

Act No. 617
Public Acts of 2006
Approved by the Governor
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**STATE OF MICHIGAN
93RD LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2006**

Introduced by Senators Jelinek, Johnson and Patterson

ENROLLED SENATE BILL No. 1017

AN ACT to amend 1980 PA 300, 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 certain state departments, agencies, officials, and employees; to prescribe penalties and provide remedies; and to repeal acts and parts of acts," by amending sections 75, 85, and 91 (MCL 38.1375, 38.1385, and 38.1391), section 75 as amended by 1989 PA 194, section 85 as amended by 2002 PA 94, and section 91 as amended by 2004 PA 117.

The People of the State of Michigan enact:

Sec. 75. (1) A member who left or leaves service as a public school employee; who left or leaves out-of-system public education service; or a member of the state employees' retirement system under section 13 of the state employees' retirement act, 1943 PA 240, MCL 38.13, who left or leaves service as a state employee for purposes of parental leave who subsequently becomes a member of this retirement system without other intervening employment of more than 20 hours per week for each week for which service credit was claimed may purchase service credit for the time period or periods during which the person was separated from service because of parental leave if the member satisfies the requirements of this section. The member shall submit an application as described in subsection (5) and shall pay the actuarial cost to the retirement system. The total service credited under this section shall not exceed 5 years. A member requesting purchase of service credit under this section shall certify to the retirement system the purpose for which the member took leave or was separated from service as a public school employee; a person performing out-of-system public education service; or a member of the state employees' retirement system under section 13 of the state employees' retirement act, 1943 PA 240, MCL 38.13.

(2) Service credit purchased under this section may not be used to satisfy the minimum of 10 years of service credit required to receive a retirement allowance under this act.

(3) If a member who made payment under this section dies and a retirement allowance beneficiary has not been designated, or if the member leaves reporting unit service before his or her retirement becomes effective, the payment made by the member shall be refunded upon request to the member or to the member's refund beneficiary.

(4) A member who reduces hours of employment with a reporting unit for purposes of parental leave or a person who reduces hours of out of system public education service for purposes of parental leave and who subsequently becomes a member of this retirement system may purchase service credit for those hours by which employment was reduced if all other requirements of this section are met.

(5) A member requesting purchase of service credit under this section shall submit an application as prescribed by the retirement system in which the member shall certify the time period claimed for parental leave and the purpose of the parental leave. If the request for purchase of service credit under this section is a result of leave taken to care for the member's child by birth or adoption, then the member also shall submit a certified copy of a birth certificate or adoption document from the appropriate court of jurisdiction.

(6) Parental leave is creditable under this act until the child, by birth or adoption, attains age 18 or is married, whichever occurs first.

(7) As used in this section, "parental leave" means either of the following:

(a) The presence of the member in the active participation or supervision in the day-to-day, ongoing care or maintenance of his or her child by birth or adoption, for which the member reduced or eliminated the number of hours worked for the state, in out-of-system public education service, or for the reporting unit in a normal work time period.

(b) A member's pregnancy that occurred while a member, whether brought to full term or not, childbirth, and recuperation, for which the member reduced or eliminated the number of hours worked for the state, in out-of-system public education service, or for the reporting unit in a normal work time period.

Sec. 85. (1) A retiring member or retiring deferred member who meets the requirements of section 81 or 81a or a member whom the retirement board finds to be totally and permanently disabled and eligible to receive a retirement allowance under section 86 or 87 shall elect to receive his or her retirement allowance under 1 of the payment options provided in this subsection. The election shall be in writing and filed with the retirement board at least 15 days before the effective date of the retirement allowance except as provided for a disability retirant under section 86 or 87. The amount of retirement allowance under subdivision (b), (c), or (d) shall be the actuarial equivalent of the amount of retirement allowance under subdivision (a). The options are as follows:

(a) A retirant shall be paid a straight retirement allowance for life computed pursuant to section 84. An additional retirement allowance payment shall not be made upon the retirant's death.

(b) A retirant shall be paid a reduced retirement allowance for life with the provision that upon the retirant's death, payment of the reduced retirement allowance is continued throughout the lifetime of the retirement allowance beneficiary whom the member or deferred member designates in a writing filed with the retirement board at the time of election of this option. A member or deferred member may elect this option and designate a retirement allowance beneficiary under the conditions set forth in section 82(2) or 89(3).

(c) A retirant shall be paid a reduced retirement allowance for life with the provision that upon the retirant's death, payment of 1/2 of the reduced retirement allowance is continued throughout the lifetime of the retirement allowance beneficiary whom the member designated in a writing filed with the retirement board at the time of election of the option.

(d) On and after January 1, 2000, a retirant shall be paid a reduced retirement allowance for life with the provision that upon the retirant's death, payment of 75% of the reduced retirement allowance is continued throughout the lifetime of the retirement allowance beneficiary whom the member designated in a writing filed with the retirement board at the time of election of the option.

(2) In addition to the election under subsection (1), a retirant, other than a disability retirant who is 60 years of age or less, may elect to coordinate his or her retirement allowance with an estimated primary social security benefit. The retirant shall be paid an increased retirement allowance until 62 years of age and a reduced retirement allowance after 62 years of age. The increased retirement allowance paid until 62 years of age shall approximate the sum of the reduced retirement allowance payable after 62 years of age and the retirant's estimated social security primary insurance amount. The estimated social security primary insurance amount shall be determined by the retirement system. The election under this subsection shall be made at the same time and in the same manner as required under subsection (1).

(3) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the election of a payment option in subsections (1) and (2) shall not be changed on or after the effective date of the retirement allowance. Except as provided in this section, the retirement allowance beneficiary selected under subsection (1)(b), (c), or (d) shall not be changed on or after the effective date of the retirement allowance and shall be either a spouse, brother, sister, parent, or child, including an adopted child, of the member, deferred member, retiring member, or retiring deferred member entitled to make the election under this act. Another retirement allowance beneficiary shall not be selected. If a member, deferred member, retiring member, or retiring deferred member is married at the retirement allowance effective date, an election under subsection (1), other than an election under subsection (1)(b), (c), or (d) naming the spouse as retirement allowance beneficiary, shall not be effective unless the election is signed by the spouse, except that this requirement may be waived by the board if the signature of a spouse cannot be obtained because of extenuating circumstances. For purposes of this subsection,

“spouse” means the person to whom the member, deferred member, retiring member, or retiring deferred member is married at the retirement allowance effective date. Payment to a retirement allowance beneficiary shall start the first day of the month following the retirant’s death.

(4) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (8), if the retirement allowance beneficiary selected under subsection (1)(b), (c), or (d) predeceases the retirant, the retirant’s benefit shall revert to a straight retirement allowance including post-retirement adjustments, if any, shall be effective the first of the month following the death, and shall be paid during the remainder of the retirant’s life. This subsection applies to a retirant whose effective date of retirement is after June 28, 1976, but the straight retirement allowance shall not be payable for any month beginning before the later of the retirement allowance beneficiary’s death or October 31, 1980. This subsection also applies to a retirant whose effective date of retirement was on or before June 28, 1976, but the straight retirement allowance shall not be payable for any month beginning before the later of the retirement allowance beneficiary’s death or January 1, 1986. A retirant who on January 1, 1986 is receiving a reduced retirement allowance because the retirant designated a retirement allowance beneficiary and the retirement allowance beneficiary predeceased the retirant is eligible to receive the straight retirement allowance beginning January 1, 1986, but the straight retirement allowance shall not be payable for any month beginning before January 1, 1986.

(5) A retirant who returns to service pursuant to section 61 and whose retirement allowance beneficiary selected under subsection (1)(b), (c), or (d) predeceases the member before he or she again becomes a retirant may again choose a retirement allowance beneficiary pursuant to subsection (1)(b), (c), or (d).

(6) If a retirant receiving a reduced retirement allowance under subsection (1)(b), (c), or (d) is divorced from the spouse who had been designated as the retirant’s retirement allowance beneficiary under subsection (1)(b), (c), or (d), the election of a reduced retirement allowance payment option shall be considered void by the retirement system if the judgment of divorce or award or order of the court, or an amended judgment of divorce or award or order of the court, described in the public employee retirement benefit protection act, 2002 PA 100, MCL 38.1681 to 38.1689, and dated after June 27, 1991 provides that the election of a reduced retirement allowance payment option under subsection (1)(b), (c), or (d) is to be considered void by the retirement system and the retirant provides a certified copy of the judgment of divorce or award or order of the court, or an amended judgment of divorce or award or order of the court, to the retirement system. If the election of a reduced retirement allowance payment option under subsection (1)(b), (c), or (d) is considered void by the retirement system under this subsection, the retirant’s retirement allowance shall revert to a straight retirement allowance, including postretirement adjustments, if any, subject to an award or order of the court as described in the public employee retirement benefit protection act, 2002 PA 100, MCL 38.1681 to 38.1689. The retirement allowance shall revert to a straight retirement allowance under this subsection effective the first of the month after the date the retirement system receives a certified copy of the judgment of divorce or award or order of the court. This subsection does not supersede a judgment of divorce or award or order of the court in effect on June 27, 1991. This subsection does not require the retirement system to distribute or pay retirement assets on behalf of a retirant in an amount that exceeds the actuarially determined amount that would otherwise become payable if a judgment of divorce had not been rendered.

(7) If the retirement allowance payments terminate before an aggregate amount equal to the retirant’s accumulated contributions has been paid, the difference between the retirant’s accumulated contributions and the aggregate amount of retirement allowance payments made shall be paid to the person designated in a writing filed with the retirement board on a form provided by the retirement board. If the designated person does not survive the retirant or retirement allowance beneficiary, the difference shall be paid to the deceased recipient’s estate or to the legal representative of the deceased recipient.

(8) A retirant who selected a retirement allowance beneficiary under subsection (1)(b), (c), or (d) may change his or her retirement allowance beneficiary if all of the following apply:

- (a) The first retirement allowance beneficiary is a spouse.
- (b) The first retirement allowance beneficiary predeceases the retirant after the retirement allowance effective date.
- (c) The retirant marries another spouse after the retirement allowance effective date.

(d) The retirant files a written request with the retirement system to name his or her current spouse as a retirement allowance beneficiary not earlier than 180 days and not later than 1 year after the marriage of the retirant and the current spouse except that a retirant whose first retirement allowance beneficiary predeceases the retirant after the retirement allowance effective date and before the effective date of the amendatory act that added this subsection shall have 180 days from the effective date of the amendatory act that added this subsection to file a written request with the retirement system.

(9) A retirant who was not married on his or her retirement allowance effective date and who did not select a payment option provided in this section may select an optional form of benefit payment under subsection (1)(b), (c), or (d) and designate a retirement allowance beneficiary if all of the following apply:

- (a) The retirant marries after his or her retirement allowance effective date.

(b) The retirement allowance beneficiary is the retirant's spouse.

(c) The retirement allowance beneficiary is only designated as the retirement allowance beneficiary for that portion of the retirant's retirement allowance that is not subject to an eligible domestic relations order assigning a previous spouse a reduced benefit under section 4(b) of the eligible domestic relations order act, 1991 PA 46, MCL 38.1704.

(d) The retirant files a written request with the retirement system to select the optional form of benefit payment under subsection (1)(b), (c), or (d) and to designate his or her spouse as the retirement allowance beneficiary, not earlier than 180 days and not later than 1 year after the retirant's marriage except that a retirant who marries after the retirement allowance effective date and before the effective date of the amendatory act that added this subsection shall have 180 days from the effective date of the amendatory act that added this subsection to file a written request with the retirement system.

(10) The retirement allowance of the retirant who makes an election under subsection (8) or (9) shall not be greater than the actuarial equivalent of the retirement allowance as determined by the retirement board that the retirant would otherwise be entitled to under subsection (1)(a) and shall become effective the first day of the month following the filing of the written request with the retirement system.

(11) If the retirant dies no later than 12 months after the effective date of his or her election under subsection (8) or (9), the retirement allowance for the surviving spouse established under subsection (8) or (9) shall terminate 12 months after the death of the retirant.

Sec. 91. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the retirement system shall pay the entire monthly premium or membership or subscription fee for hospital, medical-surgical, and sick care benefits for the benefit of a retirant or retirement allowance beneficiary who elects coverage in the plan authorized by the retirement board and the department. Upon the death of the retirant, a retirement allowance beneficiary who became a retirement allowance beneficiary under section 85(8) or (9) is not a health insurance dependent and is not entitled to health benefits under this section except as provided in subsection (10).

(2) The retirement system may pay up to the maximum of the amount payable under subsection (1) toward the monthly premium for hospital, medical-surgical, and sick care benefits for the benefit of a retirant or retirement allowance beneficiary enrolled in a group health insurance or prepaid service plan not authorized by the retirement board and the department, if enrolled before June 1, 1975, for whom the retirement system on July 18, 1983 was making a payment towards his or her monthly premium.

(3) A retirant or retirement allowance beneficiary receiving hospital, medical-surgical, and sick care benefits coverage under subsection (1) or (2), until eligible for medicare, shall have an amount equal to the cost chargeable to a medicare recipient for part B of medicare deducted from his or her retirement allowance.

(4) The retirement system shall pay 90% of the monthly premium or membership or subscription fee for dental, vision, and hearing benefits for the benefit of a retirant or retirement allowance beneficiary who elects coverage in the plan authorized by the retirement board and the department. Payments shall begin under this subsection upon approval by the retirement board and the department of plan coverage and a plan provider.

(5) The retirement system shall pay up to 90% of the maximum of the amount payable under subsection (1) toward the monthly premium or membership or subscription fee for hospital, medical-surgical, and sick care benefits coverage described in subsections (1) and (2) for each health insurance dependent of a retirant receiving benefits under subsection (1) or (2). Payment shall not exceed 90% of the actual monthly premium or membership or subscription fee. The retirement system shall pay 90% of the monthly premium or membership or subscription fee for dental, vision, and hearing benefits described in subsection (4) for the benefit of each health insurance dependent of a retirant receiving benefits under subsection (4). Payment for health benefits coverage for a health insurance dependent of a retirant shall not be made after the retirant's death, unless the retirant designated a retirement allowance beneficiary as provided in section 85 and the dependent was covered or eligible for coverage as a health insurance dependent of the retirant on the retirant's date of death. Payment for health benefits coverage shall not be made for a health insurance dependent after the later of the retirant's death or the retirement allowance beneficiary's death. Payment under this subsection and subsection (6) began October 1, 1985 for health insurance dependents who on July 10, 1985 were covered by the hospital, medical-surgical, and sick care benefits plan authorized by the retirement board and the department. Payment under this subsection and subsection (6) for other health insurance dependents shall not begin before January 1, 1986.

(6) The payment described in subsection (5) shall also be made for each health insurance dependent of a deceased member or deceased duty disability retirant if a retirement allowance is being paid to a retirement allowance beneficiary because of the death of the member or duty disability retirant as provided in section 43c(c), 89, or 90. Payment for health benefits coverage for a health insurance dependent shall not be made after the retirement allowance beneficiary's death.

(7) The payments provided by this section shall not be made on behalf of a retiring section 82 deferred member or health insurance dependent of a deferred member having less than 21 full years of attained credited service or the retiring deferred member's retirement allowance beneficiary, and shall not be made on behalf of a retirement allowance beneficiary of a deferred member who dies before retiring. The retirement system shall pay, on behalf of a retiring section 82 deferred member or health insurance dependent of a deferred member or a retirement allowance beneficiary of a deceased deferred member, either of whose allowance is based upon not less than 21 years of attained credited service, 10% of the payments provided by this section, increased by 10% for each attained full year of credited service beyond 21 years, not to exceed 100%. This subsection applies to any member who attains deferred status under section 82 after October 31, 1980.

(8) Any retirant or retirement allowance beneficiary excluded from payments under this section may participate in the hospital, medical-surgical, and sick care benefits plan, the dental plan, vision plan, or hearing plan, or any combination of the plans described in this section in the manner prescribed by the retirement system at his or her own cost.

(9) The hospital, medical-surgical, and sick care benefits plan, dental plan, vision plan, and hearing plan that covers retirants, retirement allowance beneficiaries, and health insurance dependents pursuant to this section shall contain a coordination of benefits provision that provides all of the following:

(a) If the person covered under the hospital, medical-surgical, and sick care benefits plan is also eligible for medicare or medicaid, or both, then the benefits under medicare or medicaid, or both, shall be determined before the benefits of the hospital, medical-surgical, and sick care benefits plan provided pursuant to this section.

(b) If the person covered under any of the plans provided by this section is also covered under another plan that contains a coordination of benefits provision, the benefits shall be coordinated as provided by the coordination of benefits act, 1984 PA 64, MCL 550.251 to 550.255.

(c) If the person covered under any of the plans provided by this section is also covered under another plan that does not contain a coordination of benefits provision, the benefits under the other plan shall be determined before the benefits of the plan provided pursuant to this section.

(10) A surviving spouse selected as a retirement allowance beneficiary under section 85(8) or (9) may elect the insurance coverages provided in this section provided that payment for the elected coverages is the responsibility of the surviving spouse and is paid in a manner prescribed by the retirement system.

(11) For purposes of this section:

(a) "Health insurance dependent" means any of the following:

(i) Except as provided in subsection (1), the spouse of the retirant or the surviving spouse to whom the retirant or deceased member was married at the time of the retirant's or deceased member's death.

(ii) An unmarried child, by birth or adoption, of the retirant or deceased member, until December 31 of the calendar year in which the child becomes 19 years of age.

(iii) An unmarried child, by birth or adoption, of the retirant or deceased member, until December 31 of the calendar year in which the child becomes 25 years of age, who is enrolled as a full-time student, and who is or was at the time of the retirant's or deceased member's death a dependent of the retirant or deceased member as defined in section 152 of the internal revenue code.

(iv) An unmarried child, by birth or adoption, of the retirant or deceased member who is incapable of self-sustaining employment because of mental or physical disability, and who is or was at the time of the retirant's or deceased member's death a dependent of the retirant or deceased member as defined in section 152 of the internal revenue code.

(v) The parents of the retirant or deceased member, or the parents of his or her spouse, who are residing in the household of the retirant or retirement allowance beneficiary.

(vi) An unmarried child who is not the child by birth or adoption of the retirant or deceased member but who otherwise qualifies to be a health insurance dependent under subparagraph (ii), (iii), or (iv), if the retirant or deceased member is the legal guardian of the unmarried child.

(b) "Medicaid" means benefits under the federal medicaid program established under title XIX of the social security act, chapter 531, 49 Stat. 620, 42 USC 1396 to 1396f, 1396g-1 to 1396r-6, and 1396r-8 to 1396v.

(c) "Medicare" means benefits under the federal medicare program established under title XVIII of the social security act, chapter 531, 49 Stat. 620, 42 USC 1395 to 1395b, 1395b-2, 1395b-6 to 1395b-7, 1395c to 1395i, 1395i-2 to 1395i-5, 1395j to 1395t, 1395u to 1395w, 1395w-2 to 1395w-4, 1395w-21 to 1395w-28, 1395x to 1395yy, and 1395bbb to 1395ggg.

Enacting section 1. This amendatory act takes effect January 1, 2009.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.

Carol Morey Viventi

Secretary of the Senate

Ray E. Randall

Clerk of the House of Representatives

Approved

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Governor