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HOUSE BILL 3006

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State of Washington

60th Legislature

2008 Regular Session

By Representatives Bailey, Conway, Crouse, Fromhold, Simpson, and Linville; by request of Select Committee on Pension Policy

Read first time 01/21/08. Referred to Committee on Appropriations.

1 AN ACT Relating to extending the survivor annuity option for  
2 preretirement death in plan 1 of the public employees' retirement  
3 system to members who die after leaving active service; amending RCW  
4 41.40.270; and providing an effective date.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 41.40.270 and 2003 c 155 s 6 are each amended to read  
7 as follows:

8 (1) Except as specified in subsection (4) of this section, should  
9 a member die before the date of retirement the amount of the  
10 accumulated contributions standing to the member's credit in the  
11 employees' savings fund, less any amount identified as owing to an  
12 obligee upon withdrawal of accumulated contributions pursuant to a  
13 court order filed under RCW 41.50.670, at the time of death:

14 (a) Shall be paid to the member's estate, or such person or  
15 persons, trust, or organization as the member shall have nominated by  
16 written designation duly executed and filed with the department; or

17 (b) If there be no such designated person or persons still living  
18 at the time of the member's death, or if a member fails to file a new  
19 beneficiary designation subsequent to marriage, remarriage, dissolution

1 of marriage, divorce, or reestablishment of membership following  
2 termination by withdrawal or retirement, such accumulated  
3 contributions, less any amount identified as owing to an obligee upon  
4 withdrawal of accumulated contributions pursuant to a court order filed  
5 under RCW 41.50.670, shall be paid to the surviving spouse as if in  
6 fact such spouse had been nominated by written designation as  
7 aforesaid, or if there be no such surviving spouse, then to the  
8 member's legal representatives.

9 (2) Upon the death (~~((in service, or while on authorized leave of~~  
10 ~~absence for a period not to exceed one hundred and twenty days from the~~  
11 ~~date of payroll separation,))~~) of any member who is qualified but has  
12 not applied for a service retirement allowance or has completed ten  
13 years of service at the time of death, the designated beneficiary, or  
14 the surviving spouse as provided in subsection (1) of this section, may  
15 elect to waive the payment provided by subsection (1) of this section.  
16 Upon such an election, a joint and one hundred percent survivor option  
17 under RCW 41.40.188, calculated under the retirement allowance  
18 described in RCW 41.40.185 or 41.40.190, whichever is greater,  
19 actuarially reduced, except under subsection (5) of this section, by  
20 the amount of any lump sum benefit identified as owing to an obligee  
21 upon withdrawal of accumulated contributions pursuant to a court order  
22 filed under RCW 41.50.670 shall automatically be given effect as if  
23 selected for the benefit of the designated beneficiary. If the member  
24 is not then qualified for a service retirement allowance, such benefit  
25 shall be based upon the actuarial equivalent of the sum necessary to  
26 pay the accrued regular retirement allowance commencing when the  
27 deceased member would have first qualified for a service retirement  
28 allowance.

29 (3) Subsection (1) of this section, unless elected, shall not apply  
30 to any member who has applied for service retirement in RCW 41.40.180,  
31 as now or hereafter amended, and thereafter dies between the date of  
32 separation from service and the member's effective retirement date,  
33 where the member has selected a survivorship option under RCW  
34 41.40.188. In those cases the beneficiary named in the member's final  
35 application for service retirement may elect to receive either a cash  
36 refund, less any amount identified as owing to an obligee upon  
37 withdrawal of accumulated contributions pursuant to a court order filed

1 under RCW 41.50.670, or monthly payments according to the option  
2 selected by the member.

3 (4) If a member dies within sixty days following application for  
4 disability retirement under RCW 41.40.230, the beneficiary named in the  
5 application may elect to receive the benefit provided by:

6 (a) This section; or

7 (b) RCW 41.40.235, according to the option chosen under RCW  
8 41.40.188 in the disability application.

9 (5) The retirement allowance of a member who is killed in the  
10 course of employment, as determined by the director of the department  
11 of labor and industries, is not subject to an actuarial reduction. The  
12 member's retirement allowance is computed under RCW 41.40.185.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act takes effect July 1, 2008.

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