

2020 Kansas Statutes

74-4937. Normal retirement date of certain members in school employment; early retirement; employment after retirement, limitations, requirements. (1) The normal retirement date of a member of the system who is in school employment and who is subject to K.S.A. 74-4940, and amendments thereto, shall be the first day of the month coinciding with or following termination of employment not followed by employment with any participating employer within 60 days, or 180 days as provided in K.S.A. 74-4914(10), and amendments thereto, and without any prearranged agreement for employment with any participating employer, and the attainment of age 65 or, commencing July 1, 1986, age 65 or age 60 with the completion of 35 years of credited service or at any age with the completion of 40 years of credited service, or commencing July 1, 1993, any alternative normal retirement date already prescribed by law or age 62 with the completion of 10 years of credited service or the first day of the month coinciding with or following the date that the total of the number of years of credited service and the number of years of attained age of the member is equal to or more than 85. Each member upon giving prior notice to the appointing authority and the retirement system may retire on the normal retirement date or the first day of any month thereafter. Such member's application for retirement shall contain a certification by the member that the member will not be employed with any participating employer within 60 days, or 180 days as provided in K.S.A. 74-4914(10), and amendments thereto, of retirement and the member has not entered into a prearranged agreement for employment with any participating employer.

(2) Any member who is in school employment and who is subject to K.S.A. 74-4940, and amendments thereto, may retire before such member's normal retirement date on the first day of the month coinciding with or following termination of employment not followed by employment with any participating employer within 60 days, or 180 days as provided in K.S.A. 74-4914(10), and amendments thereto, and the attainment of age 55 with the completion of 10 years of credited service, upon the filing with the office of the retirement system of an application for retirement in such form and manner as the board shall prescribe. The member's application for retirement shall contain a certification by the member that the member will not be employed with any participating employer within 60 days, or 180 days as provided in K.S.A. 74-4914(10), and amendments thereto, of retirement and the member has not entered into a prearranged agreement for employment with any participating employer.

(3) The provisions of K.S.A. 74-4914(5), (7) and (10), and amendments thereto, which relate to an earnings limitation which when met or exceeded requires that the retirant not receive a retirement benefit for any month for which such retirant serves in a position as described herein shall not apply to retirants who either retired under the provisions of K.S.A. 74-4914(1), and amendments thereto, related to normal retirement, or, if they retired under the provisions of K.S.A. 74-4914(4), and amendments thereto, related to early retirement, and are subsequently hired in a position that requires a license under K.S.A. 72-2157, and amendments thereto, or other provision of law. The provisions of this subsection shall only apply to retirants who retired prior to January 1, 2018. Except as otherwise provided, when a retirant is employed by the same school district or a different school district with which such retirant was employed during the final two years of such retirant's participation or employed as an independent contractor or by a third-party entity who contracts services with a school district to fill a position as described in this subsection, the participating employer of such retirant shall pay to the system the actuarially determined employer contribution based on the retirant's compensation during any such period of employment plus 8%. Commencing January 1, 2018, if a retirant is employed in a covered position, as defined in K.S.A. 74-49,202, and amendments thereto, the participating employer shall pay to the system the statutorily prescribed employer contribution rate on the first \$25,000 of such retirant's compensation in a calendar year and a 30% employer contribution on any compensation in excess of \$25,000 in a calendar year during any such period of employment. If a retirant is employed by more than one participating employer or performing duties in more than one position, contributions shall be made on compensation from all such employment

for that calendar year. If a retirant is employed in a non-covered position, no employer contribution shall be paid to the system. The participating employer shall enroll all retirants and report to the system when compensation is paid to a retirant as provided in this subsection. Such notice shall contain a certification by the appointing authority of the participating employer that any hired retirant has not been employed by the participating employer within 60 days of such retirant's retirement and that there was no prearranged agreement for employment between the participating employer and the hired retirant. Upon request of the executive director of the system, the participating employer shall provide such information as may be needed by the executive director to carry out the provisions of this subsection. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to retirants employed as substitute teachers without a contract. The provisions of K.S.A. 74-4914(5), and amendments thereto, shall be applicable to retirants employed as described in this subsection, except as specifically provided in this subsection. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to create any right, or to authorize the creation of any right, which is not subject to amendment or nullification by act of the legislature.

(4) (a) On and after July 1, 2016, a school district may hire a retired licensed professional to fill a special teacher position as defined in K.S.A. 72-3404, and amendments thereto, if such retirant is hired not prior to 60 days after such retirant's retirement date without any prearrangement with such school district in the manner prescribed in this subsection. The participating employer shall enroll all retirants and report to the system when compensation is paid to a retirant as provided in this subsection. Such notice shall contain a certification by the appointing authority of the participating employer that any hired retirant has not been employed by the participating employer within 60 days of such retirant's retirement and that there was no prearranged agreement for employment between the participating employer and the hired retirant. Upon request of the executive director of the system, the participating employer shall provide such information as may be needed by the executive director to carry out the provisions of this subsection.

(b) A retirant hired under the provisions of this subsection may continue to receive such retirant's full retirement benefit for a period not to exceed three school years or 36 months, whichever is less, and shall not be subject to the provisions of K.S.A. 74-4914(5), and amendments thereto, which relate to a compensation limitation which when met or exceeded requires that the retirant not receive a retirement benefit for any month for which such retirant serves in a position as described herein. Such retirant may be employed by such employer for some or all of a school year, and in subsequent school years if the employer is unable to permanently fill the position with active members, so long as the retirant's total term of employment with all employers under this subsection does not exceed 36 months or three school years, whichever is less. After such period, the retirant shall be subject to the provisions of K.S.A. 74-4914(7), and amendments thereto, which relate to a compensation limitation which when met or exceeded requires that the retirant not receive a retirement benefit for any month for which such retirant serves in a position as described herein. The participating employer of such retirant shall pay to the system a 30% employer contribution based on the retirant's compensation during any such period of employment. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to retirants employed as substitute teachers without a contract. The provisions of K.S.A. 74-4914(5), and amendments thereto, shall be applicable to retirants employed as special teachers, except as specifically provided in this subsection.

(c) Each school district that uses the provisions of this subsection to hire retirants shall maintain documentation describing their recruiting efforts to obtain non-retirant employees to fill the special teacher positions. Upon request of the joint committee on pensions, investments and benefits, an employer shall provide such documentation to the committee. If the committee finds that an employer has not made sufficient efforts to hire a non-retirant for the position or if the committee finds evidence of prearrangement in violation of this section, the three-year exemption provided pursuant to this subsection may be revoked. The committee shall notify the executive director of the system that a retirant's exemption has been revoked within 30 days of making such a determination.

(d) An employer may submit a written assurance protocol to the system to make a

one-time extension to the exception provided for in this subsection by one year. Such written assurance protocol shall be signed by the superintendent and the board president of the school district. Such written assurance protocol shall state that the position was advertised on multiple platforms for a minimum of 30 calendar days and that at least one of the following conditions occurred:

(i) No applications were submitted for the position;

(ii) if applications were submitted, none of the applicants met the reference screening criteria of the employer; or

(iii) if applications were submitted, none of the applicants possessed an appropriate teaching license for the state of Kansas or possessed the appropriate credentials to receive any type of teaching license from the state of Kansas.

(e) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to create any right, or to authorize the creation of any right, which is not subject to amendment or nullification by act of the legislature.

(f) The provisions of this subsection shall expire on January 1, 2018.

(5) (a) On and after July 1, 2016, a school district may hire a retired licensed professional to fill a non-special teacher position if such retirant is hired not prior to 60 days after such retirant's retirement date without any prearrangement with such school district, and if such school district hires a retirant for a hard-to-fill position in the manner prescribed in this subsection. The participating employer shall enroll all retirants and report to the system when compensation is paid to a retirant as provided in this subsection. Such notice shall contain a certification by the appointing authority of the participating employer that any hired retirant has not been employed by the participating employer within 60 days of such retirant's retirement and that there was no prearranged agreement for employment between the participating employer and the hired retirant. Upon request of the executive director of the system, the participating employer shall provide such information as may be needed by the executive director to carry out the provisions of this subsection.

(b) The state board of education shall annually certify the top five types of licensed positions that are hard to fill. A school district may hire a retirant to fill a hard-to-fill position for some or all of a school year and in subsequent school years if the employer is unable to permanently fill the position with an active member. A retirant first hired under the provisions of this subsection may be retained by an employer even if such retirant's type of position is no longer one of the five types of positions certified by the state board of education. A retirant hired under the provisions of this subsection may continue to receive such retirant's full retirement benefit for a period not to exceed three school years or 36 months, whichever is less, and shall not be subject to the provisions of K.S.A. 74-4914(5), and amendments thereto, which relate to a compensation limitation which when met or exceeded requires that the retirant not receive a retirement benefit for any month for which such retirant serves in a position as described herein. Such retirant may be employed by such employer for some or all of a school year, and in subsequent school years if the employer is unable to permanently fill the position with active members, so long as the retirant's total term of employment with all employers under this subsection does not exceed 36 months or three school years, whichever is less. After such period, the retirant shall be subject to the provisions of K.S.A. 74-4914(7), and amendments thereto, which relate to a compensation limitation which when met or exceeded requires that the retirant not receive a retirement benefit for any month for which such retirant serves in a position as described herein. The participating employer of such retirant shall pay to the system a 30% employer contribution based on the retirant's compensation during any such period of employment. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to retirants employed as substitute teachers without a contract. The provisions of K.S.A. 74-4914(5), and amendments thereto, shall be applicable to retirants employed as described in this subsection, except as specifically provided in this subsection.

(c) Each school district that uses the provisions of this subsection to hire retirants for hard-to-fill positions shall maintain documentation describing their recruiting efforts to obtain non-retirant employees to fill the hard-to-fill positions. Upon request of the joint committee on pensions, investments and benefits, a school district shall provide such documentation to the committee. If the committee finds that a school

district has not made sufficient efforts to hire a non-retirant for the position or if the committee finds evidence of prearrangement in violation of this section, the three-year exemption provided pursuant to this subsection may be revoked. The committee shall notify the executive director of the system that a retirant's exemption has been revoked within 30 days of making such a determination.

(d) An employer may submit a written assurance protocol to the system to make a one-time extension to the exception provided for in this subsection by one year. Such written assurance protocol shall be signed by the superintendent and the board president of the school district. Such written assurance protocol shall state that the position was advertised on multiple platforms for a minimum of 30 calendar days and that at least one of the following conditions occurred:

(i) No applications were submitted for the position;

(ii) if applications were submitted, none of the applicants met the reference screening criteria of the employer; or

(iii) if applications were submitted, none of the applicants possessed an appropriate teaching license for the state of Kansas or possessed the appropriate credentials to receive any type of teaching license from the state of Kansas.

(e) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to create any right, or to authorize the creation of any right, which is not subject to amendment or nullification by act of the legislature.

(f) The provisions of this subsection shall expire on January 1, 2018.

(6) The provisions of K.S.A. 74-4914(8), and amendments thereto, shall apply to retirants under the provisions of this section.

(7) For the purposes of this section a prearranged agreement for employment may be determined by whether the facts and circumstances of the situation indicate that the employer and employee reasonably anticipated that further services would be performed after the employee's retirement.

History: L. 1970, ch. 326, § 7; L. 1972, ch. 303, § 1; L. 1981, ch. 311, § 2; L. 1982, ch. 319, § 31; L. 1983, ch. 254, § 15; L. 1986, ch. 294, § 11; L. 1987, ch. 299, § 26; L. 1988, ch. 302, § 13; L. 1989, ch. 232, § 15; L. 1991, ch. 237, § 11; L. 1992, ch. 321, § 2; L. 1993, ch. 227, § 33; L. 1998, ch. 201, § 31; L. 2009, ch. 137, § 2; L. 2012, ch. 171, § 25; L. 2015, ch. 77, § 3; L. 2016, ch. 76, § 3; L. 2017, ch. 87, § 2; July 1.