virginia
353 Retirement System.

354 The Virginia Retirement System may enter into an agreement with any political subdivision of the
355 Commonwealth to permit participation by the political subdivision's employees in the cash match plan
356 established and administered by the Board pursuant to ~~§ 51.1-607~~ 51.1-608 *except that political*
357 *subdivisions of the Commonwealth otherwise participating in the retirement system pursuant to Article 5*
358 *(§ 51.1-130 et seq.) of Chapter 1 shall participate in the deferred compensation plan established and*
359 *administered by the Board pursuant to § 51.1-608 to the extent necessary to provide benefits under the*
360 *optional defined contribution retirement program described in § 51.1-126.5:1.*

361 § 51.1-1100. Definitions.

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

363 "Act" means the Virginia Workers' Compensation Act (§ 65.2-100 et seq.).

364 "Company" means an insurance company issuing a long-term disability insurance policy purchased
365 by the Board pursuant to this chapter.

366 "Disability" means a partial disability or total disability.

367 "Disability benefit" means income replacement payments payable to a participating employee under a

short-term or long-term disability benefit program pursuant to this chapter. Disability benefits do not include benefits payable under the Act.

"Eligible employee" means (i) a state employee as defined in § 51.1-124.3 who is a member of the retirement system, (ii) an employee as defined in § 51.1-201, (iii) an employee as defined in § 51.1-212, or (iv) a qualifying part-time employee. Any person participating in a plan established pursuant to §§ 51.1-126, 51.1-126.1, 51.1-126.4, 51.1-126.5, ~~51.1-126.5:1~~, 51.1-502.1, or § 51.1-502.3 shall not be an eligible employee. Employees of the University of Virginia Medical Center covered under the basic insurance policies purchased by the Medical Center shall not be considered eligible employees under this chapter, unless the University of Virginia Board of Visitors, or a duly authorized agent or representative of the Board of Visitors, purchases such insurance policies from the Virginia Retirement System.

"Existing employee" means an employee who elected to participate in the Virginia Sickness and Disability Program.

"Partial disability" exists during the first ~~twenty-four~~ 24 months following the occurrence or commencement of an illness or injury when an employee is earning less than ~~eighty~~ 80 percent of his predisability earnings and, as a result of an injury or illness, is (i) able to perform one or more, but not all, of the essential job functions of his own job on an active employment or a part-time basis or (ii) able to perform all of the essential job functions of his own job only on a part-time basis.

"Participating employee" means any eligible employee required or electing to participate in the program.

"Program" means the program providing sick leave, family and personal leave, short-term disability, and long-term disability benefits for participating employees established pursuant to this chapter.

"Qualifying part-time employee" means any person who would qualify as a state employee as defined in § 51.1-124.3 but, rather than being regularly employed full time on a salaried basis, is regularly employed part time for at least ~~twenty~~ 20 hours but less than ~~forty~~ 40 hours per week on a salaried basis.

"State service" means the employee's total period of state service as an eligible employee, including all periods of classified full-time and classified part-time service and periods of leave without pay, but not including periods during which the employee did not meet the definition of an eligible employee.

"Total disability" exists (i) during the first ~~twenty-four~~ 24 months following the occurrence or commencement of an illness or injury if an employee is unable to perform all of his essential job functions or (ii) after ~~twenty-four~~ 24 months following the occurrence or commencement of an illness or injury if an employee is unable to perform any job for which he is reasonably qualified based on his training or experience and earning less than ~~eighty~~ 80 percent of his predisability earnings.

"Work-related injury" means an injury, as such term is defined in § 65.2-101, to a participating employee for which benefits are payable under the Act and the Commonwealth is the employer for purposes of the Act.

In addition to the definitions listed above, the definitions listed in § 51.1-124.3 shall apply to this chapter except as otherwise provided.

CHAPTER 11.1.

DISABILITY PROGRAM FOR DEFINED CONTRIBUTION RETIREMENT PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS.

Article 1.

General Provisions.

§ 51.1-1150. Definitions.

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

"Act" means the Virginia Workers' Compensation Act (§ 65.2-100 et seq.).

"Company" means an insurance company issuing a long-term disability insurance policy purchased by the Board pursuant to this chapter.

"Continuous service" means an uninterrupted period of service as a participating employee with the same employer.

"Disability" means a partial disability or total disability.

"Disability benefit" means income replacement payments payable to a participating employee under a short-term or long-term disability benefit program pursuant to this chapter. Disability benefits do not include benefits payable under the Act.

"Eligible employee" means a person who is participating in the defined contribution retirement program established pursuant to § 51.1-126.5:1.

"Partial disability" exists during the first 24 months following the occurrence or commencement of an illness or injury when an employee is earning less than 80 percent of his predisability earnings and, as a result of an injury or illness, is (i) able to perform one or more, but not all, of the essential job functions of his own job on an active employment or a part-time basis or (ii) able to perform all of the essential job functions of his own job only on a part-time basis.

429 *"Participating employee" means any eligible employee required to participate in the program.*

430 *"Program" means the program providing short-term disability and long-term disability benefits for*
431 *participating employees established pursuant to this chapter.*

432 *"Service" means a period of service as a participating employee.*

433 *"Total disability" exists (i) during the first 24 months following the occurrence or commencement of*
434 *an illness or injury if an employee is unable to perform all of his essential job functions or (ii) after 24*
435 *months following the occurrence or commencement of an illness or injury if an employee is unable to*
436 *perform any job for which he is reasonably qualified based on his training or experience and earning*
437 *less than 80 percent of his predisability earnings.*

438 *"Work-related injury" means an injury, as such term is defined in § 65.2-101, to a participating*
439 *employee for which benefits are payable under the Act and the employer for purposes of the Act is the*
440 *Commonwealth or other political subdivision through which the participating employee became eligible*
441 *for the program.*

442 *In addition to the definitions listed in this section, the definitions listed in § 51.1-124.3 shall, as the*
443 *context requires, apply to this chapter except as otherwise provided.*

444 *§ 51.1-1151. Sickness and disability program; disability insurance policies.*

445 *A. The Board shall develop, implement, and administer a short-term disability and long-term*
446 *disability benefits program in accordance with the provisions of this chapter. The Board is authorized to*
447 *delegate or assign to any person any of the duties required to be performed by the Board pursuant to*
448 *this chapter. The Board is authorized to purchase long-term disability insurance policies for*
449 *participating employees. The policies shall be purchased from and carried with a disability insurance*
450 *company which is authorized to do business in the Commonwealth.*

451 *Each policy shall contain a provision stipulating the maximum expense and risk charges that are*
452 *determined by the Board to be on a basis consistent with the general level of charges made by disability*
453 *insurance companies under policies of long-term disability insurance issued to large employers. The*
454 *Board may require that the policies have reinsurance with a disability insurance company incorporated*
455 *or organized under the laws of and authorized to do business in the Commonwealth.*

456 *B. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection A, the Board may self-insure long-term disability*
457 *benefits in accordance with the standards set forth in § 51.1-124.30.*

458 *§ 51.1-1152. Additional powers of the Board.*

459 *In addition to any other powers granted to the Board under this title, the Board shall have the*
460 *power to:*

461 *1. Establish policies and procedures to implement and administer the program and the provisions of*
462 *this chapter;*

463 *2. Contract for the provision of comprehensive case management;*

464 *3. Take all other actions necessary for the implementation and administration of the program; and*

465 *4. Adopt rules and policies that bring the program into compliance with any applicable law or*
466 *regulation of this Commonwealth or the United States.*

467 *§ 51.1-1153. Participation in the program.*

468 *A. The effective date of participation in the program for participating employees shall be their first*
469 *day of employment.*

470 *B. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, no participating employee shall receive benefits*
471 *under Article 2 (§ 51.1-1154 et seq.) (Nonwork-Related Disability Benefits) until the participating*
472 *employee completes one year of continuous service.*

473 *C. Eligibility for participation in the program shall terminate upon the earliest to occur of an*
474 *employee's (i) termination of employment or (ii) death. Eligibility for participation in the program shall*
475 *be suspended during periods that an employee is placed on nonpay status, including leave without pay,*
476 *if such nonpay status is due to suspension pending investigation or outcome of employment-related court*
477 *or disciplinary action.*

478 *Article 2.*

479 *Nonwork-Related Disability Benefits.*

480 *§ 51.1-1154. Applicability of article.*

481 *The provisions of this article shall apply only with respect to the disability programs providing*
482 *disability benefits for disabilities not resulting from work-related injuries.*

483 *§ 51.1-1155. Short-term disability benefit.*

484 *A. Except as provided in subsection B § 51.1-1153, short-term disability benefits for participating*
485 *employees shall commence upon the expiration of a seven-calendar-day waiting period. The waiting*
486 *period shall commence the first day of a disability or of maternity leave. If an employee returns to work*
487 *for one day or less during the seven-calendar-day waiting period but cannot continue to work, the*
488 *periods worked shall not be considered to have interrupted the seven-calendar-day waiting period.*
489 *Additionally, the seven-calendar-day waiting period shall not be considered to be interrupted if the*
490 *employee works 20 hours or less during the waiting period. Short-term disability benefits payable as the*

result of a catastrophic disability shall not require a waiting period.

B. Except as provided in § 51.1-1171, short-term disability coverage shall provide income replacement for (i) 60 percent of a participating employee's creditable compensation for the first 60 months of continuous service and (ii) thereafter, a percentage of a participating employee's creditable compensation during the periods specified below, based on the number of months of continuous service, that an employee is disabled or on maternity leave:

	Work Days of 100%	Work Days of 80%	Work Days of 60%
Months of	Replacement of	Replacement of	Replacement of
Continuous	Creditable	Creditable	Creditable
Service	Compensation	Compensation	Compensation
60-119	25	25	75
120-179	25	50	50
180 or more	25	75	25

C. Creditable compensation during periods an employee receives short-term disability benefits shall include salary increases awarded during the period covered by short-term disability benefits.

D. Short-term disability benefits shall be payable only during periods of (i) total disability, (ii) partial disability, or (iii) maternity leave.

§ 51.1-1156. Successive periods of short-term disability.

A. A participating employee's disability which is related or due to the same cause or causes as a prior disability for which short-term disability benefits were paid shall be deemed to be a continuation of the prior disability if the employee returns to his position on an active employment basis for less than 45 consecutive calendar days. If a participating employee, after receiving short-term disability benefits, immediately returns to work for less than 45 consecutive calendar days and cannot continue to work, the days worked shall be deemed to have interrupted the short-term disability benefits period, and such days worked shall not be counted for purposes of determining the maximum period for which the participating employee is eligible to receive short-term disability benefits. Days of work arranged pursuant to vocational, rehabilitation, or return-to-work programs shall not be counted in determining the duration of the period of the employee's return to work.

B. If a participating employee returns to his position on an active employment basis for 45 consecutive calendar days or longer, any succeeding period of disability shall constitute a new period of short-term disability.

C. The period of 45 days referred to in subsections A and B shall be consecutive calendar days that the participating employee is (i) actively at work and (ii) fully released to return to work full time, full duty.

§ 51.1-1157. Long-term disability benefit.

A. Long-term disability benefits for participating employees shall commence upon the expiration of the maximum period for which the participating employee is eligible to receive short-term disability benefits under § 51.1-1155.

B. Except as provided in § 51.1-1171, long-term disability benefits shall provide income replacement in an amount equal to 60 percent of a participating employee's creditable compensation.

C. Creditable compensation during periods an employee receives long-term disability benefits shall not include salary increases awarded during the period covered by long-term disability benefits.

D. Long-term disability benefits shall be payable only during periods of (i) total disability or (ii) partial disability.

E. Unless otherwise directed, to be eligible for benefits under this section, the employee must apply for Social Security disability benefits.

§ 51.1-1158. Successive periods of long-term disability.

A. A participating employee's disability, which is related or due to the same cause or causes as a prior disability for which long-term disability benefits were paid, shall be deemed to be a continuation of the prior disability if the employee returns to a position on an active employment basis for less than 125 consecutive work days. Days of work arranged pursuant to vocational, rehabilitation, or return-to-work programs shall not be counted in determining the duration of the period of the employee's return to work.

B. If a participating employee returns to a position on an active employment basis for 125 consecutive work days or longer, any succeeding period of disability shall constitute a new period of disability.

§ 51.1-1159. Adjustments to disability benefits.

A. Disability benefit payments shall be offset by an amount equal to any sums payable to a participating employee from the following sources:

1. During the first 12 months the employee receives disability benefits, an amount equal to the employee's wages and salary from any employment multiplied by the creditable compensation

552 replacement percentage;

553 2. After the first 12 months the employee receives disability benefits, an amount equal to 70 percent
554 of the employee's wages and salary from any employment;

555 3. Except as provided in subsection F, disability payments from the Social Security Administration,
556 military disability benefits, local government disability benefits, federal civil service disability benefits or
557 other similar governmental disability program benefits received by the employee or his family as a
558 result of the qualifying disability;

559 4. Benefits received from any other group insurance contract provided to the participating employee
560 by his employer for the purpose of providing income replacement; and

561 5. Benefits paid under any compulsory benefits law.

562 B. If the plan administrator deems a participating employee to be eligible for benefits from any of
563 the sources listed in subdivisions A 3, A 4, and A 5, the plan administrator may direct the participating
564 employee to apply for those benefits and to pursue whatever additional steps are necessary to obtain the
565 benefits. If a participating employee fails or refuses to pursue the available benefits as directed by the
566 plan administrator, disability benefit payments may be offset by amounts from any of the sources listed
567 in subdivisions A 3, A 4, and A 5 for which a participating employee is deemed eligible by the plan
568 administrator as if the employee received such amounts. However, if the employee has applied for such
569 benefits, and has reapplied and appealed denials of the claim as requested by the administrator of the
570 plan, and the claim is not approved, the employee's disability payments shall not be reduced thereby.

571 C. If a participating employee's disability benefit payments are reduced as the result of payments
572 from sources listed in subdivisions A 3, A 4, and A 5 or pursuant to subsection B, the employee's
573 disability benefits shall not thereafter be further reduced on account of cost-of-living increases in
574 payments from such sources.

575 D. Participating employees shall be required to repay, with interest, to the Board or their employer,
576 any overpayments of disability benefits on account of the failure of the employee to provide the Board
577 or its designee with information necessary to make any of the reductions required to be made under this
578 article.

579 E. Any payment to a participating employee that is later determined by the Board or by the employer
580 to have been procured on the basis of any false statement or falsification of any record knowingly made
581 by or on behalf of the member, or the employee's failure to make any required report of change in
582 disability status, may be recovered from the employee by the Board, with interest, either by way of a
583 credit against future payments due the employee, his survivor and beneficiaries or by an action at law
584 against the employee.

585 F. Supplemental disability payments will not be offset for a participating employee if the employee is
586 receiving a primary retirement benefit for service in the United States armed services, even if a
587 percentage of that primary retirement benefit has been declared a disability payment. Any disability
588 payment that is not a part of the primary retirement benefit will be offset.

589 § 51.1-1160. Rehabilitation incentive.

590 Disability benefits payable to a participating employee who fails to cooperate with a rehabilitation
591 program prescribed for the employee shall be decreased by 50 percent of the amounts otherwise payable
592 to such employee.

593 § 51.1-1161. Cessation of disability benefits.

594 Disability benefits shall cease to be paid to a participating employee upon the first to occur of the
595 following:

596 1. The end of the period of disability coverage as provided in subsection D of § 51.1-1155 or
597 subsection D of § 51.1-1157;

598 2. The date of death of the participating employee;

599 3. The date that the participating employee attains age 65; or

600 4. The date that the participating employee takes an initial distribution from the defined contribution
601 retirement plan established pursuant to § 51.1-126.5:1.

602 Notwithstanding the foregoing, an employee who is approved for disability benefits (i) at age 60
603 through 64 shall be eligible for five years of disability benefits, (ii) at age 65 through 68 shall be
604 eligible for disability benefits to age 70, and (iii) at age 69 or older shall be eligible for disability
605 benefits for one year. The eligibility periods include short-term disability and long-term disability.

606 Article 3.

607 Work-Related Disability Benefits.

608 § 51.1-1162. Applicability of article.

609 The provisions of this article shall apply only with respect to disability programs providing payment
610 of disability benefits attributed to work-related injuries.

611 § 51.1-1163. Supplemental short-term disability benefit.

612 A. Payments of supplemental short-term disability benefits payable under this article shall be reduced
613 by an amount equal to any benefits paid to the employee under the Act, or which the employee is

entitled to receive under the Act, excluding any payments for medical, legal or rehabilitation expenses.

B. Supplemental short-term disability benefits for participating employees shall commence upon the expiration of a seven-calendar-day waiting period. The waiting period shall commence the first day of a disability. If an employee returns to work for one day or less during the seven calendar days following the commencement of a disability but cannot continue to work, the periods worked shall not be considered to have interrupted the seven-calendar-day waiting period. Additionally, the seven-calendar-day waiting period shall not be considered to be interrupted if the employee works 20 hours or less during the waiting period. Short-term disability benefits payable as the result of a catastrophic disability shall not require any waiting period.

C. Except as provided in subsection D and 51.1-1171, supplemental short-term disability coverage shall provide income replacement for (i) 60 percent of a participating employee's creditable compensation for the first 60 months of continuous service and (ii) thereafter, a percentage of a participating employee's creditable compensation during the period specified below that an employee is disabled, based on the number of months of continuous service, as follows:

	Work Days of 100%	Work Days of 80%	Work Days of 60%
Months of Continuous Service	Replacement of Creditable Compensation	Replacement of Creditable Compensation	Replacement of Creditable Compensation
60 to 119	85	25	15
120 or more	85	40	0

D. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection C, a state police officer who is a participating employee and who incurs a work-related injury in the line of duty shall receive supplemental short-term disability coverage that provides income replacement for 100 percent of the officer's creditable compensation for the first six months and, pursuant to a certification by the Superintendent of State Police, based on a medical evaluation, that the officer is likely to return to service within another six months, up to one calendar year, that the officer is disabled, without regard to the officer's number of months of state service. Upon the expiration of the one-calendar-year period, such state police officers shall be eligible for supplemental long-term disability benefits as provided in § 51.1-1165.

E. Creditable compensation during periods an employee receives supplemental short-term disability benefits shall include salary increases awarded during the period of short-term disability coverage.

F. Supplemental short-term disability benefits shall be payable only during periods of total disability or partial disability.

§ 51.1-1164. Successive periods of short-term disability.

A. A participating employee's disability, which is related or due to the same cause or causes as a prior disability for which supplemental short-term disability benefits were paid, shall be deemed to be a continuation of the prior disability if the employee (i) is eligible for benefits payable under the Act, whether or not he is receiving such benefits, and (ii) returns to his position on an active employment basis for less than 45 consecutive calendar days. If a participating employee, after receiving short-term disability benefits, immediately returns to work for less than 45 consecutive calendar days and cannot continue to work, the days worked shall be deemed to have interrupted the short-term disability benefits period, and such days worked shall not be counted for purposes of determining the maximum period for which the participating employee is eligible to receive short-term disability benefits. Days of work arranged pursuant to vocational, rehabilitation, or return-to-work programs shall not be counted in determining the duration of the period of the employee's return to work.

B. If a participating employee returns to his position on an active employment basis for 45 consecutive calendar days or longer, any succeeding period of disability shall constitute a new period of short-term disability.

C. The period of 45 days referred to in subsections A and B shall be consecutive calendar days that the participating employee is (i) actively at work and (ii) fully released to return to work full time, full duty.

§ 51.1-1165. Supplemental long-term disability benefit.

A. Supplemental long-term disability benefits for participating employees shall commence upon the expiration of the maximum period for which the participating employee is eligible to receive short-term disability benefits under § 51.1-1163.

B. Except as provided in § 51.1-1171, supplemental long-term disability benefits shall provide income replacement in an amount equal to 60 percent of a participating employee's creditable compensation.

C. Creditable compensation during periods an employee receives supplemental long-term disability benefits shall not include salary increases awarded during the period covered by long-term disability benefits.

D. Payments of supplemental long-term disability benefits payable under this article shall be reduced by an amount equal to any benefits paid to the employee under the Act, for which the employee is

675 entitled to receive under the Act, excluding any benefit for medical, legal or rehabilitation expenses.

676 E. Supplemental long-term disability benefits shall be payable only during periods of total disability
677 or partial disability.

678 F. Unless otherwise directed, to be eligible for benefits under this section, the employee must apply
679 for Social Security disability benefits.

680 § 51.1-1166. Successive periods of long-term disability.

681 A. A participating employee's disability, which is related or due to the same cause or causes as a
682 prior disability for which supplemental long-term disability benefits were paid, shall be deemed to be a
683 continuation of the prior disability if the employee is eligible for benefits payable under the Act, whether
684 or not he is receiving such benefits, and returns to a position on an active employment basis for less
685 than 125 consecutive work days. Days of work arranged pursuant to vocational, rehabilitation, or
686 return-to-work programs shall not be counted in determining the duration of the period of the
687 employee's return to work.

688 B. If a participating employee returns to a position on an active employment basis for 125
689 consecutive work days or longer, any succeeding period of disability shall constitute a new period of
690 disability.

691 § 51.1-1167. Adjustments in supplemental disability benefits.

692 A. In addition to offsets equal to the amount of any benefits paid to a participating employee under
693 the Act, supplemental disability benefit payments shall be offset by an amount equal to any sums
694 payable to a participating employee from the following sources:

695 1. During the first 12 months the employee receives disability benefits, an amount equal to the
696 employee's wages and salary from any employment multiplied by the income replacement percentage
697 payable;

698 2. After the first 12 months the employee receives disability benefits, an amount equal to 70 percent
699 of the employee's wages and salary from any employment;

700 3. Except as provided in subsection G, disability payments from the Social Security Administration,
701 military disability benefits, local government disability benefits, federal civil service disability benefits or
702 other similar governmental disability program benefits received by the employee or his family as a
703 result of the qualifying disability;

704 4. Benefits received from any other group insurance contract provided to the participating employee
705 by his employer for the purpose of income replacement;

706 5. Benefits paid under any compulsory benefits law; and

707 6. If the participating employee receives a settlement in lieu of periodic payments for a disability
708 compensable under the Act, an amount determined by dividing the workers' compensation benefit, which
709 such employee would have received had the lump-sum settlement not been consummated into the
710 settlement actually accepted by the employee.

711 B. If the plan administrator deems a participating employee to be eligible for benefits from any of
712 the sources listed in subdivisions A 3, A 4, and A 5, the plan administrator may direct the participating
713 employee to apply for those benefits and to pursue whatever additional steps are necessary to obtain the
714 benefits. If a participating employee fails or refuses to pursue the available benefits as directed by the
715 plan administrator, supplemental disability benefit payments may be reduced by amounts from any of the
716 sources listed in subdivisions A 3, A 4, and A 5 for which a participating employee is deemed eligible
717 by the plan administrator as if the employee received such amounts. However, if the employee has
718 applied for such benefits, and has reapplied and appealed denials of the claim as requested by the
719 administrator of the plan, and the claim is not approved, the employee's supplemental disability
720 payments shall not be reduced thereby.

721 C. If a participating employee's disability benefit payments are reduced as the result of payments
722 from sources listed in subdivisions A 3, A 4, and A 5 or pursuant to subsection B, the employee's
723 disability benefits shall not thereafter be further reduced on account of cost-of-living increases in
724 payments from such sources.

725 D. Participating employees shall be required to repay, with interest, to the Board or the employer
726 any overpayments of supplemental disability benefits on account of the failure of the employee to
727 provide the Board or its designee with information necessary to make any of the reductions required to
728 be made under this article.

729 E. Any payment to a participating employee that is later determined by the Board or by the employer
730 to have been procured on the basis of any false statement or falsification of any record knowingly made
731 by or on behalf of the employee, or the employee's failure to make any required report of change in
732 disability status, may be recovered from the employee by the Board, with interest, either by way of a
733 credit against future payments due the employee or by an action at law against the employee.

734 F. If a participating employee's payments under the Act are adjusted or terminated for refusal to
735 work or to comply with the requirements of § 65.2-603, his disability benefits shall be computed as if he
736 were receiving the compensation to which he would otherwise be entitled under the Act.

G. Supplemental disability payments will not be offset for a participating employee if the employee is receiving a primary retirement benefit for service in the United States armed services, even if a percentage of that primary retirement benefit has been declared a disability payment. Any disability payment that is not a part of the primary retirement benefit will be offset.

§ 51.1-1168. Rehabilitation incentive.

Supplemental disability benefits payable to a participating employee who fails to cooperate with a rehabilitation program prescribed for the employee shall be decreased by 50 percent of the amounts otherwise payable to such employee. In determining the amount of any reduction in benefits under this section, the participating employee shall be presumed to continue to receive benefits payable under the Act. Failure to comply with a vocational rehabilitation assessment process at any time the employee is receiving supplemental disability benefits may constitute a failure to cooperate for purposes of this section.

§ 51.1-1169. Cessation of supplemental disability benefits.

Supplemental disability benefits shall cease to be paid to a participating employee upon the first to occur of the following:

1. The end of the period of supplemental disability coverage as provided in subsection F of § 51.1-1163 or subsection E of § 51.1-1165;

2. The date of death of the participating employee;

3. On the date the employee attains age 65; or

4. The date that the participating employee takes an initial distribution from the defined contribution retirement plan established pursuant to § 51.1-126.5:1.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, an employee who is approved for supplemental disability benefits (i) at age 60 through 64 shall be eligible for five years of supplemental disability benefits, (ii) at age 65 through 68 shall be eligible for supplemental disability benefits to age 70, and (iii) at age 69 or older shall be eligible for supplemental disability benefits for one year. The eligibility periods include supplemental short-term disability and supplemental long-term disability.

§ 51.1-1170. Coordination of benefits.

The Board shall develop guidelines and procedures for the coordination of benefits and case management for participating employees entitled to benefits under the Act and supplemental disability benefits under this article. Such guidelines shall also address disability benefits for participating employees whose disability results from multiple injuries or illnesses, one or more of which is a work-related injury.

Article 4.

Administrative Provisions.

§ 51.1-1171. Supplemental benefits for catastrophic disability.

Disability benefits shall be increased to 80 percent of creditable compensation for any disabled participating employee who (i) is unable to perform at least two of the six activities of daily living due to a loss of functional capacity or (ii) requires substantial supervision to protect the employee from threats to health and safety as a result of severe cognitive impairment. Determination of whether a participating employee satisfies either of these conditions shall be made in accordance with the policies of the Board or its designee.

§ 51.1-1172. Employer contributions during disability absences.

A. Employer and employee contributions to the defined contribution retirement program pursuant to subsections B and C of § 51.1-126.5:1 on behalf of participating employees shall continue during periods of such employees' absence covered by short-term disability benefits.

However, the calculation of such contributions shall be based on the participating employee's creditable compensation multiplied by the income replacement percentage for which the participating employee is otherwise eligible under this program.

B. In lieu of the mandatory employer and employee contributions pursuant to subdivisions B 1 and C 1 of § 51.1-126.5:1, a 10 percent contribution to the defined contribution retirement program shall be paid, on behalf of participating employees during periods of such employees' absence covered by long-term disability benefits, by the Defined Contribution Retirement Program Disability Insurance Trust Fund established under § 51.1-1183. However, the calculation of such contribution shall be based on the participating employee's creditable compensation multiplied by the income replacement percentage for which the participating employee is otherwise eligible under this program.

§ 51.1-1173. Health insurance coverage during disability absences.

A. Participating employees enrolled in a health insurance plan established pursuant to § 2.2-2818 shall continue to be covered during periods of short-term disability and shall have the option of continuing to be covered by such plan during periods of absence covered by long-term disability benefits.

B. The Commonwealth shall pay the employer's share of the cost of health insurance coverage under

798 such plan for participating employees and for the families or dependents of such employees during
799 periods the employee is receiving short-term disability benefits to the same extent as for other state
800 employees covered by such plan.

801 C. Participating employees enrolled in such plan established pursuant to § 2.2-2818 shall have the
802 option of continuing to be covered under such plan, and shall pay the full cost for coverage under such
803 plan for themselves and for their families and dependents during periods the employee is receiving
804 long-term disability benefits. However, for an employee as defined in § 51.1-201 who is receiving
805 supplemental long-term disability benefits pursuant to Article 3 (§ 51.1-1163 et seq.), the Commonwealth
806 shall continue to pay the employer's share of the cost of health insurance coverage under such plan for
807 the participating employee and for his family and dependents until such time as the employee is
808 approved for continued health insurance coverage as provided under Chapter 4 (§ 9.1-400 et seq.) of
809 Title 9.1.

810 § 51.1-1174. Life and accident insurance coverage during disability absences.

811 A. Participating employees participating in a group life and accident insurance program established
812 pursuant to Chapter 5 (§ 51.1-500 et seq.) shall continue to participate in such program during periods
813 of absence covered by short-term and long-term disability benefits.

814 B. During periods of absence covered by short-term disability benefits, the amount of the life
815 insurance benefit shall be based on the annual salary of the participating employee at the
816 commencement of the disability and shall be adjusted to include salary increases awarded during the
817 period covered by short-term disability benefits.

818 C. During periods of absence covered by long-term disability benefits, the amount of the life
819 insurance benefit shall be based on the annual salary of the participating employee at the
820 commencement of the disability. Such amount shall not include salary increases awarded during the
821 period covered by long-term disability benefits.

822 § 51.1-1175. Optional insurance during disability absences.

823 Participating employees may continue coverage under the optional insurance for themselves and
824 their spouses and minor dependents pursuant to §§ 51.1-512 and 51.1-513 at their own expense during
825 periods of disability.

826 § 51.1-1176. Exclusions and limitations.

827 A. Disability benefits shall not be payable to any participating employee (i) whose disability results
828 from the employee's commission of a felony or (ii) during any period when the employee is incarcerated.

829 B. Long-term disability benefits shall not be payable to any participating employee whose disability
830 results from the abuse of alcohol, the misuse of any prescribed medication, or the misuse of any
831 controlled substance, unless the employee is actively receiving treatment and, in the judgment of the
832 case manager, is fully complying with the treatment plan and is making substantial progress toward
833 rehabilitation.

834 C. Disability benefits shall not be payable if the participating employee is determined by the Board
835 or its designee to be noncompliant with the program.

836 § 51.1-1177. Appeals.

837 The Board may elect to develop an alternative to the process set forth in the Administrative Process
838 Act (§ 2.2-4000 et seq.) to allow appeals of case decisions related to the payment of disability benefits
839 under this chapter. This alternative process shall be modeled after the claims provisions as provided for
840 in the federal Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended, and shall (i) provide for
841 adequate notice in writing to any participant whose claim for benefits has been denied setting forth the
842 specific reasons for such denial and (ii) afford a reasonable opportunity to any participant whose claim
843 for benefits has been denied for a review of the decision denying the claim. Articles 3 (§ 2.2-4018 et
844 seq.) and 4 (§ 2.2-4024 et seq.) of the Administrative Process Act shall not apply to any portion of this
845 alternative appeals process.

846 However, any person aggrieved by, and claiming the unlawfulness of, a final case decision issued
847 pursuant to this alternative appeals process, whether issued by the Board or by the Board's delegate,
848 shall have a right to seek judicial review thereof. Such judicial review shall be in accordance with
849 Article 5 (§ 2.2-4025 et seq.) of the Administrative Process Act.

850 § 51.1-1178. Board authorized to provide long-term care insurance and benefits.

851 A. For purposes of this section, "participating employee" means the same as that term is defined in
852 § 51.1-1150.

853 B. The Board is authorized to develop, implement, and administer a long-term care insurance
854 program for participating employees. The Board may contract for and purchase such long-term care
855 insurance or may self-insure long-term care benefits or may use such other actuarially sound funding
856 necessary to effectuate such long-term care insurance and benefits.

857 C. Employers of participating employees shall pay to the Board contribution amounts, to be
858 determined by the Board, to provide the Board with such funds as shall be required from time to time to
859 (i) obtain and maintain long-term care insurance and benefits for participating employees and (ii)

administer the long-term care insurance program, including providing case management and cost containment programs. Contributions shall be deposited in the Defined Contribution Retirement Program Disability Insurance Trust Fund established under § 51.1-1183.

§ 51.1-1179. Limitation on coverage.

No person shall have more than one coverage under a disability benefit program. Any person employed in more than one position, which provides coverage under a disability benefit program, shall elect one position on which his coverage shall be based by written notification to the Board. No person shall receive more than one disability benefit under this chapter at the same time.

§ 51.1-1180. Keeping records and furnishing information required by Board.

Each employer whose employees are covered under the provisions of this chapter shall keep records and furnish information required by the Board.

§ 51.1-1181. Benefits exempt from process.

The benefits provided for in this chapter and all proceeds therefrom shall be exempt from levy, garnishment, attachment, and other legal process.

§ 51.1-1182. Policies to provide for accounting to Board; advance premium deposit reserve.

A. Each insurance product purchased by the Board or contract for administrative services related to a self-funded product shall provide for an accounting to the Board not later than 120 days after the end of each product year. For an insurance product, the accounting shall include (i) the amounts of premiums actually accrued under the policy during the policy year, (ii) the total amount of all claim charges incurred during the policy year, and (iii) the amount of fees accrued under the policy during the year plus the total amount of all claim charges incurred during the policy year. For a self-insured product, the accounting shall include the total amount of all claim charges incurred during the product year, the total amount of third party administrator expenses, and the total amount of other charges for administrative services.

B. Any portion of the excess of the total of clause (i) of subsection A over clause (iii) of subsection A may, with the approval of the Board, be held by the insurance company in an advance premium deposit reserve to be used by the company for charges under the policy only. Any expenses incurred by the Board in connection with the administration of the disability benefits provisions of the program may be deducted from the advance premium deposit reserve. The advance premium deposit reserve shall bear interest at a rate to be determined in advance of each policy year by the insurance company. The rate shall be subject to Board approval as being consistent with the rates generally used by the company for similar funds held under other disability insurance policies. Any portion of the excess not held by the insurance company shall be held by the Board to be used for charges under the policy only. If the Board determines that the advance premium deposit reserve, together with any portion of the excess accumulated and held by the Board, has attained an amount estimated to make satisfactory provision for adverse fluctuations in future charges under the policy, any further excess shall inure to the benefit of the Commonwealth and its political subdivisions as determined by the Board.

C. For purposes of this section, the insurance company may combine and consolidate the policies issued by it as directed by the Board.

§ 51.1-1183. Funding of program; Defined Contribution Retirement Program Disability Insurance Trust Fund established.

A. The costs of providing short-term disability benefits shall be paid by the respective employers of participating employees. Employers that are state agencies shall pay such costs from funds as shall be appropriated by law to state agencies.

B. Employers of participating employees shall pay to the Board contribution amounts, to be determined by the Board, to provide the Board with such funds as shall be required from time to time to (i) obtain and maintain long-term disability insurance policies under this chapter and (ii) administer the Program, including providing case management and cost containment programs. Employers that are state agencies shall make such contributions from funds as shall be appropriated by law to state agencies. Contributions shall be deposited in the Defined Contribution Retirement Program Disability Insurance Trust Fund.

C. There is hereby established the Defined Contribution Retirement Program Disability Insurance Trust Fund. The costs incurred by the Board in providing policies of long-term disability insurance and administering the Program and in administering the long-term care insurance program established under § 51.1-1178, including the provision of case management and cost containment programs, shall be withdrawn from time to time by the Board from the Defined Contribution Retirement Program Disability Insurance Trust Fund. The funds of the Defined Contribution Retirement Program Insurance Trust Fund shall be deemed separate and independent trust funds, shall be segregated from all other funds of the Commonwealth and its political subdivisions, and shall be invested and administered solely in the interests of the participating employees and beneficiaries thereof. Neither the General Assembly nor any public officer, employee, or agency shall use or authorize the use of such trust funds for any purpose

921 *other than as provided in law for benefits, refunds, and administrative expenses, including but not*
922 *limited to legislative oversight of the Defined Contribution Retirement Program Disability Insurance*
923 *Trust Fund.*

924 § 51.1-1400. Health insurance credits for retired state employees.

925 A. The Commonwealth shall provide a credit toward the cost of health insurance coverage for any
926 former state employee, as defined in § 2.2-2818, who retired under the Virginia Retirement System,
927 State Police Officers' Retirement System, Judicial Retirement System, Virginia Law Officers' Retirement
928 System, or any retirement system authorized pursuant to § 51.1-126, 51.1-126.1, 51.1-126.3, 51.1-126.4,
929 51.1-126.5, *51.1-126.5:1*, or 51.1-126.7 and who (i) rendered at least 15 years of total creditable service
930 under the Retirement System or (ii) rendered service as a temporary employee of the General Assembly
931 in 1972 and became a member of the retirement system from 1972 to 1985 immediately following such
932 temporary service. The amount of each monthly health insurance credit payable under this section shall
933 be \$4 per year of creditable service, which amount shall be credited monthly to any retired state
934 employee participating in the state retiree health benefits program pursuant to § 51.1-1405 or an
935 alternative personal health insurance plan as provided herein. However, such credit shall not exceed the
936 health insurance premium for retiree-only coverage as provided under such alternative personal health
937 insurance plan. Any (i) employee participant pursuant to § 51.1-126, 51.1-126.1, 51.1-126.3, 51.1-126.4,
938 51.1-126.5, *51.1-126.5:1*, or 51.1-126.7 receiving long-term disability, or (ii) retired state employee
939 retired under the provisions of § 51.1-156 or 51.1-307, or (iii) any participating employee receiving
940 long-term disability pursuant to § 51.1-1112 or 51.1-1123 shall receive a maximum monthly credit
941 which is the greater of (i) \$120, (ii) \$4 per year for each year of creditable service at the time of
942 disability retirement, or (iii) \$4 per year for each year of creditable service at the time of eligibility for
943 long-term disability. Any person included in the membership of a retirement system provided by Chapter
944 1 (§ 51.1-124.1 et seq.), 2 (§ 51.1-200 et seq.), 2.1 (§ 51.1-211 et seq.), or 3 (§ 51.1-300 et seq.) of ~~this~~
945 ~~title~~ who elects to defer his retirement pursuant to subsection C of § 51.1-153, subsection C of
946 § 51.1-205 or subsection C of § 51.1-305 shall be entitled to receive the allowable credit provided by
947 this section on the effective date of his retirement.

948 B. For those retired state employees:

949 1. Participating in the state retiree health benefits program, such credit shall be applied to the
950 monthly premium deducted from benefits payable to retired state employees in accordance with Chapters
951 1 (§ 51.1-124.1 et seq.), 2 (§ 51.1-200 et seq.), 2.1 (§ 51.1-211 et seq.), and 3 (§ 51.1-300 et seq.) ~~of~~
952 ~~this title~~. In the event that either no benefit is payable or the benefit payable is insufficient to deduct the
953 entire health care premium, the payment of the credit shall be determined in the manner prescribed by
954 the Virginia Retirement System. Eligibility for the credit shall be determined in a manner prescribed by
955 the Virginia Retirement System.

956 2. Not electing or eligible to participate in the state retiree health benefits program and who purchase
957 an alternative personal health insurance policy from a carrier or organization of his own choosing, such
958 retirees shall be eligible to receive a credit in the amount specified in subsection A. Eligibility for the
959 credit and payment for the credit shall be determined in a manner prescribed by the Virginia Retirement
960 System.

961 C. Any person included in the membership of a retirement system provided by Chapter 1
962 (§ 51.1-124.1 et seq.), 2 (§ 51.1-200 et seq.), 2.1 (§ 51.1-211 et seq.), or 3 (§ 51.1-300 et seq.) ~~of this~~
963 ~~title~~ who (i) rendered at least 15 years of total creditable service as a state employee as defined in
964 § 2.2-2818 and (ii) after terminating state service, was employed by a local government that does not
965 elect to provide a health insurance credit under § 51.1-1401 or 51.1-1402, shall be eligible for the credit
966 provided by subsection A, provided that the retired employee is participating in a health insurance plan.
967 The Commonwealth shall be charged with the credit as provided for in subsection D. In such case, the
968 health insurance credit shall be determined based upon the amount of state service or service as a
969 teacher, whichever is greater.

970 D. The Virginia Retirement System shall actuarially determine the amount necessary to fund all
971 credits provided by this section to reflect the cost of such credits in the employer contribution rate
972 pursuant to § 51.1-145, and prescribe such terms and conditions as are necessary to carry out the
973 provisions of this section. The costs associated with the administration of the health insurance credit
974 program provided for in this section shall be recovered from the health insurance credit trust fund.

975 E. Notwithstanding anything contained in this section to the contrary, the Virginia Commonwealth
976 University Health System Authority shall pay the cost of coverage for employees of such Authority who
977 (i) retired under the Virginia Retirement System or any retirement system authorized pursuant to
978 § 23-50.16:24.1, 51.1-126, 51.1-126.1, or former § 51.1-126.2; (ii) were employed by such Authority
979 prior to July 1, 1998, and were not subsequently rehired by such Authority on or after July 1, 1998; and
980 (iii) served no less than 15 years of creditable service as regularly employed full-time employees of such
981 Authority or the Commonwealth.

982 § 51.1-1401. Health insurance credits for retired teachers.

A. A teacher, as defined in § 51.1-124.3, retired under the Virginia Retirement System, and any employee retired under a defined contribution plan pursuant to *51.1-126.5:1* or § 51.1-126.6 who rendered at least 15 years of total creditable service under the System or plan shall receive a health insurance credit to his monthly retirement allowance, which shall be applied to reduce the retired member's health insurance premium cost. The amount of each monthly health insurance credit payable under this section shall be \$4 for each full year of the retired member's creditable service; however, each former member whose retirement was for disability, *or a participant pursuant to 51.1-126.5:1 or § 51.1-126.6 receiving long-term disability*, shall receive a monthly health insurance credit of \$4 multiplied by the smaller of (i) twice the amount of his creditable service or (ii) the amount of creditable service he would have completed at age 60 if he had remained in service to that age. Eligibility for the credit shall be determined in a manner prescribed by the Virginia Retirement System. Any member who elects to defer his retirement pursuant to subsection C of § 51.1-153 shall be entitled to receive the allowable credit provided by this section on the effective date of his retirement.

B. Those retired employees who purchase an alternative personal health insurance policy from a carrier or organization of their own choosing shall be eligible to receive a credit in the amount specified in subsection D. Eligibility for the credit and payment of the credit shall be determined in a manner prescribed by the Virginia Retirement System.

C. The credit shall be in (i) the amount provided in subsection A or (ii) the amount of premium paid for the personal health insurance policy, whichever is less.

D. Any person included in the membership of a retirement system provided by Chapter 1 (§ 51.1-124.1 et seq.), 2 (§ 51.1-200 et seq.), 2.1 (§ 51.1-211 et seq.), or 3 (§ 51.1-300 et seq.) ~~of this title~~ who (i) rendered at least 15 years of total creditable service as a teacher as defined in § 51.1-124.3 and (ii) after terminating service as a teacher, was employed by a local government that does not elect to provide a health insurance credit under § 51.1-1402, shall be eligible for the credit provided by subsection A and subsection B if provided by the school division from which the service described in clause (i) was rendered, provided that the retired employee is participating in a health insurance plan. The Commonwealth and local school division, if appropriate, shall be charged with the credit as provided for in subsection E. In such case, the health insurance credit shall be determined based upon the amount of state service or service as a teacher, whichever is greater.

E. The Virginia Retirement System shall (i) actuarially determine the amount necessary to fund all credits provided under this section, (ii) reflect the cost of such credits in the applicable employer contribution rate pursuant to §§ 51.1-145, 51.1-204, and 51.1-304, and (iii) prescribe such terms and conditions as are necessary to carry out the provisions of this section. The costs associated with the administration of the health insurance program provided for in this section shall be recovered from the health insurance credit trust fund.

§ 51.1-1402. Health insurance credits for retired local government employees.

A. Retired local government employees, whose localities have elected to participate in the Virginia Retirement System, *including the optional defined contribution retirement program established pursuant to § 51.1-126.5:1*, who have rendered at least ~~fifteen~~ 15 years of total creditable service under the System shall receive a health insurance credit to ~~his~~ *their* monthly retirement allowance, which shall be applied to reduce the retired member's health insurance premium cost, provided the retiree's employer elects to participate in the credit program. The amount of each monthly health insurance credit payable under this section shall be \$1.50 for each full year of the retired member's creditable service, not to exceed a maximum monthly credit of ~~forty-five dollars~~ \$45; however, each former member whose retirement was for disability, *or a participant pursuant to § 51.1-126.5:1 receiving long-term disability*, shall receive a monthly health insurance credit of ~~forty-five dollars~~ \$45. Eligibility for the credit shall be determined in a manner prescribed by the Virginia Retirement System. Any member who elects to defer his retirement pursuant to subsection C of § 51.1-153 shall be entitled to receive the allowable credit provided by this section on the effective date of his retirement.

B. Those retired employees who purchase an alternative policy from a carrier or organization of their own choosing shall be eligible to receive a credit in the amount specified in subsection C. Eligibility for the credit and payment of the credit shall be determined in a manner prescribed by the Virginia Retirement System.

C. The credit shall be in the amount provided in subsection A or the amount of premium paid for the personal health insurance policy, whichever is less.

D. The cost of the monthly health insurance credit payable under this section shall be borne by the locality.

E. The Virginia Retirement System shall actuarially determine the amount necessary to fund all credits provided under this section, reflect the cost of such credits in the applicable employer contribution rate pursuant to § 51.1-145, and prescribe such terms and conditions as are necessary to carry out the provisions of this section. The costs associated with the administration of the health

1044 insurance credit program provided for in this section shall be recovered from the health insurance credit
1045 trust fund.

1046 § 51.1-1403. Health insurance credits for retired constitutional officers, employees of constitutional
1047 officers, general registrars, employees of general registrars, and local social service employees.

1048 A. A local officer, as defined in § 51.1-124.3, general registrar, employee of a general registrar, or an
1049 employee of a local social services board, retired under the Virginia Retirement System, *including the*
1050 *optional defined contribution retirement program established pursuant to § 51.1-126.5:1*, who rendered
1051 at least 15 years of total creditable service under the System shall receive a health insurance credit to his
1052 monthly retirement allowance, which shall be applied to reduce the retired member's health insurance
1053 premium cost. The amount of each monthly health insurance credit payable under this section shall be
1054 \$1.50 for each full year of the retired member's creditable service, not to exceed a maximum monthly
1055 credit of \$45; however, each former member whose retirement was for disability, *or a participant*
1056 *pursuant to § 51.1-126.5:1 receiving long-term disability*, shall receive a monthly health insurance credit
1057 of \$45. Eligibility for the credit shall be determined in a manner prescribed by the Virginia Retirement
1058 System. Any member who elects to defer his retirement pursuant to subsection C of § 51.1-153 shall be
1059 entitled to receive the allowable credit provided by this section on the effective date of his retirement.
1060 The cost of such credit shall be borne by the Commonwealth.

1061 B. In addition to the health insurance credit authorized in subsection A, localities which participate in
1062 the Virginia Retirement System may elect to provide an additional health insurance credit of \$1 per
1063 month for each full year of the retired member's creditable service, not to exceed a maximum monthly
1064 credit of \$30. The costs of such additional health insurance credit shall be borne by the locality.

1065 C. 1. Those retired employees who purchase an alternative personal health insurance policy from a
1066 carrier or organization of their own choosing shall be eligible to receive a credit in the amount specified
1067 in subdivision C 2. Eligibility for the credit and payment of the credit shall be determined in a manner
1068 prescribed by the Virginia Retirement System.

1069 2. The credit shall be in (i) the amount provided in subsection A, or subsection A and subsection B
1070 if the additional credit authorized by subsection B is provided or (ii) the amount of premium paid for
1071 the personal health insurance policy, whichever is less.

1072 D. Any person included in the membership of a retirement system provided by Chapter 1
1073 (§ 51.1-124.1 et seq.), 2 (§ 51.1-200 et seq.), 2.1 (§ 51.1-211 et seq.), or 3 (§ 51.1-300 et seq.) who (i)
1074 rendered at least 15 years of total creditable service as a local officer as defined in § 51.1-124.3 or as an
1075 employee of a local social services board or combined service as a general registrar or an employee of a
1076 general registrar and (ii) after terminating service as a local officer or employee of a local social
1077 services board or general registrar or as an employee of a general registrar, was employed by a local
1078 government that does not elect to provide a health insurance credit under § 51.1-1402, shall be eligible
1079 for the credit provided by subsection A, provided that the retired employee is participating in a health
1080 insurance plan. The Commonwealth shall be charged with the credit as provided for in subsection A. In
1081 such case, the health insurance credit shall be determined based upon the amount of state service or
1082 service as a local officer or service as an employee of a local social services board or combined service
1083 as a general registrar or an employee of a general registrar, whichever is greater.

1084 E. The Virginia Retirement System shall (i) actuarially determine the amount necessary to fund all
1085 credits provided under this section, (ii) reflect the cost of such credits in the applicable employer
1086 contribution rate pursuant to § 51.1-145, and (iii) prescribe such terms and conditions as are necessary to
1087 carry out the provisions of this section. The costs associated with the administration of the health
1088 insurance program provided for in this section shall be recovered from the health insurance credit trust
1089 fund.

1090 § 51.1-1405. Participation in the state retiree health benefits program.

1091 A. As used in this section, unless the context requires a different meaning:

1092 "Involuntarily separated" means separated from state service as the result of any dismissal, requested
1093 resignation, or failure to obtain reappointment, excluding a separation resulting from a conviction for a
1094 felony or crime involving moral turpitude or dishonesty or a separation related to the job performance or
1095 misconduct of the state employee.

1096 "Retiree health benefits program" or "program" means the plan for providing health insurance
1097 coverage for retired state employees provided pursuant to subsection E of § 2.2-2818.

1098 "State employee" means the same as that term is defined in § 2.2-2818.

1099 "State retiree" means a state employee retired under the Virginia Retirement System, State Police
1100 Officers' Retirement System, Judicial Retirement System, Virginia Law Officers' Retirement System, or
1101 any retirement system authorized pursuant to § 51.1-126, *51.1-126.5, or 51.1-126.5:1*, who is eligible to
1102 receive a monthly retirement annuity from that retirement system.

1103 B. A state retiree shall be eligible to participate in the retiree health benefits program only if he
1104 makes an election to participate in the program within ~~thirty-one~~ 31 days following the date of
1105 termination of employment with the Commonwealth. A retired state employee who fails to elect to

1106 participate in the state health plan within ~~thirty-one~~ 31 days of the effective date of retirement, or who,
1107 once having elected to participate, discontinues participation, is barred from participating in the state
1108 health plan thereafter.

1109 C. Any state retiree who was involuntarily separated who on July 1, 1999, is participating in the
1110 retiree health benefits program and is receiving monthly retirement annuity payments may elect, by
1111 notifying the Virginia Retirement System and the Department of Human Resource Management before
1112 September 1, 1999, to cease receiving monthly retirement annuity payments until reapplying for such
1113 benefits at a later date and to continue participation in the retiree health benefits program.