

Introduced by

Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

(At the request of the Public Employees Retirement System)

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new subsection to section 54-52-17.4 of the North
2 Dakota Century Code, relating to purchase of service credit under the public employees
3 retirement system; to amend and reenact subsection 11 of section 54-52-04, subsection 4 of
4 section 54-52-17, subsection 6 of section 54-52-17, subsection 4 of section 54-52-17.4, and
5 sections 54-52-17.5, 54-52-17.10, 54-52-26, 54-52.2-03, and 54-52.2-04 of the North Dakota
6 Century Code, relating to funding of administrative expenses of the deferred compensation
7 plan, computation of benefits, determination of normal retirement date, beneficiary
8 designations, cost of credit purchases, postretirement adjustments, prior service retiree
9 adjustments, confidentiality of records, and deferred compensation under the public employees
10 retirement system; to repeal section 54-52-17.9 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to
11 prior service retiree adjustments under the public employees retirement system; and to provide
12 an effective date.

13 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

14 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 11 of section 54-52-04 of the 1999
15 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

16 11. The board shall fund the administrative expenses of chapter 54-52.2 from funds
17 collected under chapters 54-52, 54-52.1, and 54-52.3 and from fines collected from
18 deferred compensation services providers, subject to appropriation by the
19 legislative assembly.

20 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Subsections 4 and 6 of section 54-52-17 of the 1999
21 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code are amended and reenacted as follows:

22 4. The board shall calculate retirement benefits as follows:
23 a. Normal retirement benefits for all retirees, except supreme and district court
24 judges, reaching normal retirement date equal an annual amount, payable

1 monthly, comprised of a service benefit and a prior service benefit, as defined
2 in this chapter, which is determined as follows:

3 (1) Service benefit equals ~~one and eighty nine hundredths~~ two percent of
4 final average salary multiplied by the number of years of service
5 employment.

6 (2) Prior service benefit equals ~~one and eighty nine hundredths~~ two
7 percent of final average salary multiplied by the number of years of
8 prior service employment.

9 ~~(3) All participants who retired before August 1, 1997, are entitled to~~
10 ~~benefits calculated at one and seventy seven hundredths percent of~~
11 ~~final average salary, multiplied by the number of years of service~~
12 ~~employment, with the increased benefits payable beginning August 1,~~
13 ~~1997.~~

14 b. Single life benefits for all supreme and district court judges under the public
15 employees retirement system reaching normal retirement date equal an
16 annual amount, payable monthly, comprised of a benefit as defined in this
17 chapter, which must be determined as follows:

18 (1) Benefits must be calculated from the time of appointment or election to
19 the bench and must equal three and one-half percent of final average
20 salary multiplied by the first ten years of judicial service, two and eighty
21 hundredths percent of final average salary multiplied by the second ten
22 years of judicial service, and one and one-fourth percent of final
23 average salary multiplied by the number of years of judicial service
24 exceeding twenty years.

25 (2) Service benefits must include, in addition, an amount equal to the
26 percent specified in subdivision a of final average salary multiplied by
27 the number of years of nonjudicial employee service and employment.

28 (3) A participant who retired before August 1, 1995, is entitled to benefits
29 calculated at two and eighty hundredths percent multiplied by the
30 second ten years of judicial service, with the increased benefits payable
31 beginning August 1, 1995.

- 1 c. Postponed retirement benefits are calculated as for single life benefits for
2 those members who retired on or after July 1, 1977.
- 3 d. Early retirement benefits are calculated as for single life benefits accrued to
4 the date of termination of employment, but must be actuarially reduced to
5 account for benefit payments beginning prior to the normal retirement date,
6 which is the earlier of age sixty-five or the age at which current service plus
7 age equals eighty-five. A retiree, other than a supreme or district court judge,
8 is eligible for early retirement benefits only after having completed three years
9 of eligible employment. A supreme or district court judge retiree is eligible for
10 early retirement benefits only after having completed five years of eligible
11 employment.
- 12 e. Except for supreme and district court judges, disability retirement benefits are
13 twenty-five percent of the member's final average salary. Disability retirement
14 benefits for supreme and district court judges are seventy percent of final
15 average salary reduced by the member's primary social security benefits and
16 by any workers' compensation benefits paid. The minimum monthly disability
17 retirement benefit under this section is one hundred dollars. ~~A participant~~
18 ~~who, on July 31, 1997, is receiving disability retirement benefits that are not~~
19 ~~based upon the benefit multiplier is entitled to receive an increase in benefits~~
20 ~~equal to five percent of the individual's present benefit with the increased~~
21 ~~benefits payable beginning August 1, 1997.~~
- 22 f. A participating member who is a vested permanent employee is entitled to
23 purchase additional years of service credit to enable the member to qualify for
24 the normal retirement date defined by subdivision a of subsection 3. The
25 years of service purchased must be added to the years of service
26 employment under paragraph 1 of subdivision a for calculating the service
27 benefit.
- 28 6. If before retiring a member dies after completing three years of eligible
29 employment, except for supreme and district court judges, who must have
30 completed five years of eligible employment, the board shall pay the member's
31 account balance to the member's ~~surviving spouse. However, if there is no~~

1 ~~surviving spouse or the surviving spouse designates an alternate beneficiary in~~
2 ~~writing, the board shall pay the member's account balance to the member's~~
3 ~~beneficiary or, if there is no named beneficiary, to the member's estate designated~~
4 ~~beneficiary as provided in this subsection. If the member has designated an~~
5 ~~alternate beneficiary with the surviving spouse's written consent, the board shall~~
6 ~~pay the member's account balance to the named beneficiary. If the member has~~
7 ~~named more than one primary beneficiary, the board shall pay the member's~~
8 ~~account balance to the named primary beneficiaries in the percentages designated~~
9 ~~by the member or, if the member has not designated a percentage for the~~
10 ~~beneficiaries, in equal percentages. If one or more of the primary beneficiaries has~~
11 ~~predeceased the member, the board shall pay the predeceased beneficiary's share~~
12 ~~to the remaining primary beneficiaries. If there are no remaining primary~~
13 ~~beneficiaries, the board shall pay the member's account balance to the contingent~~
14 ~~beneficiaries in the same manner. If there are no remaining designated~~
15 ~~beneficiaries, the board shall pay the member's account balance to the member's~~
16 ~~estate. If the member has not designated an alternate beneficiary or the surviving~~
17 ~~spouse is the beneficiary, the surviving spouse of the member may select a form of~~
18 payment as follows:

- 19 a. If the member was a supreme or district court judge, the surviving spouse
20 may select one of the following optional forms of payment:
- 21 (1) A lump sum payment of the member's retirement account as of the date
22 of death.
- 23 (2) Payments as calculated for the deceased member as if the member
24 was of normal retirement age at the date of death, payable until the
25 spouse dies.
- 26 b. The surviving spouse of all other members may select one of the following
27 options:
- 28 (1) A lump sum payment of the member's retirement account as of the date
29 of death.
- 30 (2) Payments for sixty months as calculated for the deceased member as if
31 the member was of normal retirement age at the date of death.

- 1 (3) Payment of a monthly retirement benefit equal to fifty percent of the
2 deceased member's accrued single life retirement benefits until the
3 spouse dies.
- 4 (4) If the member dies on or after the member's normal retirement date, the
5 payment of a monthly retirement benefit equal to an amount that would
6 have been paid to the surviving spouse if the member had retired on
7 the day of the member's death and had selected a one hundred
8 percent joint and survivor annuity, payable until the spouse dies. A
9 surviving spouse who received a benefit under this subsection as of
10 July 31, 1995, is entitled to the higher of that person's existing benefit
11 or the equivalent of the accrued benefit available under the one
12 hundred percent joint and survivor provision as if the deceased
13 member were of normal retirement age, with the increase payable
14 beginning August 1, 1995.

15 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 4 of section 54-52-17.4 of the 1999
16 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 17 4. The member may purchase credit under this section by paying to the board an
18 amount equal to the actuarial cost to the fund of providing the credit. If the
19 member purchases credit pursuant to subdivision d of subsection 1, the member
20 must pay to the board an amount equal to the greater of the actuarial cost to the
21 fund of providing the credit, or the amount the member received upon taking a
22 refund of the member's account balance, plus interest at the actuarial rate of return
23 from the time the member was issued the refund. If the member is not
24 repurchasing all of the credit originally refunded, the member must pay a pro rata
25 amount of the refunded amount determined by dividing the refunded amount by
26 the number of months of credit refunded, multiplying that amount times the number
27 of months of credit the member seeks to repurchase, and adding interest at the
28 actuarial rate of return. The member shall also pay to the retiree health benefits
29 fund established under section 54-52.1-03.2 an amount equal to the actuarial cost
30 to that fund for the additional credit. This contribution must be recorded as a

1 member contribution pursuant to section 54-52.1-03.2. The board shall adopt
2 rules governing the purchase of additional credit under this section.

3 **SECTION 4.** A new subsection to section 54-52-17.4 of the 1999 Supplement to the
4 North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

5 Pursuant to rules adopted by the board, the board may allow a member to
6 purchase service credit with either pretax or aftertax moneys, at the board's
7 discretion.

8 **SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-52-17.5 of the 1999 Supplement to the North
9 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

10 **54-52-17.5. Postretirement adjustments.** An individual or the individual's beneficiary
11 who, on July 31, 1999 2001, is receiving retirement benefits under subdivision a, c, d, or e of
12 subsection 4 of section 54-52-17, or disability retirement benefits under subdivision e of
13 subsection 4 of section 54-52-17, is entitled to receive an increase in benefits equal to ~~eight~~ six
14 percent of the individual's present benefits with the increase payable beginning August 1, 1999
15 2001.

16 **SECTION 6. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-52-17.10 of the 1999 Supplement to the North
17 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

18 **54-52-17.10. Prior service retiree adjustment.** Prior service retirees who are
19 receiving benefits under this chapter on July 31, 1999 2001, are entitled to receive an increase
20 in benefits equal to ~~eight~~ six percent of the individual's present benefit, with the increased
21 benefits payable beginning August 1, 1999 2001. A prior service retiree is a former
22 participating employee who receives a supplemental monthly payment from the retirement
23 system based upon the original prior service credit system.

24 **SECTION 7. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-52-26 of the 1999 Supplement to the North
25 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

26 **54-52-26. Confidentiality of records.** All records relating to the retirement benefits of
27 a member or a beneficiary under this chapter, chapter 54-52.2, and chapter 54-52.6 are
28 confidential and are not public records. ~~This section does not prohibit any party from obtaining~~
29 ~~this information from other agencies or governmental sources.~~ Information and records may be
30 disclosed, under rules adopted by the board, only to:

- 1 1. A person to whom the member has given written consent to have the information
- 2 disclosed.
- 3 2. A person legally representing the member, upon proper proof of representation,
- 4 and unless the member specifically withholds consent.
- 5 3. A person authorized by a court order.
- 6 4. A member's participating employer, limited to information concerning the member's
- 7 years of service credit and years of age. The board may share other types of
- 8 information as needed by the employer to validate the employer's compliance with
- 9 existing state or federal laws. Any information provided to the member's
- 10 participating employer under this subsection must remain confidential except as
- 11 provided under subsection 6.
- 12 5. The administrative staff of the retirement and investment office for purposes
- 13 relating to membership and benefits determination.
- 14 6. State or federal agencies for purposes of reporting on a service provider's
- 15 provision of services or when the employer must supply information to an agency
- 16 to validate the employer's compliance with existing state or federal laws.
- 17 7. Member interest groups approved by the board on a third-party blind list basis,
- 18 limited to information concerning the member's participation, name, and address.
- 19 8. The member's spouse or former spouse, that individual's legal representative, and
- 20 the judge presiding over the member's dissolution proceeding for purposes of
- 21 aiding the parties in drafting a qualified domestic relations order under section
- 22 54-52-17.6. The information disclosed under this subsection must be limited to
- 23 information necessary for drafting the order.

24 **SECTION 8. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-52.2-03 of the 1999 Supplement to the North
25 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

26 **54-52.2-03. Deferred compensation program - Administration - Contract for**
27 **services.** The administration of the deferred compensation program for each state agency,
28 department, board, commission, or institution is under the direction of the public employees
29 retirement board. Each county, city, or other political subdivision shall designate an officer to
30 administer the deferred compensation program or appoint the public employees retirement
31 board to administer the program on its behalf. Payroll reductions must be made in each

1 instance by the appropriate payroll officer. The public employees retirement board shall
2 administer the deferred compensation program based on ~~a plan~~ one or more plans in
3 compliance with the appropriate provisions of the Internal Revenue Code and regulations
4 adopted under those provisions. Not later than January 1, 1999, all plan assets and income
5 must be held in trust, custodial accounts, or contracts as described in section 401(f) of the
6 Internal Revenue Code [26 U.S.C. 401(f)] for the exclusive benefit of participants and their
7 beneficiaries as required by section 457 of the Internal Revenue Code [26 U.S.C. 457]. Once
8 the trust, custodial account, or contract is established as required by this section, the board
9 shall act as fiduciary of the plan to the extent required by section 457 of the Internal Revenue
10 Code [26 U.S.C. 457] and the board is authorized to do all things necessary for the proper
11 administration of the plan to ensure that the plan maintains its qualified status.

12 **SECTION 9. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-52.2-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is
13 amended and reenacted as follows:

14 **54-52.2-04. Definition - Employee.** For the purpose of this chapter, "employee"
15 means any person, whether appointed, elected, or under contract, ~~providing services for~~
16 employed by the state, county, city, town, or other a political subdivision, for which
17 compensation is paid who is at least eighteen years of age and employed in an approved and
18 regularly funded position of unlimited duration for twenty hours or more per week and at least
19 five months each year. For purposes of this chapter, "employee" also means a member of the
20 legislative assembly.

21 **SECTION 10. REPEAL.** Section 54-52-17.9 of the North Dakota Century Code is
22 repealed.

23 **SECTION 11. EFFECTIVE DATE.** Section 4 of this Act becomes effective on the date
24 the board of trustees of the public employees retirement system receives a letter ruling from the
25 internal revenue service that section 4 of this Act does not jeopardize the qualified status of the
26 public employees retirement system. The board shall notify the legislative council of the
27 effective date of section 4 of this Act.