

AN ACT concerning public employee benefits.

**Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,
represented in the General Assembly:**

Section 5. The Illinois Pension Code is amended by changing Sections 7-118, 7-137, 7-172, and 7-220 as follows:

(40 ILCS 5/7-118) (from Ch. 108 1/2, par. 7-118)

Sec. 7-118. "Beneficiary" ~~.~~[÷]

(a) "Beneficiary" means:

(1) Any person or persons, trust, or charity designated as a beneficiary by an employee, former employee who has not yet received a retirement annuity or separation benefit, or employee annuitant. If no designation is on file or no beneficiary so designated survives, the estate of the employee, former employee who has not yet received a retirement annuity or separation benefit, or employee annuitant.

(2) Any person or persons, trust, or charity designated as a beneficiary by a beneficiary annuitant or, if no designation is on file or no beneficiary so designated survives, the estate of the beneficiary annuitant. ~~The surviving spouse of an employee or of an employee annuitant, or if no surviving spouse survives, the person or persons designated by a participating employee or~~

~~employee annuitant, or if no person so designated survives, or if no designation is on file, the estate of the employee or employee annuitant. The person or persons designated by a beneficiary annuitant, or if no person designated survives, or if no designation is on file, the estate of the beneficiary annuitant.~~

(3) The estate of a surviving spouse annuitant where the employee or employee annuitant filed no designation, or no person designated survives at the death of a surviving spouse annuitant.

(b) Designations of beneficiaries shall be in writing on forms prescribed by the board and effective upon filing in the fund offices. The designation forms shall provide for contingent beneficiaries. Divorce, dissolution or annulment of marriage revokes the designation of an employee's former spouse as a beneficiary on a designation executed before entry of judgment for divorce, dissolution or annulment of marriage.

~~(b) Notwithstanding the foregoing, an employee, former employee who has not yet received a retirement annuity or separation benefit, or employee annuitant may elect to name any person, trust or charity to be the primary beneficiary of any death benefit payable by reason of his death. Such election shall state specifically whether it is his intention to exclude the spouse, shall be in writing, and may be revoked at any time. Such election or revocation shall take effect upon being filed in the fund offices.~~

~~(c) If a surviving spouse annuity is payable to a former spouse upon the death of an employee annuitant, the former spouse, unless designated by the employee annuitant after dissolution of the marriage, shall not be the beneficiary for the purposes of the \$3,000 death benefit payable under subparagraph 6 of Section 7-164. This benefit shall be paid to the designated beneficiary of the employee annuitant or, if there is no designation, then to the estate of the employee annuitant.~~

(Source: P.A. 89-136, eff. 7-14-95; 90-448, eff. 8-16-97.)

(40 ILCS 5/7-137) (from Ch. 108 1/2, par. 7-137)

Sec. 7-137. Participating and covered employees.

(a) The persons described in this paragraph (a) shall be included within and be subject to this Article and eligible to benefits from this fund, beginning upon the dates hereinafter specified:

1. Except as to the employees specifically excluded under the provisions of this Article, all persons who are employees of any municipality (or instrumentality thereof) or participating instrumentality on the effective date of participation of the municipality or participating instrumentality beginning upon such effective date.

2. Except as to the employees specifically excluded under the provisions of this Article, all persons, who became employees of any participating municipality (or

instrumentality thereof) or participating instrumentality after the effective date of participation of such municipality or participating instrumentality, beginning upon the date such person becomes an employee.

3. All persons who file notice with the board as provided in paragraph (b) 2 and 3 of this Section, beginning upon the date of filing such notice.

(b) The following described persons shall not be considered participating employees eligible for benefits from this fund, but shall be included within and be subject to this Article (each of the descriptions is not exclusive but is cumulative):

1. Any person who occupies an office or is employed in a position normally requiring performance of duty during less than 600 hours a year for a municipality (including all instrumentalities thereof) or a participating instrumentality. If a school treasurer performs services for more than one school district, the total number of hours of service normally required for the several school districts shall be considered to determine whether he qualifies under this paragraph;

2. Any person who holds elective office unless he has elected while in that office in a written notice on file with the board to become a participating employee;

3. Any person working for a city hospital unless any such person, while in active employment, has elected in a written notice on file with the board to become a

participating employee and notification thereof is received by the board;

4. Any person who becomes an employee after June 30, 1979 as a public service employment program participant under the federal Comprehensive Employment and Training Act and whose wages or fringe benefits are paid in whole or in part by funds provided under such Act;

5. Any person who is actively employed by a municipality on its effective date of participation in the Fund if that municipality (i) has at least 35 employees on its effective date of participation; (ii) is located in a county with at least 2,000,000 inhabitants; and (iii) maintains an independent defined benefit pension plan for the benefit of its eligible employees, unless the person files with the board within 90 days after the municipality's effective date of participation an irrevocable election to participate.

(c) Any person electing to be a participating employee, pursuant to paragraph (b) of this Section may not change such election, except as provided in Section 7-137.1.

(d) Any employee who occupied the position of school nurse in any participating municipality on August 8, 1961 and continuously thereafter until the effective date of the exercise of the option authorized by this subparagraph, who on August 7, 1961 was a member of the Teachers' Retirement System of Illinois, by virtue of certification by the Department of

Registration and Education as a public health nurse, may elect to terminate participation in this Fund in order to re-establish membership in such System. The election may be exercised by filing written notice thereof with the Board or with the Board of Trustees of said Teachers' Retirement System, not later than September 30, 1963, and shall be effective on the first day of the calendar month next following the month in which the notice was filed. If the written notice is filed with such Teachers' Retirement System, that System shall immediately notify this Fund, but neither failure nor delay in notification shall affect the validity of the employee's election. If the option is exercised, the Fund shall notify such Teachers' Retirement System of such fact and transfer to that system the amounts contributed by the employee to this Fund, including interest at 3% per annum, but excluding contributions applicable to social security coverage during the period beginning August 8, 1961 to the effective date of the employee's election. Participation in this Fund as to any credits on or after August 8, 1961 and up to the effective date of the employee's election shall terminate on such effective date.

(e) Any participating municipality or participating instrumentality, other than a school district or special education joint agreement created under Section 10-22.31 of the School Code, may, by a resolution or ordinance duly adopted by its governing body, elect to exclude from participation and

eligibility for benefits all persons who are employed after the effective date of such resolution or ordinance and who occupy an office or are employed in a position normally requiring performance of duty for less than 1000 hours per year for the participating municipality (including all instrumentalities thereof) or participating instrumentality except for persons employed in a position normally requiring performance of duty for 600 hours or more per year (i) by such participating municipality or participating instrumentality prior to the effective date of the resolution or ordinance and, (ii) ~~by any participating municipality or participating instrumentality prior to January 1, 1982 and~~ (iii) by a participating municipality or participating instrumentality, which had not adopted such a resolution when the person was employed, and the function served by the employee's position is assumed by another participating municipality or participating instrumentality. A participating municipality or participating instrumentality included in and subject to this Article after January 1, 1982 may adopt such resolution or ordinance only prior to the date it becomes included in and subject to this Article. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a participating municipality or participating instrumentality which is formed solely to succeed to the functions of a participating municipality or participating instrumentality shall be considered to have adopted any such resolution or ordinance which may have been applicable to the employees performing such

functions. The election made by the resolution or ordinance shall take effect at the time specified in the resolution or ordinance, and once effective shall be irrevocable.

(Source: P.A. 93-933, eff. 8-13-04.)

(40 ILCS 5/7-172) (from Ch. 108 1/2, par. 7-172)

Sec. 7-172. Contributions by participating municipalities and participating instrumentalities.

(a) Each participating municipality and each participating instrumentality shall make payment to the fund as follows:

1. municipality contributions in an amount determined by applying the municipality contribution rate to each payment of earnings paid to each of its participating employees;

2. an amount equal to the employee contributions provided by paragraphs (a) and (b) of Section 7-173, whether or not the employee contributions are withheld as permitted by that Section;

3. all accounts receivable, together with interest charged thereon, as provided in Section 7-209;

4. if it has no participating employees with current earnings, an amount payable which, over a closed period of 20 years for participating municipalities and 10 years for participating instrumentalities ~~beginning with the year following an award of benefit,~~ will amortize, at the effective rate for that year, any unfunded obligation. The

unfunded obligation shall be computed as provided in paragraph 2 of subsection (b); ~~negative balance in its municipality reserve resulting from the award. This amount when established will be payable as a separate contribution whether or not it later has participating employees.~~

5. if it has fewer than 7 participating employees or a negative balance in its municipality reserve, the greater of (A) an amount payable that, over a period of 20 years, will amortize at the effective rate for that year any unfunded obligation, computed as provided in paragraph 2 of subsection (b) or (B) the amount required by paragraph 1 of this subsection (a).

(b) A separate municipality contribution rate shall be determined for each calendar year for all participating municipalities together with all instrumentalities thereof. The municipality contribution rate shall be determined for participating instrumentalities as if they were participating municipalities. The municipality contribution rate shall be the sum of the following percentages:

1. The percentage of earnings of all the participating employees of all participating municipalities and participating instrumentalities which, if paid over the entire period of their service, will be sufficient when combined with all employee contributions available for the payment of benefits, to provide all annuities for participating employees, and the \$3,000 death benefit

payable under Sections 7-158 and 7-164, such percentage to be known as the normal cost rate.

2. The percentage of earnings of the participating employees of each participating municipality and participating instrumentalities necessary to adjust for the difference between the present value of all benefits, excluding temporary and total and permanent disability and death benefits, to be provided for its participating employees and the sum of its accumulated municipality contributions and the accumulated employee contributions and the present value of expected future employee and municipality contributions pursuant to subparagraph 1 of this paragraph (b). This adjustment shall be spread over the remainder of the period that is allowable under generally accepted accounting principles.

3. The percentage of earnings of the participating employees of all municipalities and participating instrumentalities necessary to provide the present value of all temporary and total and permanent disability benefits granted during the most recent year for which information is available.

4. The percentage of earnings of the participating employees of all participating municipalities and participating instrumentalities necessary to provide the present value of the net single sum death benefits expected to become payable from the reserve established under

Section 7-206 during the year for which this rate is fixed.

5. The percentage of earnings necessary to meet any deficiency arising in the Terminated Municipality Reserve.

(c) A separate municipality contribution rate shall be computed for each participating municipality or participating instrumentality for its sheriff's law enforcement employees.

A separate municipality contribution rate shall be computed for the sheriff's law enforcement employees of each forest preserve district that elects to have such employees. For the period from January 1, 1986 to December 31, 1986, such rate shall be the forest preserve district's regular rate plus 2%.

In the event that the Board determines that there is an actuarial deficiency in the account of any municipality with respect to a person who has elected to participate in the Fund under Section 3-109.1 of this Code, the Board may adjust the municipality's contribution rate so as to make up that deficiency over such reasonable period of time as the Board may determine.

(d) The Board may establish a separate municipality contribution rate for all employees who are program participants employed under the federal Comprehensive Employment Training Act by all of the participating municipalities and instrumentalities. The Board may also provide that, in lieu of a separate municipality rate for these employees, a portion of the municipality contributions for such

program participants shall be refunded or an extra charge assessed so that the amount of municipality contributions retained or received by the fund for all CETA program participants shall be an amount equal to that which would be provided by the separate municipality contribution rate for all such program participants. Refunds shall be made to prime sponsors of programs upon submission of a claim therefor and extra charges shall be assessed to participating municipalities and instrumentalities. In establishing the municipality contribution rate as provided in paragraph (b) of this Section, the use of a separate municipality contribution rate for program participants or the refund of a portion of the municipality contributions, as the case may be, may be considered.

(e) Computations of municipality contribution rates for the following calendar year shall be made prior to the beginning of each year, from the information available at the time the computations are made, and on the assumption that the employees in each participating municipality or participating instrumentality at such time will continue in service until the end of such calendar year at their respective rates of earnings at such time.

(f) Any municipality which is the recipient of State allocations representing that municipality's contributions for retirement annuity purposes on behalf of its employees as provided in Section 12-21.16 of the Illinois Public Aid Code

shall pay the allocations so received to the Board for such purpose. Estimates of State allocations to be received during any taxable year shall be considered in the determination of the municipality's tax rate for that year under Section 7-171. If a special tax is levied under Section 7-171, none of the proceeds may be used to reimburse the municipality for the amount of State allocations received and paid to the Board. Any multiple-county or consolidated health department which receives contributions from a county under Section 11.2 of "An Act in relation to establishment and maintenance of county and multiple-county health departments", approved July 9, 1943, as amended, or distributions under Section 3 of the Department of Public Health Act, shall use these only for municipality contributions by the health department.

(g) Municipality contributions for the several purposes specified shall, for township treasurers and employees in the offices of the township treasurers who meet the qualifying conditions for coverage hereunder, be allocated among the several school districts and parts of school districts serviced by such treasurers and employees in the proportion which the amount of school funds of each district or part of a district handled by the treasurer bears to the total amount of all school funds handled by the treasurer.

From the funds subject to allocation among districts and parts of districts pursuant to the School Code, the trustees shall withhold the proportionate share of the liability for

municipality contributions imposed upon such districts by this Section, in respect to such township treasurers and employees and remit the same to the Board.

The municipality contribution rate for an educational service center shall initially be the same rate for each year as the regional office of education or school district which serves as its administrative agent. When actuarial data become available, a separate rate shall be established as provided in subparagraph (i) of this Section.

The municipality contribution rate for a public agency, other than a vocational education cooperative, formed under the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act shall initially be the average rate for the municipalities which are parties to the intergovernmental agreement. When actuarial data become available, a separate rate shall be established as provided in subparagraph (i) of this Section.

(h) Each participating municipality and participating instrumentality shall make the contributions in the amounts provided in this Section in the manner prescribed from time to time by the Board and all such contributions shall be obligations of the respective participating municipalities and participating instrumentalities to this fund. The failure to deduct any employee contributions shall not relieve the participating municipality or participating instrumentality of its obligation to this fund. Delinquent payments of contributions due under this Section may, with interest, be

recovered by civil action against the participating municipalities or participating instrumentalities. Municipality contributions, other than the amount necessary for employee contributions and Social Security contributions, for periods of service by employees from whose earnings no deductions were made for employee contributions to the fund, may be charged to the municipality reserve for the municipality or participating instrumentality.

(i) Contributions by participating instrumentalities shall be determined as provided herein except that the percentage derived under subparagraph 2 of paragraph (b) of this Section, and the amount payable under subparagraph 5 of paragraph (a) of this Section, shall be based on an amortization period of 10 years.

(j) Notwithstanding the other provisions of this Section, the additional unfunded liability accruing as a result of this amendatory Act of the 94th General Assembly shall be amortized over a period of 30 years beginning on January 1 of the second calendar year following the calendar year in which this amendatory Act takes effect, except that the employer may provide for a longer amortization period by adopting a resolution or ordinance specifying a 35-year or 40-year period and submitting a certified copy of the ordinance or resolution to the fund no later than June 1 of the calendar year following the calendar year in which this amendatory Act takes effect.

(Source: P.A. 94-712, eff. 6-1-06.)

(40 ILCS 5/7-220) (from Ch. 108 1/2, par. 7-220)

Sec. 7-220. Administrative review. The provisions of the Administrative Review Law, and all amendments and modifications thereof and the rules adopted pursuant thereto shall apply to and govern all proceedings for the judicial review of final administrative decisions of the retirement board provided for under this Article. The term "administrative decision" is as defined in Section 3-101 of the Code of Civil Procedure. The venue for actions brought under the Administrative Review Law shall be any county in which the Board maintains an office or the county in which the member's plaintiff's employing participating municipality or participating instrumentality has its main office.

(Source: P.A. 82-783.)

Section 90. The State Mandates Act is amended by adding Section 8.34 as follows:

(30 ILCS 805/8.34 new)

Sec. 8.34. Exempt mandate. Notwithstanding Sections 6 and 8 of this Act, no reimbursement by the State is required for the implementation of any mandate created by this amendatory Act of the 96th General Assembly.

Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon becoming law.