FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 393

94TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE DEMPSEY.

Read 1st time January 11, 2007 and copies ordered printed.

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

1341L.01I

ANACT

To repeal sections 104.395, 104.1012, 104.1015, 104.1024, 104.1027, and 104.1072, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof six new sections relating to retirement plan election options.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Sections 104.395, 104.1012, 104.1015, 104.1024, 104.1027, and 104.1072,

- 2 RSMo, are repealed and six new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections
- 3 104.395, 104.1012, 104.1015, 104.1024, 104.1027, and 104.1072, to read as follows:
 - 104.395. 1. In lieu of the normal annuity otherwise payable to a member pursuant to
- 2 section 104.335, 104.370, 104.371, 104.374 or 104.400, and prior to the last business day of the
- 3 month before the annuity starting date pursuant to section 104.401, a member shall elect whether
- 4 or not to have such member's normal annuity reduced as provided by the options set forth in this
- 5 section; provided that if such election has not been made within such time, annuity payments due
- 6 beginning on and after such annuity starting date shall be made the month following the receipt
- 7 by the system of such election, and further provided, that if such person dies after such annuity
 - starting date but before making such election, no benefits shall be paid except as required
- 9 pursuant to section 104.420:

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- Option 1. An actuarial reduction approved by the board of the member's annuity in
- 11 reduced monthly payments for life during retirement with the provision that upon the member's
- 12 death the reduced annuity at the date of the member's death shall be continued throughout the
- 13 life of, and be paid to, the member's spouse to whom the member was married at the date of
- 14 retirement and who was nominated by the member to receive such payments in the member's

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

application for retirement or as otherwise provided pursuant to subsection 5 of this section. Such annuity shall be reduced in the same manner as an annuity under option 2 as in effect immediately prior to August 28, 1997. The surviving spouse shall designate a beneficiary to receive any final monthly payment due after the death of the surviving spouse; or

Option 2. The member's normal annuity in regular monthly payments for life during the member's retirement with the provision that upon the member's death a survivor's benefit equal to one-half the member's annuity at the date of the member's death shall be paid to the member's spouse to whom the member was married at the date of retirement and who was nominated by the member to receive such payments in the member's application for retirement or as otherwise provided pursuant to subsection 5 of this section, in regular monthly payments for life. The surviving spouse shall designate a beneficiary to receive any final monthly payment due after the death of the surviving spouse; or

Option 3. An actuarial reduction approved by the board of the member's normal annuity in reduced monthly payments for the member's life with the provision that if the member dies prior to the member having received one hundred twenty monthly payments of the member's reduced annuity, the member's reduced annuity to which the member would have been entitled had the member lived shall be paid for the remainder of the one hundred twenty months' period to such person as the member shall have nominated by written designation duly executed and filed with the board. If there is no such beneficiary surviving the retirant, the reserve for such annuity for the remainder of such one hundred twenty months' period shall be paid [to the retirant's estate] as provided under subsection 3 of section 104.620. If such beneficiary dies after the member's date of death but before having received the remainder of the one hundred twenty monthly payments of the retiree's reduced annuity, the reserve for such annuity for the remainder of such one hundred twenty-month period shall be paid [to the beneficiary's estate] as provided under subsection 3 of section 104.620; or

Option 4. An actuarial reduction approved by the board of the member's normal annuity in reduced monthly payments for the member's life with the provision that if the member dies prior to the member having received sixty monthly payments of the member's reduced annuity, the member's reduced annuity to which the member would have been entitled had the member lived shall be paid for the remainder of the sixty months' period to such person as the member shall have nominated by written designation duly executed and filed with the board. If there be no such beneficiary surviving the retirant, the reserve for such annuity for the remainder of such sixty months' period shall be paid [to the retirant's estate] as provided under subsection 3 of section 104.620. If such beneficiary dies after the member's date of death but before having received the remainder of the sixty monthly payments of the retiree's reduced annuity, the reserve

for such annuity for the remainder of the sixty-month period shall be paid [to the beneficiary's estate] as provided under subsection 3 of section 104.620.

- 2. Effective July 1, 2000, if a member is married as of the annuity starting date to a person who has been the member's spouse, the member's annuity shall be paid pursuant to the provisions of either option 1 or option 2 as set forth in subsection 1 of this section, at the member's choice, with the spouse as the member's designated beneficiary unless the spouse consents in writing to the member electing another available form of payment.
- 3. For members who retire on or after August 28, 1995, in the event such member elected a joint and survivor option pursuant to the provisions of this section and the member's eligible spouse or eligible former spouse precedes the member in death, the member's annuity shall revert effective the first of the month following the death of the spouse or eligible former spouse regardless of when the board receives the member's written application for the benefit provided in this subsection, to an amount equal to the member's normal annuity, as adjusted for early retirement if applicable; such benefit shall include any increases the member would have received since the date of retirement had the member elected a normal annuity. If a member dies prior to notifying the system of the spouse's death, the benefit shall not revert to a normal annuity and no retroactive payments shall be made.
- 4. Effective on or after August 28, 1995, any retired member who had elected a joint and survivor option and whose spouse or eligible former spouse precedes or preceded the member in death shall upon application to the board be made, constituted, appointed and employed by the board as a special consultant on the problems of retirement, aging and other state matters. As a special consultant pursuant to the provisions of this section, the member's reduced annuity shall revert to a normal annuity as adjusted for early retirement, if applicable, effective the first of the month following the death of the spouse or eligible former spouse or August 28, 1995, whichever is later, [regardless of when the board receives the member's written application] if the member cancels the member's original joint and survivor election; such annuity shall include any increases the retired member would have received since the date of retirement had the member elected a normal annuity.
- 5. Effective July 1, 2000, a member may make an election under option 1 or 2 after the date retirement benefits are initiated if the member makes such election within one year from the date of marriage or July 1, 2000, whichever is later, under any of the following circumstances:
- (1) The member elected to receive a normal annuity and was not eligible to elect option 1 or 2 on the date retirement benefits were initiated; or
- (2) The member's annuity reverted to a normal annuity pursuant to subsection 3 or 4 of this section and the member remarried.

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6. Any person who terminates employment or retires prior to July 1, 2000, shall be made, constituted, appointed and employed by the board as a special consultant on the problems of retirement, aging and other state matters, and for such services shall be eligible to elect to receive the benefits described in subsection 5 of this section.

- 7. Effective September 1, 2001, the retirement application of any member who fails to make an election pursuant to subsection 1 of this section within ninety days of the annuity starting date contained in such retirement application shall be nullified. Any member whose retirement application is nullified shall not receive retirement benefits until the member files a new application for retirement pursuant to section 104.401 and makes the election pursuant to subsection 1 of this section. In no event shall any retroactive retirement benefits be paid.
- 8. A member may change a member's election made under this section at any time prior to the system mailing or electronically transferring the first annuity payment to such member.
- 104.1012. 1. Any new state employee who would have become a member of the closed plan administered by the transportation department and highway patrol retirement system except for the creation of the year 2000 plan and persons covered by the closed plan administered by the highway and transportation employees' and highway patrol retirement system who elect year 2000 plan coverage as provided in section 104.1015 shall have their year 2000 plan coverage managed by that board.
 - 2. Any new state employee who would have become a member of the closed plan administered by the Missouri state employees' retirement system except for the creation of the year 2000 plan or persons covered by the closed plan administered by the Missouri state employees' retirement system who elect year 2000 plan coverage as provided in section 104.1015 shall have their year 2000 plan coverage managed by that board.
 - 3. In the event the board of trustees elects to provide the employees, members, or vested former members under either the closed plan or the year 2000 plan with education or advice pertaining to any aspect of retirement planning, the board shall not be liable for the retirement or investment decisions made or not made by employees, members, or vested former members so long as the board acts with the same care, skill, prudence, and diligence in the selection and monitoring of providers of education and advice under the circumstances then prevailing that a prudent person acting in a similar capacity and familiar with those matters would use in the conduct of a similar enterprise with similar aims.
- 104.1015. 1. Persons covered by a closed plan on July 1, 2000, shall elect whether or not to change to year 2000 plan coverage. Any such person who elects to be covered by the year 2000 plan shall forfeit all rights to receive benefits under this chapter except as provided under

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the year 2000 plan and all creditable service of such person under the closed plan shall be credited under the year 2000 plan. Any such person who elects not to be covered by the year 2000 plan shall waive all rights to receive benefits under the year 2000 plan. In no event shall any retroactive annuity be paid to such persons pursuant to sections 104.1003 to 104.1093 except as described in subsection 2 of this section.

- 2. Each retiree of the closed plan on July 1, 2000, shall be furnished by the appropriate system a written comparison of the retiree's closed plan coverage and the retiree's potential year 2000 plan coverage. A retiree shall elect whether or not to change to year 2000 plan coverage by making a written election, on a form furnished by the appropriate board, and providing that form to the system by no later than twelve months after July 1, 2000, and any retiree who fails to make such election within such time period shall be deemed to have elected to remain covered under the closed plan; provided the election must be after the retiree has received from the appropriate system such written comparison. The retirement option elected under the year 2000 plan shall be the same as the retirement option elected under the closed plan, except any retiree who is receiving one of the options providing for a continuing lifetime annuity to a surviving spouse under the closed plan may elect to receive an annuity under option 1 or 2 of section 104.1027, or a life annuity under subsection 2 of section 104.1024, provided the person who was married to the member at the time of retirement, if any, consents in writing to such election made pursuant to section 104.1024, or to any election described in this section if the person was married to a member of the Missouri state employees' retirement system. The effective date of payment of an annuity under the year 2000 plan as provided in this subsection shall begin on July 1, 2000. No adjustment shall be made to retirement benefits paid to the retiree prior to July 1, 2000. In order to calculate a new monthly annuity for retirees electing coverage under the year 2000 plan pursuant to this subsection, the following calculations shall be made:
- (1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the retiree's gross monthly retirement annuity in effect immediately prior to July 1, 2000, shall be multiplied by the percentage increase in the life annuity formula between the closed plan and the year 2000 plan. This amount shall be added to the retiree's gross monthly retirement annuity in effect immediately prior to July 1, 2000, to arrive at the retiree's new monthly retirement annuity in the year 2000 plan on July 1, 2000. The age of eligibility and reduction factors applicable to the retiree's original annuity under the closed plan shall remain the same in the annuity payable under the year 2000 plan, except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection.
- (2) If option 1 or 2 pursuant to section 104.1027 is chosen by the retiree under the year 2000 plan, the new monthly retirement annuity calculated pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be recalculated using the reduction factors for the option chosen pursuant to section 104.1027.

(3) If a temporary annuity is payable pursuant to subsection 4 of section 104.1024 the additional temporary annuity shall be calculated by multiplying the retiree's credited service by the retiree's final average pay by eight-tenths of one percent.

- (4) Cost-of-living adjustments paid pursuant to section 104.1045 will commence on the anniversary of the retiree's annuity starting date coincident with or next following July 1, 2000.
- (5) Any retiree or other person described in this section who elects coverage under the year 2000 plan based on service rendered as a member of the general assembly or as a statewide elected official shall receive an annuity under the year 2000 plan calculated pursuant to the provisions of section 104.1084 using the current monthly pay at the time of the election with future COLAs calculated pursuant to subsection 7 of section 104.1084.
- 3. Each person who is an employee and covered by the closed plan and not a retiree of the closed plan on July 1, 2000, shall elect whether or not to change to year 2000 plan coverage prior to the last business day of the month before the person's annuity starting date, and if such election has not been made within such time, annuity payments due beginning on and after the month of the annuity starting date shall be made the month following the receipt by the appropriate system of such election and any other information required by the year 2000 plan created by sections 104.1003 to 104.1093; provided, such election must be after the person has received from the year 2000 plan a written comparison of the person's closed plan coverage and the person's potential year 2000 plan coverage and the election must be made in writing on a form furnished by the appropriate board. If such person dies after the annuity starting date but before making such election and providing such other information, no benefits shall be paid except as required pursuant to section 104.420 or subsection 2 of section 104.372 for members of the general assembly.
- 4. Each person who is not an employee and not a retiree and is eligible for a deferred annuity from the closed plan on July 1, 2000, shall elect whether or not to change to the year 2000 plan coverage prior to the last business day of the month before the person's annuity starting date, and if such election has not been made within such time, annuity payments due beginning on and after the month of the annuity starting date shall be made the month following the receipt by the appropriate system of such election and any other information required by the year 2000 plan created by sections 104.1003 to 104.1093; provided, the election must be after the person has received from the year 2000 plan a written comparison of the person's closed plan coverage and the person's potential year 2000 plan coverage and the election must be made in writing on a form furnished by the appropriate board. If such person dies after the annuity starting date but before making such election and providing such other information, no benefits shall be paid except as required pursuant to section 104.420 or subsection 2 of section 104.372 for members of the general assembly.

5. Each person who is not an employee and not a retiree and is eligible for a deferred annuity from the closed plan and returns to covered employment on or after July 1, 2000, shall be covered under the closed plan; provided, such person shall elect whether or not to change to the year 2000 plan coverage prior to the last business day of the month before the person's annuity starting date, and if such election has not been made within such time, annuity payments due beginning on and after the month of the annuity starting date shall be made the month following the receipt by the appropriate system of such election and any other information required by the year 2000 plan created by sections 104.1003 to 104.1093 and the election must be after the person has received from the year 2000 plan a written comparison of the person's closed plan coverage and the person's potential year 2000 plan coverage and the election must be made in writing on a form furnished by the appropriate board. If such person dies after the annuity starting date but before making such election and providing such other information, no benefits shall be paid except as required under section 104.420 or subsection 2 of section 104.372 for members of the general assembly.

- 6. Each person who is not an employee and not a retiree and not eligible for a deferred annuity from the closed plan but has forfeited creditable service with the closed plan and becomes an employee on or after August 28, 2002, shall be changed to year 2000 plan coverage and upon receiving credited service continuously for one year shall receive credited service for all such forfeited creditable service under the closed plan.
- 7. Each person who was employed as a member of the general assembly through December 31, 2000, covered under the closed plan, and has served at least two full biennial assemblies as defined in subdivision (24) of subsection 1 of section 104.010 but who is not eligible for a deferred annuity under the closed plan shall be eligible to receive benefits under the new plan pursuant to subdivision (5) of subsection 2 of this section upon meeting the age requirements under the new plan.
- 8. The retirees and persons described in subsections 2 and 4 of this section shall be eligible for benefits under those subsections pursuant to subsection 8 of section 104.610.
- 9. A member may change a member's plan election made under this section at any time prior to the system mailing or electronically transferring the first annuity payment to such member.

104.1024. 1. Any member who terminates employment may retire on or after attaining normal retirement eligibility by making application in written form and manner approved by the appropriate board. The written application shall set forth the annuity starting date which shall not be earlier than the first day of the second month following the month of the execution and filing of the member's application for retirement nor later than the first day of the fourth month following the month of the execution and filing of the member's application for retirement. **The**

payment of the annuity shall be made the last working day of each month, provided all documentation required under section 104.1027 for the calculation and payment of the benefits is received by the board.

- 2. A member's annuity shall be paid in the form of a life annuity, except as provided in section 104.1027, and shall be an amount for life equal to one and seven-tenths percent of the final average pay of the member multiplied by the member's years of credited service.
- 3. The life annuity defined in subsection 2 of this section shall not be less than a monthly amount equal to fifteen dollars multiplied by the member's full years of credited service.
- 4. If as of the annuity starting date of a member who has attained normal retirement eligibility the sum of the member's years of age and years of credited service equals eighty or more years and if the member's age is at least forty-eight years but less than sixty-two years, or, in the case of a member of the highway patrol who shall be subject to the mandatory retirement provision of section 104.080, the mandatory retirement age and completion of five years of credited service, then in addition to the life annuity described in subsection 2 of this section, the member shall receive a temporary annuity equal to eight-tenths of one percent of the member's final average pay multiplied by the member's years of credited service. The temporary annuity and any cost-of-living adjustments attributable to the temporary annuity pursuant to section 104.1045 shall terminate at the end of the calendar month in which the earlier of the following events occurs: the member's death or the member's attainment of the earliest age of eligibility for reduced Social Security retirement benefits, but no later than age sixty-two.
- 5. The annuity described in subsection 2 of this section for any person who has credited service not covered by the federal Social Security Act, as provided in sections 105.300 to 105.445, RSMo, shall be calculated as follows: the life annuity shall be an amount equal to two and five-tenths percent of the final average pay of the member multiplied by the number of years of service not covered by the federal Social Security Act in addition to one and seven-tenths percent of the final average pay of the member multiplied by the member's years of credited service covered by the federal Social Security Act.
- 6. Effective July 1, 2002, any member, except an elected official or a member of the general assembly, who has not been paid retirement benefits and continues employment for at least two years beyond the date of normal retirement eligibility, may elect to receive an annuity and lump sum payment or payments, determined as follows:
- (1) A retroactive starting date shall be established which shall be a date selected by the member; provided, however, that the retroactive starting date selected by the member shall not be a date which is earlier than the date when a normal annuity would have first been payable. In addition, the retroactive starting date shall not be more than five years prior to the annuity starting date. The member's selection of a retroactive starting date shall be done in twelve-month

increments, except this restriction shall not apply when the member selects the total available time between the retroactive starting date and the annuity starting date;

- (2) The prospective annuity payable as of the annuity starting date shall be determined pursuant to the provisions of this section, with the exception that it shall be the amount which would have been payable at the annuity starting date had the member actually retired on the retroactive starting date under the retirement plan selected by the member. Other than for the lump sum payment or payments specified in subdivision (3) of this subsection, no other amount shall be due for the period between the retroactive starting date and the annuity starting date;
- (3) The lump sum payable shall be ninety percent of the annuity amounts which would have been paid to the member from the retroactive starting date to the annuity starting date had the member actually retired on the retroactive starting date and received a life annuity. The member shall elect to receive the lump sum amount either in its entirety at the same time as the initial annuity payment is made or in three equal annual installments with the first payment made at the same time as the initial annuity payment;
- (4) Any annuity payable pursuant to this section that is subject to a division of benefit order pursuant to section 104.1051 shall be calculated as follows:
- (a) Any service of a member between the retroactive starting date and the annuity starting date shall not be considered credited service except for purposes of calculating the division of benefit; and
- (b) The lump sum payment described in subdivision (3) of this section shall not be subject to any division of benefit order; and
- (5) For purposes of determining annual benefit increases payable as part of the lump sum and annuity provided pursuant to this section, the retroactive starting date shall be considered the member's date of retirement.
- 104.1027. 1. Prior to the last business day of the month before the annuity starting date, a member or a vested former member shall elect whether or not to have such member's or such vested former member's life annuity reduced, but not any temporary annuity which may be payable, and designate a beneficiary, as provided by the options set forth in this section; provided that if such election has not been made within such time, annuity payments due beginning on and after the month of the annuity starting date shall be made the month following the receipt by the appropriate system of such election and any other information required by the year 2000 plan created by sections 104.1003 to 104.1093, and further provided, that if such person dies after the annuity starting date but before making such election and providing such other information, no benefits shall be paid except as required pursuant to section 104.1030:
 - Option 1. A retiree's life annuity shall be reduced to a certain percent of the annuity otherwise payable. Such percent shall be ninety percent adjusted as follows: if the retiree's age

on the annuity starting date is younger than sixty-two years, an increase of three-tenths of one percent for each year the retiree's age is younger than age sixty-two years, to a maximum increase of three and six-tenths percent; and if the beneficiary's age is younger than the retiree's age on the annuity starting date, a decrease of three-tenths of one percent for each year of age difference; and if the retiree's age is younger than the beneficiary's age on the annuity starting date, an increase of three-tenths of one percent for each year of age difference; provided, after all adjustments the option 1 percent cannot exceed ninety-five percent. Upon the retiree's death, fifty percent of the retiree's reduced annuity shall be paid to such beneficiary who was the retiree's spouse on the annuity starting date or as otherwise provided by subsection 5 of this section.

Option 2. A retiree's life annuity shall be reduced to a certain percent of the annuity otherwise payable. Such percent shall be eighty-three percent adjusted as follows: if the retiree's age on the annuity starting date is younger than sixty-two years, an increase of four-tenths of one percent for each year the retiree's age is younger than sixty-two years, to a maximum increase of four and eight-tenths percent; and if the beneficiary's age is younger than the retiree's age on the annuity starting date, a decrease of five-tenths of one percent for each year of age difference; and if the retiree's age is younger than the beneficiary's age on the annuity starting date, an increase of five-tenths of one percent for each year of age difference; provided, after all adjustments the option 2 percent cannot exceed ninety percent. Upon the retiree's death one hundred percent of the retiree's reduced annuity shall be paid to such beneficiary who was the retiree's spouse on the annuity starting date or as otherwise provided by subsection 5 of this section.

Option 3. A retiree's life annuity shall be reduced to ninety-five percent of the annuity otherwise payable. If the retiree dies before having received one hundred twenty monthly payments, the reduced annuity shall be continued for the remainder of the one hundred twenty-month period to the retiree's designated beneficiary provided that if there is no beneficiary surviving the retiree, the present value of the remaining annuity payments shall be paid [to the retiree's estate] as provided under subsection 4 of section 104.1054. If the beneficiary survives the retiree but dies before receiving the remainder of such one hundred twenty monthly payments, the present value of the remaining annuity payments shall be paid [to the beneficiary's estate] as provided under subsection 4 of section 104.1054.

Option 4. A retiree's life annuity shall be reduced to ninety percent of the annuity otherwise payable. If the retiree dies before having received one hundred eighty monthly payments, the reduced annuity shall be continued for the remainder of the one hundred eighty-month period to the retiree's designated beneficiary provided that if there is no beneficiary surviving the retiree, the present value of the remaining annuity payments shall be paid [to the

retiree's estate] as provided under subsection 4 of section 104.1054. If the beneficiary survives the retiree but dies before receiving the remainder of such one hundred eighty monthly payments, the present value of the remaining annuity payments shall be paid [to the beneficiary's estate] as provided under subsection 4 of section 104.1054.

- 2. If a member is married as of the annuity starting date, the member's annuity shall be paid under the provisions of either option 1 or option 2 as set forth in subsection 1 of this section, at the member's choice, with the spouse as the member's designated beneficiary unless the spouse consents in writing to the member electing another available form of payment.
- 3. If a member has elected at the annuity starting date option 1 or 2 pursuant to this section and if the member's spouse or eligible former spouse dies after the annuity starting date but before the member dies, then the member may cancel the member's election and return to the life annuity form of payment and annuity amount, effective the first of the month following the date of such spouse's or eligible former spouse's death. If a member dies prior to notifying the system of the spouse's death, the benefit shall not revert to a life annuity and no retroactive payments shall be made.
- 4. If a member designates a spouse as a beneficiary pursuant to this section and subsequently that marriage ends as a result of a dissolution of marriage, such dissolution shall not affect the option election pursuant to this section and the former spouse shall continue to be eligible to receive survivor benefits upon the death of the member.
- 5. Effective July 1, 2000, a member may make an election under option 1 or 2 after the annuity starting date as described in this section if the member makes such election within one year from the date of marriage or July 1, 2000, whichever is later, pursuant to any of the following circumstances:
- (1) The member elected to receive a life annuity and was not eligible to elect option 1 or 2 on the annuity starting date; or
- (2) The member's annuity reverted to a normal or early retirement annuity pursuant to subsection 3 of this section, and the member remarried.
- 6. Effective September 1, 2001, the retirement application of any member who fails to make an election pursuant to subsection 1 of this section within ninety days of the annuity starting date contained in such retirement application shall be nullified. Any member whose retirement application is nullified shall not receive retirement benefits until the member files a new application for retirement pursuant to section 104.1024 and makes the election pursuant to subsection 1 of this section. In no event shall any retroactive retirement benefits be paid.
- 7. A member may change a member's election under this section at any time prior to the system mailing or electronically transferring the first annuity payment to such member.

104.1072. 1. Each board shall provide or contract, or both, for life insurance benefits for employees covered pursuant to the year 2000 plan as follows:

- (1) Employees shall be provided fifteen thousand dollars of life insurance until December 31, 2000. Effective January 1, 2001, the system shall provide or contract or both for basic life insurance for employees covered under any retirement plan administered by the system pursuant to this chapter, persons covered by sections 287.812 to 287.856, RSMo, for employees who are members of the judicial retirement system as provided in section 476.590, RSMo, and, at the election of the state highways and transportation commission, employees who are members of the highways and transportation employees' and highway patrol retirement system, in the amount equal to one times annual pay, subject to a minimum amount of fifteen thousand dollars. The board shall establish by rule or contract the method for determining the annual rate of pay and any other terms of such insurance as it deems necessary to implement the requirements pursuant to this section. Annual rate of pay shall not include overtime or any other irregular payments as determined by the board. Such life insurance shall provide for triple indemnity in the event the cause of death is a proximate result of a personal injury or disease arising out of and in the course of actual performance of duty as an employee;
- (2) Any member who terminates employment after reaching normal or early retirement eligibility and becomes a retiree within sixty days of such termination shall receive five thousand dollars of life insurance coverage.
- 2. (1) In addition to the life insurance authorized by the provisions of subsection 1 of this section, any person for whom life insurance is provided or contracted for pursuant to such subsection may purchase, at the person's own expense and only if monthly voluntary payroll deductions are authorized, additional life insurance at a cost to be stipulated in a contract with a private insurance company or as may be required by a system if the board of trustees determines that the system should provide such insurance itself. The maximum amount of additional life insurance which may be so purchased prior to January 1, 2004, is that amount which equals six times the amount of the person's annual rate of pay, subject to any maximum established by a board, except that if such maximum amount is not evenly divisible by one thousand dollars, then the maximum amount of additional insurance which may be purchased is the next higher amount evenly divisible by one thousand dollars. The maximum amount of additional life insurance which may be so purchased on or after January 1, 2004, is an amount to be stipulated in a contract with a private insurance company or as may be required by the system if the board of trustees determines that the system should provide the insurance itself.
- (2) Any person defined in subdivision (1) of this subsection may retain an amount not to exceed sixty thousand dollars of life insurance following the date of his or her retirement if such person becomes a retiree the month following termination of employment and makes

written application for such life insurance at the same time such person's application is made to the board for retirement benefits. Such life insurance shall only be provided if such person pays the entire cost of the insurance, as determined by the board, by allowing voluntary deductions from the member's annuity.

- (3) In addition to the life insurance authorized in subdivision (1) of this subsection, any person for whom life insurance is provided or contracted for pursuant to this subsection may purchase, at the person's own expense and only if monthly voluntary payroll deductions are authorized, life insurance covering the person's children or the person's spouse or both at coverage amounts to be determined by the board at a cost to be stipulated in a contract with a private insurer or as may be required by the system if the board of trustees determines that the system should provide such insurance itself.
- (4) Effective July 1, 2000, any member who applies and is eligible to receive an annuity based on the attainment of at least forty-eight years of age with a total of years of age and years of credited service which is at least eighty shall be eligible to retain any optional life insurance described in subdivision (1) of this subsection. The amount of such retained insurance shall not be greater than the amount in effect during the month prior to termination of employment. Such insurance may be retained until the member's attainment of the earliest age for eligibility for reduced Social Security retirement benefits, **but no later than age sixty-two**, at which time the amount of such insurance that may be retained shall be that amount permitted pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection.
- 3. The state highways and transportation commission may provide for insurance benefits to cover medical expenses for members of the highways and transportation employees' and highway patrol retirement system. The state highways and transportation commission may provide medical benefits for dependents of members and for retired members. Contributions by the state highways and transportation commission to provide the benefits shall be on the same basis as provided for other state employees pursuant to the provisions of section 104.515. Except as otherwise provided by law, the cost of benefits for dependents of members and for retirees and their dependents shall be paid by the members or retirees. The commission may contract with other persons or entities including but not limited to third-party administrators, health network providers and health maintenance organizations for all, or any part of, the benefits provided for in this section. The commission may require reimbursement of any medical claims paid by the commission's medical plan for which there was third-party liability.
- 4. The highways and transportation employees' and highway patrol retirement system may request the state highways and transportation commission to provide life insurance benefits as required in subsections 1 and 2 of this section. If the state highways and transportation commission agrees to the request, the highways and transportation employees' and highway

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patrol retirement system shall reimburse the state highways and transportation commission for any and all costs for life insurance provided pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection 1 of this section. The person who is covered pursuant to subsection 2 of this section shall be solely responsible for the costs of any additional life insurance. In lieu of the life insurance benefit in subdivision (2) of subsection 1 of this section, the highways and transportation employees' and highway patrol retirement system is authorized in its sole discretion to provide a death benefit of five thousand dollars.

- 5. To the extent that the board enters or has entered into any contract with any insurer or service organization to provide life insurance provided for pursuant to this section:
- (1) The obligation to provide such life insurance shall be primarily that of the insurer or service organization and secondarily that of the board;
- (2) Any member who has been denied life insurance benefits by the insurer or service organization and has exhausted all appeal procedures provided by the insurer or service organization may appeal such decision by filing a petition against the insurer or service organization in a court of law in the member's county of residence; and
- (3) The board and the system shall not be liable for life insurance benefits provided by an insurer or service organization pursuant to this section and shall not be subject to any cause of action with regard to life insurance benefits or the denial of life insurance benefits by the insurer or service organization unless the member has obtained judgment against the insurer or service organization for life insurance benefits and the insurer or service organization is unable to satisfy that judgment.

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