

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2003**

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HOUSE DRH45034-LL-135 (4/7)

Short Title: Enhance Local Retirement Benefits.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representative Bell.

Referred to:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO ENHANCE THE BENEFITS OF MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL
GOVERNMENTAL EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 128-27(b20) reads as rewritten:

"(b20) Service Retirement Allowance of Member Retiring on or After July 1, ~~2002~~
2002, but Before July 1, 2003. – Upon retirement from service in accordance with
subsection (a) or (a1) above, on or after July 1, 2002, but before July 1, 2003, a member
shall receive the following service retirement allowance:

(1) A member who is a law enforcement officer or an eligible former law
enforcement officer shall receive a service retirement allowance
computed as follows:

a. If the member's service retirement date occurs on or after his
55th birthday and completion of five years of creditable service
as a law enforcement officer, or after the completion of 30 years
of creditable service, the allowance shall be equal to one and
eighty-two hundredths percent (1.82%) of his average final
compensation, multiplied by the number of years of his
creditable service.

b. If the member's service retirement date occurs on or after his
50th birthday and before his 55th birthday with 15 or more
years of creditable service as a law enforcement officer and
prior to the completion of 30 years of creditable service, his
retirement allowance shall be equal to the greater of:

1. The service retirement allowance payable under G.S.
128-27(b20)(1)a. reduced by one-third of one percent
(1/3 of 1%) thereof for each month by which his

- 1 retirement date precedes the first day of the month
2 coincident with or next following the month the member
3 would have attained his 55th birthday;
- 4 2. The service retirement allowance as computed under
5 G.S. 128-27(b20)(1)a. reduced by five percent (5%)
6 times the difference between 30 years and his creditable
7 service at retirement.
- 8 (2) A member who is not a law enforcement officer or an eligible former
9 law enforcement officer shall receive a service retirement allowance
10 computed as follows:
- 11 a. If the member's service retirement date occurs on or after his
12 65th birthday upon the completion of five years of creditable
13 service or after the completion of 30 years of creditable service
14 or on or after his 60th birthday upon the completion of 25 years
15 of creditable service, the allowance shall be equal to one and
16 eighty-two hundredths percent (1.82%) of average final
17 compensation, multiplied by the number of years of creditable
18 service.
- 19 b. If the member's service retirement date occurs after his 60th
20 birthday and before his 65th birthday and prior to his
21 completion of 25 years or more of creditable service, his
22 retirement allowance shall be computed as in G.S.
23 128-27(b20)(2)a. but shall be reduced by one-quarter of one
24 percent (1/4 of 1%) thereof for each month by which his
25 retirement date precedes the first day of the month coincident
26 with or next following his 65th birthday.
- 27 c. If the member's early service retirement date occurs on or after
28 his 50th birthday and before his 60th birthday and after
29 completion of 20 years of creditable service but prior to the
30 completion of 30 years of creditable service, his early service
31 retirement allowance shall be equal to the greater of:
- 32 1. The service retirement allowance as computed under
33 G.S. 128-27(b20)(2)a. but reduced by the sum of
34 five-twelfths of one percent (5/12 of 1%) thereof for
35 each month by which his retirement date precedes the
36 first day of the month coincident with or next following
37 the month the member would have attained his 60th
38 birthday, plus one-quarter of one percent (1/4 of 1%)
39 thereof for each month by which his 60th birthday
40 precedes the first day of the month coincident with or
41 next following his 65th birthday; or
- 42 2. The service retirement allowance as computed under
43 G.S. 128-27(b20)(2)a. reduced by five percent (5%)

- 1 times the difference between 30 years and his creditable
2 service at retirement; or
- 3 3. If the member's creditable service commenced prior to
4 July 1, 1995, the service retirement allowance equal to
5 the actuarial equivalent of the allowance payable at the
6 age of 60 years as computed in G.S. 128-27(b20)(2)b.
- 7 d. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions, any member whose
8 creditable service commenced prior to July 1, 1965, shall not
9 receive less than the benefit provided by G.S. 128-27(b)."

10 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 128-27 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

11 "(b20) Service Retirement Allowance of Member Retiring on or After July 1, 2003.
12 – Upon retirement from service in accordance with subsection (a) or (a1) above, on or
13 after July 1, 2003, a member shall receive the following service retirement allowance:

14 (1) A member who is a law enforcement officer or an eligible former law
15 enforcement officer shall receive a service retirement allowance
16 computed as follows:

17 a. If the member's service retirement date occurs on or after his
18 55th birthday and completion of five years of creditable service
19 as a law enforcement officer, or after the completion of 30 years
20 of creditable service, the allowance shall be equal to one and
21 eighty-five hundredths percent (1.85%) of his average final
22 compensation, multiplied by the number of years of his
23 creditable service.

24 b. If the member's service retirement date occurs on or after his
25 50th birthday and before his 55th birthday with 15 or more
26 years of creditable service as a law enforcement officer and
27 prior to the completion of 30 years of creditable service, his
28 retirement allowance shall be equal to the greater of:

29 1. The service retirement allowance payable under G.S.
30 128-27(b21)(1)a. reduced by one-third of one percent
31 (1/3 of 1%) thereof for each month by which his
32 retirement date precedes the first day of the month
33 coincident with or next following the month the member
34 would have attained his 55th birthday;

35 2. The service retirement allowance as computed under
36 G.S. 128-27(b21)(1)a. reduced by five percent (5%)
37 times the difference between 30 years and his creditable
38 service at retirement.

39 (2) A member who is not a law enforcement officer or an eligible former
40 law enforcement officer shall receive a service retirement allowance
41 computed as follows:

42 a. If the member's service retirement date occurs on or after his
43 65th birthday upon the completion of five years of creditable
44 service or after the completion of 30 years of creditable service

1 or on or after his 60th birthday upon the completion of 25 years
2 of creditable service, the allowance shall be equal to one and
3 eighty-five hundredths percent (1.85%) of average final
4 compensation, multiplied by the number of years of creditable
5 service.

6 b. If the member's service retirement date occurs after his 60th
7 birthday and before his 65th birthday and prior to his
8 completion of 25 years or more of creditable service, his
9 retirement allowance shall be computed as in G.S.
10 128-27(b21)(2)a. but shall be reduced by one-quarter of one
11 percent (1/4 of 1%) thereof for each month by which his
12 retirement date precedes the first day of the month coincident
13 with or next following his 65th birthday.

14 c. If the member's early service retirement date occurs on or after
15 his 50th birthday and before his 60th birthday and after
16 completion of 20 years of creditable service but prior to the
17 completion of 30 years of creditable service, his early service
18 retirement allowance shall be equal to the greater of:

19 1. The service retirement allowance as computed under
20 G.S. 128-27(b21)(2)a. but reduced by the sum of
21 five-twelfths of one percent (5/12 of 1%) thereof for
22 each month by which his retirement date precedes the
23 first day of the month coincident with or next following
24 the month the member would have attained his 60th
25 birthday, plus one-quarter of one percent (1/4 of 1%)
26 thereof for each month by which his 60th birthday
27 precedes the first day of the month coincident with or
28 next following his 65th birthday; or

29 2. The service retirement allowance as computed under
30 G.S. 128-27(b21)(2)a. reduced by five percent (5%)
31 times the difference between 30 years and his creditable
32 service at retirement; or

33 3. If the member's creditable service commenced prior to
34 July 1, 1995, the service retirement allowance equal to
35 the actuarial equivalent of the allowance payable at the
36 age of 60 years as computed in G.S. 128-27(b21)(2)b.

37 d. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions, any member whose
38 creditable service commenced prior to July 1, 1965, shall not
39 receive less than the benefit provided by G.S. 128-27(b)."

40 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 128-27 (m) reads as rewritten:

41 "(m) Survivor's Alternate Benefit. – Upon the death of a member in service, the
42 principal beneficiary designated to receive a return of accumulated contributions shall
43 have the right to elect to receive in lieu thereof the reduced retirement allowance
44 provided by Option two of subsection (g) above computed by assuming that the member

1 had retired on the first day of the month following the date of his death, provided that all
2 three of the following conditions apply:

- 3 (1) a. The member had attained such age and/or creditable service to
4 be eligible to commence retirement with an early or service
5 retirement allowance, or
6 b. The member had obtained 20 years of creditable service in
7 which case the retirement allowance shall be computed in
8 accordance with ~~G.S. 128-27(b20)(1)b.~~ or ~~G.S.~~
9 ~~128-27(b20)(2)c.~~, G.S. 128-27(b21)(1)b. or G.S.
10 128-27(b21)(2)c., notwithstanding the requirement of obtaining
11 age 50.
12 (2) The member had designated as the principal beneficiary to receive a
13 return of his accumulated contributions one and only one person who
14 is living at the time of his death.
15 (3) The member had not instructed the Board of Trustees in writing that he
16 did not wish the provisions of this subsection apply.

17 For the purpose of this benefit, a member is considered to be in service at the date of
18 his death if his death occurs within 180 days from the last day of his actual service. The
19 last day of actual service shall be determined as provided in subsection (l) of this
20 section. Upon the death of a member in service, the surviving spouse may make all
21 purchases for creditable service as provided for under this Chapter for which the
22 member had made application in writing prior to the date of death, provided that the
23 date of death occurred prior to or within 60 days after notification of the cost to make
24 the purchase."

25 **SECTION 4.** G.S. 128-27 is amended by adding a new section to read:

26 "(ddd) From and after July 1, 2003, the retirement allowance to or on account of
27 beneficiaries whose retirement commenced on or before July 1, 2002, shall be increased
28 by two percent (2.0%) of the allowance payable on June 1, 2003, in accordance with
29 subsection (k) of this section. Furthermore, from and after July 1, 2003, the retirement
30 allowance to or on account of beneficiaries whose retirement commenced after July 1,
31 2002, but before June 30, 2003, shall be increased by a prorated amount of two percent
32 (2.0%) of the allowance payable as determined by the Board of Trustees based upon the
33 number of months that a retirement allowance was paid between July 1, 2002, and June
34 30, 2003.

35 "(eee) From and after July 1, 2003, the retirement allowance to or on account of
36 beneficiaries whose retirement commenced on or before June 1, 1982, shall be increased
37 by six percent (6.0%) of the allowance payable on June 1, 2003, in accordance with
38 subsection (k) of this section. Furthermore, from and after July 1, 2003, the retirement
39 allowance to or on account of beneficiaries whose retirement commenced on or after
40 July 1, 1982, but before July 1, 1993, shall be increased by one and one-tenth percent
41 (1.1%) of the allowance payable on June 1, 2003, in accordance with subsection (k) of
42 this section. This allowance shall be calculated on the allowance payable and in effect
43 on June 30, 2003, so as not to be compounded on any other increase payable under

1 subsection (k) of this section or otherwise granted by act of the 2003 Regular Session of
2 the 2003 General Assembly.

3 "(fff) Increase in Allowance as to Persons on Retirement Rolls as of June 1, 2003. –
4 From and after July 1, 2003, the retirement allowance to or on account of beneficiaries
5 on the retirement rolls as of June 1, 2003, shall be increased by one and one-half percent
6 (1.5%) of the allowance payable on June 1, 2003. This allowance shall be calculated on
7 the allowance payable and in effect on June 30, 2003, so as not to be compounded on
8 any other increase payable under subsection (k) of this section or otherwise granted by
9 act of the 2003 General Assembly."

10 **SECTION 5.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2003.