GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA SESSION 2001

H HOUSE BILL 1255*

Short Title: Increase Retirement Benefits. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Barefoot, Cox (Primary Sponsors); Russell, Wainwright, and Thompson.

Referred to: Pensions and Retirement.

April 12, 2001

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO ENHANCE THE BENEFITS PAYABLE FROM THE TEACHERS'
AND STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM, THE CONSOLIDATED
JUDICIAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM, THE LEGISLATIVE RETIREMENT
SYSTEM, AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT
SYSTEM.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 135-5(b18) reads as rewritten:

"(b18) Service Retirement Allowance of Members Retiring on or After July 1, 2000. 2000, but Before July 1, 2001. — Upon retirement from service in accordance with subsection (a) or (a1) above, on or after July 1, 2000, but before July 1, 2001, a member shall receive the following service retirement allowance.

- (1) A member who is a law enforcement officer or an eligible former law enforcement officer shall receive a service retirement allowance computed as follows:
 - a. If the member's service retirement date occurs on or after his 55th birthday, and completion of five years of creditable service as a law enforcement officer, or after the completion of 30 years of creditable service, the allowance shall be equal to one and eighty-one hundredths percent (1.81%) of his average final compensation, multiplied by the number of years of his creditable service.
 - b. If the member's service retirement date occurs on or after his 50th birthday and before his 55th birthday with 15 or more years of creditable service as a law enforcement officer and prior to the completion of 30 years of creditable service, his retirement allowance shall be equal to the greater of:

- 1. The service retirement allowance payable under G.S. 135-5(b18)(1)a. reduced by one-third of one percent (1/3 of 1%) thereof for each month by which his retirement date precedes the first day of the month coincident with or next following the month the member would have attained his 55th birthday; or
- 2. The service retirement allowance as computed under G.S. 135-5(b18)(1)a. reduced by five percent (5%) times the difference between 30 years and his creditable service at retirement.
- (2) A member who is not a law enforcement officer or an eligible former law enforcement officer shall receive a service retirement allowance computed as follows:
 - a. If the member's service retirement date occurs on or after his 65th birthday upon the completion of five years of membership service or after the completion of 30 years of creditable service or on or after his 60th birthday upon the completion of 25 years of creditable service, the allowance shall be equal to one and eighty-one hundredths percent (1.81%) of his average final compensation, multiplied by the number of years of creditable service.
 - b. If the member's service retirement date occurs after his 60th birthday and before his 65th birthday and prior to his completion of 25 years or more of creditable service, his retirement allowance shall be computed as in G.S. 135-5(b18)(2)a. but shall be reduced by one-quarter of one percent (1/4 of 1%) thereof for each month by which his retirement date precedes the first day of the month coincident with or next following his 65th birthday.
 - c. If the member's early service retirement date occurs on or after his 50th birthday and before his 60th birthday and after completion of 20 years of creditable service but prior to the completion of 30 years of creditable service, his early service retirement allowance shall be equal to the greater of:
 - 1. The service retirement allowance as computed under G.S. 135-5(b18)(2)a. but reduced by the sum of five-twelfths of one percent (5/12 of 1%) thereof for each month by which his retirement date precedes the first day of the month coincident with or next following the month the member would have attained his 60th birthday, plus one-quarter of one percent (1/4 of 1%) thereof for each month by which his 60th birthday precedes the first day of the month coincident with or next following his 65th birthday; or

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42 43 service at retirement.
 A member who is not a law enforcement officer or an eligible former law enforcement officer shall receive a service retirement allowance computed as follows:

The service retirement allowance as computed under

G.S. 135-5(b19)(1)a. reduced by five percent (5%) times

the difference between 30 years and his creditable

attained his 55th birthday; or

<u>2.</u>

1	<u>a.</u>	If the	member's service retirement date occurs on or after his
2		65th b	irthday upon the completion of five years of membership
3		service	e or after the completion of 30 years of creditable service
4		or on o	or after his 60th birthday upon the completion of 25 years
5		of cree	ditable service, the allowance shall be equal to one and
6		eighty-	-three hundredths percent (1.83%) of his average final
7		compe	ensation, multiplied by the number of years of creditable
8		service	<u>2.</u>
9	<u>b.</u>	If the	member's service retirement date occurs after his 60th
10		<u>birthda</u>	ay and before his 65th birthday and prior to his
11		comple	etion of 25 years or more of creditable service, his
12		<u>retiren</u>	nent allowance shall be computed as in G.S. 135-
13		5(b19)	(2)a. but shall be reduced by one-quarter of one percent
14		(1/4 of	f 1%) thereof for each month by which his retirement date
15		preced	les the first day of the month coincident with or next
16		follow	ing his 65th birthday.
17	<u>c.</u>	If the	member's early service retirement date occurs on or after
18		his 50	Oth birthday and before his 60th birthday and after
19		comple	etion of 20 years of creditable service but prior to the
20		comple	etion of 30 years of creditable service, his early service
21		retiren	nent allowance shall be equal to the greater of:
22		<u>1.</u>	The service retirement allowance as computed under
22 23 24 25 26 27 28			G.S. 135-5(b19)(2)a. but reduced by the sum of five-
24			twelfths of one percent (5/12 of 1%) thereof for each
25			month by which his retirement date precedes the first day
26			of the month coincident with or next following the
27			month the member would have attained his 60th
28			birthday, plus one-quarter of one percent (1/4 of 1%)
29			thereof for each month by which his 60th birthday
30			precedes the first day of the month coincident with or
31			next following his 65th birthday; or
32		<u>2.</u>	The service retirement allowance as computed under
33			G.S. 135-5(b19)(2)a. reduced by five percent (5%) times
34			the difference between 30 years and his creditable
35			service at retirement; or
36		<u>3.</u>	If the member's creditable service commenced prior to
37			July 1, 1994, the service retirement allowance equal to
38			the actuarial equivalent of the allowance payable at the
39			age of 60 years as computed in G.S. 135-5(b19)b.
40	<u>d.</u>	<u>N</u> otwi	thstanding the foregoing provisions, any member whose
41			able service commenced prior to July 1, 1963, shall not
42			e less than the benefit provided by G.S. 135-5(b)."
43	SECTION 3		135-5 is amended by adding two new subsections to read:

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"(iii) Increase in Allowance as to Persons on Retirement Rolls as of June 1, 2001. – From and after July 1, 2001, the retirement allowance to or on account of beneficiaries on the retirement rolls as of June 1, 2001, shall be increased by one and one-tenth percent (1.1%) of the allowance payable on June 1, 2001. This allowance shall be calculated on the allowance payable and in effect on June 30, 2001, so as not to be compounded on any other increase granted by act of the 2001 General Assembly.

From and after July 1, 2001, the retirement allowance to or on account of (iii) beneficiaries whose retirement commenced on or before July 1, 2001, shall be increased by three and five-tenths percent (3.5%) of the allowance payable on June 1, 2001, in accordance with G.S. 135-5(o). Furthermore, from and after July 1, 2001, the retirement allowance to or on account of beneficiaries whose retirement commenced after July 1, 2000, but before June 30, 2001, shall be increased by a prorated amount of three and five-tenths percent (3.5%) of the allowance payable as determined by the Board of Trustees based upon the number of months that a retirement allowance was paid between July 1, 2000, and June 30, 2001."

SECTION 4. G.S. 135-5(m) reads as rewritten:

- "(m) Survivor's Alternate Benefit. Upon the death of a member in service, the principal beneficiary designated to receive a return of accumulated contributions shall have the right to elect to receive in lieu thereof the reduced retirement allowance provided by Option 2 of subsection (g) above computed by assuming that the member had retired on the first day of the month following the date of his death, provided that the following conditions apply:
 - a. The member had attained such age and/or creditable service to be eligible to commence retirement with an early or service retirement allowance, or
 - The member had obtained 20 years of creditable service in b. which case the retirement allowance shall be computed in accordance with G.S. 135-5(b18)(1)b. or G.S. 135-5(b18)(2)c., G.S. 135-5(b19)(1)b. or G.S. 135-5(b19)(2)c., notwithstanding the requirement of obtaining age 50.
 - The member had designated as the principal beneficiary to receive a (2) return of his accumulated contributions one and only one person who was living at the time of his death.
 - The member had not instructed the Board of Trustees in writing that he (3) did not wish the provisions of this subsection to apply.

For the purpose of this benefit, a member is considered to be in service at the date of his death if his death occurs within 180 days from the last day of his actual service. The last day of actual service shall be determined as provided in subsection (l) of this section. Upon the death of a member in service, the surviving spouse may make all purchases for creditable service as provided for under this Chapter for which the member had made application in writing prior to the date of death, provided that the date of death occurred prior to or within 60 days after notification of the cost to make the purchase. The term "in service" as used in this subsection includes a member in receipt of a benefit under the Disability Income Plan as provided in Article 6 of this Chapter."

SECTION 5. G.S. 135-65 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

- "(v) From and after July 1, 2001, the retirement allowance to or on account of beneficiaries whose retirement commenced on or before July 1, 2000, shall be increased by three and five-tenths percent (3.5%) of the allowance payable on June 1, 2001. Furthermore, from and after July 1, 2001, the retirement allowance to or on account of beneficiaries whose retirement commenced after July 1, 2000, but before June 30, 2001, shall be increased by a prorated amount of three and five-tenths percent (3.5%) of the allowance payable as determined by the Board of Trustees based upon the number of months that a retirement allowance was paid between July 1, 2000, and June 30, 2001."
- **SECTION 6.** G.S. 120-4.22A is amended by adding a new subsection to read:
- "(p) In accordance with subsection (a) of this section, from and after July 1, 2001, the retirement allowance to or on account of beneficiaries whose retirement commenced on or before January 1, 2001, shall be increased by three and five-tenths percent (3.5%) of the allowance payable on June 1, 2001. Furthermore, from and after July 1, 2001, the retirement allowance to or on account of beneficiaries whose retirement commenced after January 1, 2001, but before June 30, 2001, shall be increased by a prorated amount of three and five-tenths percent (3.5%) of the allowance payable as determined by the Board of Trustees based upon the number of months that a retirement allowance was paid between January 1, 2001, and June 30, 2001."

SECTION 7. G.S. 128-27(b18) reads as rewritten:

- "(b18) Service Retirement Allowance of Member Retiring on or After July 1, 2000. 2000, but Before July 1, 2001. Upon retirement from service in accordance with subsection (a) or (a1) above, on or after July 1, 2000, but before July 1, 2001, a member shall receive the following service retirement allowance:
 - (1) A member who is a law enforcement officer or an eligible former law enforcement officer shall receive a service retirement allowance computed as follows:
 - a. If the member's service retirement date occurs on or after his 55th birthday and completion of five years of creditable service as a law enforcement officer, or after the completion of 30 years of creditable service, the allowance shall be equal to one and seventy-eight hundredths percent (1.78%) of his average final compensation, multiplied by the number of years of his creditable service.
 - b. If the member's service retirement date occurs on or after his 50th birthday and before his 55th birthday with 15 or more years of creditable service as a law enforcement officer and prior to the completion of 30 years of creditable service, his retirement allowance shall be equal to the greater of:
 - 1. The service retirement allowance payable under G.S. 128-27(b18)(1)a. reduced by one-third of one percent

- (1/3 of 1%) thereof for each month by which his retirement date precedes the first day of the month coincident with or next following the month the member would have attained his 55th birthday;
- 2. The service retirement allowance as computed under G.S. 128-27(b18)(1)a. reduced by five percent (5%) times the difference between 30 years and his creditable service at retirement.
- (2) A member who is not a law enforcement officer or an eligible former law enforcement officer shall receive a service retirement allowance computed as follows:
 - a. If the member's service retirement date occurs on or after his 65th birthday upon the completion of five years of creditable service or after the completion of 30 years of creditable service or on or after his 60th birthday upon the completion of 25 years of creditable service, the allowance shall be equal to one and seventy-eight hundredths percent (1.78%) of average final compensation, multiplied by the number of years of creditable service.
 - b. If the member's service retirement date occurs after his 60th birthday and before his 65th birthday and prior to his completion of 25 years or more of creditable service, his retirement allowance shall be computed as in G.S. 128-27(b18)(2)a. but shall be reduced by one-quarter of one percent (1/4 of 1%) thereof for each month by which his retirement date precedes the first day of the month coincident with or next following his 65th birthday.
 - c. If the member's early service retirement date occurs on or after his 50th birthday and before his 60th birthday and after completion of 20 years of creditable service but prior to the completion of 30 years of creditable service, his early service retirement allowance shall be equal to the greater of:
 - 1. The service retirement allowance as computed under G.S. 128-27(b18)(2)a. but reduced by the sum of five-twelfths of one percent (5/12 of 1%) thereof for each month by which his retirement date precedes the first day of the month coincident with or next following the month the member would have attained his 60th birthday, plus one-quarter of one percent (1/4 of 1%) thereof for each month by which his 60th birthday precedes the first day of the month coincident with or next following his 65th birthday; or
 - 2. The service retirement allowance as computed under G.S. 128-27(b18)(2)a. reduced by five percent (5%)

1 2				times the difference between 30 years and his creditable service at retirement; or
3			3.	
4			3.	If the member's creditable service commenced prior to July 1, 1995, the service retirement allowance equal to
5				the actuarial equivalent of the allowance payable at the
6				age of 60 years as computed in G.S. 128-27(b18)(2)b.
7		d.	Notw	ithstanding the foregoing provisions, any member whose
8		u.		able service commenced prior to July 1, 1965, shall not
9				we less than the benefit provided by G.S. 128-27(b)."
10	SECT	ΓΙΩΝ 8		128-27 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:
11				Allowance of Member Retiring on or After July 1, 2001.
12				ce in accordance with subsection (a) or (a1) above, on or
13	_			shall receive the following service retirement allowance:
14	(1)			who is a law enforcement officer or an eligible former law
15	<u> </u>			officer shall receive a service retirement allowance
16				follows:
17		<u>a.</u>		member's service retirement date occurs on or after his
18		<u></u>		pirthday and completion of five years of creditable service
19				aw enforcement officer, or after the completion of 30 years
20				editable service, the allowance shall be equal to one and
21				y-three hundredths percent (1.83%) of his average final
22				ensation, multiplied by the number of years of his
23			_	able service.
24		<u>b.</u>		member's service retirement date occurs on or after his
25				birthday and before his 55th birthday with 15 or more
26				of creditable service as a law enforcement officer and
27			prior	to the completion of 30 years of creditable service, his
28			retire	ment allowance shall be equal to the greater of:
29			<u>1.</u>	The service retirement allowance payable under G.S.
30				128-27(b19)(1)a. reduced by one-third of one percent
31				(1/3 of 1%) thereof for each month by which his
32				retirement date precedes the first day of the month
33				coincident with or next following the month the member
34				would have attained his 55th birthday;
35			<u>2.</u>	The service retirement allowance as computed under
36				G.S. 128-27(b19)(1)a. reduced by five percent (5%)
37				times the difference between 30 years and his creditable
38				service at retirement.
39	<u>(2)</u>			who is not a law enforcement officer or an eligible former
40				ment officer shall receive a service retirement allowance
41		comp		follows:
42		<u>a.</u>		member's service retirement date occurs on or after his
43				birthday upon the completion of five years of creditable
44			servic	e or after the completion of 30 years of creditable service

1		or on or after his 60th birthday upon the completion of 25 years
2		of creditable service, the allowance shall be equal to one and
3		eighty-three hundredths percent (1.83%) of average final
4		compensation, multiplied by the number of years of creditable
5		service.
6	<u>b.</u>	If the member's service retirement date occurs after his 60th
7		birthday and before his 65th birthday and prior to his
8		completion of 25 years or more of creditable service, his
9		retirement allowance shall be computed as in G.S. 128-
10		27(b19)(2)a. but shall be reduced by one-quarter of one percent
11		(1/4 of 1%) thereof for each month by which his retirement date
12		precedes the first day of the month coincident with or next
13		following his 65th birthday.
14		If the member's early service retirement date occurs on or after
15		his 50th birthday and before his 60th birthday and after
16		completion of 20 years of creditable service but prior to the
17		completion of 30 years of creditable service, his early service
18		retirement allowance shall be equal to the greater of:
19		1. The service retirement allowance as computed under
20		G.S. 128-27(b19)(2)a. but reduced by the sum of five-
21		twelfths of one percent (5/12 of 1%) thereof for each
22		month by which his retirement date precedes the first day
23		of the month coincident with or next following the
2 <i>3</i> 24		month the member would have attained his 60th
22 23 24 25		birthday, plus one-quarter of one percent (1/4 of 1%)
25 26		thereof for each month by which his 60th birthday
26 27 28		precedes the first day of the month coincident with or
27 28		next following his 65th birthday; or
28 29		2. The service retirement allowance as computed under
30		G.S. 128-27(b19)(2)a. reduced by five percent (5%)
31		times the difference between 30 years and his creditable
		service at retirement; or
32		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
33		3. If the member's creditable service commenced prior to
34 25		July 1, 1995, the service retirement allowance equal to
35		the actuarial equivalent of the allowance payable at the
36	.1	age of 60 years as computed in G.S. 128-27(b19)(2)b.
37		Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions, any member whose
38		creditable service commenced prior to July 1, 1965, shall not
39		receive less than the benefit provided by G.S. 128-27(b)."
40	SECTION 9.	G.S. 128-27(m) reads as rewritten:

"(m) Survivor's Alternate Benefit. - Upon the death of a member in service, the principal beneficiary designated to receive a return of accumulated contributions shall have the right to elect to receive in lieu thereof the reduced retirement allowance provided by Option two of subsection (g) above computed by assuming that the member

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had retired on the first day of the month following the date of his death, provided that all three of the following conditions apply:

- (1) a. The member had attained such age and/or creditable service to be eligible to commence retirement with an early or service retirement allowance, or
 - b. The member had obtained 20 years of creditable service in which case the retirement allowance shall be computed in accordance with G.S. 128-27(b18)(1)b. or G.S. 128-27(b19)(2)c., notwithstanding the requirement of obtaining age 50.
- (2) The member had designated as the principal beneficiary to receive a return of his accumulated contributions one and only one person who is living at the time of his death.
- (3) The member had not instructed the Board of Trustees in writing that he did not wish the provisions of this subsection apply.

For the purpose of this benefit, a member is considered to be in service at the date of his death if his death occurs within 180 days from the last day of his actual service. The last day of actual service shall be determined as provided in subsection (l) of this section. Upon the death of a member in service, the surviving spouse may make all purchases for creditable service as provided for under this Chapter for which the member had made application in writing prior to the date of death, provided that the date of death occurred prior to or within 60 days after notification of the cost to make the purchase."

SECTION 10. G.S. 128-27 is amended by adding two new subsections to read:

"(zz) Increase in Allowance as to Persons on Retirement Rolls as of June 1, 2001. – From and after July 1, 2001, the retirement allowance to or on account of beneficiaries on the retirement rolls as of June 1, 2001, shall be increased by two and eight-tenths of one percent (2.8%) of the allowance payable on June 1, 2001. This allowance shall be calculated on the allowance payable and in effect on June 30, 2001, so as not to be compounded on any other increase payable under subsection (k) of this section or otherwise granted by act of the 2001 General Assembly.

(aaa) From and after July 1, 2001, the retirement allowance to or on account of beneficiaries whose retirement commenced on or before July 1, 2000, shall be increased by three and five-tenths percent (3.5%) of the allowance payable on June 1, 2001, in accordance with subsection (k) of this section. Furthermore, from and after July 1, 2001, the retirement allowance to or on account of beneficiaries whose retirement commenced after July 1, 2000, but before June 30, 2001, shall be increased by a prorated amount of three and five-tenths percent (3.5%) of the allowance payable as determined by the Board of Trustees based upon the number of months that a retirement allowance was paid between July 1, 2000, and June 30, 2001."

SECTION 11. This act becomes effective July 1, 2001.