

HCS HB 443 -- PUBLIC SCHOOL RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF MISSOURI

SPONSOR: Smith, 118 (Sander)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Retirement by a vote of 9 to 0.

This substitute changes the laws regarding the Public School Retirement System of Missouri (PSRS). In its main provisions, the substitute:

- (1) Changes the name of the Nonteacher School Employee Retirement System (NTRS) to the Public Education Employee Retirement System;
- (2) Excludes from the definition of "salary" employer-paid premiums for medical insurance for a spouse and children and employer contributions to deferred compensation plans;
- (3) Requires the cost of the remaining credit not paid by the member purchasing prior service credit by June 30 of each year to be recalculated each July 1 in lieu of charging interest. Members filing purchase applications prior to January 1, 2006, can elect to continue having the cost of their purchases based on the calculation in effect prior to January 1, 2006;
- (4) Allows members who have prior nonfederal public employment or who, while being at least age 18, were employed in a position covered by Social Security and who worked at least 20 hours a week on a regular basis to purchase equivalent creditable service;
- (5) Adds a term-certain retirement option that upon a member's death prior to receiving all guaranteed monthly payments that if the total of all guaranteed payments to the retired individual and their beneficiary are less than the member's accumulated contributions, the difference will be paid to the beneficiary in a lump sum;
- (6) Provides for the order of distribution on any benefits payable upon the death of a member or the death of a deceased member's beneficiary;
- (7) Specifies that if a member of PSRS has received disability retirement, they are not eligible to elect a distribution under the partial lump sum option plan. This provision is already in the NTRS;
- (8) Allows a member's beneficiary, in lieu of receiving any benefit from the retirement system, to elect that the benefits be

payable to the deceased member's children;

(9) Repeals Section 169.555, RSMo, dealing with contribution rates. This section is similar to Sections 169.030 and 169.620 and is being removed to prevent confusion; and

(10) Allows the NTRS to establish a qualified governmental excess benefit arrangement plan (QGEBBA).

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2006, FY 2007, and FY 2008.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill clarifies and makes necessary changes to the laws regarding the retirement system. The name change for the nonteacher system is a great idea.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Sander; Missouri School Boards Association; Public School Retirement System of Missouri; Missouri Retired Teachers Association; Missouri State Teachers Association; Missouri School Administrators Coalition; Martha Geel; Shari Lawson; Susan Lidholm; and Missouri Community College Association.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Marc Webb, Legislative Analyst