

PUBLIC EDUCATION RETIREMENT AMENDMENTS

2020 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Craig Hall

Senate Sponsor: Lyle W. Hillyard

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill modifies provisions related to public education employees' retirement benefits.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

▶ provides an exception to the limitation provisions for calculating the final average salary for members employed by a local education agency in the Public Employees' Contributory Retirement System, the Public Employees' Noncontributory Retirement System, and the New Public Employees' Tier II Contributory Retirement System;

▶ provides that the limitation for calculating the final average salary of a member employed by a local education agency may be exceeded if:

• the member has moved to a new position at the same local education agency due to a program need; or

• the percentage increase is due to a union-negotiated increase for a group of members that includes the member.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:



28 AMENDS:

29 49-12-102, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2018, Chapter 415

30 49-13-102, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2018, Chapter 415

31 49-22-102, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2018, Chapter 415



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

34 Section 1. Section 49-12-102 is amended to read:

35 **49-12-102. Definitions.**

36 As used in this chapter:

37 (1) "Benefits normally provided":

38 (a) means a benefit offered by an employer, including:

39 (i) a leave benefit of any kind;

40 (ii) insurance coverage of any kind if the employer pays some or all of the premium for
41 the coverage;

42 (iii) employer contributions to a health savings account, health reimbursement account,
43 health reimbursement arrangement, or medical expense reimbursement plan; and

44 (iv) a retirement benefit of any kind if the employer pays some or all of the cost of the
45 benefit; and

46 (b) does not include:

47 (i) a payment for social security;

48 (ii) workers' compensation insurance;

49 (iii) unemployment insurance;

50 (iv) a payment for Medicare;

51 (v) a payment or insurance required by federal or state law that is similar to a payment
52 or insurance listed in Subsection (1)(b)(i), (ii), (iii), or (iv);

53 (vi) any other benefit that state or federal law requires an employer to provide an
54 employee who would not otherwise be eligible to receive the benefit; or

55 (vii) any benefit that an employer provides an employee in order to avoid a penalty or
56 tax under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Pub. L. No. 111-148 and the Health
57 Care Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, Pub. L. No. 111-152, and related federal
58 regulations, including a penalty imposed by Internal Revenue Code, Section 4980H.

59 (2) (a) "Compensation" means, except as provided in Subsection (2)(c), the total
60 amount of payments made by a participating employer to a member of this system for services
61 rendered to the participating employer, including:

62 (i) bonuses;

63 (ii) cost-of-living adjustments;

64 (iii) other payments currently includable in gross income and that are subject to social
65 security deductions, including any payments in excess of the maximum amount subject to
66 deduction under social security law;

67 (iv) amounts that the member authorizes to be deducted or reduced for salary deferral
68 or other benefits authorized by federal law; and

69 (v) member contributions.

70 (b) "Compensation" for purposes of this chapter may not exceed the amount allowed
71 under Internal Revenue Code, Section 401(a)(17).

72 (c) "Compensation" does not include:

73 (i) the monetary value of remuneration paid in kind, including a residence or use of
74 equipment;

75 (ii) the cost of any employment benefits paid for by the participating employer;

76 (iii) compensation paid to a temporary employee, an exempt employee, or an employee
77 otherwise ineligible for service credit;

78 (iv) any payments upon termination, including accumulated vacation, sick leave
79 payments, severance payments, compensatory time payments, or any other special payments;

80 (v) any allowances or payments to a member for costs or expenses paid by the
81 participating employer, including automobile costs, uniform costs, travel costs, tuition costs,
82 housing costs, insurance costs, equipment costs, and dependent care costs; or

83 (vi) a teacher salary bonus described in Section [53F-2-513](#).

84 (d) The executive director may determine if a payment not listed under this Subsection
85 (2) falls within the definition of compensation.

86 (3) "Final average salary" means the amount calculated by averaging the highest five
87 years of annual compensation preceding retirement subject to Subsections (3)(a), (b), (c), (d),
88 and (e).

89 (a) Except as provided in Subsection (3)(b), the percentage increase in annual

90 compensation in any one of the years used may not exceed the previous year's compensation by
91 more than 10% plus a cost-of-living adjustment equal to the decrease in the purchasing power
92 of the dollar during the previous year, as measured by a United States Bureau of Labor
93 Statistics Consumer Price Index average as determined by the board.

94 (b) In cases where the participating employer provides acceptable documentation to the
95 office, the limitation in Subsection (3)(a) may be exceeded if:

96 (i) the member has transferred from another agency; [~~or~~]

97 (ii) the member has been promoted to a new position[-]; or

98 (iii) for a member that is employed by a local education agency as defined in Section
99 53E-1-102:

100 (A) the member has moved to a new position at the same local education agency due to
101 a program need that causes the member to become a regular full-time employee when the
102 member was previously not a regular full-time employee; or

103 (B) the percentage increase is due to a union-negotiated increase for a group of
104 members that includes the member.

105 (c) If the member retires more than six months from the date of termination of
106 employment, the member is considered to have been in service at the member's last rate of pay
107 from the date of the termination of employment to the effective date of retirement for purposes
108 of computing the member's final average salary only.

109 (d) If the member has less than five years of service credit in this system, final average
110 salary means the average annual compensation paid to the member during the full period of
111 service credit.

112 (e) The annual compensation used to calculate final average salary shall be based on:

113 (i) a calendar year for a member employed by a participating employer that is not an
114 educational institution; or

115 (ii) a contract year for a member employed by an educational institution.

116 (4) "Participating employer" means an employer which meets the participation
117 requirements of Sections [49-12-201](#) and [49-12-202](#).

118 (5) (a) "Regular full-time employee" means an employee whose term of employment
119 for a participating employer contemplates continued employment during a fiscal or calendar
120 year and whose employment normally requires an average of 20 hours or more per week,

121 except as modified by the board, and who receives benefits normally provided by the
122 participating employer.

123 (b) "Regular full-time employee" includes:

124 (i) a teacher whose term of employment for a participating employer contemplates
125 continued employment during a school year and who teaches half-time or more;

126 (ii) a classified school employee:

127 (A) who is hired before July 1, 2013; and

128 (B) whose employment normally requires an average of 20 hours per week or more for
129 a participating employer, regardless of benefits provided;

130 (iii) an officer, elective or appointive, who earns \$500 or more per month, indexed as
131 of January 1, 1990, as provided in Section [49-12-407](#);

132 (iv) a faculty member or employee of an institution of higher education who is
133 considered full-time by that institution of higher education; and

134 (v) an individual who otherwise meets the definition of this Subsection (5) who
135 performs services for a participating employer through a professional employer organization or
136 similar arrangement.

137 (c) "Regular full-time employee" does not include a classified school employee:

138 (i) (A) who is hired on or after July 1, 2013; and

139 (B) who does not receive benefits normally provided by the participating employer
140 even if the employment normally requires an average of 20 hours per week or more for a
141 participating employer;

142 (ii) (A) who is hired before July 1, 2013;

143 (B) who did not qualify as a regular full-time employee before July 1, 2013;

144 (C) who does not receive benefits normally provided by the participating employer;

145 and

146 (D) whose employment hours are increased on or after July 1, 2013, to require an
147 average of 20 hours per week or more for a participating employer; or

148 (iii) who is a person working on a contract:

149 (A) for the purposes of vocational rehabilitation and the employment and training of
150 people with significant disabilities; and

151 (B) that has been set aside from procurement requirements by the state pursuant to

152 Section 63G-6a-805 or the federal government pursuant to 41 U.S.C. Sec. 8501 et seq.

153 (6) "System" means the Public Employees' Contributory Retirement System created
154 under this chapter.

155 (7) "Years of service credit" means:

156 (a) a period consisting of 12 full months as determined by the board;

157 (b) a period determined by the board, whether consecutive or not, during which a
158 regular full-time employee performed services for a participating employer, including any time
159 the regular full-time employee was absent on a paid leave of absence granted by a participating
160 employer or was absent in the service of the United States government on military duty as
161 provided by this chapter; or

162 (c) the regular school year consisting of not less than eight months of full-time service
163 for a regular full-time employee of an educational institution.

164 Section 2. Section 49-13-102 is amended to read:

165 **49-13-102. Definitions.**

166 As used in this chapter:

167 (1) "Benefits normally provided" has the same meaning as defined in Section
168 49-12-102.

169 (2) (a) Except as provided in Subsection (2)(c), "compensation" means the total
170 amount of payments made by a participating employer to a member of this system for services
171 rendered to the participating employer, including:

172 (i) bonuses;

173 (ii) cost-of-living adjustments;

174 (iii) other payments currently includable in gross income and that are subject to social
175 security deductions, including any payments in excess of the maximum amount subject to
176 deduction under social security law; and

177 (iv) amounts that the member authorizes to be deducted or reduced for salary deferral
178 or other benefits authorized by federal law.

179 (b) "Compensation" for purposes of this chapter may not exceed the amount allowed
180 under Internal Revenue Code, Section 401(a)(17).

181 (c) "Compensation" does not include:

182 (i) the monetary value of remuneration paid in kind, including a residence or use of

183 equipment;

184 (ii) the cost of any employment benefits paid for by the participating employer;

185 (iii) compensation paid to a temporary employee, an exempt employee, or an employee
186 otherwise ineligible for service credit;

187 (iv) any payments upon termination, including accumulated vacation, sick leave
188 payments, severance payments, compensatory time payments, or any other special payments;

189 (v) any allowances or payments to a member for costs or expenses paid by the
190 participating employer, including automobile costs, uniform costs, travel costs, tuition costs,
191 housing costs, insurance costs, equipment costs, and dependent care costs; or

192 (vi) a teacher salary bonus described in Section 53F-2-513.

193 (d) The executive director may determine if a payment not listed under this Subsection
194 (2) falls within the definition of compensation.

195 (3) "Final average salary" means the amount calculated by averaging the highest three
196 years of annual compensation preceding retirement subject to Subsections (3)(a), (b), (c), and
197 (d).

198 (a) Except as provided in Subsection (3)(b), the percentage increase in annual
199 compensation in any one of the years used may not exceed the previous year's compensation by
200 more than 10% plus a cost-of-living adjustment equal to the decrease in the purchasing power
201 of the dollar during the previous year, as measured by a United States Bureau of Labor
202 Statistics Consumer Price Index average as determined by the board.

203 (b) In cases where the participating employer provides acceptable documentation to the
204 office, the limitation in Subsection (3)(a) may be exceeded if:

205 (i) the member has transferred from another agency; [~~or~~]

206 (ii) the member has been promoted to a new position[-]; or

207 (iii) for a member that is employed by a local education agency as defined in Section
208 53E-1-102:

209 (A) the member has moved to a new position at the same local education agency due to
210 a program need that causes the member to become a regular full-time employee when the
211 member previously was not a regular full-time employee; or

212 (B) the percentage increase is due to a union-negotiated increase for a group of
213 members that includes the member.

214 (c) If the member retires more than six months from the date of termination of
215 employment and for purposes of computing the member's final average salary only, the
216 member is considered to have been in service at the member's last rate of pay from the date of
217 the termination of employment to the effective date of retirement.

218 (d) The annual compensation used to calculate final average salary shall be based on:

219 (i) a calendar year for a member employed by a participating employer that is not an
220 educational institution; or

221 (ii) a contract year for a member employed by an educational institution.

222 (4) "Participating employer" means an employer which meets the participation
223 requirements of Sections [49-13-201](#) and [49-13-202](#).

224 (5) (a) "Regular full-time employee" means an employee whose term of employment
225 for a participating employer contemplates continued employment during a fiscal or calendar
226 year and whose employment normally requires an average of 20 hours or more per week,
227 except as modified by the board, and who receives benefits normally provided by the
228 participating employer.

229 (b) "Regular full-time employee" includes:

230 (i) a teacher whose term of employment for a participating employer contemplates
231 continued employment during a school year and who teaches half time or more;

232 (ii) a classified school employee:

233 (A) who is hired before July 1, 2013; and

234 (B) whose employment normally requires an average of 20 hours per week or more for
235 a participating employer, regardless of benefits provided;

236 (iii) an officer, elective or appointive, who earns \$500 or more per month, indexed as
237 of January 1, 1990, as provided in Section [49-13-407](#);

238 (iv) a faculty member or employee of an institution of higher education who is
239 considered full time by that institution of higher education; and

240 (v) an individual who otherwise meets the definition of this Subsection (5) who
241 performs services for a participating employer through a professional employer organization or
242 similar arrangement.

243 (c) "Regular full-time employee" does not include a classified school employee:

244 (i) (A) who is hired on or after July 1, 2013; and

245 (B) who does not receive benefits normally provided by the participating employer
246 even if the employment normally requires an average of 20 hours per week or more for a
247 participating employer;

248 (ii) (A) who is hired before July 1, 2013;

249 (B) who did not qualify as a regular full-time employee before July 1, 2013;

250 (C) who does not receive benefits normally provided by the participating employer;

251 and

252 (D) whose employment hours are increased on or after July 1, 2013, to require an
253 average of 20 hours per week or more for a participating employer; or

254 (iii) who is a person working on a contract:

255 (A) for the purposes of vocational rehabilitation and the employment and training of
256 people with significant disabilities; and

257 (B) that has been set aside from procurement requirements by the state pursuant to
258 Section 63G-6a-805 or the federal government pursuant to 41 U.S.C. Sec. 8501 et seq.

259 (6) "System" means the Public Employees' Noncontributory Retirement System.

260 (7) "Years of service credit" means:

261 (a) a period consisting of 12 full months as determined by the board;

262 (b) a period determined by the board, whether consecutive or not, during which a
263 regular full-time employee performed services for a participating employer, including any time
264 the regular full-time employee was absent on a paid leave of absence granted by a participating
265 employer or was absent in the service of the United States government on military duty as
266 provided by this chapter; or

267 (c) the regular school year consisting of not less than eight months of full-time service
268 for a regular full-time employee of an educational institution.

269 Section 3. Section 49-22-102 is amended to read:

270 **49-22-102. Definitions.**

271 As used in this chapter:

272 (1) "Benefits normally provided" has the same meaning as defined in Section

273 49-12-102.

274 (2) (a) "Compensation" means, except as provided in Subsection (2)(c), the total
275 amount of payments made by a participating employer to a member of this system for services

276 rendered to the participating employer, including:

277 (i) bonuses;

278 (ii) cost-of-living adjustments;

279 (iii) other payments currently includable in gross income and that are subject to social
280 security deductions, including any payments in excess of the maximum amount subject to
281 deduction under social security law;

282 (iv) amounts that the member authorizes to be deducted or reduced for salary deferral
283 or other benefits authorized by federal law; and

284 (v) member contributions.

285 (b) "Compensation" for purposes of this chapter may not exceed the amount allowed
286 under Internal Revenue Code, Section 401(a)(17).

287 (c) "Compensation" does not include:

288 (i) the monetary value of remuneration paid in kind, including a residence or use of
289 equipment;

290 (ii) the cost of any employment benefits paid for by the participating employer;

291 (iii) compensation paid to a temporary employee or an employee otherwise ineligible
292 for service credit;

293 (iv) any payments upon termination, including accumulated vacation, sick leave
294 payments, severance payments, compensatory time payments, or any other special payments;

295 (v) any allowances or payments to a member for costs or expenses paid by the
296 participating employer, including automobile costs, uniform costs, travel costs, tuition costs,
297 housing costs, insurance costs, equipment costs, and dependent care costs; or

298 (vi) a teacher salary bonus described in Section [53F-2-513](#).

299 (d) The executive director may determine if a payment not listed under this Subsection
300 (2) falls within the definition of compensation.

301 (3) "Corresponding Tier I system" means the system or plan that would have covered
302 the member if the member had initially entered employment before July 1, 2011.

303 (4) "Final average salary" means the amount calculated by averaging the highest five
304 years of annual compensation preceding retirement subject to Subsections (4)(a), (b), (c), (d),
305 and (e).

306 (a) Except as provided in Subsection (4)(b), the percentage increase in annual

307 compensation in any one of the years used may not exceed the previous year's compensation by
308 more than 10% plus a cost-of-living adjustment equal to the decrease in the purchasing power
309 of the dollar during the previous year, as measured by a United States Bureau of Labor
310 Statistics Consumer Price Index average as determined by the board.

311 (b) In cases where the participating employer provides acceptable documentation to the
312 office, the limitation in Subsection (4)(a) may be exceeded if:

313 (i) the member has transferred from another agency; [~~or~~]

314 (ii) the member has been promoted to a new position[-]; or

315 (iii) for a member that is employed by a local education agency as defined in Section
316 53E-1-102:

317 (A) the member has moved to a new position at the same local education agency due to
318 a program need that causes the member to become a regular full-time employee when the
319 member previously was not a regular full-time employee; or

320 (B) the percentage increase is due to a union-negotiated increase for a group of
321 members that includes the member.

322 (c) If the member retires more than six months from the date of termination of
323 employment, the member is considered to have been in service at the member's last rate of pay
324 from the date of the termination of employment to the effective date of retirement for purposes
325 of computing the member's final average salary only.

326 (d) If the member has less than five years of service credit in this system, final average
327 salary means the average annual compensation paid to the member during the full period of
328 service credit.

329 (e) The annual compensation used to calculate final average salary shall be based on:

330 (i) a calendar year for a member employed by a participating employer that is not an
331 educational institution; or

332 (ii) a contract year for a member employed by an educational institution.

333 (5) "Participating employer" means an employer which meets the participation
334 requirements of:

335 (a) Sections [49-12-201](#) and [49-12-202](#);

336 (b) Sections [49-13-201](#) and [49-13-202](#);

337 (c) Section [49-19-201](#); or

338 (d) Section [49-22-201](#) or [49-22-202](#).

339 (6) (a) "Regular full-time employee" means an employee whose term of employment
340 for a participating employer contemplates continued employment during a fiscal or calendar
341 year and whose employment normally requires an average of 20 hours or more per week,
342 except as modified by the board, and who receives benefits normally provided by the
343 participating employer.

344 (b) "Regular full-time employee" includes:

345 (i) a teacher whose term of employment for a participating employer contemplates
346 continued employment during a school year and who teaches half time or more;

347 (ii) a classified school employee:

348 (A) who is hired before July 1, 2013; and

349 (B) whose employment normally requires an average of 20 hours per week or more for
350 a participating employer, regardless of benefits provided;

351 (iii) an appointive officer whose appointed position is full time as certified by the
352 participating employer;

353 (iv) the governor, the lieutenant governor, the state auditor, the state treasurer, the
354 attorney general, and a state legislator;

355 (v) an elected official not included under Subsection (6)(b)(iv) whose elected position
356 is full time as certified by the participating employer;

357 (vi) a faculty member or employee of an institution of higher education who is
358 considered full time by that institution of higher education; and

359 (vii) an individual who otherwise meets the definition of this Subsection (6) who
360 performs services for a participating employer through a professional employer organization or
361 similar arrangement.

362 (c) "Regular full-time employee" does not include:

363 (i) a firefighter service employee as defined in Section [49-23-102](#);

364 (ii) a public safety service employee as defined in Section [49-23-102](#);

365 (iii) a classified school employee:

366 (A) who is hired on or after July 1, 2013; and

367 (B) who does not receive benefits normally provided by the participating employer
368 even if the employment normally requires an average of 20 hours per week or more for a

369 participating employer; and
370 (iv) a classified school employee:
371 (A) who is hired before July 1, 2013;
372 (B) who did not qualify as a regular full-time employee before July 1, 2013;
373 (C) who does not receive benefits normally provided by the participating employer;
374 [and]
375 (D) whose employment hours are increased on or after July 1, 2013, to require an
376 average of 20 hours per week or more for a participating employer; or
377 (E) who is a person working on a contract:
378 (I) for the purposes of vocational rehabilitation and the employment and training of
379 people with significant disabilities; and
380 (II) that has been set aside from procurement requirements by the state pursuant to
381 Section [63G-6a-805](#) or the federal government pursuant to 41 U.S.C. Sec. 8501 et seq.
382 (7) "System" means the New Public Employees' Tier II Contributory Retirement
383 System created under this chapter.
384 (8) "Years of service credit" means:
385 (a) a period consisting of 12 full months as determined by the board;
386 (b) a period determined by the board, whether consecutive or not, during which a
387 regular full-time employee performed services for a participating employer, including any time
388 the regular full-time employee was absent on a paid leave of absence granted by a participating
389 employer or was absent in the service of the United States government on military duty as
390 provided by this chapter; or
391 (c) the regular school year consisting of not less than eight months of full-time service
392 for a regular full-time employee of an educational institution.