CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

HOUSE BILL 1200

Chapter 294, Laws of 2003

(partial veto)

58th Legislature 2003 Regular Session

RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/27/03 - Except section 4, which becomes effective 1/1/04.

Passed by the House February 28, 2003 Yeas 95 Nays 0

FRANK CHOPP

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Passed by the Senate April 15, 2003 Yeas 49 Nays 0

BRAD OWEN

President of the Senate

Approved May 14, 2003, with the exception of section 16, which is vetoed.

CERTIFICATE

I, Cynthia Zehnder, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **HOUSE BILL 1200** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

CYNTHIA ZEHNDER

Chief Clerk

FILED

May 14, 2003 - 3:24 p.m.

GARY LOCKE

Secretary of State State of Washington

Governor of the State of Washington

HOUSE BILL 1200

Passed Legislature - 2003 Regular Session

State of Washington 58th Legislature 2003 Regular Session

By Representatives Conway, Pflug and Cooper; by request of Joint Committee on Pension Policy

Read first time 01/21/2003. Referred to Committee on Appropriations.

- 1 AN ACT Relating to correcting retirement system statutes; amending
- 2 RCW 41.04.450, 41.26.195, 41.26.460, 41.31A.020, 41.35.640, 41.40.660,
- 3 41.40.748, 41.40.801, 41.40.845, 41.45.060, 41.50.110, 41.50.700,
- 4 41.54.030, 43.43.271, 43.43.295, and 44.44.040; and providing an
- 5 effective date.
- 6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:
- 7 **Sec. 1.** RCW 41.04.450 and 2000 c 247 s 1103 are each amended to 8 read as follows:
- 9 (1) Employers of those members under chapters 41.26, ((41.40, and))
- 10 41.34, 41.35, and 41.40 RCW who are not specified in RCW 41.04.445 may
- 11 choose to implement the employer pick up of all member contributions
- 12 without exception under RCW 41.26.080(1)(a), 41.26.450, 41.40.330(1),
- 13 41.45.060, 41.45.061, and 41.45.067 and chapter 41.34 RCW. If the
- 14 employer does so choose, the employer and members shall be subject to
- the conditions and limitations of RCW 41.04.445 (3), (4), and (5) and
- 16 RCW 41.04.455.
- 17 (2) An employer exercising the option under this section may later
- 18 choose to withdraw from and/or reestablish the employer pick up of

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- 1 member contributions only once in a calendar year following forty-five
- 2 days prior notice to the director of the department of retirement
- 3 systems.

Sec. 2. RCW 41.26.195 and 1997 c 122 s 1 are each amended to read as follows:

Any member of the teachers' retirement system plans 1, 2, or 3, the public employees' retirement system plans 1 ((or)), 2, or 3, the school employees' retirement system plans 2 or 3, or the Washington state patrol retirement system plans 1 or 2 who has previously established service credit in the law enforcement officers' and fire fighters' retirement system plan 1 may make an irrevocable election to have such service transferred to their current retirement system and plan subject to the following conditions:

- (1) If the individual is employed by an employer in an eligible position, as of July 1, 1997, the election to transfer service must be filed in writing with the department no later than July 1, 1998. If the individual is not employed by an employer in an eligible position, as of July 1, 1997, the election to transfer service must be filed in writing with the department no later than one year from the date they are employed by an employer in an eligible position.
- (2) An individual transferring service under this section forfeits the rights to all benefits as a member of the law enforcement officers' and fire fighters' retirement system plan 1 and will be permanently excluded from membership.
- (3) Any individual choosing to transfer service under this section will have transferred to their current retirement system and plan: (a) All the individual's accumulated contributions; (b) an amount sufficient to ensure that the employer contribution rate in the individual's current system and plan will not increase due to the transfer; and (c) all applicable months of service, as defined in RCW 41.26.030(14)(a).
- (4) If an individual has withdrawn contributions from the law enforcement officers' and fire fighters' retirement system plan 1, the individual may restore the contributions, together with interest as determined by the director, and recover the service represented by the contributions for the sole purpose of transferring service under this

section. The contributions must be restored before the transfer can occur and the restoration must be completed within the time limitations specified in subsection (1) of this section.

- (5) Any service transferred under this section does not apply to the eligibility requirements for military service credit as defined in RCW 41.40.170(3) or 43.43.260(3).
- (6) If an individual does not meet the time limitations of subsection (1) of this section, the individual may elect to restore any withdrawn contributions and transfer service under this section by paying the amount required under subsection (3)(b) of this section less any employee contributions transferred.
- **Sec. 3.** RCW 41.26.460 and 2002 c 158 s 7 are each amended to read 13 as follows:
 - (1) Upon retirement for service as prescribed in RCW 41.26.430 or disability retirement under RCW 41.26.470, a member shall elect to have the retirement allowance paid pursuant to the following options, calculated so as to be actuarially equivalent to each other.
 - (a) Standard allowance. A member electing this option shall receive a retirement allowance payable throughout such member's life. However, if the retiree dies before the total of the retirement allowance paid to such retiree equals the amount of such retiree's accumulated contributions at the time of retirement, then the balance shall be paid to the member's estate, or such person or persons, trust, or organization as the retiree shall have nominated by written designation duly executed and filed with the department; or if there be no such designated person or persons still living at the time of the retiree's death, then to the surviving spouse; or if there be neither such designated person or persons still living at the time of death nor a surviving spouse, then to the retiree's legal representative.
 - (b) The department shall adopt rules that allow a member to select a retirement option that pays the member a reduced retirement allowance and upon death, such portion of the member's reduced retirement allowance as the department by rule designates shall be continued throughout the life of and paid to a designated person. Such person shall be nominated by the member by written designation duly executed and filed with the department at the time of retirement. The options

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adopted by the department shall include, but are not limited to, a joint and one hundred percent survivor option and a joint and fifty percent survivor option.

- (2)(a) A member, if married, must provide the written consent of his or her spouse to the option selected under this section, except as provided in (b) of this subsection. If a member is married and both the member and member's spouse do not give written consent to an option under this section, the department will pay the member a joint and fifty percent survivor benefit and record the member's spouse as the beneficiary. Such benefit shall be calculated to be actuarially equivalent to the benefit options available under subsection (1) of this section unless spousal consent is not required as provided in (b) of this subsection.
- 14 (b) If a copy of a dissolution order designating a survivor 15 beneficiary under RCW 41.50.790 has been filed with the department at 16 least thirty days prior to a member's retirement:
- 17 (i) The department shall honor the designation as if made by the 18 member under subsection (1) of this section; and
- 19 (ii) The spousal consent provisions of (a) of this subsection do 20 not apply.
 - (3)(a) Any member who retired before January 1, 1996, and who elected to receive a reduced retirement allowance under subsection (1)(b) or (2) of this section is entitled to receive a retirement allowance adjusted in accordance with (b) of this subsection, if they meet the following conditions:
 - (i) The retiree's designated beneficiary predeceases or has predeceased the retiree; and
 - (ii) The retiree provides to the department proper proof of the designated beneficiary's death.
- 30 (b) The retirement allowance payable to the retiree, as of July 1, 1998, or the date of the designated beneficiary's death, whichever comes last, shall be increased by the percentage derived in (c) of this subsection.
 - (c) The percentage increase shall be derived by the following:
- 35 (i) One hundred percent multiplied by the result of (c)(ii) of this 36 subsection converted to a percent;
- 37 (ii) Subtract one from the reciprocal of the appropriate joint and 38 survivor option factor;

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1 (iii) The joint and survivor option factor shall be from the table 2 in effect as of July 1, 1998.

- (d) The adjustment under (b) of this subsection shall accrue from the beginning of the month following the date of the designated beneficiary's death or from July 1, 1998, whichever comes last.
- (4) No later than July 1, 2001, the department shall adopt rules that allow a member additional actuarially equivalent survivor benefit options, and shall include, but are not limited to:
- (a)(i) A retired member who retired without designating a survivor beneficiary shall have the opportunity to designate their spouse from a postretirement marriage as a survivor during a one-year period beginning one year after the date of the postretirement marriage provided the retirement allowance payable to the retiree is not subject to periodic payments pursuant to a property division obligation as provided for in RCW 41.50.670.
- (ii) A member who entered into a postretirement marriage prior to the effective date of the rules adopted pursuant to this subsection and satisfies the conditions of (a)(i) of this subsection shall have one year to designate their spouse as a survivor beneficiary following the adoption of the rules.
- (b) A retired member who elected to receive a reduced retirement allowance under this section and designated a nonspouse as survivor beneficiary shall have the opportunity to remove the survivor designation and have their future benefit adjusted.
- (c) The department may make an additional charge, if necessary, to ensure that the benefits provided under this subsection remain actuarially equivalent.
- (5) No later than July 1, 2003, the department shall adopt rules to permit:
 - (a) A court-approved property settlement incident to a court decree of dissolution made before retirement to provide that benefits payable to a member who meets the length of service requirements of RCW 41.26.530(1) and the member's divorcing spouse be divided into two separate benefits payable over the life of each spouse.
- 35 The member shall have available the benefit options of subsection 36 (1) of this section upon retirement, and if remarried at the time of 37 retirement remains subject to the spousal consent requirements of

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subsection (2) of this section. Any reductions of the member's benefit subsequent to the division into two separate benefits shall be made solely to the separate benefit of the member.

The nonmember ex spouse shall be eligible to commence receiving their separate benefit upon reaching the ages provided in RCW 41.26.430(1) and after filing a written application with the department.

(b) A court-approved property settlement incident to a court decree of dissolution made after retirement may only divide the benefit into two separate benefits payable over the life of each spouse if the nonmember ex spouse was selected as a survivor beneficiary at retirement.

The retired member may later choose the survivor benefit options available in subsection (4) of this section. Any actuarial reductions subsequent to the division into two separate benefits shall be made solely to the separate benefit of the member.

Both the retired member and the nonmember divorced spouse shall be eligible to commence receiving their separate benefits upon filing a copy of the dissolution order with the department in accordance with RCW 41.50.670.

- (c) The department may make an additional charge or adjustment if necessary to ensure that the separate benefits provided under this subsection are actuarially equivalent to the benefits payable prior to the decree of dissolution.
- **Sec. 4.** RCW 41.31A.020 and 2000 c 247 s 408 are each amended to 26 read as follows:
 - (1) On January 1, 2004, and on January 1st of even-numbered years thereafter, the member account of a person meeting the requirements of this section shall be credited by the extraordinary investment gain amount.
 - (2) The following persons shall be eligible for the benefit provided in subsection (1) of this section:
- 33 (a) Any member of the teachers' retirement system plan 3, the 34 Washington school employees' retirement system plan 3, or the public 35 employees' retirement system plan 3 who earned service credit during 36 the twelve-month period from September 1st to August 31st immediately

- preceding the distribution and had a balance of at least one thousand dollars in their member account on August 31st of the year immediately preceding the distribution; or
- 4 (b) Any person in receipt of a benefit pursuant to RCW 41.32.875, 5 41.35.680, or 41.40.820; or
- 6 (c) Any person who is a retiree pursuant to RCW 41.34.020(8) and 7 who:
 - (i) Completed ten service credit years; or

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- 9 (ii) Completed five service credit years, including twelve service 10 months after attaining age fifty-four; or
- (d) Any teacher who is a retiree pursuant to RCW 41.34.020(8) and who has completed five service credit years by July 1, 1996, under plan 2 and who transferred to plan 3 under RCW 41.32.817; or
- (e) Any classified employee who is a retiree pursuant to RCW 41.34.020(8) and who has completed five service credit years by September 1, 2000, and who transferred to plan 3 under RCW 41.35.510; or
- 18 (f) Any public employee who is a retiree pursuant to RCW ((41.40.010(29))) 41.34.020(8) and who has completed five service credit years by March 1, 2002, and who transferred to plan 3 under RCW 41.40.795; or
- (g) Any person who had a balance of at least one thousand dollars in their member account on August 31st of the year immediately preceding the distribution and who:
 - (i) Completed ten service credit years; or
- 26 (ii) Completed five service credit years, including twelve service 27 months after attaining age fifty-four; or
 - (h) Any teacher who had a balance of at least one thousand dollars in their member account on August 31st of the year immediately preceding the distribution and who has completed five service credit years by July 1, 1996, under plan 2 and who transferred to plan 3 under RCW 41.32.817; or
- 33 (i) Any classified employee who had a balance of at least one 34 thousand dollars in their member account on August 31st of the year 35 immediately preceding the distribution and who has completed five 36 service credit years by September 1, 2000, and who transferred to plan 37 3 under RCW 41.35.510; or

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- (j) Any public employee who had a balance of at least one thousand dollars in their member account on August 31st of the year immediately preceding the distribution and who has completed five service credit years by March 1, 2002, and who transferred to plan 3 under RCW 41.40.795.
 - (3) The extraordinary investment gain amount shall be calculated as follows:
 - (a) One-half of the sum of the value of the net assets held in trust for pension benefits in the teachers' retirement system combined plan 2 and 3 fund, the Washington school employees' retirement system combined plan 2 and 3 fund, and the public employees' retirement system combined plan 2 and 3 fund at the close of the previous state fiscal year not including the amount attributable to member accounts;
 - (b) Multiplied by the amount which the compound average of investment returns on those assets over the previous four state fiscal years exceeds ten percent;
 - (c) Multiplied by the proportion of:
 - (i) The sum of the service credit on August 31st of the previous year of all persons eligible for the benefit provided in subsection (1) of this section; to
- 21 (ii) The sum of the service credit on August 31st of the previous 22 year of:
- 23 (A) All persons eligible for the benefit provided in subsection (1) 24 of this section;
 - (B) Any person who earned service credit in the teachers' retirement system plan 2, the Washington school employees' retirement system plan 2, or the public employees' retirement system plan 2 during the twelve-month period from September 1st to August 31st immediately preceding the distribution;
- (C) Any person in receipt of a benefit pursuant to RCW 41.32.765,
 41.35.420, or 41.40.630; and
 - (D) Any person with five or more years of service in the teachers' retirement system plan 2, the Washington school employees' retirement system plan 2, or the public employees' retirement system plan 2;
- 35 (d) Divided proportionally among persons eligible for the benefit 36 provided in subsection (1) of this section on the basis of their 37 service credit total on August 31st of the previous year.

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- 1 (4) The legislature reserves the right to amend or repeal this 2 section in the future and no member or beneficiary has a contractual 3 right to receive this distribution not granted prior to that time.
- **Sec. 5.** RCW 41.35.640 and 1998 c 341 s 205 are each amended to read as follows:

Any member or beneficiary eligible to receive a retirement allowance under the provisions of RCW 41.35.680, 41.35.690, or 41.35.710 is eligible to commence receiving a retirement allowance after having filed written application with the department.

- (1) Retirement allowances paid to members shall accrue from the first day of the calendar month immediately following such member's separation from employment.
- (2) Retirement allowances payable to eligible members no longer in service, but qualifying for such an allowance pursuant to RCW ((41.35.140)) 41.35.680 shall accrue from the first day of the calendar month immediately following such qualification.
- (3) Disability allowances paid to disabled members shall accrue from the first day of the calendar month immediately following such member's separation from employment for disability.
- 20 (4) Retirement allowances paid as death benefits shall accrue from 21 the first day of the calendar month immediately following the member's 22 death.
- **Sec. 6.** RCW 41.40.660 and 2002 c 158 s 13 are each amended to read 24 as follows:
 - (1) Upon retirement for service as prescribed in RCW 41.40.630 or retirement for disability under RCW 41.40.670, a member shall elect to have the retirement allowance paid pursuant to one of the following options, calculated so as to be actuarially equivalent to each other.
 - (a) Standard allowance. A member electing this option shall receive a retirement allowance payable throughout such member's life. However, if the retiree dies before the total of the retirement allowance paid to such retiree equals the amount of such retiree's accumulated contributions at the time of retirement, then the balance shall be paid to the member's estate, or such person or persons, trust, or organization as the retiree shall have nominated by written designation duly executed and filed with the department; or if there be

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- no such designated person or persons still living at the time of the retiree's death, then to the surviving spouse; or if there be neither such designated person or persons still living at the time of death nor a surviving spouse, then to the retiree's legal representative.
 - (b) The department shall adopt rules that allow a member to select a retirement option that pays the member a reduced retirement allowance and upon death, such portion of the member's reduced retirement allowance as the department by rule designates shall be continued throughout the life of and paid to a person nominated by the member by written designation duly executed and filed with the department at the time of retirement. The options adopted by the department shall include, but are not limited to, a joint and one hundred percent survivor option and a joint and fifty percent survivor option.
 - (2)(a) A member, if married, must provide the written consent of his or her spouse to the option selected under this section, except as provided in (b) of this subsection. If a member is married and both the member and the member's spouse do not give written consent to an option under this section, the department shall pay a joint and fifty percent survivor benefit calculated to be actuarially equivalent to the benefit options available under subsection (1) of this section unless spousal consent is not required as provided in (b) of this subsection.
 - (b) If a copy of a dissolution order designating a survivor beneficiary under RCW 41.50.790 has been filed with the department at least thirty days prior to a member's retirement:
 - (i) The department shall honor the designation as if made by the member under subsection (1) of this section; and
- 27 (ii) The spousal consent provisions of (a) of this subsection do 28 not apply.
 - (3)(a) Any member who retired before January 1, 1996, and who elected to receive a reduced retirement allowance under subsection (1)(b) or (2) of this section is entitled to receive a retirement allowance adjusted in accordance with (b) of this subsection, if they meet the following conditions:
- (i) The retiree's designated beneficiary predeceases or has predeceased the retiree; and
- 36 (ii) The retiree provides to the department proper proof of the 37 designated beneficiary's death.

(b) The retirement allowance payable to the retiree, as of July 1, 1998, or the date of the designated beneficiary's death, whichever comes last, shall be increased by the percentage derived in (c) of this subsection.

- (c) The percentage increase shall be derived by the following:
- (i) One hundred percent multiplied by the result of (c)(ii) of this subsection converted to a percent;
- 8 (ii) Subtract one from the reciprocal of the appropriate joint and 9 survivor option factor;
- 10 (iii) The joint and survivor option factor shall be from the table 11 in effect as of July 1, 1998.
 - (d) The adjustment under (b) of this subsection shall accrue from the beginning of the month following the date of the designated beneficiary's death or from July 1, 1998, whichever comes last.
 - (4) No later than July 1, 2001, the department shall adopt rules that allow a member additional actuarially equivalent survivor benefit options, and shall include, but are not limited to:
 - (a)(i) A retired member who retired without designating a survivor beneficiary shall have the opportunity to designate their spouse from a postretirement marriage as a survivor during a one-year period beginning one year after the date of the postretirement marriage provided the retirement allowance payable to the retiree is not subject to periodic payments pursuant to a property division obligation as provided for in RCW 41.50.670.
 - (ii) A member who entered into a postretirement marriage prior to the effective date of the rules adopted pursuant to this subsection and satisfies the conditions of (a)(i) of this subsection shall have one year to designate their spouse as a survivor beneficiary following the adoption of the rules.
 - (b) A retired member who elected to receive a reduced retirement allowance under this section and designated a nonspouse as survivor beneficiary shall have the opportunity to remove the survivor designation and have their future benefit adjusted.
 - (c) The department may make an additional charge, if necessary, to ensure that the benefits provided under this subsection remain actuarially equivalent.
- 37 (5) No later than July 1, 2003, the department shall adopt rules to 38 permit:

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(a) A court-approved property settlement incident to a court decree of dissolution made before retirement to provide that benefits payable to a member who meets the length of service requirements of RCW 41.40.720 and the member's divorcing spouse be divided into two separate benefits payable over the life of each spouse.

The member shall have available the benefit options of subsection (1) of this section upon retirement, and if remarried at the time of retirement remains subject to the spousal consent requirements of subsection (2) of this section. Any reductions of the member's benefit subsequent to the division into two separate benefits shall be made solely to the separate benefit of the member.

The nonmember ex spouse shall be eligible to commence receiving their separate benefit upon reaching the age provided in RCW 41.40.630(1) and after filing a written application with the department.

(b) A court-approved property settlement incident to a court decree of dissolution made after retirement may only divide the benefit into two separate benefits payable over the life of each spouse if the nonmember ex spouse was selected as a survivor beneficiary at retirement.

The retired member may later choose the survivor benefit options available in subsection (4) of this section. Any actuarial reductions subsequent to the division into two separate benefits shall be made solely to the separate benefit of the member.

Both the retired member and the nonmember divorced spouse shall be eligible to commence receiving their separate benefits upon filing a copy of the dissolution order with the department in accordance with RCW 41.50.670.

- (c) ((Any benefit distributed pursuant to chapter 41.31A RCW after the date of the dissolution order creating separate benefits for a member and nonmember ex spouse shall be paid solely to the member.
- (d))) The department may make an additional charge or adjustment if necessary to ensure that the separate benefits provided under this subsection are actuarially equivalent to the benefits payable prior to the decree of dissolution.
- **Sec. 7.** RCW 41.40.748 and 2002 c 269 s 1 are each amended to read 37 as follows:

(1) Active members of the Washington state patrol retirement system who have previously established service credit in the public employees' retirement system plan 2 while employed in the state patrol as a commercial vehicle enforcement officer, and who became a commissioned officer after July 1, 2000, and prior to June 30, 2001, have the following options:

- (a) Remain a member of the public employees' retirement system; or
- (b) Transfer service credit earned under the retirement system as a commercial vehicle enforcement officer to the Washington state patrol retirement system by making an irrevocable choice filed in writing with the department of retirement systems within one year of the department's announcement of the ability to make such a transfer.
- (2)(a) Any commissioned officer choosing to transfer under this section shall have transferred from the retirement system to the Washington state patrol retirement system:
- (i) All the employee's applicable accumulated contributions plus interest, and an equal amount of employer contributions attributed to such employee; and
- (ii) All applicable months of service as a commercial vehicle enforcement officer credited to the employee under this chapter as though that service was rendered as a member of the Washington state patrol retirement system.
 - (b) For the applicable period of service, the employee shall pay:
- (i) The difference between the contributions the employee paid to the retirement system, and the contributions which would have been paid by the employee had the employee been a member of the Washington state patrol retirement system, plus interest as determined by the director. This payment shall be made no later than December 31, 2010, or the date of retirement, whichever comes first;
- (ii) The difference between the employer contributions paid to the public employees' retirement system, and the employer contributions which would have been payable to the Washington state patrol retirement system; and
- (iii) An amount sufficient to ensure that the funding status of the Washington state patrol retirement system will not change due to this transfer.
- 37 (c) If the payment required by this subsection is not paid in full 38 by the deadline, the transferred service credit shall not be used to

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- 1 determine eligibility for benefits nor to calculate benefits under the
- 2 Washington state patrol retirement system. In such case, the
- 3 ((additional employee and employer contributions)) employee's
- 4 <u>accumulated contributions plus interest</u> transferred under this
- 5 subsection, and any payments made under this subsection, shall be
- for refunded to the employee $((\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}))$. The employer shall be entitled to
- 7 a credit for the ((payments made)) employer contributions transferred
- 8 under $((\frac{a}{of}))$ this subsection.
- 9 (d) An individual who transfers service credit and contributions
- 10 under this subsection is permanently excluded from the public
- 11 employees' retirement system for all service as a commercial vehicle
- 12 enforcement officer.
- 13 **Sec. 8.** RCW 41.40.801 and 2000 c 247 s 305 are each amended to
- 14 read as follows:
- Any member or beneficiary eligible to receive a retirement
- 16 allowance under the provisions of RCW 41.40.820, 41.40.825, or
- 17 41.40.835 is eligible to commence receiving a retirement allowance
- 18 after having filed written application with the department.
- 19 (1) Retirement allowances paid to members shall accrue from the
- 20 first day of the calendar month immediately following such member's
- 21 separation from employment.
- 22 (2) Retirement allowances payable to eligible members no longer in
- 23 service, but qualifying for such an allowance pursuant to RCW
- ((41.40.068)) 41.40.820 shall accrue from the first day of the calendar
- 25 month immediately following such qualification.
- 26 (3) Disability allowances paid to disabled members shall accrue
- 27 from the first day of the calendar month immediately following such
- 28 member's separation from employment for disability.
- 29 (4) Retirement allowances paid as death benefits shall accrue from
- 30 the first day of the calendar month immediately following the member's
- 31 death.
- 32 **Sec. 9.** RCW 41.40.845 and 2002 c 158 s 14 are each amended to read
- 33 as follows:
- 34 (1) Upon retirement for service as prescribed in RCW 41.40.820 or
- 35 retirement for disability under RCW 41.40.825, a member shall elect to

have the retirement allowance paid pursuant to one of the following options, calculated so as to be actuarially equivalent to each other.

- (a) Standard allowance. A member electing this option shall receive a retirement allowance payable throughout such member's life. Upon the death of the member, the member's benefits shall cease.
- (b) The department shall adopt rules that allow a member to select a retirement option that pays the member a reduced retirement allowance and upon death, such portion of the member's reduced retirement allowance as the department by rule designates shall be continued throughout the life of and paid to a person nominated by the member by written designation duly executed and filed with the department at the time of retirement. The options adopted by the department shall include, but are not limited to, a joint and one hundred percent survivor option and a joint and fifty percent survivor option.
- (2)(a) A member, if married, must provide the written consent of his or her spouse to the option selected under this section, except as provided in (b) of this subsection. If a member is married and both the member and the member's spouse do not give written consent to an option under this section, the department shall pay a joint and fifty percent survivor benefit calculated to be actuarially equivalent to the benefit options available under subsection (1) of this section unless spousal consent is not required as provided in (b) of this subsection.
- (b) If a copy of a dissolution order designating a survivor beneficiary under RCW 41.50.790 has been filed with the department at least thirty days prior to a member's retirement:
- (i) The department shall honor the designation as if made by the member under subsection (1) of this section; and
- (ii) The spousal consent provisions of (a) of this subsection do not apply.
 - (3) ((The department shall adopt rules that allow a member additional actuarially equivalent survivor benefit options, and shall include, but are not limited to:
 - (a)(i) A retired member who retired without designating a survivor beneficiary shall have the opportunity to designate their spouse from a postretirement marriage as a survivor during a one year period beginning one year after the date of the postretirement marriage provided the retirement allowance payable to the retiree is not subject

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to periodic payments pursuant to a property division obligation as provided for in RCW 41.50.670.

- (ii) A member who entered into a postretirement marriage prior to the effective date of the rules adopted under this section and satisfies the conditions of (a)(i) of this subsection shall have one year to designate their spouse as a survivor beneficiary following the adoption of the rules.
- (b) A retired member who elected to receive a reduced retirement allowance under this section and designated a nonspouse as survivor beneficiary shall have the opportunity to remove the survivor designation and have their future benefit adjusted.
- (c) The department may make an additional charge, if necessary, to ensure that the benefits provided under this subsection remain actuarially equivalent.
- (4)) No later than July 1, 2002, the department shall adopt rules that allow a member additional actuarially equivalent survivor benefit options, and shall include, but are not limited to:
- (a)(i) A retired member who retired without designating a survivor beneficiary shall have the opportunity to designate their spouse from a postretirement marriage as a survivor during a one-year period beginning one year after the date of the postretirement marriage provided the retirement allowance payable to the retiree is not subject to periodic payments pursuant to a property division obligation as provided for in RCW 41.50.670.
- (ii) A member who entered into a postretirement marriage prior to the effective date of the rules adopted under this section and satisfies the conditions of (a)(i) of this subsection shall have one year to designate their spouse as a survivor beneficiary following the adoption of the rules.
- (b) A retired member who elected to receive a reduced retirement allowance under this section and designated a nonspouse as survivor beneficiary shall have the opportunity to remove the survivor designation and have their future benefit adjusted.
- 34 (c) The department may make an additional charge, if necessary, to 35 ensure that the benefits provided under this subsection remain 36 actuarially equivalent.
- (((5))) (4) No later than July 1, 2003, the department shall adopt 38 rules to permit:

(a) A court-approved property settlement incident to a court decree of dissolution made before retirement to provide that benefits payable to a member who meets the length of service requirements of RCW 41.40.820(1) and the member's divorcing spouse be divided into two separate benefits payable over the life of each spouse.

The member shall have available the benefit options of subsection (1) of this section upon retirement, and if remarried at the time of retirement remains subject to the spousal consent requirements of subsection (2) of this section. Any reductions of the member's benefit subsequent to the division into two separate benefits shall be made solely to the separate benefit of the member.

The nonmember ex spouse shall be eligible to commence receiving their separate benefit upon reaching the age provided in RCW 41.40.820(1) and after filing a written application with the department.

(b) A court-approved property settlement incident to a court decree of dissolution made after retirement may only divide the benefit into two separate benefits payable over the life of each spouse if the nonmember ex spouse was selected as a survivor beneficiary at retirement.

The retired member may later choose the survivor benefit options available in subsection ((4)) of this section. Any actuarial reductions subsequent to the division into two separate benefits shall be made solely to the separate benefit of the member.

Both the retired member and the nonmember divorced spouse shall be eligible to commence receiving their separate benefits upon filing a copy of the dissolution order with the department in accordance with RCW 41.50.670.

- (c) Any benefit distributed under chapter 41.31A RCW after the date of the dissolution order creating separate benefits for a member and nonmember ex spouse shall be paid solely to the member.
- 32 (d) The department may make an additional charge or adjustment if 33 necessary to ensure that the separate benefits provided under this 34 subsection are actuarially equivalent to the benefits payable prior to 35 the decree of dissolution.
- **Sec. 10.** RCW 41.45.060 and 2002 c 26 s 2 are each amended to read 37 as follows:

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- 1 (1) The state actuary shall provide actuarial valuation results 2 based on the economic assumptions and asset value smoothing technique 3 included in RCW 41.45.035 or adopted by the council under RCW 41.45.030 4 or 41.45.035.
- 5 (2) Not later than September 30, 2002, and every two years 6 thereafter, consistent with the economic assumptions and asset value 7 smoothing technique included in RCW 41.45.035 or adopted under RCW 8 41.45.030 or 41.45.035, the council shall adopt and may make changes 9 to:
- 10 (a) A basic state contribution rate for the law enforcement 11 officers' and fire fighters' retirement system;
 - (b) Basic employer contribution rates for the public employees' retirement system, the teachers' retirement system, and the Washington state patrol retirement system to be used in the ensuing biennial period; and
 - (c) A basic employer contribution rate for the school employees' retirement system for funding both that system and the public employees' retirement system plan 1.
 - The contribution rates adopted by the council shall be subject to revision by the legislature.
 - (3) The employer and state contribution rates adopted by the council shall be the level percentages of pay that are needed:
 - (a) To fully amortize the total costs of the public employees' retirement system plan 1, the teachers' retirement system plan 1, and the law enforcement officers' and fire fighters' retirement system plan 1 not later than June 30, 2024((, except as provided in subsection (5) of this section));
 - (b) To also continue to fully fund the public employees' retirement system plans 2 and 3, the teachers' retirement system plans 2 and 3, the school employees' retirement system plans 2 and 3, and the law enforcement officers' and fire fighters' retirement system plan 2 in accordance with RCW 41.45.061, 41.45.067, and this section; and
- 33 (c) For the law enforcement officers' and fire fighters' system 34 plan 2 the rate charged to employers, except as provided in RCW 35 41.26.450, shall be thirty percent of the cost of the retirement system 36 and the rate charged to the state shall be twenty percent of the cost 37 of the retirement system.

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(4) The aggregate actuarial cost method shall be used to calculate a combined plan 2 and 3 employer contribution rate and a Washington state patrol retirement system contribution rate.

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- (5) The council shall immediately notify the directors of the office of financial management and department of retirement systems of the state and employer contribution rates adopted. The rates shall be effective for the ensuing biennial period, subject to any legislative modifications.
- 9 (6) The director of the department of retirement systems shall collect the rates established in RCW 41.45.053 through June 30, 2003. Thereafter, the director shall collect those rates adopted by the council. The rates established in RCW 41.45.053, or by the council, shall be subject to revision by the council.
- **Sec. 11.** RCW 41.50.110 and 1998 c 341 s 508 are each amended to read as follows:
 - (1) Except as provided by RCW 41.50.255 and subsection (6) of this section, all expenses of the administration of the department ((and)), the expenses of administration of the retirement systems, and the expenses of the administration of the office of the state actuary created in chapters 2.10, 2.12, 41.26, 41.32, 41.40, 41.34, 41.35, ((and)) 43.43, and 44.44 RCW shall be paid from the department of retirement systems expense fund.
 - (2) In order to reimburse the department of retirement systems expense fund on an equitable basis the department shall ascertain and report to each employer, as defined in RCW 41.26.030, 41.32.010, 41.35.010, or 41.40.010, the sum necessary to defray its proportional share of the entire expense of the administration of the retirement system that the employer participates in during the ensuing biennium or fiscal year whichever may be required. Such sum is to be computed in an amount directly proportional to the estimated entire expense of the administration as the ratio of monthly salaries of the employer's members bears to the total salaries of all members in the entire system. It shall then be the duty of all such employers to include in their budgets or otherwise provide the amounts so required.
 - (3) The department shall compute and bill each employer, as defined in RCW 41.26.030, 41.32.010, 41.35.010, or 41.40.010, at the end of each month for the amount due for that month to the department of

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- retirement systems expense fund and the same shall be paid as are its other obligations. Such computation as to each employer shall be made on a percentage rate of salary established by the department. However, the department may at its discretion establish a system of billing based upon calendar year quarters in which event the said billing shall be at the end of each such quarter.
 - (4) The director may adjust the expense fund contribution rate for each system at any time when necessary to reflect unanticipated costs or savings in administering the department.
 - (5) An employer who fails to submit timely and accurate reports to the department may be assessed an additional fee related to the increased costs incurred by the department in processing the deficient reports. Fees paid under this subsection shall be deposited in the retirement system expense fund.
 - (a) Every six months the department shall determine the amount of an employer's fee by reviewing the timeliness and accuracy of the reports submitted by the employer in the preceding six months. If those reports were not both timely and accurate the department may prospectively assess an additional fee under this subsection.
 - (b) An additional fee assessed by the department under this subsection shall not exceed fifty percent of the standard fee.
 - (c) The department shall adopt rules implementing this section.
- 23 (6) Expenses other than those under RCW $41.34.060((\frac{(2)}{(2)}))$ (3) shall 24 be paid pursuant to subsection (1) of this section.
- 25 **Sec. 12.** RCW 41.50.700 and 2002 c 158 s 6 are each amended to read 26 as follows:
- (1) Except under subsection (3) of this section and RCW 27 41.26.460(5), 41.32.530(5), 41.32.785(5), 41.32.851(4), 41.35.220(4), 28 41.40.188(5), 41.40.660(5), 41.40.845(4), 43.43.271(4), and 41.34.080, 29 the department's obligation to provide direct payment of a property 30 31 division obligation to an obligee under RCW 41.50.670 shall cease upon the death of the obligee or upon the death of the obligor, whichever 32 comes first. However, if an obligor dies and is eligible for a lump 33 sum death benefit, the department shall be obligated to provide direct 34 payment to the obligee of all or a portion of the withdrawal of 35 36 accumulated contributions pursuant to a court order that complies with 37 RCW 41.50.670.

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- 1 (2) The direct payment of a property division obligation to an obligee under RCW 41.50.670 shall be paid as a deduction from the member's periodic retirement payment. An obligee may not direct the department to withhold any funds from such payment.
- 5 (3) The department's obligation to provide direct payment to a nonmember ex spouse from a preretirement divorce meeting the criteria 6 7 of RCW 41.26.162(2) or 43.43.270(2) may continue for the life of the member's surviving spouse qualifying for benefits under RCW 41.26.160, 8 41.26.161, or 43.43.270(2). Upon the death of the member's surviving 9 10 spouse qualifying for benefits under RCW 41.26.160, 41.26.161, or 43.43.270(2), the department's obligation under this subsection shall 11 12 The department's obligation to provide direct payment to a 13 nonmember ex spouse qualifying for a continued split benefit payment 14 under RCW 41.26.162(3) shall continue for the life of that nonmember ex 15 spouse.
- 16 **Sec. 13.** RCW 41.54.030 and 1998 c 341 s 703 are each amended to read as follows:
- 18 (1) A dual member may combine service in all systems for the 19 purpose of:
- 20 (a) Determining the member's eligibility to receive a service 21 retirement allowance; and
- 22 (b) Qualifying for a benefit under RCW 41.32.840(2) ((or)), 23 41.35.620, or 41.40.790.

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- (2) A dual member who is eligible to retire under any system may elect to retire from all the member's systems and to receive service retirement allowances calculated as provided in this section. Each system shall calculate the allowance using its own criteria except that the member shall be allowed to substitute the member's base salary from any system as the compensation used in calculating the allowance.
- (3) The service retirement allowances from a system which, but for this section, would not be allowed to be paid at this date based on the dual member's age may be received immediately or deferred to a later date. The allowances shall be actuarially adjusted from the earliest age upon which the combined service would have made such dual member eligible in that system.
- 36 (4) The service retirement eligibility requirements of RCW

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- 1 41.40.180 shall apply to any dual member whose prior system is plan 1
- 2 of the public employees' retirement system established under chapter
- 3 41.40 RCW.

- **Sec. 14.** RCW 43.43.271 and 2002 c 158 s 16 are each amended to read as follows:
 - (1) A member commissioned on or after January 1, 2003, upon retirement for service as prescribed in RCW 43.43.250 ((or disability retirement under RCW 43.43.040,)) shall elect to have the retirement allowance paid pursuant to the following options, calculated so as to be actuarially equivalent to each other.
 - (a) Standard allowance. A member electing this option shall receive a retirement allowance payable throughout the member's life. However, if the retiree dies before the total of the retirement allowance paid to the retiree equals the amount of the retiree's accumulated contributions at the time of retirement, then the balance shall be paid to the member's estate, or such person or persons, trust, or organization as the retiree shall have nominated by written designation duly executed and filed with the department; or if there be no such designated person or persons still living at the time of the retiree's death, then to the surviving spouse; or if there be neither such designated person or persons still living at the time of death nor a surviving spouse, then to the retiree's legal representative.
 - (b) The department shall adopt rules that allow a member to select a retirement option that pays the member a reduced retirement allowance and upon death, such portion of the member's reduced retirement allowance as the department by rule designates shall be continued throughout the life of and paid to a designated person. Such person shall be nominated by the member by written designation duly executed and filed with the department at the time of retirement. The options adopted by the department shall include, but are not limited to, a joint and one hundred percent survivor option and a joint and fifty percent survivor option.
 - (2)(a) A member, if married, must provide the written consent of his or her spouse to the option selected under this section, except as provided in (b) of this subsection. If a member is married and both the member and member's spouse do not give written consent to an option under this section, the department will pay the member a joint and

fifty percent survivor benefit and record the member's spouse as the beneficiary. This benefit shall be calculated to be actuarially equivalent to the benefit options available under subsection (1) of this section unless spousal consent is not required as provided in (b) of this subsection.

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- (b) If a copy of a dissolution order designating a survivor beneficiary under RCW 41.50.790 has been filed with the department at least thirty days prior to a member's retirement:
- 9 (i) The department shall honor the designation as if made by the 10 member under subsection (1) of this section; and
- 11 (ii) The spousal consent provisions of (a) of this subsection do 12 not apply.
 - (3) No later than January 1, 2003, the department shall adopt rules that allow a member additional actuarially equivalent survivor benefit options, and shall include, but are not limited to:
 - (a)(i) A retired member who retired without designating a survivor beneficiary shall have the opportunity to designate their spouse from a postretirement marriage as a survivor during a one-year period beginning one year after the date of the postretirement marriage provided the retirement allowance payable to the retiree is not subject to periodic payments pursuant to a property division obligation as provided for in RCW 41.50.670.
 - (ii) A member who entered into a postretirement marriage prior to the effective date of the rules adopted pursuant to this subsection and satisfies the conditions of (a)(i) of this subsection shall have one year to designate their spouse as a survivor beneficiary following the adoption of the rules.
 - (b) A retired member who elected to receive a reduced retirement allowance under this section and designated a nonspouse as survivor beneficiary shall have the opportunity to remove the survivor designation and have their future benefit adjusted.
- 32 (c) The department may make an additional charge, if necessary, to 33 ensure that the benefits provided under this subsection remain 34 actuarially equivalent.
- 35 (4) No later than July 1, 2003, the department shall adopt rules to germit:
- 37 (a) A court-approved property settlement incident to a court decree 38 of dissolution made before retirement to provide that benefits payable

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to a member who has completed at least five years of service and the member's divorcing spouse be divided into two separate benefits payable over the life of each spouse.

The member shall have available the benefit options of subsection (1) of this section upon retirement, and if remarried at the time of retirement remains subject to the spousal consent requirements of subsection (2) of this section. Any reductions of the member's benefit subsequent to the division into two separate benefits shall be made solely to the separate benefit of the member.

The nonmember ex spouse shall be eligible to commence receiving their separate benefit upon reaching the ages provided in RCW 43.43.250(2) and after filing a written application with the department.

(b) A court-approved property settlement incident to a court decree of dissolution made after retirement may only divide the benefit into two separate benefits payable over the life of each spouse if the nonmember ex spouse was selected as a survivor beneficiary at retirement.

The retired member may later choose the survivor benefit options available in subsection (3) of this section. Any actuarial reductions subsequent to the division into two separate benefits shall be made solely to the separate benefit of the member.

Both the retired member and the nonmember divorced spouse shall be eligible to commence receiving their separate benefits upon filing a copy of the dissolution order with the department in accordance with RCW 41.50.670.

- (c) The department may make an additional charge or adjustment if necessary to ensure that the separate benefits provided under this subsection are actuarially equivalent to the benefits payable prior to the decree of dissolution.
- **Sec. 15.** RCW 43.43.295 and 2001 c 329 s 7 are each amended to read 32 as follows:
- 33 (1) For members commissioned on or after January 1, 2003, except as 34 provided in RCW 11.07.010, if a member or a vested member who has not 35 completed at least ten years of service dies, the amount of the 36 accumulated contributions standing to such member's credit in the 37 retirement system at the time of such member's death, less any amount

identified as owing to an obligee upon withdrawal of accumulated contributions pursuant to a court order filed under RCW 41.50.670, shall be paid to the member's estate, or such person or persons, trust, or organization as the member shall have nominated by written designation duly executed and filed with the department. ((If there be no such designated person or persons still living at the time of the member's death, such member's accumulated contributions standing to such member's credit in the retirement system, less any amount identified as owing to an obligee upon withdrawal of accumulated contributions pursuant to a court order filed under RCW 41.50.670, shall be paid to the member's estate, or such person or persons, trust, or organization as the member shall have nominated by written designation duly executed and filed with the department.)) If there be no such designated person or persons still living at the time of the member's death, such member's accumulated contributions standing to such member's credit in the retirement system, less any amount identified as owing to an obligee upon withdrawal of accumulated contributions pursuant to a court order filed under RCW 41.50.670, shall be paid to the member's surviving spouse as if in fact such spouse had been nominated by written designation, or if there be no such surviving spouse, then to such member's legal representatives.

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- (2) If a member who is eligible for retirement or a member who has completed at least ten years of service dies, the surviving spouse or eligible child or children shall elect to receive either:
- (a) A retirement allowance computed as provided for in RCW 43.43.260, actuarially reduced by the amount of any lump sum benefit identified as owing to an obligee upon withdrawal of accumulated contributions pursuant to a court order filed under RCW 41.50.670 and actuarially adjusted to reflect a joint and one hundred percent survivor option under RCW 43.43.278 and if the member was not eligible for normal retirement at the date of death a further reduction from age fifty-five or when the member could have attained twenty-five years of service, whichever is less; if a surviving spouse who is receiving a retirement allowance dies leaving a child or children of the member under the age of majority, then such child or children shall continue to receive an allowance in an amount equal to that which was being received by the surviving spouse, share and share alike, until such child or children reach the age of majority; if there is no surviving

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- spouse eligible to receive an allowance at the time of the member's death, such member's child or children under the age of majority shall receive an allowance share and share alike calculated under this section making the assumption that the ages of the spouse and member were equal at the time of the member's death; or
 - (b)(i) The member's accumulated contributions, less any amount identified as owing to an obligee upon withdrawal of accumulated contributions pursuant to a court order filed under RCW 41.50.670; or
 - (ii) If the member dies, one hundred fifty percent of the member's accumulated contributions, less any amount identified as owing to an obligee upon withdrawal of accumulated contributions pursuant to a court order filed under RCW 41.50.670. Any accumulated contributions attributable to restorations made under RCW 41.50.165(2) shall be refunded at one hundred percent.
 - (3) If a member who is eligible for retirement or a member who has completed at least ten years of service dies, and is not survived by a spouse or an eligible child, then the accumulated contributions standing to the member's credit, less any amount identified as owing to an obligee upon withdrawal of accumulated contributions pursuant to a court order filed under RCW 41.50.670, shall be paid:
- 21 (a) To an estate, a person or persons, trust, or organization as 22 the member shall have nominated by written designation duly executed 23 and filed with the department; or
- (b) If there is no such designated person or persons still living at the time of the member's death, then to the member's legal representatives.
- *Sec. 16. RCW 44.44.040 and 1987 c 25 s 3 are each amended to read as follows:
- The office of the state actuary shall have the following powers and duties:
- 31 (1) Perform all actuarial services for the department of retirement 32 systems, including all studies required by law. ((Reimbursement for 33 such services shall be made to the state actuary pursuant to the 34 provisions of RCW 39.34.130 as now or hereafter amended.))
- 35 (2) Advise the legislature and the governor regarding pension 36 benefit provisions, and funding policies and investment policies of the 37 state investment board.

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- (3) Consult with the legislature and the governor concerning 1 2 determination of actuarial assumptions used by the department of 3 retirement systems.
- 4 (4) Prepare a report, to be known as the actuarial fiscal note, on 5 each pension bill introduced in the legislature which briefly explains the financial impact of the bill. The actuarial fiscal note shall 6 7 (a) The statutorily required contribution for the biennium and the following twenty-five years; (b) the biennial cost of the 8 9 increased benefits if these exceed the required contribution; and (c) any change in the present value of the unfunded accrued benefits. 10 actuarial fiscal note shall also be prepared for all amendments which 11 in committee or the floor 12 are offered onof the house representatives or the senate to any pension bill. However, a majority 13 of the members present may suspend the requirement for an actuarial 14 fiscal note for amendments offered on the floor of the house of 15 16 representatives or the senate.
- 17 (5) Provide such actuarial services to the legislature as may be 18 requested from time to time.
- 19 (6) Provide staff and assistance to the committee established under 20 RCW ((46.44.050)) 44.44.050. *Sec. 16 was vetoed. See message at end of chapter.
- 21 NEW SECTION. Sec. 17. Section 4 of this act takes effect January 22 1, 2004.

Passed by the House February 28, 2003.

Passed by the Senate April 15, 2003.
Approved by the Governor May 14, 2003, with the exception of certain items that were vetoed.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State May 14, 2003.

Note: Governor's explanation of partial veto is as follows:

"I am returning herewith, without my approval as to section 16, House Bill No. 1200 entitled:

"AN ACT Relating to correcting retirement system statutes;"

This bill makes technical corrections to the pension statutes.

Section 16 of the bill references a section of law that is repealed by Substitute House Bill No. 1204, which I also signed today. Therefore, I am vetoing section 16 of House Bill No. 1200 to avoid confusion.

For this reason, I have vetoed section 16 of House Bill No. 1200. With the exception of section 16, House Bill No. 1200 is approved."

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