
SENATE BILL 6133

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Senators Costa and Fraser

Read first time 02/28/2001. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

1 AN ACT Relating to including school nurses under the definition of
2 teachers' retirement system plan 1 earnable compensation; and amending
3 RCW 41.32.010.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 41.32.010 and 1997 c 254 s 3 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 As used in this chapter, unless a different meaning is plainly
8 required by the context:

9 (1)(a) "Accumulated contributions" for plan 1 members, means the
10 sum of all regular annuity contributions and, except for the purpose of
11 withdrawal at the time of retirement, any amount paid under RCW
12 41.50.165(2) with regular interest thereon.

13 (b) "Accumulated contributions" for plan 2 members, means the sum
14 of all contributions standing to the credit of a member in the member's
15 individual account, including any amount paid under RCW 41.50.165(2),
16 together with the regular interest thereon.

17 (2) "Actuarial equivalent" means a benefit of equal value when
18 computed upon the basis of such mortality tables and regulations as
19 shall be adopted by the director and regular interest.

1 (3) "Annuity" means the moneys payable per year during life by
2 reason of accumulated contributions of a member.

3 (4) "Member reserve" means the fund in which all of the accumulated
4 contributions of members are held.

5 (5)(a) "Beneficiary" for plan 1 members, means any person in
6 receipt of a retirement allowance or other benefit provided by this
7 chapter.

8 (b) "Beneficiary" for plan 2 and plan 3 members, means any person
9 in receipt of a retirement allowance or other benefit provided by this
10 chapter resulting from service rendered to an employer by another
11 person.

12 (6) "Contract" means any agreement for service and compensation
13 between a member and an employer.

14 (7) "Creditable service" means membership service plus prior
15 service for which credit is allowable. This subsection shall apply
16 only to plan 1 members.

17 (8) "Dependent" means receiving one-half or more of support from a
18 member.

19 (9) "Disability allowance" means monthly payments during
20 disability. This subsection shall apply only to plan 1 members.

21 (10)(a) "Earnable compensation" for plan 1 members, means:

22 (i) All salaries and wages paid by an employer to an employee
23 member of the retirement system for personal services rendered during
24 a fiscal year. In all cases where compensation includes maintenance
25 the employer shall fix the value of that part of the compensation not
26 paid in money.

27 (ii) "Earnable compensation" for plan 1 members also includes the
28 following actual or imputed payments, which are not paid for personal
29 services:

30 (A) Retroactive payments to an individual by an employer on
31 reinstatement of the employee in a position, or payments by an employer
32 to an individual in lieu of reinstatement in a position which are
33 awarded or granted as the equivalent of the salary or wages which the
34 individual would have earned during a payroll period shall be
35 considered earnable compensation and the individual shall receive the
36 equivalent service credit.

37 (B) If a leave of absence, without pay, is taken by a member for
38 the purpose of serving as a member of the state legislature, and such
39 member has served in the legislature five or more years, the salary

1 which would have been received for the position from which the leave of
2 absence was taken shall be considered as compensation earnable if the
3 employee's contribution thereon is paid by the employee. In addition,
4 where a member has been a member of the state legislature for five or
5 more years, earnable compensation for the member's two highest
6 compensated consecutive years of service shall include a sum not to
7 exceed thirty-six hundred dollars for each of such two consecutive
8 years, regardless of whether or not legislative service was rendered
9 during those two years.

10 (iii) For members employed less than full time under written
11 contract with a school district, or community college district, in an
12 instructional position, for which the member receives service credit of
13 less than one year in all of the years used to determine the earnable
14 compensation used for computing benefits due under RCW 41.32.497,
15 41.32.498, and 41.32.520, the member may elect to have earnable
16 compensation defined as provided in RCW 41.32.345. For the purposes of
17 this subsection, the term "instructional position" means a position in
18 which more than seventy-five percent of the member's time is spent as
19 a classroom instructor (including office hours), a school nurse, a
20 librarian, or a counselor. Earnable compensation shall be so defined
21 only for the purpose of the calculation of retirement benefits and only
22 as necessary to insure that members who receive fractional service
23 credit under RCW 41.32.270 receive benefits proportional to those
24 received by members who have received full-time service credit.

25 (iv) "Earnable compensation" does not include:

26 (A) Remuneration for unused sick leave authorized under RCW
27 41.04.340, 28A.400.210, or 28A.310.490;

28 (B) Remuneration for unused annual leave in excess of thirty days
29 as authorized by RCW 43.01.044 and 43.01.041.

30 (b) "Earnable compensation" for plan 2 and plan 3 members, means
31 salaries or wages earned by a member during a payroll period for
32 personal services, including overtime payments, and shall include wages
33 and salaries deferred under provisions established pursuant to sections
34 403(b), 414(h), and 457 of the United States Internal Revenue Code, but
35 shall exclude lump sum payments for deferred annual sick leave, unused
36 accumulated vacation, unused accumulated annual leave, or any form of
37 severance pay.

1 "Earnable compensation" for plan 2 and plan 3 members also includes
2 the following actual or imputed payments which, except in the case of
3 (b)(ii)(B) of this subsection, are not paid for personal services:

4 (i) Retroactive payments to an individual by an employer on
5 reinstatement of the employee in a position or payments by an employer
6 to an individual in lieu of reinstatement in a position which are
7 awarded or granted as the equivalent of the salary or wages which the
8 individual would have earned during a payroll period shall be
9 considered earnable compensation, to the extent provided above, and the
10 individual shall receive the equivalent service credit.

11 (ii) In any year in which a member serves in the legislature the
12 member shall have the option of having such member's earnable
13 compensation be the greater of:

14 (A) The earnable compensation the member would have received had
15 such member not served in the legislature; or

16 (B) Such member's actual earnable compensation received for
17 teaching and legislative service combined. Any additional
18 contributions to the retirement system required because compensation
19 earnable under (b)(ii)(A) of this subsection is greater than
20 compensation earnable under (b)(ii)(B) of this subsection shall be paid
21 by the member for both member and employer contributions.

22 (11) "Employer" means the state of Washington, the school district,
23 or any agency of the state of Washington by which the member is paid.

24 (12) "Fiscal year" means a year which begins July 1st and ends June
25 30th of the following year.

26 (13) "Former state fund" means the state retirement fund in
27 operation for teachers under chapter 187, Laws of 1923, as amended.

28 (14) "Local fund" means any of the local retirement funds for
29 teachers operated in any school district in accordance with the
30 provisions of chapter 163, Laws of 1917 as amended.

31 (15) "Member" means any teacher included in the membership of the
32 retirement system. Also, any other employee of the public schools who,
33 on July 1, 1947, had not elected to be exempt from membership and who,
34 prior to that date, had by an authorized payroll deduction, contributed
35 to the member reserve.

36 (16) "Membership service" means service rendered subsequent to the
37 first day of eligibility of a person to membership in the retirement
38 system: PROVIDED, That where a member is employed by two or more
39 employers the individual shall receive no more than one service credit

1 month during any calendar month in which multiple service is rendered.
2 The provisions of this subsection shall apply only to plan 1 members.

3 (17) "Pension" means the moneys payable per year during life from
4 the pension reserve.

5 (18) "Pension reserve" is a fund in which shall be accumulated an
6 actuarial reserve adequate to meet present and future pension
7 liabilities of the system and from which all pension obligations are to
8 be paid.

9 (19) "Prior service" means service rendered prior to the first date
10 of eligibility to membership in the retirement system for which credit
11 is allowable. The provisions of this subsection shall apply only to
12 plan 1 members.

13 (20) "Prior service contributions" means contributions made by a
14 member to secure credit for prior service. The provisions of this
15 subsection shall apply only to plan 1 members.

16 (21) "Public school" means any institution or activity operated by
17 the state of Washington or any instrumentality or political subdivision
18 thereof employing teachers, except the University of Washington and
19 Washington State University.

20 (22) "Regular contributions" means the amounts required to be
21 deducted from the compensation of a member and credited to the member's
22 individual account in the member reserve. This subsection shall apply
23 only to plan 1 members.

24 (23) "Regular interest" means such rate as the director may
25 determine.

26 (24)(a) "Retirement allowance" for plan 1 members, means monthly
27 payments based on the sum of annuity and pension, or any optional
28 benefits payable in lieu thereof.

29 (b) "Retirement allowance" for plan 2 and plan 3 members, means
30 monthly payments to a retiree or beneficiary as provided in this
31 chapter.

32 (25) "Retirement system" means the Washington state teachers'
33 retirement system.

34 (26)(a) "Service" for plan 1 members means the time during which a
35 member has been employed by an employer for compensation.

36 (i) If a member is employed by two or more employers the individual
37 shall receive no more than one service credit month during any calendar
38 month in which multiple service is rendered.

1 (ii) As authorized by RCW 28A.400.300, up to forty-five days of
2 sick leave may be creditable as service solely for the purpose of
3 determining eligibility to retire under RCW 41.32.470.

4 (iii) As authorized in RCW 41.32.065, service earned in an out-of-
5 state retirement system that covers teachers in public schools may be
6 applied solely for the purpose of determining eligibility to retire
7 under RCW 41.32.470.

8 (b) "Service" for plan 2 and plan 3 members, means periods of
9 employment by a member for one or more employers for which earnable
10 compensation is earned subject to the following conditions:

11 (i) A member employed in an eligible position or as a substitute
12 shall receive one service credit month for each month of September
13 through August of the following year if he or she earns earnable
14 compensation for eight hundred ten or more hours during that period and
15 is employed during nine of those months, except that a member may not
16 receive credit for any period prior to the member's employment in an
17 eligible position except as provided in RCW 41.32.812 and 41.50.132;

18 (ii) If a member is employed either in an eligible position or as
19 a substitute teacher for nine months of the twelve month period between
20 September through August of the following year but earns earnable
21 compensation for less than eight hundred ten hours but for at least six
22 hundred thirty hours, he or she will receive one-half of a service
23 credit month for each month of the twelve month period;

24 (iii) All other members in an eligible position or as a substitute
25 teacher shall receive service credit as follows:

26 (A) A service credit month is earned in those calendar months where
27 earnable compensation is earned for ninety or more hours;

28 (B) A half-service credit month is earned in those calendar months
29 where earnable compensation is earned for at least seventy hours but
30 less than ninety hours; and

31 (C) A quarter-service credit month is earned in those calendar
32 months where earnable compensation is earned for less than seventy
33 hours.

34 (iv) Any person who is a member of the teachers' retirement system
35 and who is elected or appointed to a state elective position may
36 continue to be a member of the retirement system and continue to
37 receive a service credit month for each of the months in a state
38 elective position by making the required member contributions.

1 (v) When an individual is employed by two or more employers the
2 individual shall only receive one month's service credit during any
3 calendar month in which multiple service for ninety or more hours is
4 rendered.

5 (vi) As authorized by RCW 28A.400.300, up to forty-five days of
6 sick leave may be creditable as service solely for the purpose of
7 determining eligibility to retire under RCW 41.32.470. For purposes of
8 plan 2 and plan 3 "forty-five days" as used in RCW 28A.400.300 is equal
9 to two service credit months. Use of less than forty-five days of sick
10 leave is creditable as allowed under this subsection as follows:

11 (A) Less than eleven days equals one-quarter service credit month;

12 (B) Eleven or more days but less than twenty-two days equals one-
13 half service credit month;

14 (C) Twenty-two days equals one service credit month;

15 (D) More than twenty-two days but less than thirty-three days
16 equals one and one-quarter service credit month;

17 (E) Thirty-three or more days but less than forty-five days equals
18 one and one-half service credit month.

19 (vii) As authorized in RCW 41.32.065, service earned in an out-of-
20 state retirement system that covers teachers in public schools may be
21 applied solely for the purpose of determining eligibility to retire
22 under RCW 41.32.470.

23 (viii) The department shall adopt rules implementing this
24 subsection.

25 (27) "Service credit year" means an accumulation of months of
26 service credit which is equal to one when divided by twelve.

27 (28) "Service credit month" means a full service credit month or an
28 accumulation of partial service credit months that are equal to one.

29 (29) "Teacher" means any person qualified to teach who is engaged
30 by a public school in an instructional, administrative, or supervisory
31 capacity. The term includes state, educational service district, and
32 school district superintendents and their assistants and all employees
33 certificated by the superintendent of public instruction; and in
34 addition thereto any full time school doctor who is employed by a
35 public school and renders service of an instructional or educational
36 nature.

37 (30) "Average final compensation" for plan 2 and plan 3 members,
38 means the member's average earnable compensation of the highest
39 consecutive sixty service credit months prior to such member's

1 retirement, termination, or death. Periods constituting authorized
2 leaves of absence may not be used in the calculation of average final
3 compensation except under RCW 41.32.810(2).

4 (31) "Retiree" means any person who has begun accruing a retirement
5 allowance or other benefit provided by this chapter resulting from
6 service rendered to an employer while a member.

7 (32) "Department" means the department of retirement systems
8 created in chapter 41.50 RCW.

9 (33) "Director" means the director of the department.

10 (34) "State elective position" means any position held by any
11 person elected or appointed to state-wide office or elected or
12 appointed as a member of the legislature.

13 (35) "State actuary" or "actuary" means the person appointed
14 pursuant to RCW 44.44.010(2).

15 (36) "Substitute teacher" means:

16 (a) A teacher who is hired by an employer to work as a temporary
17 teacher, except for teachers who are annual contract employees of an
18 employer and are guaranteed a minimum number of hours; or

19 (b) Teachers who either (i) work in ineligible positions for more
20 than one employer or (ii) work in an ineligible position or positions
21 together with an eligible position.

22 (37)(a) "Eligible position" for plan 2 members from June 7, 1990,
23 through September 1, 1991, means a position which normally requires two
24 or more uninterrupted months of creditable service during September
25 through August of the following year.

26 (b) "Eligible position" for plan 2 and plan 3 on and after
27 September 1, 1991, means a position that, as defined by the employer,
28 normally requires five or more months of at least seventy hours of
29 earnable compensation during September through August of the following
30 year.

31 (c) For purposes of this chapter an employer shall not define
32 "position" in such a manner that an employee's monthly work for that
33 employer is divided into more than one position.

34 (d) The elected position of the superintendent of public
35 instruction is an eligible position.

36 (38) "Plan 1" means the teachers' retirement system, plan 1
37 providing the benefits and funding provisions covering persons who
38 first became members of the system prior to October 1, 1977.

1 (39) "Plan 2" means the teachers' retirement system, plan 2
2 providing the benefits and funding provisions covering persons who
3 first became members of the system on and after October 1, 1977, and
4 prior to July 1, 1996.

5 (40) "Plan 3" means the teachers' retirement system, plan 3
6 providing the benefits and funding provisions covering persons who
7 first become members of the system on and after July 1, 1996, or who
8 transfer under RCW 41.32.817.

9 (41) "Index" means, for any calendar year, that year's annual
10 average consumer price index, Seattle, Washington area, for urban wage
11 earners and clerical workers, all items compiled by the bureau of labor
12 statistics, United States department of labor.

13 (42) "Index A" means the index for the year prior to the
14 determination of a postretirement adjustment.

15 (43) "Index B" means the index for the year prior to index A.

16 (44) "Index year" means the earliest calendar year in which the
17 index is more than sixty percent of index A.

18 (45) "Adjustment ratio" means the value of index A divided by index
19 B.

20 (46) "Annual increase" means, initially, fifty-nine cents per month
21 per year of service which amount shall be increased each July 1st by
22 three percent, rounded to the nearest cent.

23 (47) "Member account" or "member's account" for purposes of plan 3
24 means the sum of the contributions and earnings on behalf of the member
25 in the defined contribution portion of plan 3.

26 (48) "Separation from service or employment" occurs when a person
27 has terminated all employment with an employer.

28 (49) "Employed" or "employee" means a person who is providing
29 services for compensation to an employer, unless the person is free
30 from the employer's direction and control over the performance of work.
31 The department shall adopt rules and interpret this subsection
32 consistent with common law.

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