

Act No. 354
Public Acts of 2008
Approved by the Governor
December 23, 2008
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**STATE OF MICHIGAN
94TH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2008**

Introduced by Rep. Hopgood

ENROLLED HOUSE BILL No. 6638

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 4 and 108 (MCL 38.1304 and 38.1408), section 4 as amended by 2007 PA 15 and section 108 as amended by 2002 PA 94.

The People of the State of Michigan enact:

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) "Designated date" means September 30, 2006.

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

(7) "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.

(8) Beginning January 1, 2002, except as otherwise provided in this subsection, "eligible retirement plan" means 1 or more of the following:

(a) An individual retirement account described in section 408(a) of the internal revenue code, 26 USC 408.

(b) An individual retirement annuity described in section 408(b) of the internal revenue code, 26 USC 408.

(c) An annuity plan described in section 403(a) of the internal revenue code, 26 USC 403.

(d) A qualified trust described in section 401(a) of the internal revenue code, 26 USC 401.

(e) An annuity contract described in section 403(b) of the internal revenue code, 26 USC 403.

(f) An eligible plan under section 457(b) of the internal revenue code, 26 USC 457, which is maintained by a state, political subdivision of a state, or an agency or instrumentality of a state or political subdivision of a state and which agrees to separately account for amounts transferred into such eligible plan under section 457(b) of the internal revenue code, 26 USC 457, from this retirement system, 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.

(g) Beginning January 1, 2008, except as otherwise provided in this subsection, “eligible retirement plan” means a Roth individual retirement account as described in section 408A of the internal revenue code, 26 USC 408A.

(9) Beginning January 1, 2007, “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, 26 USC 401.

(d) The portion of any distribution that is not includable in federal gross income, except to the extent such portion of the distribution is paid to any of the following:

(i) An individual retirement account or annuity described in section 408(a) or 408(b) of the internal revenue code, 26 USC 408.

(ii) A qualified plan described in section 401(a) of the internal revenue code, 26 USC 401, or an annuity contract described in section 403(b) of the internal revenue code, 26 USC 403, and the plan providers agree to separately account for the amounts paid, including any portion of the distribution that is includable in federal gross income, and the portion of the distribution which is not so includable.

(10) “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.

(11) “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.

(12) “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.

(13) “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.

(14) “Internal revenue code” means the United States internal revenue code of 1986.

(15) “Long-term care insurance” means group insurance that is authorized by the retirement system for retirants, retirement allowance beneficiaries, and health insurance dependents, as that term is defined in section 91, to cover the costs of services provided to retirants, retirement allowance beneficiaries, and health insurance dependents, from nursing homes, assisted living facilities, home health care providers, adult day care providers, and other similar service providers.

(16) “Member investment plan” means the program of member contributions described in section 43a.

Sec. 108. (1) This section is enacted pursuant to federal law that imposes certain administrative requirements and benefit limitations for qualified governmental plans. This state intends that the retirement system be a qualified pension plan created in trust under section 401 of the internal revenue code, 26 USC 401, and that the trust be an exempt organization under section 501 of the internal revenue code, 26 USC 501. The department shall administer the retirement system to fulfill this intent.

(2) The retirement system shall be administered in compliance with the provisions of section 415 of the internal revenue code, 26 USC 415, and regulations under that section that are applicable to governmental plans and beginning January 1, 2010, applicable provisions of the final regulations issued by the internal revenue service on April 5, 2007. Employer-financed benefits provided by the retirement system under this act shall not exceed the applicable limitations set forth in section 415 of the internal revenue code, 26 USC 415, as adjusted by the commissioner of internal revenue under section 415(d) of the internal revenue code, 26 USC 415, to reflect cost-of-living increases, and the retirement system shall adjust the benefits, including benefits payable to retirants and retirement allowance beneficiaries, subject to the limitation each calendar year to conform with the adjusted limitation. For purposes of section 415(b) of the internal revenue code, 26 USC 415, the applicable limitation shall apply to aggregated benefits received from all qualified pension plans for which the office of retirement services coordinates administration of that limitation. If there is a conflict between this section and another section of this act, this section prevails.

(3) The assets of the retirement system shall be held in trust and invested for the sole purpose of meeting the legitimate obligations of the retirement system and shall not be used for any other purpose. The assets shall not be used for or diverted to a purpose other than for the exclusive benefit of the members, deferred members, retirants, and retirement allowance beneficiaries.

(4) The retirement system shall return post-tax member contributions made by a member and received by the retirement system to a member upon retirement, pursuant to internal revenue service regulations and approved internal revenue service exclusion ratio tables.

(5) The required beginning date for retirement allowances and other distributions shall not be later than April 1 of the calendar year following the calendar year in which the employee attains age 70-1/2 or April 1 of the calendar year following the calendar year in which the employee retires. The required minimum distribution requirements imposed by section 401(a)(9) of the internal revenue code, 26 USC 401, shall apply to this act and be administered in accordance with a reasonable and good faith interpretation of the required minimum distribution requirements for all years to which the required minimum distribution requirements apply to the act.

(6) If the retirement system is terminated, the interest of the members, deferred members, retirants, and retirement allowance beneficiaries in the retirement system is nonforfeitable to the extent funded as described in section 411(d)(3) of the internal revenue code, 26 USC 411, and the related internal revenue service regulations applicable to governmental plans.

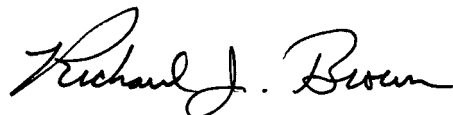
(7) Notwithstanding any other provision of this act to the contrary that would limit a distributee's election under this act, a distributee may elect, at the time and in the manner prescribed by the retirement board, to have any portion of an eligible rollover distribution paid directly to an eligible retirement plan specified by the distributee in a direct rollover. This subsection applies to distributions made on or after January 1, 1993.

(8) For purposes of determining actuarial equivalent retirement allowances under sections 45 and 85(1)(b), (1)(c), (1)(d), and (2), the actuarially assumed interest rate shall be 8% with utilization of the 1983 group annuity and mortality table.

(9) Notwithstanding any other provision of this act, the compensation of a member of the retirement system shall be taken into account for any year under the retirement system only to the extent that it does not exceed the compensation limit established in section 401(a)(17) of the internal revenue code, 26 USC 401, as adjusted by the commissioner of internal revenue. This subsection applies to any person who first becomes a member of the retirement system on or after October 1, 1996.

(10) Notwithstanding any other provision of this act, contributions, benefits, and service credit with respect to qualified military service will be provided under the retirement system in accordance with section 414(u) of the internal revenue code. This subsection applies to all qualified military service on or after December 12, 1994. Effective January 1, 2007, in accordance with section 401(a)(37) of the internal revenue code, 26 USC 401, if a member dies while performing qualified military service, for purposes of determining any death benefits payable under this act, the member shall be treated as having resumed and then terminated employment on account of death.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.



Clerk of the House of Representatives



Secretary of the Senate

Approved

Governor