

**Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 7, 2025**

HOUSE BILL NO. 1112
(Government and Veterans Affairs Committee)
(North Dakota State Forester)

AN ACT to amend and reenact subsection 8 of section 54-52-01, section 54-52-06.4, subsection 3 of section 54-52-17, and subsection 4 of section 54-52-17 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to membership of the public employees retirement system.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Subsection 8 of section 54-52-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

8. "Firefighter" means a participating member who is employed as a firefighter by the state or a political subdivision and, notwithstanding subsection ~~4314~~, for an individual employed after July 31, 2017, is employed at least thirty-two hours per week and at least twenty weeks each year of employment. A firefighter who is a participating member of the law enforcement retirement plan created by this chapter who begins employment after July 31, 2017, is ineligible to participate concurrently in any other retirement plan administered by the public employees retirement system. The term does not include a firefighter employee of the North Dakota national guard.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT. Section 54-52-06.4 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

54-52-06.4. Contribution by firefighters or peace officers employed by the state or security officers employed by the national guard - Employer contribution. (Retroactive application - See note)

1. a. Each peace officer employed by the bureau of criminal investigation who is a member of the public employees retirement system is assessed and shall pay monthly four percent of the employee's monthly salary. Peace officer contributions increase by one percent of the member's monthly salary beginning with the monthly reporting period of January 2012; with an additional increase of one percent, beginning with the reporting period of January 2013; with an additional increase of one percent, beginning with the reporting period of January 2024; and with an additional increase of one percent, beginning with the reporting period of January 2025.
 - b. Each firefighter or peace officer employed by the state, other than a peace officer employed by the bureau of criminal investigation, who is a member of the public employees retirement system is assessed and shall pay six percent of the employee's monthly salary.
 - c. Effective August 1, 2015, each national guard security officer who is a member of the public employee's retirement system is assessed and monthly shall pay six percent of the employee's monthly salary. National guard security officer contributions decrease by one-half of one percent of the member's monthly salary beginning with the monthly reporting period of January 2016.
 - d. The assessment under this subsection must be deducted and retained out of the employee's salary in equal monthly installments.
2. The employer of a firefighter or peace officer employed by the state or national guard security officer shall contribute an amount determined by the board to be actuarially required to

support the level of benefits specified in section 54-52-17. The employer's contribution must be paid from funds appropriated for salary or from any other funds available for such purposes. If the firefighter's, peace officer's, or security officer's assessment is paid by the employer under subsection 3 of section 54-52-05, the employer shall contribute, in addition, an amount equal to the required firefighter's, peace officer's, or security officer's assessment.

SECTION 3. AMENDMENT. Subsection 3 of section 54-52-17 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

3. Retirement dates are defined as follows:

- a. Normal retirement date, except for a national guard security officer or firefighter, a firefighter employed by a political subdivision, a firefighter or peace officer employed by the state, or a peace officer or correctional officer employed by a political subdivision, is:
 - (1) The first day of the month next following the month in which the member attains the age of sixty-five years; or
 - (2) When the member has a combined total of years of service credit and years of age equal to eighty-five and has not received a retirement benefit under this chapter.
- b. Normal retirement date for members first enrolled after December 31, 2015, except for a national guard security officer or firefighter, a firefighter employed by a political subdivision, a firefighter or peace officer employed by the state, a peace officer or correctional officer employed by a political subdivision, or a supreme court or district court judge, is:
 - (1) The first day of the month next following the month in which the member attains the age of sixty-five years; or
 - (2) When the member has a combined total of years of service credit and years of age equal to ninety and the member attains a minimum age of sixty and has not received a retirement benefit under this chapter.
- c. Normal retirement date for a national guard security officer or firefighter is:
 - (1) The first day of the month next following the month in which the national guard security officer or firefighter attains the age of fifty-five years and has completed at least three eligible years of employment; or
 - (2) When the national guard security officer or firefighter has a combined total of years of service credit and years of age equal to eighty-five and has not received a retirement benefit under this chapter.
- d. Normal retirement date for a peace officer, firefighter, or correctional officer employed by a political subdivision is:
 - (1) The first day of the month next following the month in which the peace officer, firefighter, or correctional officer attains the age of fifty-five years and has completed at least three eligible years of employment; or
 - (2) When the peace officer, firefighter, or correctional officer has a combined total of years of service credit and years of age equal to eighty-five and has not received a retirement benefit under this chapter.
- e. (1) Normal retirement date for a peace officer employed by the bureau of criminal investigation is:

- (a) [1] For a member employed before August 1, 2023, the first day of the month next following the month in which the peace officer attains the age of fifty-five years and has completed at least three eligible years of employment; and
 - [2] For a member employed after July 31, 2023, the first day of the month next following the month in which the peace officer attains the age of fifty-five years and has completed at least ten eligible years of employment; or
 - (b) When the peace officer has a combined total of years of service credit and years of age equal to eighty-five and has not received a retirement benefit under this chapter.
- (2) Normal retirement date for a firefighter or peace officer employed by the state, other than a peace officer employed by the bureau of criminal investigation, is:
- (a) The first day of the month next following the month in which the firefighter or peace officer attains the age of fifty-five years and has completed at least three eligible years of employment; or
 - (b) When the firefighter or peace officer has a combined total of years of service credit and years of age equal to eighty-five and has not received a retirement benefit under this chapter.
- f. Postponed retirement date is the first day of the month next following the month in which the member, on or after July 1, 1977, actually severs or has severed the member's employment after reaching the normal retirement date.
- g. (1) Early retirement date, except for a national guard security officer or firefighter, a firefighter, peace officer, or correctional officer employed by a political subdivision, or a firefighter or peace officer employed by the state, is the first day of the month next following the month in which the member attains the age of fifty-five years and has completed three years of eligible employment.
- (2) For a national guard security officer or firefighter, early retirement date is the first day of the month next following the month in which the national guard security officer or firefighter attains the age of fifty years and has completed at least three years of eligible employment.
- (3) For a firefighter or peace officer employed by the state, other than a peace officer employed by the bureau of criminal investigation, or a firefighter, peace officer, or correctional officer employed by a political subdivision, early retirement date is the first day of the month next following the month in which the peace officer, firefighter, or correctional officer attains the age of fifty years and has completed at least three years of eligible employment.
- (4) For a peace officer employed by the bureau of criminal investigation, early retirement date is the first day of the month next following the month in which the peace officer attains the age of fifty years and has completed at least three years of eligible employment.
- h. Disability retirement date is the first day of the month after a member becomes permanently and totally disabled, according to medical evidence called for under the rules of the board, and has completed at least one hundred eighty days of eligible employment. For supreme and district court judges, permanent and total disability is based solely on a judge's inability to perform judicial duties arising out of physical or

mental impairment, as determined pursuant to rules adopted by the board or as provided by subdivision a of subsection 3 of section 27-23-03.

- (1) A member is eligible to receive disability retirement benefits only if the member became disabled during the period of eligible employment and applies for disability retirement benefits within twelve months of the date the member terminates employment.
- (2) A member is eligible to continue to receive disability benefits as long as the permanent and total disability continues and the member submits the necessary documentation and undergoes medical testing required by the board, or for as long as the member participates in a rehabilitation program required by the board, or both. If the board determines a member no longer meets the eligibility definition, the board may discontinue the disability retirement benefit. The board may pay the cost of any medical testing or rehabilitation services the board deems necessary and these payments are appropriated from the retirement fund for those purposes. A member's receipt of disability benefits under this section is limited to receipt from the fund to which the member was actively contributing at the time the member became disabled.

SECTION 4. AMENDMENT. Subsection 4 of section 54-52-17 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

4. The board shall calculate retirement benefits as follows:
 - a. Normal retirement benefits for all retirees, except supreme and district court judges, and peace officers employed by the bureau of criminal investigation, and other peace officers employed by the state, reaching normal retirement date equal an annual amount, payable monthly, comprised of a service benefit and a prior service benefit, as defined in this chapter, which is determined as follows:
 - (1) For members first enrolled:
 - (a) Before January 1, 2020, service benefit equals two percent of final average salary multiplied by the number of years of service employment.
 - (b) After December 31, 2019, service benefit equals one and seventy-five hundredths percent of final average salary multiplied by the number of years of service employment.
 - (2) Prior service benefit equals two percent of final average salary multiplied by the number of years of prior service employment.
 - b. Normal retirement benefits for all supreme and district court judges under the public employees retirement system reaching normal retirement date equal an annual amount, payable monthly, comprised of a benefit as defined in this chapter, determined as follows:
 - (1) Benefits must be calculated from the time of appointment or election to the bench and must equal three and one-half percent of final average salary multiplied by the first ten years of judicial service, two and eighty hundredths percent of final average salary multiplied by the second ten years of judicial service, and one and one-fourth percent of final average salary multiplied by the number of years of judicial service exceeding twenty years.
 - (2) Service benefits must include, in addition, an amount equal to the percent specified in subdivision a of final average salary multiplied by the number of years of nonjudicial employee service and employment.

- c. Normal retirement benefits for a peace officer employed by the bureau of criminal investigation reaching the normal retirement date equals an annual amount, payable monthly, comprised of a service benefit and a prior service benefit determined as follows:
 - (1) The first twenty years of credited service multiplied by three percent of final average salary.
 - (2) For years in excess of twenty years of credited service multiplied by one and seventy-five hundredths percent of final average salary.
- d. ~~Normal retirement benefits for a peace officer employed by the state, other than by the bureau of criminal investigation, reaching the normal retirement date equals an annual amount, payable monthly, comprised of a service benefit and a prior service benefit determined as follows:~~
 - (1) ~~For members first enrolled:~~
 - (a) ~~Before January 1, 2020, service benefit equals two percent of final average salary multiplied by the number of years of service employment.~~
 - (b) ~~After December 31, 2019, service benefit equals one and seventy five hundredths percent of final average salary multiplied by the number of years of service employment.~~
 - (2) ~~Prior service benefit equals two percent of final average salary multiplied by the number of years of prior service employment.~~
- e. Postponed retirement benefits are calculated as for single life benefits for those members who retired on or after July 1, 1977.
- f.e. Early retirement benefits are calculated as for single life benefits accrued to the date of termination of employment, but must be actuarially reduced to account for benefit payments beginning before the normal retirement date, as determined under subsection 3. Except for a national guard security officer or firefighter, a firefighter, peace officer, or correctional officer employed by a political subdivision, a firefighter or peace officer employed by the state, or a supreme court or district court judge, early retirement benefits for members first enrolled after December 31, 2015, are calculated for single life benefits accrued to the date of termination of employment, but must be reduced by a fixed rate of eight percent per year to account for benefit payments beginning before the normal retirement date. A retiree, other than a supreme or district court judge, is eligible for early retirement benefits only after having completed three years of eligible employment. A supreme or district court judge retiree is eligible for early retirement benefits only after having completed five years of eligible employment.
- g.f. Except for supreme and district court judges, disability retirement benefits are twenty-five percent of the member's final average salary. Disability retirement benefits for supreme and district court judges are seventy percent of final average salary reduced by the member's primary social security benefits and by any workforce safety and insurance benefits paid. The minimum monthly disability retirement benefit under this section is one hundred dollars.

Rohi Weing
Speaker of the House

Frank Keller
President of the Senate

Buell J. Reich
Chief Clerk of the House

Manda Meyer
Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that the within bill originated in the House of Representatives of the Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as House Bill No. 1112.

House Vote: Yeas 93 Nays 0 Absent 1

Senate Vote: Yeas 47 Nays 0 Absent 0

Buell J. Reich
Chief Clerk of the House

Received by the Governor at 4:25 P.M. on MARCH 20th, 2025.

Approved at 3:48 P.M. on MARCH 21, 2025.

[Signature]
Governor

Filed in this office this 24th day of MARCH, 2025,
at 9:42 o'clock A M.

Michael Howe
Secretary of State