
SENATE BILL 5098

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By Senators Jacobsen, Winsley, Fraser, Carlson, Rasmussen and Esser;
by request of Joint Committee on Pension Policy

Read first time 01/15/2003. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

1 AN ACT Relating to department of fish and wildlife law enforcement
2 officers' membership in the law enforcement officers' and fire
3 fighters' retirement system plan 2 for periods of future service;
4 amending RCW 41.26.030 and 77.15.075; and adding a new section to
5 chapter 41.40 RCW.

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 41.40 RCW
8 to read as follows:

9 (1) An employee who was a member of the public employees'
10 retirement system plan 2 or plan 3 on or before January 1, 2003, and on
11 the effective date of this act is employed by the department of fish
12 and wildlife as a law enforcement officer as defined in RCW 41.26.030,
13 shall become a member of the law enforcement officers' and fire
14 fighters' retirement system plan 2. All officers will be dual members
15 as provided in chapter 41.54 RCW, and public employees' retirement
16 system service credit may not be transferred to the law enforcement
17 officers' and fire fighters' retirement system plan 2.

1 (2) An employee who was a member of the public employees'
2 retirement system plan 1 on or before January 1, 2003, and on or after
3 the effective date of this act is employed by the department of fish
4 and wildlife as a law enforcement officer as defined in RCW 41.26.030,
5 shall remain a member of the public employees' retirement system plan
6 1.

7 **Sec. 2.** RCW 41.26.030 and 2002 c 128 s 3 are each amended to read
8 as follows:

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

11 (1) "Retirement system" means the "Washington law enforcement
12 officers' and fire fighters' retirement system" provided herein.

13 (2)(a) "Employer" for plan 1 members, means the legislative
14 authority of any city, town, county, or district or the elected
15 officials of any municipal corporation that employs any law enforcement
16 officer and/or fire fighter, any authorized association of such
17 municipalities, and, except for the purposes of RCW 41.26.150, any
18 labor guild, association, or organization, which represents the fire
19 fighters or law enforcement officers of at least seven cities of over
20 20,000 population and the membership of each local lodge or division of
21 which is composed of at least sixty percent law enforcement officers or
22 fire fighters as defined in this chapter.

23 (b) "Employer" for plan 2 members, means the following entities to
24 the extent that the entity employs any law enforcement officer and/or
25 fire fighter:

26 (i) The legislative authority of any city, town, county, or
27 district;

28 (ii) The elected officials of any municipal corporation;

29 (iii) The governing body of any other general authority law
30 enforcement agency; or

31 (iv) A four-year institution of higher education having a fully
32 operational fire department as of January 1, 1996.

33 (3) "Law enforcement officer" beginning January 1, 1994, means any
34 person who is commissioned and employed by an employer on a full time,
35 fully compensated basis to enforce the criminal laws of the state of
36 Washington generally, with the following qualifications:

1 (a) No person who is serving in a position that is basically
2 clerical or secretarial in nature, and who is not commissioned shall be
3 considered a law enforcement officer;

4 (b) Only those deputy sheriffs, including those serving under a
5 different title pursuant to county charter, who have successfully
6 completed a civil service examination for deputy sheriff or the
7 equivalent position, where a different title is used, and those persons
8 serving in unclassified positions authorized by RCW 41.14.070 except a
9 private secretary will be considered law enforcement officers;

10 (c) Only such full time commissioned law enforcement personnel as
11 have been appointed to offices, positions, or ranks in the police
12 department which have been specifically created or otherwise expressly
13 provided for and designated by city charter provision or by ordinance
14 enacted by the legislative body of the city shall be considered city
15 police officers;

16 (d) The term "law enforcement officer" also includes the executive
17 secretary of a labor guild, association or organization (which is an
18 employer under RCW 41.26.030(2)) if that individual has five years
19 previous membership in the retirement system established in chapter
20 41.20 RCW. The provisions of this subsection (3)(d) shall not apply to
21 plan 2 members; and

22 (e) The term "law enforcement officer" also includes a person
23 employed on or after January 1, 1993, as a public safety officer or
24 director of public safety, so long as the job duties substantially
25 involve only either police or fire duties, or both, and no other duties
26 in a city or town with a population of less than ten thousand. The
27 provisions of this subsection (3)(e) shall not apply to any public
28 safety officer or director of public safety who is receiving a
29 retirement allowance under this chapter as of May 12, 1993.

30 (4) "Fire fighter" means:

31 (a) Any person who is serving on a full time, fully compensated
32 basis as a member of a fire department of an employer and who is
33 serving in a position which requires passing a civil service
34 examination for fire fighter, and who is actively employed as such;

35 (b) Anyone who is actively employed as a full time fire fighter
36 where the fire department does not have a civil service examination;

37 (c) Supervisory fire fighter personnel;

1 (d) Any full time executive secretary of an association of fire
2 protection districts authorized under RCW 52.12.031. The provisions of
3 this subsection (4)(d) shall not apply to plan 2 members;

4 (e) The executive secretary of a labor guild, association or
5 organization (which is an employer under RCW 41.26.030(2) as now or
6 hereafter amended), if such individual has five years previous
7 membership in a retirement system established in chapter 41.16 or 41.18
8 RCW. The provisions of this subsection (4)(e) shall not apply to plan
9 2 members;

10 (f) Any person who is serving on a full time, fully compensated
11 basis for an employer, as a fire dispatcher, in a department in which,
12 on March 1, 1970, a dispatcher was required to have passed a civil
13 service examination for fire fighter; and

14 (g) Any person who on March 1, 1970, was employed on a full time,
15 fully compensated basis by an employer, and who on May 21, 1971, was
16 making retirement contributions under the provisions of chapter 41.16
17 or 41.18 RCW.

18 (5) "Department" means the department of retirement systems created
19 in chapter 41.50 RCW.

20 (6) "Surviving spouse" means the surviving widow or widower of a
21 member. "Surviving spouse" shall not include the divorced spouse of a
22 member except as provided in RCW 41.26.162.

23 (7)(a) "Child" or "children" means an unmarried person who is under
24 the age of eighteen or mentally or physically handicapped as determined
25 by the department, except a handicapped person in the full time care of
26 a state institution, who is:

27 (i) A natural born child;

28 (ii) A stepchild where that relationship was in existence prior to
29 the date benefits are payable under this chapter;

30 (iii) A posthumous child;

31 (iv) A child legally adopted or made a legal ward of a member prior
32 to the date benefits are payable under this chapter; or

33 (v) An illegitimate child legitimized prior to the date any
34 benefits are payable under this chapter.

35 (b) A person shall also be deemed to be a child up to and including
36 the age of twenty years and eleven months while attending any high
37 school, college, or vocational or other educational institution
38 accredited, licensed, or approved by the state, in which it is located,

1 including the summer vacation months and all other normal and regular
2 vacation periods at the particular educational institution after which
3 the child returns to school.

4 (8) "Member" means any fire fighter, law enforcement officer, or
5 other person as would apply under subsections (3) or (4) of this
6 section whose membership is transferred to the Washington law
7 enforcement officers' and fire fighters' retirement system on or after
8 March 1, 1970, and every law enforcement officer and fire fighter who
9 is employed in that capacity on or after such date.

10 (9) "Retirement fund" means the "Washington law enforcement
11 officers' and fire fighters' retirement system fund" as provided for
12 herein.

13 (10) "Employee" means any law enforcement officer or fire fighter
14 as defined in subsections (3) and (4) of this section.

15 (11)(a) "Beneficiary" for plan 1 members, means any person in
16 receipt of a retirement allowance, disability allowance, death benefit,
17 or any other benefit described herein.

18 (b) "Beneficiary" for plan 2 members, means any person in receipt
19 of a retirement allowance or other benefit provided by this chapter
20 resulting from service rendered to an employer by another person.

21 (12)(a) "Final average salary" for plan 1 members, means (i) for a
22 member holding the same position or rank for a minimum of twelve months
23 preceding the date of retirement, the basic salary attached to such
24 same position or rank at time of retirement; (ii) for any other member,
25 including a civil service member who has not served a minimum of twelve
26 months in the same position or rank preceding the date of retirement,
27 the average of the greatest basic salaries payable to such member
28 during any consecutive twenty-four month period within such member's
29 last ten years of service for which service credit is allowed, computed
30 by dividing the total basic salaries payable to such member during the
31 selected twenty-four month period by twenty-four; (iii) in the case of
32 disability of any member, the basic salary payable to such member at
33 the time of disability retirement; (iv) in the case of a member who
34 hereafter vests pursuant to RCW 41.26.090, the basic salary payable to
35 such member at the time of vesting.

36 (b) "Final average salary" for plan 2 members, means the monthly
37 average of the member's basic salary for the highest consecutive sixty

1 service credit months of service prior to such member's retirement,
2 termination, or death. Periods constituting authorized unpaid leaves
3 of absence may not be used in the calculation of final average salary.

4 (13)(a) "Basic salary" for plan 1 members, means the basic monthly
5 rate of salary or wages, including longevity pay but not including
6 overtime earnings or special salary or wages, upon which pension or
7 retirement benefits will be computed and upon which employer
8 contributions and salary deductions will be based.

9 (b) "Basic salary" for plan 2 members, means salaries or wages
10 earned by a member during a payroll period for personal services,
11 including overtime payments, and shall include wages and salaries
12 deferred under provisions established pursuant to sections 403(b),
13 414(h), and 457 of the United States Internal Revenue Code, but shall
14 exclude lump sum payments for deferred annual sick leave, unused
15 accumulated vacation, unused accumulated annual leave, or any form of
16 severance pay. In any year in which a member serves in the legislature
17 the member shall have the option of having such member's basic salary
18 be the greater of:

19 (i) The basic salary the member would have received had such member
20 not served in the legislature; or

21 (ii) Such member's actual basic salary received for nonlegislative
22 public employment and legislative service combined. Any additional
23 contributions to the retirement system required because basic salary
24 under (b)(i) of this subsection is greater than basic salary under
25 (b)(ii) of this subsection shall be paid by the member for both member
26 and employer contributions.

27 (14)(a) "Service" for plan 1 members, means all periods of
28 employment for an employer as a fire fighter or law enforcement
29 officer, for which compensation is paid, together with periods of
30 suspension not exceeding thirty days in duration. For the purposes of
31 this chapter service shall also include service in the armed forces of
32 the United States as provided in RCW 41.26.190. Credit shall be
33 allowed for all service credit months of service rendered by a member
34 from and after the member's initial commencement of employment as a
35 fire fighter or law enforcement officer, during which the member worked
36 for seventy or more hours, or was on disability leave or disability
37 retirement. Only service credit months of service shall be counted in

1 the computation of any retirement allowance or other benefit provided
2 for in this chapter.

3 (i) For members retiring after May 21, 1971 who were employed under
4 the coverage of a prior pension act before March 1, 1970, "service"
5 shall also include (A) such military service not exceeding five years
6 as was creditable to the member as of March 1, 1970, under the member's
7 particular prior pension act, and (B) such other periods of service as
8 were then creditable to a particular member under the provisions of RCW
9 41.18.165, 41.20.160 or 41.20.170. However, in no event shall credit
10 be allowed for any service rendered prior to March 1, 1970, where the
11 member at the time of rendition of such service was employed in a
12 position covered by a prior pension act, unless such service, at the
13 time credit is claimed therefor, is also creditable under the
14 provisions of such prior act.

15 (ii) A member who is employed by two employers at the same time
16 shall only be credited with service to one such employer for any month
17 during which the member rendered such dual service.

18 (b) "Service" for plan 2 members, means periods of employment by a
19 member for one or more employers for which basic salary is earned for
20 ninety or more hours per calendar month which shall constitute a
21 service credit month. Periods of employment by a member for one or
22 more employers for which basic salary is earned for at least seventy
23 hours but less than ninety hours per calendar month shall constitute
24 one-half service credit month. Periods of employment by a member for
25 one or more employers for which basic salary is earned for less than
26 seventy hours shall constitute a one-quarter service credit month.

27 Members of the retirement system who are elected or appointed to a
28 state elective position may elect to continue to be members of this
29 retirement system.

30 Service credit years of service shall be determined by dividing the
31 total number of service credit months of service by twelve. Any
32 fraction of a service credit year of service as so determined shall be
33 taken into account in the computation of such retirement allowance or
34 benefits.

35 If a member receives basic salary from two or more employers during
36 any calendar month, the individual shall receive one service credit
37 month's service credit during any calendar month in which multiple
38 service for ninety or more hours is rendered; or one-half service

1 credit month's service credit during any calendar month in which
2 multiple service for at least seventy hours but less than ninety hours
3 is rendered; or one-quarter service credit month during any calendar
4 month in which multiple service for less than seventy hours is
5 rendered.

6 (15) "Accumulated contributions" means the employee's contributions
7 made by a member, including any amount paid under RCW 41.50.165(2),
8 plus accrued interest credited thereon.

9 (16) "Actuarial reserve" means a method of financing a pension or
10 retirement plan wherein reserves are accumulated as the liabilities for
11 benefit payments are incurred in order that sufficient funds will be
12 available on the date of retirement of each member to pay the member's
13 future benefits during the period of retirement.

14 (17) "Actuarial valuation" means a mathematical determination of
15 the financial condition of a retirement plan. It includes the
16 computation of the present monetary value of benefits payable to
17 present members, and the present monetary value of future employer and
18 employee contributions, giving effect to mortality among active and
19 retired members and also to the rates of disability, retirement,
20 withdrawal from service, salary and interest earned on investments.

21 (18) "Disability board" for plan 1 members means either the county
22 disability board or the city disability board established in RCW
23 41.26.110.

24 (19) "Disability leave" means the period of six months or any
25 portion thereof during which a member is on leave at an allowance equal
26 to the member's full salary prior to the commencement of disability
27 retirement. The definition contained in this subsection shall apply
28 only to plan 1 members.

29 (20) "Disability retirement" for plan 1 members, means the period
30 following termination of a member's disability leave, during which the
31 member is in receipt of a disability retirement allowance.

32 (21) "Position" means the employment held at any particular time,
33 which may or may not be the same as civil service rank.

34 (22) "Medical services" for plan 1 members, shall include the
35 following as minimum services to be provided. Reasonable charges for
36 these services shall be paid in accordance with RCW 41.26.150.

37 (a) Hospital expenses: These are the charges made by a hospital,
38 in its own behalf, for

1 (i) Board and room not to exceed semiprivate room rate unless
2 private room is required by the attending physician due to the
3 condition of the patient.

4 (ii) Necessary hospital services, other than board and room,
5 furnished by the hospital.

6 (b) Other medical expenses: The following charges are considered
7 "other medical expenses", provided that they have not been considered
8 as "hospital expenses".

9 (i) The fees of the following:

10 (A) A physician or surgeon licensed under the provisions of chapter
11 18.71 RCW;

12 (B) An osteopathic physician and surgeon licensed under the
13 provisions of chapter 18.57 RCW;

14 (C) A chiropractor licensed under the provisions of chapter 18.25
15 RCW.

16 (ii) The charges of a registered graduate nurse other than a nurse
17 who ordinarily resides in the member's home, or is a member of the
18 family of either the member or the member's spouse.

19 (iii) The charges for the following medical services and supplies:

20 (A) Drugs and medicines upon a physician's prescription;

21 (B) Diagnostic x-ray and laboratory examinations;

22 (C) X-ray, radium, and radioactive isotopes therapy;

23 (D) Anesthesia and oxygen;

24 (E) Rental of iron lung and other durable medical and surgical
25 equipment;

26 (F) Artificial limbs and eyes, and casts, splints, and trusses;

27 (G) Professional ambulance service when used to transport the
28 member to or from a hospital when injured by an accident or stricken by
29 a disease;

30 (H) Dental charges incurred by a member who sustains an accidental
31 injury to his or her teeth and who commences treatment by a legally
32 licensed dentist within ninety days after the accident;

33 (I) Nursing home confinement or hospital extended care facility;

34 (J) Physical therapy by a registered physical therapist;

35 (K) Blood transfusions, including the cost of blood and blood
36 plasma not replaced by voluntary donors;

37 (L) An optometrist licensed under the provisions of chapter 18.53
38 RCW.

1 (23) "Regular interest" means such rate as the director may
2 determine.

3 (24) "Retiree" for persons who establish membership in the
4 retirement system on or after October 1, 1977, means any member in
5 receipt of a retirement allowance or other benefit provided by this
6 chapter resulting from service rendered to an employer by such member.

7 (25) "Director" means the director of the department.

8 (26) "State actuary" or "actuary" means the person appointed
9 pursuant to RCW 44.44.010(2).

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

13 (28) "Plan 1" means the law enforcement officers' and fire
14 fighters' retirement system, plan 1 providing the benefits and funding
15 provisions covering persons who first became members of the system
16 prior to October 1, 1977.

17 (29) "Plan 2" means the law enforcement officers' and fire
18 fighters' retirement system, plan 2 providing the benefits and funding
19 provisions covering persons who first became members of the system on
20 and after October 1, 1977.

21 (30) "Service credit year" means an accumulation of months of
22 service credit which is equal to one when divided by twelve.

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

25 (32) "General authority law enforcement agency" means any agency,
26 department, or division of a municipal corporation, political
27 subdivision, or other unit of local government of this state, and any
28 agency, department, or division of state government, having as its
29 primary function the detection and apprehension of persons committing
30 infractions or violating the traffic or criminal laws in general, but
31 not including the Washington state patrol (~~or the department of fish
32 and wildlife~~). Such an agency, department, or division is
33 distinguished from a limited authority law enforcement agency having as
34 one of its functions the apprehension or detection of persons
35 committing infractions or violating the traffic or criminal laws
36 relating to limited subject areas, including but not limited to, the
37 state departments of natural resources and social and health services,
38 the state gambling commission, the state lottery commission, the state

1 parks and recreation commission, the state utilities and transportation
2 commission, the state liquor control board, and the state department of
3 corrections.

4 **Sec. 3.** RCW 77.15.075 and 2002 c 128 s 4 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) Fish and wildlife officers and ex officio fish and wildlife
7 officers shall enforce this title, rules of the department, and other
8 statutes as prescribed by the legislature. Fish and wildlife officers
9 who are not ex officio officers shall have and exercise, throughout the
10 state, such police powers and duties as are vested in sheriffs and
11 peace officers generally. An applicant for a fish and wildlife officer
12 position must be a citizen of the United States of America who can read
13 and write the English language. All fish and wildlife officers
14 employed after June 13, 2002, must successfully complete the basic law
15 enforcement academy course, known as the basic course, sponsored by the
16 criminal justice training commission, or the basic law enforcement
17 equivalency certification, known as the equivalency course, provided by
18 the criminal justice training commission. All officers employed on
19 June 13, 2002, must have successfully completed the basic course, the
20 equivalency course, or the supplemental course in criminal law
21 enforcement, known as the supplemental course, offered under chapter
22 155, Laws of 1985. Any officer who has not successfully completed the
23 basic course, the equivalency course, or the supplemental course must
24 complete the basic course or the equivalency course within fifteen
25 months of June 13, 2002.

26 (2) Fish and wildlife officers are peace officers. ((However,
27 ~~nothing in this section or RCW 10.93.020 confers membership to such~~
28 ~~officers in the Washington law enforcement officers' and fire fighters'~~
29 ~~retirement system under chapter 41.26 RCW.))~~

30 (3) Any liability or claim of liability under chapter 4.92 RCW that
31 arises out of the exercise or alleged exercise of authority by a fish
32 and wildlife officer rests with the department unless the fish and
33 wildlife officer acts under the direction and control of another agency
34 or unless the liability is otherwise assumed under an agreement between
35 the department and another agency.

36 (4) Fish and wildlife officers may serve and execute warrants and
37 processes issued by the courts.

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