Sixty-sixth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Thursday, January 3, 2019

SENATE BILL NO. 2046
(Government and Veterans Affairs Committee)
(At the request of the Public Employees Retirement System)

AN ACT to amend and reenact sections 54-52-02.9, 54-52-06, and 54-52.1-03.2, subsection 1 of section 54-52.1-03.3, and section 54-52.6-09 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to employer contributions to the public employees defined benefit plan, defined contribution plan, and retiree health plan and participation in the retiree health plan.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 54-52-02.9 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

54-52-02.9. Participation by temporary employees.

~~A temporary employee may elect, within~~

1. Within one hundred eighty days of beginning employment, a temporary employee may elect to participate in the public employees retirement system and receive credit for service after enrollment. ~~The~~Monthly, the temporary employee shall pay ~~monthly~~ to the fund an amount equal to eight and twelve-hundredths percent times the temporary employee's present monthly salary. The amount required to be paid by a temporary employee increases by two percent times the temporary employee's present monthly salary beginning with the monthly reporting period of January 2012, and with an additional two percent increase, beginning with the reporting period of January 2013, and with an additional increase of two percent, beginning with the monthly reporting period of January 2014. ~~The~~

2. If the temporary employee ~~shall also~~first enrolled:

   a. Before January 1, 2020, in addition the temporary employee shall pay the required monthly contribution to the retiree health benefit fund established under section 54-52.1-03.2. This contribution must be recorded as a member contribution pursuant to section 54-52.1-03.2.

   b. After December 31, 2019, the temporary employee shall pay to the fund an additional amount equal to one and fourteen hundredths percent times the temporary employee's present monthly salary.

3. An employer may not pay the temporary employee's contributions. A temporary employee may continue to participate as a temporary employee in the public employees retirement system until termination of employment or reclassification of the temporary employee as a permanent employee. A temporary employee may not purchase any additional credit, including additional credit under section 54-52-17.4 or past service under section 54-52-02.6.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT. Section 54-52-06 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

54-52-06. Employer's contribution to retirement plan - Report to the legislative assembly.

1. Each governmental unit shall contribute an amount equal to four and twelve-hundredths percent of the monthly salary or wage of a participating member. Governmental unit contributions increase by one percent of the monthly salary or wage of a participating member beginning with the monthly reporting period of January 2012~~, and~~; with an additional increase

of one percent, beginning with the reporting period of January 2013~~,~~; and with an additional increase of one percent, beginning with the monthly reporting period of January 2014. For a participating member who first enrolls after December 31, 2019, the governmental unit shall contribute an additional amount equal to one and fourteen hundredths percent of the monthly salary or wage of the participating member.

2. For those members who elect to exercise their rights under section 54-52-17.14, the employing governmental unit, or in the case of a member not presently under covered employment the most recent employing governmental unit, shall pay the associated employer contribution. If the employee's contribution is paid by the governmental unit under subsection 3 of section 54-52-05, the employer unit shall contribute, in addition, an amount equal to the required employee's contribution. Each governmental unit shall pay the contribution monthly, or in the case of an election made pursuant to section 54-52-17.14 a lump sum, into the retirement fund from ~~its~~the governmental unit's funds appropriated for payroll and salary or any other funds available for these purposes. Any governmental unit failing to pay the contributions monthly, or in the case of an election made pursuant to section 54-52-17.14 a lump sum, is subject to a civil penalty of fifty dollars and, as interest, one percent of the amount due for each month of delay or fraction thereof after the payment became due. In lieu of assessing a civil penalty or one percent per month, or both, interest at the actuarial rate of return may be assessed for each month the contributions are delinquent. If contributions are paid within ninety days of the date ~~they~~the contributions became due, penalty and interest to be paid on delinquent contributions may be waived.

3. An employer is required to submit contributions for any past eligible employee who was employed after July 1, 1977, for which contributions were not made if the employee would have been eligible to become vested had the employee participated and if the employee elects to join the public employees retirement system. Employer contributions may not be assessed for eligible service that an employee has waived pursuant to subsection 1 of section 54-52-05.

4. The board shall report to each session of the legislative assembly the contributions necessary, as determined by the actuarial study, to maintain the fund's actuarial soundness.

SECTION 3. AMENDMENT. Section 54-52.1-03.2 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

54-52.1-03.2. Retiree health benefits fund - Appropriation.

1. a. The board shall establish a retiree health benefits fund account with the Bank of North Dakota for the purpose of prefunding and providing hospital benefits coverage ~~and~~, medical benefits coverage, and prescription drug coverage under any health insurance program and dental, vision, and long-term care benefits coverage under the uniform group insurance program for retired eligible employees or surviving spouses of retired eligible employees and their dependents as provided in this chapter.

   b. The state shall contribute monthly to the retiree health benefits fund an amount equal to one and fourteen hundredths percent of the monthly salaries and wages of all participating members of the highway patrolmen's retirement system under chapter 39-03.1, and one and fourteen hundredths percent of the monthly salaries of all supreme or district court judges who are participating members of the public employees retirement system under chapter 54-52.

   c. Each governmental unit that contributes to the public employees retirement system fund under section 54-52-06 or the retirement plan under chapter 54-52.6 shall contribute monthly to the retiree health benefits fund an amount equal to one and fourteen hundredths percent of the monthly salaries or wages of all participating members of the

public employees retirement system under chapter 54-52 or chapter 54-52.6, except for ~~nonteaching~~:

(1) Members first enrolled after December 31, 2019, for which a governmental unit contributes to the public employees retirement system fund under section 54-52-06 or the retirement plan under chapter 54-52.6; and

(2) Nonteaching employees of the superintendent of public instruction who elect to participate in the public employees retirement system pursuant to section 54-52-02.13 and employees of the state board for career and technical education who elect to participate in the public employees retirement system pursuant to section 54-52-02.14.

d. For nonteaching employees of the superintendent of public instruction who elect to participate in the public employees retirement system pursuant to section 54-52-02.13, the superintendent of public instruction shall contribute monthly to the retiree health benefits fund an amount equal to three and twenty-four hundredths percent of the monthly salaries or wages of those nonteaching employee members, beginning on the first of the month following the transfer under section 54-52-02.13 and continuing thereafter for a period of eight years, after which time the superintendent of public instruction shall contribute one and fourteen hundredths percent of the monthly salary or wages of those nonteaching employee members.

e. For employees of the state board for career and technical education who elect to participate in the public employees retirement system pursuant to section 54-52-02.14, the state board for career and technical education shall contribute monthly to the retiree health benefits fund an amount equal to two and ninety-nine hundredths percent of the monthly salary or wages of those employee members, beginning on the first of the month following the transfer under section 54-52-02.14 and continuing thereafter for a period of eight years, after which time the state board for career and technical education shall contribute one and fourteen hundredths percent of the monthly salary or wages of those employee members.

f. The employer of a national guard security officer or firefighter shall contribute monthly to the retiree health benefits fund an amount equal to one and fourteen hundredths percent of the monthly salaries or wages of all national guard security officers or firefighters participating in the public employees retirement system under chapter 54-52.

g. Job service North Dakota shall reimburse monthly the retiree health benefits fund for credit received under section 54-52.1-03.3 by members of the retirement program established by job service North Dakota under section 52-11-01.

h. The board, as trustee of the fund and in exclusive control of its administration, shall:

~~a.~~ (1) Provide for the investment and disbursement of moneys of the retiree health benefits fund and administrative expenditures in the same manner as moneys of the public employees retirement system are invested, disbursed, or expended.

~~b.~~ (2) Adopt rules necessary for the proper administration of the retiree health benefits fund, including enrollment procedures.

2. All moneys deposited in the fund established under subsection 1, not otherwise appropriated, are hereby appropriated to the board for the purpose of making investments for the fund and to make contributions toward hospital and medical benefits coverage and prescription drug coverage under any health insurance program and dental, vision, and long-term care benefits coverage under the uniform group insurance program for eligible retired employees or surviving spouses of eligible retired employees and their dependents as elected.

3. If a member terminates employment because of death, permanent and total disability, or any voluntary or involuntary reason ~~prior to~~before retirement, the member or the member's designated beneficiary is entitled to the member's account balance at termination. If a member's account balance is withdrawn, the member relinquishes all rights to benefits under the retiree health benefits fund.

SECTION 4. AMENDMENT. Subsection 1 of section 54-52.1-03.3 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

1. The following individuals are entitled to receive credit for hospital and medical benefits coverage and prescription drug coverage under any health insurance program and dental, vision, and long-term care benefits coverage under the uniform group insurance program under subsection 2:

   a. A member or surviving spouse ~~of~~receiving retirement benefits under the highway patrolmen's retirement system is eligible for the credit beginning on the date retirement benefits are effective.

   b. ~~A~~If the member first enrolled before January 1, 2020, a member or surviving spouse ~~of~~receiving retirement benefits under the public employees retirement system is eligible for the credit beginning on the date retirement benefits are effective.

   c. A member or surviving spouse ~~of~~receiving retirement benefits under the retirement program established by job service North Dakota under section 52-11-01 receiving retirement benefits is eligible for the credit beginning on the date retirement benefits are effective.

   d. A retired judge or surviving spouse receiving retirement benefits under the retirement program established under chapter 27-17 is eligible for the credit beginning on the date retirement benefits are effective.

   e. ~~A~~If the former participating member first enrolled before January 1, 2020, a former participating member of the defined contribution retirement plan receiving retirement benefits, or the surviving spouse of a former participating member of that retirement plan who was eligible to receive or was receiving benefits, under section 54-52.6-13, is eligible as determined by the board pursuant to ~~its~~the board's rules.

SECTION 5. AMENDMENT. Section 54-52.6-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

54-52.6-09. Contributions - Penalty.

1. Each participating member shall contribute monthly four percent of the monthly salary or wage paid to the participant, and this assessment must be deducted from the participant's salary in equal monthly installments commencing with the first month of participation in the defined contribution retirement plan established under this chapter. Participating member contributions increase by one percent of the monthly salary or wage paid to the participant beginning with the monthly reporting period of January 2012~~, and~~; with an additional increase of one percent, beginning with the reporting period of January 2013~~,~~; and with an additional increase of one percent, beginning with the monthly reporting period of January 2014.

2. The employer shall contribute an amount equal to four and twelve-hundredths percent of the monthly salary or wage of a participating member. Employer contributions increase by one percent of the monthly salary or wage of a participating member beginning with the monthly reporting period of January 2012~~, and~~; with an additional increase of one percent, beginning with the monthly reporting period of January 2013~~,~~; and with an additional increase of one percent, beginning with the monthly reporting period of January 2014. For members first enrolled after December 31, 2019, the employer contribution includes an additional increase of

one and fourteen hundredths percent. If the employee's contribution is paid by the employer under subsection 3, the employer shall contribute, in addition, an amount equal to the required employee's contribution. Monthly, the employer shall pay such contribution into the participating member's account from the employer's funds appropriated for payroll and salary or any other funds available for such purposes. If the employer fails to pay the contributions monthly, the employer is subject to a civil penalty of fifty dollars and, as interest, one percent of the amount due for each month of delay or fraction ~~thereof~~of a month after the payment became due. In lieu of assessing a civil penalty or one percent per month, or both, interest at the actuarial rate of return may be assessed for each month the contributions are delinquent. If contributions are paid within ninety days of the date the contributions became due, penalty and interest to be paid on delinquent contributions may be waived.

3. Each employer, at its option, may pay the employee contributions required by this section for all compensation earned after December 31, 1999. The amount paid must be paid by the employer in lieu of contributions by the employee. If the employer decides not to pay the contributions, the amount that would have been paid will continue to be deducted from the employee's compensation. If contributions are paid by the employer, they must be treated as employer contributions in determining tax treatment under this code and the federal Internal Revenue Code. Contributions paid by the employer may not be included as gross income of the employee in determining tax treatment under this code and the federal Internal Revenue Code until they are distributed or made available. The employer shall pay these employee contributions from the same source of funds used in paying compensation to the employee. The employer shall pay these contributions by effecting an equal cash reduction in the gross salary of the employee or by an offset against future salary increases or by a combination of a reduction in gross salary and offset against future salary increases. Employee contributions paid by the employer must be treated for the purposes of this chapter in the same manner and to the same extent as employee contributions made before the date on which employee contributions were assumed by the employer. An employer shall exercise its option under this subsection by reporting its choice to the board in writing.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

Secretary of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

This certifies that the within bill originated in the Senate of the Sixty-sixth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as Senate Bill No. 2046.

Senate Vote:	Yeas 39	Nays 8	Absent 0
House Vote:	Yeas 64	Nays 27	Absent 3

Secretary of the Senate

Received by the Governor at 2:52 PM. on April 8, 2019.

Approved at 10:04 PM. on April 11, 2019.

Governor

Filed in this office this 12th day of April, 2019,

at 10:55 o'clock A. M.

Secretary of State