

SSB 6523 - H COMM AMD  
By Committee on Appropriations

ADOPTED AS AMENDED 03/03/2016

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) Local governments formed  
4 intergovernmental consortiums, also known as provider groups, to  
5 provide emergency medical services over their shared geographic area.  
6 Funds collected through an emergency services levy under RCW  
7 84.52.069 were used to fund the consortium. Employees funded by the  
8 consortium provided services to the citizens of all the consortium  
9 members.

10 (2) The attorney general has ruled that where such a consortium  
11 is formed pursuant to an interlocal agreement, the consortium members  
12 retain their legal responsibilities as employers under the law  
13 enforcement officers' and firefighters' retirement system and public  
14 employees' retirement system. That is, the employees providing  
15 services to the consortium are entitled to retirement system  
16 membership if they otherwise meet membership eligibility requirements  
17 (*AGO 2007 No. 6*).

18 (3) This act is intended to provide those public employees with  
19 an opportunity to establish service credit in the public employees'  
20 retirement system for emergency medical services they provided to the  
21 public on behalf of a consortium or provider group.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 41.40 RCW  
23 under the subchapter heading "provisions applicable to plan 1, plan  
24 2, and plan 3" to read as follows:

25 (1) An employee providing emergency medical services for a  
26 consortium of local governments, where some of those local  
27 governments qualified as public employees' retirement system  
28 employers at the time the service was rendered, may make an election  
29 to establish credit for service performed prior to July 27, 2003, as  
30 a full-time emergency medical technician serving the consortium to

1 the public employees' retirement system. This option is only  
2 available to employees who:

3 (a) Performed services for a consortium of local governments  
4 fully contained within the boundaries of a county whose population on  
5 the effective date of this section exceeds seven hundred thousand  
6 residents but is less than eight hundred thousand residents; and

7 (b) File a written election to establish service credit under  
8 this section with the department of retirement systems no later than  
9 June 30, 2026.

10 (2)(a) The department of retirement systems shall treat the  
11 consortium member with the largest current population among  
12 consortium members who qualified as a public employees' retirement  
13 system employer at the time the service was rendered as the employer  
14 for purposes of this section. This employer classification:

15 (i) Is solely for the purpose of streamlining reporting service  
16 and compensation credit and paying contributions for periods of  
17 service covered by this section; and

18 (ii) Does not mean that the consortium member is the employee's  
19 employer for any other purpose.

20 (b) All contributions required for past periods of service  
21 established under this section shall be by the employees electing to  
22 establish service credit under this section.

23 (i) Employee contributions shall be calculated by the department  
24 equal to the contributions that would have been paid by the employee  
25 had the employee been a member of public employees' retirement  
26 system.

27 (ii) Employer contributions shall be calculated by the department  
28 equal to the contributions that would have been paid by the employer  
29 had the employee been reported in public employees' retirement  
30 system.

31 (iii) All contributions must be submitted by the employer under  
32 (a) of this subsection within five years of electing to establish  
33 service credit under this section.

34 (3) If a member who elected to establish service credit under  
35 this section dies or retires for disability prior to payment of  
36 contributions under subsection (2)(b) of this section, the member, or  
37 in the case of death the surviving spouse or eligible minor children,  
38 may:

39 (a) Pay the bill in full;

1 (b) If a continuing monthly benefit is chosen, have the benefit  
2 actuarially reduced to reflect the amount of the unpaid obligation  
3 under subsection (2)(b) of this section; or

4 (c) Continue to make payment against the obligation under  
5 subsection (2)(b) of this section, provided that payment in full is  
6 made no later than five years from the member's original election  
7 date."

8 Correct the title.

EFFECT: Removes interest from the contributions that employees are required to pay the Department of Retirement Systems to establish past periods of service in the Public Employees' Retirement System.

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