H-0036.1

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**HOUSE BILL 1032**

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**State of Washington 67th Legislature 2021 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Harris, Stonier, Dolan, Boehnke, Leavitt, Ortiz-Self, Callan, Riccelli, Santos, and Bergquist

AN ACT Relating to early retirement options for members of the teachers' retirement system and school employees' retirement system plans 2 and 3; amending RCW 41.32.765, 41.32.875, 41.35.420, and 41.35.680; creating a new section; and declaring an emergency.

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

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  The legislature intends to provide an enhanced retirement benefit for members of the teachers' retirement system and school employees' retirement system plans 2 and 3 during the extraordinary COVID-19 global pandemic. Enhanced retirement provisions under this act are only in effect while the governor's emergency COVID-19 proclamations 20.05 and 20.09 are in effect. No members of the teachers' retirement system or school employees' retirement system plans 2 and 3 are eligible to apply for retirement under this act after the governor's emergency COVID-19 proclamations 20.05 and 20.09 are rescinded.

**Sec.**  RCW 41.32.765 and 2012 1st sp.s. c 7 s 1 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) NORMAL RETIREMENT. Any member with at least five service credit years of service who has attained at least age sixty-five shall be eligible to retire and to receive a retirement allowance computed according to the provisions of RCW 41.32.760.

(2) EARLY RETIREMENT. Any member who has completed at least twenty service credit years of service who has attained at least age fifty-five shall be eligible to retire and to receive a retirement allowance computed according to the provisions of RCW 41.32.760, except that a member retiring pursuant to this subsection shall have the retirement allowance actuarially reduced to reflect the difference in the number of years between age at retirement and the attainment of age sixty-five. While the governor's emergency COVID-19 proclamations 20.05 and 20.09 are in effect, the annual actuarial reduction is three percent per year for members over the age of sixty.

(3) ALTERNATE EARLY RETIREMENT.

(a) Any member who has completed at least thirty service credit years and has attained age fifty-five shall be eligible to retire and to receive a retirement allowance computed according to the provisions of RCW 41.32.760, except that a member retiring pursuant to this subsection shall have the retirement allowance reduced by three percent per year to reflect the difference in the number of years between age at retirement and the attainment of age sixty-five.

(b)(i) On or after September 1, 2008, any member who has completed at least thirty service credit years and has attained age fifty-five shall be eligible to retire and to receive a retirement allowance computed according to the provisions of RCW 41.32.760, except that a member retiring pursuant to this subsection shall have the retirement allowance reduced as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Retirement  Age | Percent  Reduction | |
| 55 | 20% |  |
| 56 | 17% |  |
| 57 | 14% |  |
| 58 | 11% |  |
| 59 | 8% |  |
| 60 | 5% |  |
| 61 | 2% |  |
| 62 | 0% |  |
| 63 | 0% |  |
| 64 | 0% |  |

(ii) While the governor's emergency COVID-19 proclamations 20.05 and 20.09 are in effect, any member who has completed at least thirty service credit years and has attained age fifty-five is eligible to retire and to receive a retirement allowance computed according to RCW 41.32.760. However, a member retiring under this subsection shall have the retirement allowance as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Retirement  Age | Percent  Reduction | |
| 55 | 20% |  |
| 56 | 17% |  |
| 57 | 14% |  |
| 58 | 11% |  |
| 59 | 8% |  |
| 60 | 0% |  |
| 61 | 0% |  |
| 62 | 0% |  |
| 63 | 0% |  |
| 64 | 0% |  |

(iii)(A) Any member who retires under the provisions of this subsection is ineligible for the postretirement employment provisions of RCW 41.32.802(2) until the retired member has reached sixty-five years of age. For purposes of this subsection, employment with an employer also includes any personal service contract, service by an employer as a temporary or project employee, or any other similar compensated relationship with any employer included under the provisions of RCW 41.32.800(1).

(B) The subsidized reductions for alternate early retirement in this subsection as set forth in section 2, chapter 491, Laws of 2007 were intended by the legislature as replacement benefits for gain-sharing. Until there is legal certainty with respect to the repeal of chapter 41.31A RCW, the right to retire under this subsection is noncontractual, and the legislature reserves the right to amend or repeal this subsection. Legal certainty includes, but is not limited to, the expiration of any: Applicable limitations on actions; and periods of time for seeking appellate review, up to and including reconsideration by the Washington supreme court and the supreme court of the United States. Until that time, eligible members may still retire under this subsection, and upon receipt of the first installment of a retirement allowance computed under this subsection, the resulting benefit becomes contractual for the recipient. If the repeal of chapter 41.31A RCW is held to be invalid in a final determination of a court of law, and the court orders reinstatement of gain-sharing or other alternate benefits as a remedy, then retirement benefits for any member who has completed at least thirty service credit years and has attained age fifty-five but has not yet received the first installment of a retirement allowance under this subsection shall be computed using the reductions in (a) of this subsection.

(c) Members who first become employed by an employer in an eligible position on or after May 1, 2013, are not eligible for the alternate early retirement provisions of (a) or (b) of this subsection. Any member who first becomes employed by an employer in an eligible position on or after May 1, 2013, and has completed at least thirty service credit years and has attained age fifty-five shall be eligible to retire and to receive a retirement allowance computed according to the provisions of RCW 41.32.760, except that a member retiring pursuant to this subsection shall have the retirement allowance reduced by five percent per year to reflect the difference in the number of years between age at retirement and the attainment of age sixty-five.

**Sec.**  RCW 41.32.875 and 2012 1st sp.s. c 7 s 2 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) NORMAL RETIREMENT. Any member who is at least age sixty-five and who has:

(a) Completed ten service credit years; or

(b) Completed five service credit years, including twelve service credit months after attaining age forty-four; or

(c) Completed five service credit years by July 1, 1996, under plan 2 and who transferred to plan 3 under RCW 41.32.817;

shall be eligible to retire and to receive a retirement allowance computed according to the provisions of RCW 41.32.840.

(2) EARLY RETIREMENT. Any member who has attained at least age fifty-five and has completed at least ten years of service shall be eligible to retire and to receive a retirement allowance computed according to the provisions of RCW 41.32.840, except that a member retiring pursuant to this subsection shall have the retirement allowance actuarially reduced to reflect the difference in the number of years between age at retirement and the attainment of age sixty-five. While the governor's emergency COVID-19 proclamations 20.05 and 20.09 are in effect, the annual actuarial reduction is three percent per year for members over the age of sixty.

(3) ALTERNATE EARLY RETIREMENT.

(a) Any member who has completed at least thirty service credit years and has attained age fifty-five shall be eligible to retire and to receive a retirement allowance computed according to the provisions of RCW 41.32.840, except that a member retiring pursuant to this subsection shall have the retirement allowance reduced by three percent per year to reflect the difference in the number of years between age at retirement and the attainment of age sixty-five.

(b)(i) On or after September 1, 2008, any member who has completed at least thirty service credit years and has attained age fifty-five shall be eligible to retire and to receive a retirement allowance computed according to the provisions of RCW 41.32.840, except that a member retiring pursuant to this subsection shall have the retirement allowance reduced as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Retirement  Age | Percent  Reduction | |
| 55 | 20% |  |
| 56 | 17% |  |
| 57 | 14% |  |
| 58 | 11% |  |
| 59 | 8% |  |
| 60 | 5% |  |
| 61 | 2% |  |
| 62 | 0% |  |
| 63 | 0% |  |
| 64 | 0% |  |

(ii) While the governor's emergency COVID-19 proclamations 20.05 and 20.09 are in effect, any member who has completed at least thirty service credit years and has attained age fifty-five is eligible to retire and to receive a retirement allowance computed according to RCW 41.32.840. However, a member retiring under this subsection shall have the retirement allowance as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Retirement  Age | Percent  Reduction | |
| 55 | 20% |  |
| 56 | 17% |  |
| 57 | 14% |  |
| 58 | 11% |  |
| 59 | 8% |  |
| 60 | 0% |  |
| 61 | 0% |  |
| 62 | 0% |  |
| 63 | 0% |  |
| 64 | 0% |  |

(iii)(A) Any member who retires under the provisions of this subsection is ineligible for the postretirement employment provisions of RCW 41.32.862(2) until the retired member has reached sixty-five years of age. For purposes of this subsection, employment with an employer also includes any personal service contract, service by an employer as a temporary or project employee, or any other similar compensated relationship with any employer included under the provisions of RCW 41.32.860(1).

(B) The subsidized reductions for alternate early retirement in this subsection as set forth in section 4, chapter 491, Laws of 2007 were intended by the legislature as replacement benefits for gain-sharing. Until there is legal certainty with respect to the repeal of chapter 41.31A RCW, the right to retire under this subsection is noncontractual, and the legislature reserves the right to amend or repeal this subsection. Legal certainty includes, but is not limited to, the expiration of any: Applicable limitations on actions; and periods of time for seeking appellate review, up to and including reconsideration by the Washington supreme court and the supreme court of the United States. Until that time, eligible members may still retire under this subsection, and upon receipt of the first installment of a retirement allowance computed under this subsection, the resulting benefit becomes contractual for the recipient. If the repeal of chapter 41.31A RCW is held to be invalid in a final determination of a court of law, and the court orders reinstatement of gain-sharing or other alternate benefits as a remedy, then retirement benefits for any member who has completed at least thirty service credit years and has attained age fifty-five but has not yet received the first installment of a retirement allowance under this subsection shall be computed using the reductions in (a) of this subsection.

(c) Members who first become employed by an employer in an eligible position on or after May 1, 2013, are not eligible for the alternate early retirement provisions of (a) or (b) of this subsection. Any member who first becomes employed by an employer in an eligible position on or after May 1, 2013, and has completed at least thirty service credit years and has attained age fifty-five shall be eligible to retire and to receive a retirement allowance computed according to the provisions of RCW 41.32.840, except that a member retiring pursuant to this subsection shall have the retirement allowance reduced by five percent per year to reflect the difference in the number of years between age at retirement and the attainment of age sixty-five.

**Sec.**  RCW 41.35.420 and 2012 1st sp.s. c 7 s 3 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) NORMAL RETIREMENT. Any member with at least five service credit years who has attained at least age sixty-five shall be eligible to retire and to receive a retirement allowance computed according to the provisions of RCW 41.35.400.

(2) EARLY RETIREMENT. Any member who has completed at least twenty service credit years and has attained age fifty-five shall be eligible to retire and to receive a retirement allowance computed according to the provisions of RCW 41.35.400, except that a member retiring pursuant to this subsection shall have the retirement allowance actuarially reduced to reflect the difference in the number of years between age at retirement and the attainment of age sixty-five. While the governor's emergency COVID-19 proclamations 20.05 and 20.09 are in effect, the annual actuarial reduction is three percent per year for members over the age of sixty.

(3) ALTERNATE EARLY RETIREMENT.

(a) Any member who has completed at least thirty service credit years and has attained age fifty-five shall be eligible to retire and to receive a retirement allowance computed according to the provisions of RCW 41.35.400, except that a member retiring pursuant to this subsection shall have the retirement allowance reduced by three percent per year to reflect the difference in the number of years between age at retirement and the attainment of age sixty-five.

(b)(i) On or after September 1, 2008, any member who has completed at least thirty service credit years and has attained age fifty-five shall be eligible to retire and to receive a retirement allowance computed according to the provisions of RCW 41.35.400, except that a member retiring pursuant to this subsection shall have the retirement allowance reduced as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Retirement  Age | Percent  Reduction | |
| 55 | 20% |  |
| 56 | 17% |  |
| 57 | 14% |  |
| 58 | 11% |  |
| 59 | 8% |  |
| 60 | 5% |  |
| 61 | 2% |  |
| 62 | 0% |  |
| 63 | 0% |  |
| 64 | 0% |  |

(ii) While the governor's emergency COVID-19 proclamations 20.05 and 20.09 are in effect, any member who has completed at least thirty service credit years and has attained age fifty-five is eligible to retire and to receive a retirement allowance computed according to RCW 41.35.400. However, a member retiring under this subsection shall have the retirement allowance as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Retirement  Age | Percent  Reduction | |
| 55 | 20% |  |
| 56 | 17% |  |
| 57 | 14% |  |
| 58 | 11% |  |
| 59 | 8% |  |
| 60 | 0% |  |
| 61 | 0% |  |
| 62 | 0% |  |
| 63 | 0% |  |
| 64 | 0% |  |

(iii)(A) Any member who retires under the provisions of this subsection is ineligible for the postretirement employment provisions of RCW 41.35.060(2) until the retired member has reached sixty-five years of age. For purposes of this subsection, employment with an employer also includes any personal service contract, service by an employer as a temporary or project employee, or any other similar compensated relationship with any employer included under the provisions of RCW 41.35.230(1).

(B) The subsidized reductions for alternate early retirement in this subsection as set forth in section 6, chapter 491, Laws of 2007 were intended by the legislature as replacement benefits for gain-sharing. Until there is legal certainty with respect to the repeal of chapter 41.31A RCW, the right to retire under this subsection is noncontractual, and the legislature reserves the right to amend or repeal this subsection. Legal certainty includes, but is not limited to, the expiration of any: Applicable limitations on actions; and periods of time for seeking appellate review, up to and including reconsideration by the Washington supreme court and the supreme court of the United States. Until that time, eligible members may still retire under this subsection, and upon receipt of the first installment of a retirement allowance computed under this subsection, the resulting benefit becomes contractual for the recipient. If the repeal of chapter 41.31A RCW is held to be invalid in a final determination of a court of law, and the court orders reinstatement of gain-sharing or other alternate benefits as a remedy, then retirement benefits for any member who has completed at least thirty service credit years and has attained age fifty-five but has not yet received the first installment of a retirement allowance under this subsection shall be computed using the reductions in (a) of this subsection.

(c) Members who first become employed by an employer in an eligible position on or after May 1, 2013, are not eligible for the alternate early retirement provisions of (a) or (b) of this subsection. Any member who first becomes employed by an employer in an eligible position on or after May 1, 2013, and has completed at least thirty service credit years and has attained age fifty-five shall be eligible to retire and to receive a retirement allowance computed according to the provisions of RCW 41.35.400, except that a member retiring pursuant to this subsection shall have the retirement allowance reduced by five percent per year to reflect the difference in the number of years between age at retirement and the attainment of age sixty-five.

**Sec.**  RCW 41.35.680 and 2012 1st sp.s. c 7 s 4 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) NORMAL RETIREMENT. Any member who is at least age sixty-five and who has:

(a) Completed ten service credit years; or

(b) Completed five service credit years, including twelve service credit months after attaining age forty-four; or

(c) Completed five service credit years by September 1, 2000, under the public employees' retirement system plan 2 and who transferred to plan 3 under RCW 41.35.510;

shall be eligible to retire and to receive a retirement allowance computed according to the provisions of RCW 41.35.620.

(2) EARLY RETIREMENT. Any member who has attained at least age fifty-five and has completed at least ten years of service shall be eligible to retire and to receive a retirement allowance computed according to the provisions of RCW 41.35.620, except that a member retiring pursuant to this subsection shall have the retirement allowance actuarially reduced to reflect the difference in the number of years between age at retirement and the attainment of age sixty-five. While the governor's emergency COVID-19 proclamations 20.05 and 20.09 are in effect, the annual actuarial reduction is three percent per year for members over the age of sixty.

(3) ALTERNATE EARLY RETIREMENT.

(a) Any member who has completed at least thirty service credit years and has attained age fifty-five shall be eligible to retire and to receive a retirement allowance computed according to the provisions of RCW 41.35.620, except that a member retiring pursuant to this subsection shall have the retirement allowance reduced by three percent per year to reflect the difference in the number of years between age at retirement and the attainment of age sixty-five.

(b)(i) On or after September 1, 2008, any member who has completed at least thirty service credit years and has attained age fifty-five shall be eligible to retire and to receive a retirement allowance computed according to the provisions of RCW 41.35.620, except that a member retiring pursuant to this subsection shall have the retirement allowance reduced as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Retirement  Age | Percent  Reduction | |
| 55 | 20% |  |
| 56 | 17% |  |
| 57 | 14% |  |
| 58 | 11% |  |
| 59 | 8% |  |
| 60 | 5% |  |
| 61 | 2% |  |
| 62 | 0% |  |
| 63 | 0% |  |
| 64 | 0% |  |

(ii) While the governor's emergency COVID-19 proclamations 20.05 and 20.09 are in effect, any member who has completed at least thirty service credit years and has attained age fifty-five is eligible to retire and to receive a retirement allowance computed according to RCW 41.35.620. However, a member retiring under this subsection shall have the retirement allowance as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Retirement  Age | Percent  Reduction | |
| 55 | 20% |  |
| 56 | 17% |  |
| 57 | 14% |  |
| 58 | 11% |  |
| 59 | 8% |  |
| 60 | 0% |  |
| 61 | 0% |  |
| 62 | 0% |  |
| 63 | 0% |  |
| 64 | 0% |  |

(iii)(A) Any member who retires under the provisions of this subsection is ineligible for the postretirement employment provisions of RCW 41.35.060(2) until the retired member has reached sixty-five years of age. For purposes of this subsection, employment with an employer also includes any personal service contract, service by an employer as a temporary or project employee, or any other similar compensated relationship with any employer included under the provisions of RCW 41.35.230(1).

(B) The subsidized reductions for alternate early retirement in this subsection as set forth in section 8, chapter 491, Laws of 2007 were intended by the legislature as replacement benefits for gain-sharing. Until there is legal certainty with respect to the repeal of chapter 41.31A RCW, the right to retire under this subsection is noncontractual, and the legislature reserves the right to amend or repeal this subsection. Legal certainty includes, but is not limited to, the expiration of any: Applicable limitations on actions; and periods of time for seeking appellate review, up to and including reconsideration by the Washington supreme court and the supreme court of the United States. Until that time, eligible members may still retire under this subsection, and upon receipt of the first installment of a retirement allowance computed under this subsection, the resulting benefit becomes contractual for the recipient. If the repeal of chapter 41.31A RCW is held to be invalid in a final determination of a court of law, and the court orders reinstatement of gain-sharing or other alternate benefits as a remedy, then retirement benefits for any member who has completed at least thirty service credit years and has attained age fifty-five but has not yet received the first installment of a retirement allowance under this subsection shall be computed using the reductions in (a) of this subsection.

(c) Members who first become employed by an employer in an eligible position on or after May 1, 2013, are not eligible for the alternate early retirement provisions of (a) or (b) of this subsection. Any member who first becomes employed by an employer in an eligible position on or after May 1, 2013, and has completed at least thirty service credit years and has attained age fifty-five shall be eligible to retire and to receive a retirement allowance computed according to the provisions of RCW 41.35.620, except that a member retiring pursuant to this subsection shall have the retirement allowance reduced by five percent per year to reflect the difference in the number of years between age at retirement and the attainment of age sixty-five.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately.

**--- END ---**