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HOUSE BILL 1600

State of Washington 61st Legislature 2009 Regular Session

By Representatives Simpson, Appleton, Conway, Hunt, Green, Sells, Sullivan, Williams, Kenney, Hasegawa, and Ormsby

Read first time 01/26/09. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

- AN ACT Relating to vesting after five years of service in the defined benefit portion of the public employees' retirement system, the school employees' retirement system, and the teachers' retirement system plan 3; and amending RCW 41.32.875, 41.35.680, and 41.40.820.
- 5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:
- 6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 41.32.875 and 2007 c 491 s 4 are each amended to read 7 as follows:
- 8 (1) NORMAL RETIREMENT. Any member who is at least age sixty-five and who has($(\div$
- 10 $\frac{(a)}{(a)}$) completed ((ten)) five service credit years(($\frac{1}{a}$)
- 11 (b) Completed five service credit years, including twelve service 12 credit months after attaining age forty four; or
- $\frac{(c)}{c}$) or completed five service credit years by July 1, 1996, under plan 2 and who transferred to plan 3 under RCW 41.32.817($(\dot{\tau})$), shall be eligible to retire and to receive a retirement allowance computed according to the provisions of RCW 41.32.840.
- 17 (2) EARLY RETIREMENT. Any member who has attained at least age 18 fifty-five and has completed at least ten years of service shall be 19 eligible to retire and to receive a retirement allowance computed

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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.

(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) 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:

20	Retirement	Percent
21	Age	Reduction
22	55	20%
23	56	17%
24	57	14%
25	58	11%
26	59	8%
27	60	5%
28	61	2%
29	62	0%
30	63	0%
31	64	0%

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

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temporary or project employee, or any other similar compensated relationship with any employer included under the provisions of RCW 41.32.860(1).

The subsidized reductions for alternate early retirement in this 4 subsection as set forth in section 4, chapter 491, Laws of 2007 were 5 intended by the legislature as replacement benefits for gain-sharing. 6 7 Until there is legal certainty with respect to the repeal of chapter 8 right to retire under this RCW, the subsection noncontractual, and the legislature reserves the right to amend or 9 10 repeal this subsection. Legal certainty includes, but is not limited to, the expiration of any: Applicable limitations on actions; and 11 12 periods of time for seeking appellate review, up to and including 13 reconsideration by the Washington supreme court and the supreme court 14 of the United States. Until that time, eligible members may still retire under this subsection, and upon receipt of the first installment 15 of a retirement allowance computed under this subsection, the resulting 16 benefit becomes contractual for the recipient. If the repeal of 17 18 chapter 41.31A RCW is held to be invalid in a final determination of a 19 court of law, and the court orders reinstatement of gain-sharing or other alternate benefits as a remedy, then retirement benefits for any 20 21 member who has completed at least thirty service credit years and has 22 attained age fifty-five but has not yet received the first installment 23 of a retirement allowance under this subsection shall be computed using 24 the reductions in (a) of this subsection.

- 25 **Sec. 2.** RCW 41.35.680 and 2007 c 491 s 8 are each amended to read as follows:
- 27 (1) NORMAL RETIREMENT. Any member who is at least age sixty-five 28 and who has((\div
 - (a))) completed ((ten)) five service credit years((tor)

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- 30 (b) Completed five service credit years, including twelve service 31 credit months after attaining age forty-four; or
 - (c)) or 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($(\dot{\tau})$), shall be eligible to retire and to receive a retirement allowance computed according to the provisions of RCW 41.35.620.

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- (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.
 - (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) 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:

23	Retirement	Percent
24	Age	Reduction
25	55	20%
26	56	17%
27	57	14%
28	58	11%
29	59	8%
30	60	5%
31	61	2%
32	62	0%
33	63	0%
34	64	0%

Any member who retires under the provisions of this subsection is ineligible for the postretirement employment provisions of RCW

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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).

The subsidized reductions for alternate early retirement in this 7 subsection as set forth in section 8, chapter 491, Laws of 2007 were 8 9 intended by the legislature as replacement benefits for gain-sharing. Until there is legal certainty with respect to the repeal of chapter 10 11 RCW, the right to retire under this subsection 12 noncontractual, and the legislature reserves the right to amend or 13 repeal this subsection. Legal certainty includes, but is not limited to, the expiration of any: Applicable limitations on actions; and 14 15 periods of time for seeking appellate review, up to and including reconsideration by the Washington supreme court and the supreme court 16 of the United States. Until that time, eligible members may still 17 retire under this subsection, and upon receipt of the first installment 18 19 of a retirement allowance computed under this subsection, the resulting 20 benefit becomes contractual for the recipient. If the repeal of 21 chapter 41.31A RCW is held to be invalid in a final determination of a 22 court of law, and the court orders reinstatement of gain-sharing or 23 other alternate benefits as a remedy, then retirement benefits for any 24 member who has completed at least thirty service credit years and has attained age fifty-five but has not yet received the first installment 25 26 of a retirement allowance under this subsection shall be computed using 27 the reductions in (a) of this subsection.

- 28 **Sec. 3.** RCW 41.40.820 and 2007 c 491 s 10 are each amended to read 29 as follows:
- 30 (1) NORMAL RETIREMENT. Any member who is at least age sixty-five 31 and who has((\div
- 32 (a))) completed ((ten)) five service credit years((; or
- 33 (b) Completed five service credit years, including twelve service 34 credit months after attaining age forty-four; or
- 35 (c))) or completed five service credit years by the transfer payment date specified in RCW 41.40.795, under the public employees'

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retirement system plan 2 and who transferred to plan 3 under RCW $41.40.795((\dot{\tau}))_{\perp}$ shall be eligible to retire and to receive a retirement allowance computed according to the provisions of RCW 41.40.790.

- (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 41.40.790, 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.
 - (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 41.40.790, 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) On or after July 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 41.40.790, except that a member retiring pursuant to this subsection shall have the retirement allowance reduced as follows:

26	Retirement	Percent
27	Age	Reduction
28	55	20%
29	56	17%
30	57	14%
31	58	11%
32	59	8%
33	60	5%
34	61	2%
35	62	0%
36	63	0%

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Any member who retires under the provisions of this subsection is ineligible for the postretirement employment provisions of RCW 41.40.037(2)(d) 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 41.40.850(1).

The subsidized reductions for alternate early retirement in this subsection as set forth in section 10, 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 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.

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