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HOUSE BILL NO. 715

FLOOR AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by Delegates Putney and Cranwell
on January 26, 1999)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Delegate Cranwell)

A BILL to amend and reenact § 51.1-138 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Title 51.1 a chapter numbered 2.1, consisting of sections numbered 51.1-211 through 51.1-220, relating to membership in the Commonwealth Public Safety Officers' Retirement System.

1. That § 58.1-138 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted and that the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Title 51.1 a chapter numbered 2.1, consisting of sections numbered 51.1-211 through 51.1-220, as follows:

§ 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~~ *Commonwealth Public Safety Officers' Retirement System, as set out in Chapter 2.1 (§ 51.1-211 et seq.) except for § 51.1-219*, in lieu of the benefits that would otherwise be provided hereunder for any employees who are employed or reemployed on or after January 1, 2000, 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, or (ii) positions as full-time salaried fire fighters. Sheriffs of political subdivisions which participate in the retirement system and who first take office on or after January 1, 2000 shall receive benefits equivalent to those of ~~state police officers, except for the benefits provided under § 51.1-209 set out in Chapter 2.1 (§ 51.1-211 et seq.) except for § 51.1-219~~, 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 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 ninety days prior to the filing of such notice. The member shall receive an allowance which 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 thirty years of service at retirement, the amount of the retirement allowance shall be reduced on an actuarial equivalent basis for the period by which the actual retirement date precedes the earlier of (i) the member's normal retirement date or (ii) the first date on or after the member's fifty-fifth birthday on which the member would have completed a total of thirty years of creditable service.

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 fifty-five on the date of death shall be assumed to be fifty-five years of age for the purposes of reducing the benefits on an actuarial equivalent basis.

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

CHAPTER 2.1.

COMMONWEALTH PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM.

§ 51.1-211. *Commonwealth Public Safety Officers' Retirement System; application of provisions of Virginia Retirement System.*

The Commonwealth Public Safety Officers' Retirement System is created and shall be administered by the Board of Trustees of the Virginia Retirement System. Except as otherwise provided, the provisions of Chapter 1 (§ 51.1-124.1 et seq.) of this title shall apply to and govern the operation of the Commonwealth Public Safety Officers' Retirement System.

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60 § 51.1-212. Definitions.

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

62 "Employee" means any (i) member of the Capitol Police Force as described in § 30-34.2:1, (ii)
63 campus police officer appointed under the provisions of Chapter 17 (§ 23-232 et seq.) of Title 23, (iii)
64 game warden in the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries appointed under the provisions of
65 Chapter 2 (§ 29.1-200 et seq.) of Title 29.1, (iv) special agent of the Department of Alcoholic Beverage
66 Control appointed under the provisions of Chapter 1 (§ 4.1-100 et seq.), (v) law-enforcement officer
67 employed by the Virginia Marine Resources Commission as described in § 9-169, (vi) law-enforcement
68 officer employed by the Department of Motor Vehicles as described in § 9-169, (vii) correctional officer
69 as the term is defined in § 53.1-1, and including correctional officers employed at a juvenile correction
70 facility as the term is defined in § 66-25.3, (viii) any parole officer appointed pursuant to § 53.1-143,
71 (ix) any commercial vehicle enforcement officer employed by the Department of State Police and (x)
72 conservation officers appointed pursuant to § 10.1-115.

73 "Member" means any person included in the membership of the Retirement System as provided in
74 this chapter.

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

76 "Retirement System" means the Commonwealth Public Safety Officers' Retirement System.

77 § 51.1-213. Membership in Retirement System.

78 Membership in the Retirement System shall be compulsory for all employees.

79 § 51.1-214. Creditable service.

80 A. Service qualifying for credit under the provisions of the Virginia Retirement System shall be
81 included as creditable service for the purposes of this chapter, provided the requirements set forth in
82 Chapter 1 (§ 51.1-124.1 et seq.) of this title for crediting service have been complied with and any
83 payment required is credited in the member's contribution account.

84 B. Service purchased in accordance with the provisions of § 51.1-143 shall not be considered:

85 1. In determining the actuarial equivalent for early retirement.

86 2. Twice in determining any disability allowance payable under this chapter.

87 C. If a member ceases to be an employee, has not received a refund of the accumulated
88 contributions credited to his member's contribution account, and accepts employment in a position
89 covered by the Virginia Retirement System, the Judicial Retirement System or the State Police Officers'
90 Retirement System, he shall be entitled to credit for his previous creditable service under this chapter.
91 His accumulated contributions shall be transferred and credited to his member's contribution account in
92 the appropriate retirement system. Future retirement rights shall be as set forth under the provisions of
93 the appropriate retirement system.

94 § 51.1-215. Contributions by Commonwealth.

95 The Commonwealth shall contribute an amount equal to the sum of the normal contribution and any
96 accrued liability contribution. The amount shall be determined and paid as provided in Chapter 1
97 (§ 51.1-124.1 et seq.) of this title.

98 § 51.1-216. Service retirement generally.

99 A. Normal retirement.—Any member in service at his normal retirement date with five or more years
100 of creditable service may retire upon written notification to the Board, setting forth the date the
101 retirement is to become effective.

102 B. Early retirement.—Any member in service who has attained his fiftieth birthday with five or more
103 years of creditable service may retire upon written notification to the Board setting forth the date the
104 retirement is to become effective.

105 C. Deferred retirement for members terminating service.—Any member who terminates service after
106 five or more years of creditable service may retire under the provisions of subsection A, B, or D of this
107 section if he has not withdrawn his accumulated contributions prior to the effective date of his
108 retirement or if he has five or more years of creditable service for which his employer has paid the
109 contributions and such contributions cannot be withdrawn. For the purposes of this subsection, any
110 requirements as to the member being in service shall not apply. No member shall be entitled to the
111 benefits of this subsection if his employer certifies that his service was terminated because of dishonesty,
112 malfeasance, or misfeasance in office. The certification may be appealed to the Board.

113 D. Effective date of retirement.—The effective date of retirement shall be after the last day of service
114 of the member, but shall not be more than ninety days prior to the filing of the notice of retirement.

115 E. Notification on behalf of member.—If the member is physically or mentally unable to submit
116 written notification of his intention to retire, the member's appointing authority may submit notification
117 on his behalf.

118 § 51.1-217. Service retirement allowance.

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

120 1. Normal retirement.—The allowance shall equal 2.0 percent of his average final compensation
121 multiplied by the amount of creditable service.

2. *Early retirement.*—The allowance shall be determined in the same manner as for normal retirement with creditable service and average final compensation being determined as of the date of actual retirement. If the member has less than twenty-five years of service at retirement, the amount of the retirement allowance shall be reduced on an actuarial equivalent basis for the period by which the actual retirement date precedes the earlier of (i) his normal retirement date or (ii) the first date on or after his fiftieth birthday on which he would have completed a total of twenty-five years of creditable service.

B. If a beneficiary of a service retirement allowance under this chapter is at any time in service as an employee in a position covered for retirement purposes under the provisions of this or any chapter other than Chapter 7 (§ 51.1-700 et seq.) of this title, his retirement allowance shall cease while so employed.

§ 51.1-218. *Death before retirement.*

A. Each member shall designate who is to receive a refund of accumulated contributions credited to his account in the event of the death of the member prior to retirement. The designation must be made on a form prepared by the Board, signed and acknowledged by the member before a person authorized to take acknowledgments, and filed with the Board. The designation may be changed by the member by the written designation of some other person, signed, acknowledged, and filed with the Board. If the death of the designated person occurs prior to the death of the member and another designation has not been made, payment shall be made to the executors or administrators of the estate of the member.

If no designation has been made, the proceeds shall be paid to the persons surviving at the death of the member in the following order of precedence:

First, to the spouse of the member;

Second, if no surviving spouse, to the children of the member and descendants of deceased children, per stirpes;

Third, if none of the above, to the parents of the member;

Fourth, if none of the above, to the duly appointed executor or administrator of the estate of the member;

Fifth, if none of the above, to other next of kin of the member entitled under the laws of the domicile of the member at the time of his death.

If a member dies at any time before retirement and if no benefits are payable under subsection B, the amount of his accumulated contributions shall be paid to the designated beneficiary or to the persons qualifying in the order of precedence. This amount shall be reduced by the amount of any retirement allowance previously received by the member.

B. If a member dies in service and if no benefits are payable under subsection C, a retirement allowance shall be paid to the person designated as provided in subsection A of this section if the person is the (i) surviving spouse, (ii) minor child, (iii) mother, or (iv) father of the member. The retirement allowance shall be paid to the first person qualifying in the order of precedence set out in this subsection. If more than one minor child survives the deceased member, the allowance shall be divided among them in a manner determined by the Board. The retirement allowance shall be continued during the lifetime of the person or in the case of a minor child until the child dies or attains the age of majority, whichever occurs first. The allowance shall equal one-half of the retirement allowance that would have been payable to the member had the member retired for early service retirement on the date of his death and elected to have his allowance payable under the joint and last-survivor option so that one-half thereof would be continued to such person after the member's death. In the case of a member who had not attained his fiftieth birthday at his date of death, it shall be assumed that the member's age at his date of death is fifty for the purpose of reducing the benefit on an actuarial equivalent basis. If a member dies after attaining his sixtieth birthday, the allowance shall equal the decreased retirement allowance that would have been payable to the member had the member retired at his normal retirement age on the date of his death and elected to have his allowance payable under the joint and last-survivor option so that the same amount would be continued to such person after the member's death. If the person elects in writing under seal and duly acknowledged, the amount of the member's accumulated contributions shall be paid to the person exclusively, in lieu of any other benefits under this section. This amount shall be reduced by the amount of any retirement allowance previously received by the member.

C. If a member dies in service from a cause compensable under the Virginia Workers' Compensation Act (§ 65.2-100 et seq.), a retirement allowance shall be paid to the member's surviving spouse. If no compensation is finally awarded under the Virginia Workers' Compensation Act due to legal proceedings or otherwise resulting in settlement from the persons causing such death, the Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission shall determine whether the member's death was from a cause compensable under the Virginia Workers' Compensation Act. If the member leaves no surviving spouse, or the surviving spouse dies or remarries, any minor children of the deceased member shall be paid an

183 allowance until the children die or attain the age of majority, whichever occurs first. If more than one
184 minor child survives the deceased member, the allowance shall be divided in a manner determined by
185 the Board. If the deceased member leaves neither surviving spouse nor minor child, the allowance shall
186 be paid to the member's parents, divided in a manner determined by the Board, during the lives of the
187 parents.

188 The retirement allowance, payable hereunder to a qualifying survivor, shall be the annual amount
189 which, when added to the compensation payable under the Virginia Workers' Compensation Act for the
190 death of the member, shall equal fifty percent of the member's average final compensation if the
191 survivor does not qualify for death benefits under the provisions of the Social Security Act in effect on
192 the date of the death of the member. If the survivor qualifies for death benefits under the provisions of
193 the Social Security Act in effect on the date of the death of the member, the allowance payable from the
194 Retirement System when added to the compensation payable under the Virginia Workers' Compensation
195 Act shall equal thirty-three and one-third percent of the member's average final compensation.

196 Any beneficiary entitled to the entire amount of a retirement allowance under the provisions of this
197 subsection as a result of the death of a member shall be entitled to waive his rights to the allowance by
198 written notification to the Board within ninety days after the death of the member in order to make
199 available a retirement allowance under the provisions of subsection B of this section.

200 § 51.1-219. Disability as the result of felonious misconduct of another.

201 Any member in service who is totally and permanently disabled while on active duty as the result of
202 the felonious misconduct of another may retire for disability as provided in subsection B of § 51.1-156
203 and shall be entitled to maintenance and services at or under the supervision of the Woodrow Wilson
204 Rehabilitation Center without being liable to pay for the same.

205 § 51.1-220. Disability benefit.

206 Any member in service who (i) is credited with at least twenty years of service in a hazardous duty
207 position and (ii) meets the (a) requirements for a disability retirement allowance under § 51.1-156 and
208 (b) minimum age requirements of § 51.1-216 may elect to receive the higher of the disability retirement
209 allowance payable under Article 9 (§ 51.1-152 et seq.) of Chapter 1 of this title or the service
210 retirement allowance payable under § 51.1-217 less any reduction in allowance required by subsection
211 C of § 51.1-157 or by § 51.1-158.

212 **2. That the provisions of this act shall become effective January 1, 2000.**