

Act No. 268  
Public Acts of 1996  
Approved by the Governor  
June 12, 1996  
Filed with the Secretary of State  
June 12, 1996

**STATE OF MICHIGAN**  
**88TH LEGISLATURE**  
**REGULAR SESSION OF 1996**

**Introduced by Reps. Rhead, Dobb, Hammerstrom, Green, Jersevic, Hill, Crissman, Perricone, Munsell, Byl, Horton, Gernaat, Gilmer, Lowe, Dolan, Whyman, Voorhees, Goschka, Galloway and Llewellyn**

# **ENROLLED HOUSE BILL No. 5108**

AN ACT to amend sections 4, 42, and 71 of Act No. 300 of the Public Acts of 1980, entitled "An act to provide a retirement system for the public school employees of this state; to create certain funds for this retirement system; to provide for the creation of a retirement board within the department of management and budget; to prescribe the powers and duties of the retirement board; to prescribe the powers and duties of the department of management and budget; to prescribe penalties; and to repeal certain acts and parts of acts," section 4 as amended by Act No. 177 of the Public Acts of 1995, section 42 as amended by Act No. 272 of the Public Acts of 1994, and section 71 as amended by Act No. 194 of the Public Acts of 1989, being sections 38.1304, 38.1342, and 38.1371 of the Michigan Compiled Laws; and to add section 3a.

*The People of the State of Michigan enact:*

Section 1. Sections 4, 42, and 71 of Act No. 300 of the Public Acts of 1980, section 4 as amended by Act No. 177 of the Public Acts of 1995, section 42 as amended by Act No. 272 of the Public Acts of 1994, and section 71 as amended by Act No. 194 of the Public Acts of 1989, being sections 38.1304, 38.1342, and 38.1371 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, are amended and section 3a is added to read as follows:

Sec. 3a. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this act, "compensation" means the remuneration earned by a member for service performed as a public school employee.

(2) Compensation includes salary and wages and all of the following:

(a) Remuneration earned for all services performed as a public school employee including, but not limited to, teaching, coaching, and participation in extracurricular activities.

(b) On a current basis, investments made in a tax sheltered annuity for a public school employee as remuneration for service under this act. The remuneration shall be valued at the amount of money actually paid into the annuity.

(c) All amounts deducted from the pay of a public school employee, including amounts deducted pursuant to the member investment plan.

(d) Longevity pay.

(e) Overtime pay for service performed outside of what is considered normal working hours for the affected employee.

(f) Pay for vacation, holiday, and sick leave while absent from work. As used in this subdivision, "sick leave" includes weekly worker's disability compensation payments received for personal injury in the employ of and while employed by a reporting unit.

(g) Items of deferred compensation, exclusive of employer contributions to the retirement system.

(h) Merit pay as established by a reporting unit for the purpose of rewarding achievement of specific performance objectives.

(3) Compensation does not include any of the following:

(a) Payments for unused sick or annual leave.

(b) Bonus payments.

(c) Payments for hospitalization insurance and life insurance premiums.

(d) Other fringe benefits paid by and from the funds of employers of public school employees.

(e) Remuneration paid for the specific purpose of increasing the final average compensation.

(f) Compensation in excess of an amount over the level of compensation reported for the preceding year except increases provided by the normal salary schedule for the current job classification. In cases where the current job classification in the reporting unit has less than 3 members, the normal salary schedule for the most nearly identical job classification in the reporting unit or in similar reporting units shall be used.

(4) The retirement board shall require a sworn affidavit from the member that final compensation does not include remuneration paid either directly or indirectly for actual or anticipated expenses.

(5) Based upon information and documentation provided by the member, the retirement board shall determine both of the following:

(a) Whether any form of remuneration paid to a member is identified in this section.

(b) Whether any form of remuneration that is not identified in this section should be considered compensation reportable to the retirement system under this section.

(6) In any case where a petitioner seeks to have remuneration included in compensation reportable to the retirement system, the petitioner shall have the burden of proof.

Sec. 4. (1) "Compound interest" means interest compounded annually on July 1 on the contributions on account as of the previous July 1 and computed at the rate of investment return determined under section 104a(1) for the last completed state fiscal year.

(2) "Contributory service" means credited service other than noncontributory service.

(3) "Deferred member" means a member who has ceased to be a public school employee and has satisfied the requirements of section 82 for a deferred vested service retirement allowance.

(4) "Department" means the department of management and budget.

(5) "Direct rollover" means a payment by the retirement system to the eligible retirement plan specified by the distributee.

(6) "Distributee" includes a member or deferred member. Distributee also includes the member's or deferred member's surviving spouse or the member's or deferred member's spouse or former spouse under an eligible domestic relations order, with regard to the interest of the spouse or former spouse.

(7) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, "eligible retirement plan" means an individual retirement account described in section 408(a) of the internal revenue code, an individual retirement annuity described in section 408(b) of the internal revenue code, an annuity plan described in section 403(a) of the internal revenue code, or a qualified trust described in section 401(a) of the internal revenue code, that accepts the distributee's eligible rollover distribution. However, in the case of an eligible rollover distribution to a surviving spouse, an eligible retirement plan means an individual retirement account or an individual retirement annuity described above.

(8) "Eligible rollover distribution" means a distribution of all or any portion of the balance to the credit of the distributee. Eligible rollover distribution does not include any of the following:

(a) A distribution made for the life or life expectancy of the distributee or the joint lives or joint life expectancies of the distributee and the distributee's designated beneficiary.

(b) A distribution for a specified period of 10 years or more.

(c) A distribution to the extent that the distribution is required under section 401(a)(9) of the internal revenue code.

(d) The portion of any distribution that is not includable in federal gross income, determined without regard to the exclusion for net unrealized appreciation with respect to employer securities.

(9) "Employee organization professional services leave" or "professional services leave" means a leave of absence that is renewed annually by the reporting unit so that a member may accept a position with a public school employee organization to which he or she belongs and which represents employees of a reporting unit in employment matters. The member shall be included in membership of the retirement system during a professional services leave if all of the conditions of section 71(5) and (6) are satisfied.

(10) "Employee organization professional services released time" or "professional services released time" means a portion of the school fiscal year during which a member is released by the reporting unit from his or her regularly assigned duties to engage in employment matters for a public school employee organization to which he or she belongs. The member's compensation received or service rendered, or both, as applicable, by a member while on professional services released time shall be reportable to the retirement system if all of the conditions of section 71(5) and (6) are satisfied.

(11) "Final average compensation" means the aggregate amount of a member's compensation earned within the averaging period in which the aggregate amount of compensation was highest divided by the member's number of years, including any fraction of a year, of credited service during the averaging period. The averaging period shall be 36 consecutive calendar months if the member contributes to the member investment plan; otherwise, the averaging period shall be 60 consecutive calendar months. If the member has less than 1 year of credited service in the averaging period, the number of consecutive calendar months in the averaging period shall be increased to the lowest number of consecutive calendar months that contains 1 year of credited service.

(12) "Health benefits" means hospital, medical-surgical, and sick care benefits and dental, vision, and hearing benefits for retirants, retirement allowance beneficiaries, and health insurance dependents provided pursuant to section 91.

(13) "Internal revenue code" means the United States internal revenue code of 1986.

(14) "Member investment plan" means the program of member contributions described in section 43a.

Sec. 42. (1) Beginning with the 1994-95 state fiscal year, a reporting unit shall contribute the entire percentage, determined under section 41(2), of the aggregate annual compensation of all employees who are members under the noncontributory plan as provided by section 63 to the reserve for employer contributions and to the reserve for health benefits. The reporting unit contribution under this subsection is the exclusive obligation of the reporting unit payable out of general budget resources of the reporting unit, including funds available under local millage and other local resources and from the state school aid allocation to the reporting unit, and shall not be a separate obligation by specific reimbursement or otherwise of this state.

(2) As authorized by resolution or other enabling act of its governing body, the employer shall pick up all contributions of a member made pursuant to section 43a for all compensation paid on or after January 1, 1987 and reported to the retirement system. Although considered contributions of a member for certain purposes under this act, all contributions picked up shall be treated as paid by the employer in lieu of contributions by the employee. Contributions picked up as provided in this subsection shall be paid from the same source of funds that is used for paying compensation to the member. The employer may pick up these contributions by either a reduction to the member's cash salary, an offset against a future salary increase, or a combination of a reduction in salary and offset against a future salary increase. This subsection does not apply, and the employer shall not deduct, offset, or remit contributions, until the department receives notification from the United States internal revenue service that contributions picked up shall not be included as gross income of the member until they are distributed or made available to the member, retirant, retirement allowance beneficiary, or refund beneficiary.

(3) The employer shall deduct from a member's compensation the contributions for social security provided in Act No. 205 of the Public Acts of 1951, being sections 38.851 to 38.871 of the Michigan Compiled Laws. Contributions shall be made while the member remains a public school employee. Each reporting unit official shall deduct the social security contributions from the compensation of each member for each payroll period after the date the employee becomes a member. Social security contributions shall be made notwithstanding that the minimum compensation provided by law is changed. Each member is considered to have agreed to the contributions prescribed in this subsection.

(4) Each reporting unit official shall forward member investment plan contributions to the retirement system monthly.

(5) Each reporting unit official shall forward the entire employer contribution required by this act to the retirement system monthly.

(6) By January 11, April 11, July 11, and October 11 of each year, each reporting unit official shall file with the executive secretary of the retirement board a quarterly affidavit for the preceding 3 months. The affidavit shall certify the aggregate compensation that is reportable to the retirement system under section 3a, sources of contributions, wages paid from federal funds, and contributions required by law. Not later than July 11 of each year, a report shall be filed with the executive secretary of the retirement board, which shall list the persons employed, together with other information, including salary, service, and contributions, required for retirement reporting purposes.

(7) If a reporting unit fails to submit a report or contributions, or both, according to the schedule established by the retirement board, a late fee shall be paid by the reporting unit. If the remittance of contributions is late, the late fee shall include interest for each day that the remittance of contributions is late. The retirement board periodically may establish the late fee, which shall not be less than \$25.00, and interest charges, which shall not be less than 6% per annum.

(8) Upon written notice from the retirement board, the superintendent of public instruction and the state treasurer shall withhold payment of state funds, in part or in whole, payable from the state school aid appropriation or higher education appropriations to a reporting unit that fails to comply with this section.

Sec. 71. (1) The retirement board shall grant service credit for the time a member is on a sabbatical leave authorized by a reporting unit, if the member returns to regular employment with the same reporting unit and acquires 1 year or more of subsequent service credit with that same reporting unit and if the member acquired 5 or more years of credited service with the reporting unit immediately before the sabbatical leave.

(2) If the sabbatical leave described in subsection (1) is granted before July 1, 1981, the reporting unit, if the reporting unit had a noncontributory plan at the time the sabbatical leave is granted, or the member, if the reporting unit has a contributory plan at the time the sabbatical leave is granted, shall pay to the system for each year of sabbatical leave credit an amount equal to 5% of the member's compensation earned in the school fiscal year immediately before the school fiscal year in which the sabbatical leave is granted, together with regular interest from the end of the school fiscal year in which the sabbatical leave was or is granted to the earlier of the following dates following the date of payment, the first day of the school fiscal year beginning after the date of payment or the first day of the seventh month of the school fiscal year in which the payment is made. If the reporting unit makes the payment required by this subsection, the reporting unit also shall pay the required interest. If the member makes the payment required by this subsection, the member also shall pay the required interest.

(3) If the sabbatical leave described in subsection (1) is granted after June 30, 1981, the member shall pay an amount equal to 5% of the member's full-time or equated full-time compensation earned in the school fiscal year immediately before the school fiscal year in which payment is made for each year of service credit the member elects to purchase. In computing payment under this subsection, the compensation amount used, except as otherwise provided in this subsection, shall not be less than the highest school fiscal year compensation the member earned from the reporting unit that granted the sabbatical leave. If the compensation amount used for computing payment under this subsection exceeds the member's final average compensation determined at the time of retirement, the payment required under this subsection shall be recomputed using the member's final average compensation and a refund shall be made based upon the recomputation.

(4) If, before October 31, 1980, either the reporting unit or the member has contributed 5% of the member's compensation for the school fiscal year in which the sabbatical leave was granted in order to purchase service credit for that sabbatical leave, a further payment for the purchase of service credit for that sabbatical leave shall not be required. If a member has paid the amount required under subsection (2) for the purchase of service credit for sabbatical leave, but later receives a refund of that amount, the member, not the reporting unit, shall repay the amount with regular interest as required by subsection (2) if the member elects to purchase service credit for the sabbatical leave.

(5) Effective October 1, 1981, the retirement board shall grant service credit for the time a member is on either an employee organization professional services leave or employee organization professional services released time authorized by a reporting unit if all of the following conditions are satisfied, as applicable:

(a) For a member who is on either a professional services leave or professional services released time that first began before October 1, 1996, which leave or released time is renewed annually by the reporting unit, the member is included on the reporting unit's reports required by section 42(6) and compensation, service, contribution, and other requirements are reported on the same basis as for those members of the reporting unit who were not granted an employee organization professional services leave or employee organization professional services released time.

(b) For a member who is on either a professional services leave or professional services released time, which leave or released time does not meet the requirements of subdivision (a), the member is included on the reporting unit's reports in the manner required by subdivision (a), except that compensation is reported at the rate of compensation paid to the member by the reporting unit immediately preceding the date the member commenced the professional services leave or professional services released time along with the normal and customary compensation increases that would have been paid to the member by the reporting unit had the member remained in the same position held at the reporting unit immediately preceding the date the member commenced the leave or released time. However, if the member was not working a full 12-month period for the reporting unit immediately preceding the date the member commenced the professional services leave or professional services released time and is working a full 12-month period for the public school employee organization, the rate of compensation paid to the member by the reporting unit immediately preceding the date the member commenced the leave or released time may be increased proportionately to reflect the additional time worked for the public school employee organization. That adjusted compensation, along with the normal and customary compensation increases otherwise allowed in this subdivision, shall then be reported as required in this subdivision.

(c) For a member who is on either a professional services leave or professional services released time that first began before October 1, 1996, which leave or released time is renewed annually by the reporting unit, the reporting unit remits the amount required by section 42 and the percentage of aggregate annual compensation provided from the state school aid fund for current service, if any, the percentage determined for unfunded accrued service as required by

section 41, and the employer's share of social security contributions if the reporting unit is responsible for remitting the employee's share of social security contributions.

(d) For a member who is on either a professional services leave or professional services released time, which professional services leave or professional services released time does not meet the requirements of subdivision (c), the reporting unit remits the amounts required by subdivision (c) based upon the rate of compensation paid to the member by the reporting unit immediately preceding the date the member commenced the professional services leave or professional services released time along with the normal and customary compensation increases that would have been paid to the member by the reporting unit had the member remained in the same position held at the reporting unit immediately preceding the date the member commenced the leave or released time. However, if the member was not working a full 12-month period for the reporting unit immediately preceding the date the member commenced the professional services leave or professional services released time and is working a full 12-month period for the public school employee organization, the rate of compensation paid to the member by the reporting unit immediately preceding the date the member commenced the leave or released time may be increased proportionately to reflect the additional *time worked for the public school employee organization*. That adjusted compensation, along with the normal and customary compensation increases otherwise allowed in this subdivision, shall then be reported as required in this subdivision.

(6) The reporting unit shall be reimbursed those sums paid to the retirement board pursuant to subsection (5) by the member or the public school employee organization on a current basis. A member who has credited service as an employee of a school district of the first class, as described in part 6 of the revised school code, Act No. 451 of the Public Acts of 1976, being sections 380.401 to 380.485 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, for a leave of absence effective before October 1, 1981, shall continue to receive credit based upon the provisions of the law of this state in effect at the time the leave of absence was initially effective.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.

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Clerk of the House of Representatives.

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Secretary of the Senate.

Approved -----

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Governor.