House Engrossed Senate Bill

FILED
MICHELE REAGAN
SECRETARY OF STATE

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-second Legislature
First Regular Session
2015

CHAPTER 65

SENATE BILL 1096

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTIONS 38-711, 38-714, 38-721 AND 38-737, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO THE ARIZONA STATE RETIREMENT SYSTEM.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

Section 1. Section 38-711, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

38-711. Definitions

In this article, unless the context otherwise requires:

1. "Active member" means a member as defined in paragraph 23, subdivision (b) of this section who satisfies the eligibility criteria prescribed in section 38-727 and who is currently making member contributions as prescribed in section 38-736.

2. "Actuarial equivalent" means equality in value of the aggregate amounts expected to be received under two different forms of payment, based on mortality and interest rate assumptions approved from time to time by the board.

3. "ASRS" means the Arizona state retirement system established by this article.

4. "Assets" means the resources of ASRS including all cash, investments or securities.

5. "Average monthly compensation" means:

(a) For a member whose membership in ASRS commenced before January 1, 1984 and who left the member's contributions on deposit or reinstated forfeited credited service pursuant to section 38-742 for a period of employment that commenced before January 1, 1984, the higher of either:

(i) The monthly average of compensation that is calculated pursuant to subdivision (b) of this paragraph.

(ii) The monthly average of compensation on which contributions were remitted during a period of sixty consecutive months during which the member receives the highest compensation within the last one hundred twenty months of credited service. Any month for which no contributions are reported to ASRS or that falls within a period of nonpaid or partially paid leave of absence or sabbatical leave shall be excluded from the computation. The sixty consecutive months may entirely precede, may be both before and after or may be completely after any excluded months. If the member was employed for less than sixty consecutive months, the average monthly compensation is based on the total consecutive months worked. Payments for accumulated vacation or annual leave, sick leave, compensatory time or other forms of termination pay ~~which~~ THAT, before August 12, 2005, constitute compensation for members whose membership in ASRS commenced before January 1, 1984, do not cease to be included as compensation if paid in the form of nonelective employer contributions under a 26 United States Code section 403(b) plan if all payments of employer and employee contributions are made at the time of termination. Contributions shall be made to ASRS on these amounts pursuant to sections 38-735, 38-736 and 38-737.

(b) For a member whose membership in ASRS commenced on or after January 1, 1984 but before July 1, 2011, the monthly average of compensation on which contributions were remitted during a period of thirty-six

consecutive months during which a member receives the highest compensation within the last one hundred twenty months of credited service. Any month for which no contributions are reported to ASRS or that falls within a period of nonpaid or partially paid leave of absence or sabbatical leave shall be excluded from the computation. The thirty-six consecutive months may entirely precede, may be both before and after or may be completely after any excluded months. If the member was employed for less than thirty-six consecutive months, the average monthly compensation shall be based on the total consecutive months worked.

(c) For a member whose membership in ASRS commenced on or after July 1, 2011, the monthly average of compensation on which contributions were remitted during a period of sixty consecutive months during which a member receives the highest compensation within the last one hundred twenty months of credited service. Any month for which no contributions are reported to ASRS or that falls within a period of nonpaid or partially paid leave of absence or sabbatical leave shall be excluded from the computation. The sixty consecutive months may entirely precede, may be both before and after or may be completely after any excluded months. If the member was employed for less than sixty consecutive months, the average monthly compensation shall be based on the total consecutive months worked.

6. "Board" means the ASRS board established in section 38-713.

7. "Compensation" means the gross amount paid to a member by an employer as salary or wages, including amounts that are subject to deferred compensation or tax shelter agreements, for services rendered to or for an employer, or that would have been paid to the member except for the member's election or a legal requirement that all or part of the gross amount be used for other purposes, but does not include amounts paid in excess of compensation limits established in section 38-746. Compensation includes amounts paid as salary or wages to a member by a second employer if the member meets the requirements prescribed in paragraph 23, subdivision (b) of this section with that second employer. Compensation, as provided in paragraph 5, subdivision (b) or (c) of this section, does not include:

(a) Lump sum payments, on termination of employment, for accumulated vacation or annual leave, sick leave, compensatory time or any other form of termination pay whether the payments are made in one payment or by installments over a period of time.

(b) Damages, costs, attorney fees, interest or other penalties paid pursuant to a court order or a compromise settlement or agreement to satisfy a grievance or claim even though the amount of the payment is based in whole or in part on previous salary or wage levels, except that, if the court order or compromise settlement or agreement directs salary or wages to be paid for a specific period of time, the payment is compensation for that specific period of time. If the amount directed to be paid is less than the actual salary or wages that would have been paid for the period if service had been

performed, the contributions for the period shall be based on the amount of compensation that would have been paid if the service had been performed.

(c) Payment, at the member's option, in lieu of fringe benefits that are normally paid for or provided by the employer.

(d) Merit awards pursuant to section 38-613 and performance bonuses paid to assistant attorneys general pursuant to section 41-192.

(e) Amounts that are paid as salary or wages to a member for which employer contributions have not been paid.

8. "Contingent annuitant" means the person named by a member to receive retirement income payable following a member's death after retirement as provided in section 38-760.

9. "Credited service" means, subject to section 38-739, the number of years standing to the member's credit on the books of ASRS during which the member made the required contributions.

10. "Current annual compensation" means the greater of:

(a) Annualized compensation of the typical pay period amount immediately before the date of a request to ASRS to purchase credited service pursuant to section 38-743, 38-744 or 38-745. The typical pay period amount shall be determined by taking the five pay periods immediately before the date of a request, disregarding the highest and lowest compensation amount pay periods and averaging the three remaining pay periods.

(b) Annualized compensation of the partial year, disregarding the first compensation amount pay period, if the member has less than twelve months total compensation on the date of a request to purchase credited service pursuant to section 38-743, 38-744 or 38-745.

(c) The sum of the twelve months of compensation immediately before the date of a request to ASRS to purchase credited service pursuant to section 38-743, 38-744 or 38-745.

(d) The sum of the thirty-six months of compensation immediately before the date of a request to ASRS to purchase credited service pursuant to section 38-743, 38-744 or 38-745 divided by three.

(e) If the member has retired one or more times from ASRS, the average monthly compensation that was used for calculating the member's last pension benefit times twelve.

11. "Early retirement" means retirement before a member's normal retirement date after five years of total credited service and attainment of age fifty.

12. "Effective date" means July 1, 1970, except with respect to employers and members whose contributions to ASRS commence thereafter, the effective date of their membership in ASRS is as specified in the applicable joinder agreement.

13. "Employer" means:

(a) This state.

(b) Participating political subdivisions.

(c) Participating political subdivision entities.

14. "Employer contributions" means all amounts paid into ASRS by an employer on behalf of a member.

15. "Fiscal year" means the period from July 1 of any year to June 30 of the following year.

16. "Inactive member" means a member who previously made contributions to ASRS and who satisfies each of the following:

(a) Has not retired.

(b) Is not eligible for active membership in ASRS.

(c) Is not currently making contributions to ASRS.

(d) Has not withdrawn contributions from ASRS.

17. "Interest" means the assumed actuarial investment earnings rate approved by the board.

18. "Internal revenue code" means the United States internal revenue code of 1986, as amended.

19. "Investment manager" means the persons, companies, banks, insurance company investment funds, mutual fund companies, management or any combinations of those entities that are appointed by ASRS and that have responsibility and authority for investment of the monies of ASRS.

20. "Late retirement" means retirement after normal retirement.

21. "Leave of absence" means any unpaid leave authorized by the employer, including leaves authorized for sickness or disability or to pursue education or training.

22. "Life annuity" means equal monthly installments payable during the member's lifetime after retirement.

23. "Member":

(a) Means any employee of an employer on the effective date.

(b) Means all employees of an employer who are eligible for membership pursuant to section 38-727 and who are engaged to work at least twenty weeks in each fiscal year and at least twenty hours each week.

(c) Means any person receiving a benefit under ASRS.

(d) Means any person who is a former active member of ASRS and who has not withdrawn contributions from ASRS pursuant to section 38-740.

(e) Does not include any employee of an employer who is otherwise eligible pursuant to this article and who begins service in a limited appointment for not more than eighteen months on or after July 1, 1979. If the employment exceeds eighteen months, the employee shall be covered by ASRS as of the beginning of the nineteenth month of employment. In order to be excluded under this subdivision, classifications of employees designated by employers as limited appointments must be approved by the director.

(f) Does not include any leased employee. For the purposes of section 414(n) of the internal revenue code, "leased employee" means an individual who:

(i) Is not otherwise an employee of an employer.

(ii) Pursuant to a leasing agreement between the employer and another person, performs services for the employer on a substantially full-time basis for at least one year.

(iii) Performs services under the primary direction or control of the employer.

24. "Member contributions" means all amounts paid to ASRS by a member.

25. "Normal costs" means the sum of the individual normal costs for all active members for each fiscal year. The normal cost for an individual active member is the cost that is assigned to the fiscal year, THROUGH JUNE 29, 2016, using the projected unit credit method AND, BEGINNING JUNE 30, 2016, USING THE ACTUARIAL COST METHOD DETERMINED BY THE BOARD PURSUANT TO SECTION 38-714.

26. "Normal retirement age" means the age at which a member reaches the member's normal retirement date.

27. "Normal retirement date" means the earliest of the following:

(a) For a member whose membership commenced before July 1, 2011:

(i) A member's sixty-fifth birthday.

(ii) A member's sixty-second birthday and completion of at least ten years of credited service.

(iii) The first day that the sum of a member's age and years of total credited service equals eighty.

(b) For a member whose membership commenced on or after July 1, 2011:

(i) A member's sixty-fifth birthday.

(ii) A member's sixty-second birthday and completion of at least ten years of credited service.

(iii) A member's sixtieth birthday and completion of at least twenty-five years of credited service.

(iv) A member's fifty-fifth birthday and completion of at least thirty years of credited service.

28. "Political subdivision" means any political subdivision of this state and includes a political subdivision entity.

29. "Political subdivision entity" means an entity:

(a) That is located in this state.

(b) That is created in whole or in part by political subdivisions, including instrumentalities of political subdivisions.

(c) Where a majority of the membership of the entity is composed of political subdivisions.

(d) Whose primary purpose is the performance of a government related service.

30. "Retired member" means a member who is receiving retirement benefits pursuant to this article.

31. "Service year" means fiscal year, except that:

(a) If the normal work year required of a member is less than the full fiscal year but is for a period of at least nine months, the service year is the normal work year.

(b) For a salaried member employed on a contract basis under one contract, or two or more consecutive contracts, for a total period of at least nine months, the service year is the total period of the contract or consecutive contracts.

(c) In determining average monthly compensation pursuant to paragraph 5 of this section, the service year is considered to be twelve months of compensation.

32. "State" means this state, including any department, office, board, commission, agency, institution or other instrumentality of this state.

33. "Vested" means that a member is eligible to receive a future retirement benefit.

Sec. 2. Section 38-714, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

38-714. Powers and duties of ASRS and board

A. ASRS shall have the powers and privileges of a corporation, shall have an official seal and shall transact all business in the name "Arizona state retirement system", and in that name may sue and be sued.

B. The board is responsible for supervising the administration of this article by the director of ASRS.

C. The board is responsible for the performance of fiduciary duties and other responsibilities required to preserve and protect the retirement trust fund established by section 38-712.

D. The board shall not advocate for or against legislation providing for benefit modifications, except that the board shall provide technical and administrative information regarding the impact of benefit modification legislation.

E. The board may:

1. Determine the rights, benefits or obligations of any person under this article and afford any person dissatisfied with a determination a hearing on the determination.

2. Determine the amount, manner and time of payment of any benefits under this article.

3. Recommend amendments to this article and articles 2.1 and 7 of this chapter that are required for efficient and effective administration.

4. Adopt, amend or repeal rules for the administration of the plan, this article and articles 2.1 and 7 of this chapter.

F. BEGINNING JUNE 30, 2016, THE BOARD SHALL DETERMINE WHICH OF THE GENERALLY ACCEPTED ACTUARIAL COST METHODS SHALL BE USED IN THE ANNUAL ACTUARIAL VALUATION OF THE PLAN.

~~F.~~ G. The board shall submit to the governor and legislature for each fiscal year no later than eight months after the close of the fiscal year a report of its operations and the operations of ASRS. The report shall follow generally accepted accounting principles and generally accepted financial

reporting standards and shall include:

1. A report on an actuarial valuation of ASRS assets and liabilities.

2. Any other statistical and financial data that may be necessary for the proper understanding of the financial condition of ASRS and the results of board operations.

3. On request of the governor or the legislature, a list of investments owned. This list shall be provided in electronic format.

~~G.~~ H. The board shall:

1. Prepare and publish a synopsis of the annual report for the information of ASRS members.

2. Contract for a study of the mortality, disability, service and other experiences of the members and employers participating in ASRS. The study shall be conducted for fiscal year 1990-1991 and for at least every fifth fiscal year thereafter. A report of the study shall be completed within eight months of the close of the applicable fiscal year and shall be submitted to the governor and the legislature.

3. Conduct an annual actuarial valuation of ASRS assets and liabilities.

~~H.~~ I. The auditor general may make an annual audit of ASRS and transmit the results to the governor and the legislature.

Sec. 3. Section 38-721, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

38-721. <u>Administration account</u>

A. ASRS shall maintain an administration account consisting of all monies for administrative purposes. The following monies shall be deposited in the administration account:

1. All monies appropriated by the legislature to pay administrative expenses of ASRS.

2. All monies received for proportionate shares of administrative expenses from departments that pay the salaries of their officers and employees wholly or in part from monies received from sources other than appropriations from the state general fund.

3. All monies received for proportionate shares of administrative expenses from political subdivisions paying employer contributions.

4. Monies that the director transfers from the investment account and that are necessary for the payment of expenditures made pursuant to subsections C and D of this section.

B. Except as provided in subsection C of this section, expenditures from the administration account shall be made in accordance with board directives, subject to legislative appropriation.

C. Expenditures for the following are continuously appropriated and shall be paid from the administration account in the amount deemed necessary by the board:

1. Investment management fees and related consulting fees necessary to meet the board's investment objectives.

2. Rent.

3. Actuarial consulting fees.

4. Retiree payroll.

D. With the approval of the board, the director:

1. May expend monies from the administration account for staff, expenses and related consulting fees necessary to implement section 38-714, subsection E, paragraph 1 and subsection ~~G~~ H, paragraphs 2 and 3, section 38-718, subsection D, paragraph 5 and sections 38-755 and 38-756.

2. Shall pay from the administration account the costs for administering the health insurance program for retired members pursuant to section 38-782, the cost of continuing education programs for the board and the cost of legal counsel.

Sec. 4. Section 38-737, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

38-737. Employer contributions

A. Employer contributions shall be a percentage of compensation of all employees of the employers, excluding the compensation of those employees who are members of the defined contribution program administered by ASRS, as determined by the ASRS actuary pursuant to this section for June 30 of the fiscal year immediately preceding the preceding fiscal year, except that beginning with fiscal year 2001-2002 the contribution rate shall not be less than two ~~per cent~~ PERCENT of compensation of all employees of the employers. Beginning July 1, 2011 THROUGH JUNE 29, 2016, the total employer contribution shall be determined on the projected unit credit method. BEGINNING JUNE 30, 2016, THE BOARD SHALL DETERMINE THE ACTUARIAL COST METHOD PURSUANT TO SECTION 38-714. The total employer contributions shall be equal to the employer normal cost plus the amount required to amortize the past service funding requirement over a period that is determined by the board and consistent with generally accepted actuarial standards. In determining the past service funding period, the board shall seek to improve the funded status whenever the ASRS trust fund is less than one hundred ~~per cent~~ PERCENT funded.

B. All contributions made by the employer and allocated to the fund established by section 38-712 are irrevocable and shall be used as benefits under this article or to pay expenses of ASRS.

C. The required employer contributions shall be determined on an annual basis by an actuary who is selected by the board and who is a fellow of the society of actuaries. ASRS shall provide ~~a preliminary report by November 1 and a final report~~ by December 15 of each fiscal year to the governor, the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the senate ~~on~~ the contribution rate for the ensuing fiscal year AND THE UNFUNDED ACTUARIAL ACCRUED LIABILITY, THE FUNDED STATUS BASED ON THE ACTUARIAL VALUE OF ASSETS AND MARKET VALUE OF ASSETS AND THE ANNUALIZED RATE OF RETURN AND THE TEN-YEAR RATE OF RETURN AS OF JUNE 30 OF THE PRIOR FISCAL YEAR.

APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR MARCH 26, 2015.

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE MARCH 27, 2015.

Passed the House March 18, 20 15,

by the following vote: 57 Ayes,

0 Nays, 3 Not Voting

Speaker of the House

Jim Drake

Chief Clerk of the House

Passed the Senate February 9, 20 15,

by the following vote: 29 Ayes,

0 Nays, 1 Not Voting

President of the Senate

Secretary of the Senate

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR
This Bill was received by the Governor this

_____ day of _____, 20____,

at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary to the Governor

Approved this _____ day of

_____, 20_____,

at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Governor of Arizona

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE

This Bill was received by the Secretary of State

this _____ day of _____, 20____,

at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State

S.B. 1096

SENATE CONCURS IN HOUSE AMENDMENTS AND FINAL PASSAGE

Passed the Senate March 24, **20** 15

by the following vote: 28 **Ayes,**

0 **Nays,** 2 **Not Voting**

President of the Senate

Chaunie Bellington

Secretary of the Senate

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR

This Bill received by the Governor this

24th **day of** March, **20** 15

at 4:27 **o'clock** P. **M.**

Kristen Newman

Secretary to the Governor

Approved this 26th **day of**

March

at 11:45 **o'clock** A. **M.**

Doug Ducey

Governor of Arizona

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE

This Bill received by the Secretary of State

this 27th **day of** March, **20** 15

S.B. 1096

at 9:00 **o'clock** A. **M.**

Michele Reagan

Secretary of State