

RETIREMENT ALLOWANCE AMENDMENTS

2006 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Ann W. Hardy

Senate Sponsor: _____

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill modifies the Utah State Retirement and Insurance Benefit Act related to changes in retirement allowance options after retirement.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ repeals a provision allowing a retiree who divorces to change the retiree's retirement allowance option under the contributory and noncontributory systems if there is no court order filed on the matter.

Monies Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

49-12-402, as last amended by Chapter 116, Laws of Utah 2005

49-13-402, as last amended by Chapter 116, Laws of Utah 2005

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **49-12-402** is amended to read:

49-12-402. Service retirement plans -- Calculation of retirement allowance --



Social Security limitations.

(1) (a) Except as provided under Section 49-12-701, retirees of this system may choose from the six retirement options described in this section.

(b) Options Two, Three, Four, Five, and Six are modifications of the Option One calculation.

(2) The Option One benefit is an annual allowance calculated as follows:

(a) If the retiree is at least 65 years of age or has accrued at least 30 years of service credit, the allowance is:

(i) an amount equal to 1.25% of the retiree's final average monthly salary multiplied by the number of years of service credit accrued prior to July 1, 1975; plus

(ii) an amount equal to 2% of the retiree's final average monthly salary multiplied by the number of years of service credit accrued on and after July 1, 1975.

(b) If the retiree is less than 65 years of age, the allowance shall be reduced 3% for each year of retirement from age 60 to age 65, unless the member has 30 or more years of accrued credit in which event no reduction is made to the allowance.

(c) (i) Years of service includes any fractions of years of service to which the retiree may be entitled.

(ii) At the time of retirement, if a retiree's combined years of actual, not purchased, service credit is within 1/10 of one year of the total years of service credit required for retirement, the retiree shall be considered to have the total years of service credit required for retirement.

(3) The allowance payable under Options Two, Three, Four, Five, and Six is calculated by reducing an Option One benefit based on actuarial computations to provide the following:

(a) Option Two is a reduced allowance paid to and throughout the lifetime of the retiree, and, if the retiree receives less in annuity payments than the amount of the retiree's member contributions, the remaining balance of the retiree's member contributions shall be paid in accordance with Sections 49-11-609 and 49-11-610.

(b) Option Three is a reduced allowance paid to and throughout the lifetime of the retiree, and, upon the death of the retiree, the same reduced allowance paid to and throughout the lifetime of the retiree's lawful spouse at the time of retirement.

(c) Option Four is a reduced allowance paid to and throughout the lifetime of the

retiree, and upon the death of the retiree, an amount equal to 1/2 of the retiree's allowance paid to and throughout the lifetime of the retiree's lawful spouse at the time of retirement.

(d) Option Five is a modification of Option Three so that if the lawful spouse at the time of retirement predeceases the retiree, an allowance equivalent to the amount payable at the time of initial retirement under Option One shall be paid to the retiree for the remainder of the retiree's life, beginning on the last day of the month following the month in which the lawful spouse dies.

(e) Option Six is a modification of Option Four so that if the lawful spouse at the time of retirement predeceases the retiree, an allowance equivalent to the amount payable at the time of initial retirement under Option One shall be paid to the retiree for the remainder of the retiree's life, beginning on the last day of the month following the month in which the lawful spouse dies.

(4) (a) (i) The final average salary is limited in the computation of that part of an allowance based on service rendered prior to July 1, 1967, during a period when the retiree received employer contributions on a portion of compensation from an educational institution toward the payment of the premium required on a retirement annuity contract with the Teachers' Insurance and Annuity Association of America or with any other public or private system, organization, or company to \$4,800.

(ii) This limitation is not applicable to retirees who elected to continue in the this system by July 1, 1967.

(b) Periods of employment which are exempt from this system under Subsection 49-12-203(1)(b), may be purchased by the member for the purpose of retirement only if all benefits from the Teachers' Insurance and Annuity Association of America or any other public or private system or organization based on this period of employment are forfeited.

(5) (a) If a retiree under Option One dies within 90 days after the retiree's retirement date, the retirement is canceled and the death shall be considered as that of a member before retirement.

(b) Any payments made to the retiree shall be deducted from the amounts due to the beneficiary.

~~[(6) If a retiree retires under either Option Five or Six and subsequently divorces, the retiree may elect to convert the benefit to a Option One benefit at the time of divorce, if there is~~

no court order filed in the matter.]

Section 2. Section **49-13-402** is amended to read:

**49-13-402. Service retirement plans -- Calculation of retirement allowance --
Social Security limitations.**

(1) (a) Except as provided under Section 49-13-701, retirees of this system may choose from the six retirement options described in this section.

(b) Options Two, Three, Four, Five, and Six are modifications of the Option One calculation.

(2) The Option One benefit is an allowance calculated as follows:

(a) If the retiree is at least 65 years of age or has accrued at least 30 years of service credit, the allowance is an amount equal to 2% of the retiree's final average monthly salary multiplied by the number of years of service credit accrued.

(b) If the retiree is less than 65 years of age, the allowance shall be reduced 3% for each year of retirement from age 60 to age 65, plus a full actuarial reduction for each year of retirement prior to age 60, unless the member has 30 or more years of accrued credit, in which event no reduction is made to the allowance.

(c) (i) Years of service include any fractions of years of service to which the retiree may be entitled.

(ii) At the time of retirement, if a retiree's combined years of actual, not purchased, service credit is within 1/10 of one year of the total years of service credit required for retirement, the retiree shall be considered to have the total years of service credit required for retirement.

(3) The allowance payable under Options Two, Three, Four, Five, and Six is calculated by reducing an Option One benefit based on actuarial computations to provide the following:

(a) Option Two is a reduced allowance paid to and throughout the lifetime of the retiree, and, if the retiree receives less in annuity payments than the amount of the retiree's member contributions, the remaining balance of the retiree's member contributions shall be paid in accordance with Sections 49-11-609 and 49-11-610.

(b) Option Three is a reduced allowance paid to and throughout the lifetime of the retiree, and, upon the death of the retiree, the same reduced allowance paid to and throughout the lifetime of the retiree's lawful spouse at the time of retirement.

(c) Option Four is a reduced allowance paid to and throughout the lifetime of the retiree, and upon the death of the retiree, an amount equal to 1/2 of the retiree's allowance paid to and throughout the lifetime of the retiree's lawful spouse at the time of retirement.

(d) Option Five is a modification of Option Three so that if the lawful spouse at the time of retirement predeceases the retiree, an allowance equivalent to the amount payable at the time of initial retirement under Option One shall be paid to the retiree for the remainder of the retiree's life, beginning on the last day of the month following the month in which the lawful spouse dies.

(e) Option Six is a modification of Option Four so that if the lawful spouse at the time of retirement predeceases the retiree, an allowance equivalent to the amount payable at the time of initial retirement under Option One shall be paid to the retiree for the remainder of the retiree's life, beginning on the last day of the month following the month in which the lawful spouse dies.

(4) (a) (i) The final average salary is limited in the computation of that part of an allowance based on service rendered prior to July 1, 1967, during a period when the retiree received employer contributions on a portion of compensation from an educational institution toward the payment of the premium required on a retirement annuity contract with the Teachers' Insurance and Annuity Association of America or with any other public or private system, organization, or company to \$4,800.

(ii) This limitation is not applicable to retirees who elected to continue in the Public Employees' Contributory Retirement System by July 1, 1967.

(b) Periods of employment which are exempt from this system as permitted under Subsection 49-13-203(1)(b) may be purchased by the member for the purpose of retirement only if all benefits from the Teachers' Insurance and Annuity Association of America or any other public or private system or organization based on this period of employment are forfeited.

(5) (a) If a retiree under Option One dies within 90 days after the retiree's retirement date, the retirement is canceled and the death shall be considered as that of a member before retirement.

(b) Any payments made to the retiree shall be deducted from the amounts due to the beneficiary.

~~[(6) If a retiree retires under either Option Five or Six and subsequently divorces, the~~

152 ~~retiree may elect to convert the benefit to an Option One benefit at the time of divorce, if there~~
153 ~~is no court order filed in the matter.]~~

Legislative Review Note
as of 10-7-05 10:02 AM

Based on a limited legal review, this legislation has not been determined to have a high probability of being held unconstitutional.

Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel

Fiscal Note**Bill Number HB0059****Retirement Allowance Amendments***16-Jan-06**7:47 AM*

State Impact

No fiscal impact. This bill repeals a provision that allows a retiree who divorces to change his or her retirement allowance option under the contributory and noncontributory public employee retirement systems if there is no court order filed on this matter. Because of the removal of the opportunity for some retirees to change to a higher retirement allowance option after a divorce, this bill may result in a savings to Utah Retirement Systems of approximately \$100,000 per year.

Individual and Business Impact

This bill will affect some retirees who would have had the opportunity to change to a higher retirement allowance option after a divorce.

Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst