

P.L. 1996, CHAPTER 89, *approved July 26, 1996*

Senate, No. 129 (*Second Reprint*)

1   **AN ACT** concerning the Police and Firemen's Retirement System of  
2   New Jersey and amending P.L.1944, c.255.

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4   **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
5   of New Jersey:

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7       1. Section 1 of P.L.1944, c.255 (C.43:16A-1) is amended to read  
8   as follows:

9       1. As used in this act:

10      (1) "Retirement system" or "system" shall mean the Police and  
11   Firemen's Retirement System of New Jersey as defined in section 2 of  
12   this act.

13      (2) (a) "Policeman" shall mean a permanent, full-time employee of  
14   a law enforcement unit as defined in section 2 of P.L.1961, c.56  
15   (C.52:17B-67) or the State, other than an officer or trooper of the  
16   Division of State Police whose position is covered by the State Police  
17   Retirement System, whose primary duties include the investigation,  
18   apprehension or detention of persons suspected or convicted of  
19   violating the criminal laws of the State and who:

20       (i) is authorized to carry a firearm while engaged in the actual  
21   performance of his official duties;

22       (ii) has police powers;

23       (iii) is required to complete successfully the training requirements  
24   prescribed by P.L.1961, c.56 (C.52:17B-66 et seq.) or comparable  
25   training requirements as determined by the board of trustees; and

26       (iv) is subject to the physical and mental fitness requirements  
27   applicable to the position of municipal police officer established by an  
28   agency authorized to establish these requirements on a Statewide  
29   basis, or comparable physical and mental fitness requirements as  
30   determined by the board of trustees.

31       The term shall also include an administrative or supervisory

**EXPLANATION - Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and intended to be omitted in the law.**

Matter underlined **thus** is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

<sup>1</sup> Senate SSM committee amendments adopted March 14, 1996.

<sup>2</sup> Senate SBA committee amendments adopted May 2, 1996.

1 employee of a law enforcement unit or the State whose duties include  
2 general or direct supervision of employees engaged in investigation,  
3 apprehension or detention activities or training responsibility for these  
4 employees and a requirement for engagement in investigation,  
5 apprehension or detention activities if necessary, and who is  
6 authorized to carry a firearm while in the actual performance of his  
7 official duties and has police powers.

8 (b) "Fireman" shall mean a permanent, full-time employee of a  
9 firefighting unit whose primary duties include the control and  
10 extinguishment of fires and who is subject to the training and physical  
11 and mental fitness requirements applicable to the position of municipal  
12 firefighter established by an agency authorized to establish these  
13 requirements on a Statewide basis, or comparable training and physical  
14 and mental fitness requirements as determined by the board of trustees.  
15 The term shall also include an administrative or supervisory employee  
16 of a firefighting unit whose duties include general or direct supervision  
17 of employees engaged in fire control and extinguishment activities or  
18 training responsibility for these employees and a requirement for  
19 engagement in fire control and extinguishment activities if necessary.  
20 As used in this paragraph, "firefighting unit" shall mean a municipal  
21 fire department, a fire district, or an agency of a county or the State  
22 which is responsible for control and extinguishment of fires.

23 (3) "Member" shall mean any policeman or fireman included in the  
24 membership of the retirement system pursuant to this amendatory and  
25 supplementary act, P.L.1989, c.204 (C.43:16A-15.6 et al.).

26 (4) "Board of trustees" or "board" shall mean the board provided  
27 for in section 13 of this act.

28 (5) "Medical board" shall mean the board of physicians provided  
29 for in section 13 of this act.

30 (6) "Employer" shall mean the State of New Jersey, the county,  
31 municipality or political subdivision thereof which pays the particular  
32 policeman or fireman.

33 (7) "Service" shall mean service as a policeman or fireman paid for  
34 by an employer.

35 (8) "Creditable service" shall mean service rendered for which  
36 credit is allowed as provided under section 4 of this act.

37 (9) "Regular interest" shall mean interest as determined by the  
38 State Treasurer, after consultation with the Directors of the Divisions  
39 of Investment and Pensions, the board of trustees and the actuary. It  
40 shall bear a reasonable relationship to the percentage rate of earnings  
41 on investments based on the market value of assets but shall not  
42 exceed the assumed percentage rate of increase applied to salaries plus  
43 3%, provided however that the board of trustees shall not set the  
44 average percentage rate of increase applied to salaries below 6%.

45 (10) "Aggregate contributions" shall mean the sum of all the  
46 amounts, deducted from the compensation of a member or contributed

1 by him or on his behalf, standing to the credit of his individual account  
2 in the annuity savings fund.

3 (11) "Annuity" shall mean payments for life derived from the  
4 aggregate contributions of a member.

5 (12) "Pension" shall mean payments for life derived from  
6 contributions by the employer.

7 (13) "Retirement allowance" shall mean the pension plus the  
8 annuity.

9 (14) "Earnable compensation" shall mean the full rate of the salary  
10 that would be payable to an employee if he worked the full normal  
11 working time for his position. In cases where salary includes  
12 maintenance, the retirement system shall fix the value of that part of  
13 the salary not paid in money which shall be considered under this act.

14 (15) "Average final compensation" shall mean the average annual  
15 salary upon which contributions are made for the three years of  
16 creditable service immediately preceding his retirement or death, or it  
17 shall mean the average annual salary for which contributions are made  
18 during any three fiscal years of his or her membership providing the  
19 largest possible benefit to the member or his beneficiary.

20 (16) "Retirement" shall mean the termination of the member's  
21 active service with a retirement allowance granted and paid under the  
22 provisions of this act.

23 (17) "Annuity reserve" shall mean the present value of all payments  
24 to be made on account of any annuity or benefit in lieu of any annuity  
25 computed upon the basis of such mortality tables recommended by the  
26 actuary as shall be adopted by the board of trustees, and regular  
27 interest.

28 (18) "Pension reserve" shall mean the present value of all payments  
29 to be made on account of any pension or benefit in lieu of any pension  
30 computed upon the basis of such mortality tables recommended by the  
31 actuary as shall be adopted by the board of trustees, and regular  
32 interest.

33 (19) "Actuarial equivalent" shall mean a benefit of equal value  
34 when computed upon the basis of such mortality tables recommended  
35 by the actuary as shall be adopted by the board of trustees, and regular  
36 interest.

37 (20) "Beneficiary" shall mean any person receiving a retirement  
38 allowance or other benefit as provided by this act.

39 (21) "Child" shall mean a deceased member's or retitant's  
40 unmarried child (a) under the age of 18, or (b) 18 years of age or older  
41 and enrolled in a secondary school, or (c) under the age of 24 and  
42 enrolled in a degree program in an institution of higher education for  
43 at least 12 credit hours in each semester, provided that the member  
44 died in active service as a result of an accident met in the actual  
45 performance of duty at some definite time and place, and the death  
46 was not the result of the member's willful misconduct, or (d) of any

1 age who, at the time of the member's or retirant's death, is disabled  
2 because of mental retardation or physical incapacity, is unable to do  
3 any substantial, gainful work because of the impairment and his  
4 impairment has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous  
5 period of not less than 12 months, as affirmed by the medical board.

6 (22) "Parent" shall mean the parent of a member who was receiving  
7 at least one-half of his support from the member in the 12-month  
8 period immediately preceding the member's death or the accident  
9 which was the direct cause of the member's death. The dependency of  
10 such a parent will be considered terminated by marriage of the parent  
11 subsequent to the death of the member.

12 (23) "Widower" shall mean the man to whom a member or retirant  
13 was married at least [two years] <sup>2</sup>[18 months] one year<sup>2</sup> before the  
14 date of her death and to whom she continued to be married until the  
15 date of her death and who <sup>2</sup>[was receiving at least one-half of his  
16 support from the member or retirant in the 12-month period  
17 immediately preceding the member's or retirant's death or the accident  
18 which was the direct cause of the member's death. The dependency  
19 of such a widower will be considered terminated by marriage of the  
20 widower subsequent to the death of the member or retirant] has not  
21 remarried<sup>2</sup>. In the event of the payment of an accidental death benefit,  
22 the <sup>1</sup>[two-year] <sup>2</sup>[18-month<sup>1</sup>] one-year<sup>2</sup> qualification shall be waived.

23 (24) "Widow" shall mean the woman to whom a member or retirant  
24 was married at least [two years] <sup>2</sup>[18 months] one-year<sup>2</sup> before the  
25 date of his death and to whom he continued to be married until the  
26 date of his death and who has not remarried. In the event of the  
27 payment of an accidental death benefit, the <sup>1</sup>[two-year] <sup>2</sup>[18-month<sup>1</sup>]  
28 one-year<sup>2</sup> qualification shall be waived.

29 (25) "Fiscal year" shall mean any year commencing with July 1, and  
30 ending with June 30, next following.

31 (26) "Compensation" shall mean the base salary, for services as a  
32 member as defined in this act, which is in accordance with established  
33 salary policies of the member's employer for all employees in the same  
34 position but shall not include individual salary adjustments which are  
35 granted primarily in anticipation of the member's retirement or  
36 additional remuneration for performing temporary duties beyond the  
37 regular workday.

38 (27) "Department" shall mean any police or fire department of a  
39 municipality or a fire department of a fire district located in a township  
40 or a county police or park police department or the appropriate  
41 department of the State or instrumentality thereof.

42 (28) "Final compensation" means the compensation received by the  
43 member in the last 12 months of creditable service preceding his  
44 retirement.

45 (29) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1992, c.78).

1       (30) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1992, c.78).

2 (cf: P.L.1992, c.125, s.13)

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4       <sup>2</sup>2. Section 10 of P.L.1944, c.255 (C.43:16A-10) is amended to  
5 read as follows:

6       10. (1) Upon the death of a member in active service as a result of  
7 an accident met in the actual performance of duty at some definite time  
8 and place, and such death was not the result of the member's willful  
9 negligence, an accidental death benefit shall be payable if a report of  
10 the accident is filed in the office of the retirement system within 60  
11 days next following the accident, but the board of trustees may waive  
12 such time limit, for a reasonable period, if in the judgment of the board  
13 the circumstances warrant such action. No such application shall be  
14 valid or acted upon unless it is filed in the office of the retirement  
15 system within five years of the date of such death.

16       The provisions of this subsection shall also apply to a member who  
17 is a fireman and who dies as a result of an accident met in the actual  
18 performance of duty as a volunteer fireman in any municipality in the  
19 State, provided the member's death was not the result of the member's  
20 willful negligence.

21       (2) Upon the receipt of proper proofs of the death of a member on  
22 account of which an accidental death benefit is payable, there shall be  
23 paid to his widow or [dependent] widower a pension of 70% of the  
24 compensation, upon which contributions by the member to the annuity  
25 savings fund were based in the last year of creditable service, for the  
26 use of herself or himself and the children of the deceased member, to  
27 continue during her or his widowhood; if there is no surviving widow  
28 or [dependent] widower or in case the widow or [dependent] widower  
29 dies or remarries, 20% of such compensation will be payable to one  
30 surviving child, 35% of such compensation to two surviving children  
31 in equal shares and if there be three or more children, 50% of such  
32 compensation will be payable to such children in equal shares.

33       If there is no surviving widow, [dependent] widower or child, 25%  
34 of the compensation upon which contributions by the member to the  
35 annuity savings fund were based in the last year of creditable service,  
36 will be payable to one surviving dependent parent or 40% of such  
37 compensation will be payable to two surviving parents in equal shares.

38       In the event of accidental death occurring in the first year of  
39 creditable service, the benefits, payable pursuant to this subsection,  
40 shall be computed at the annual rate of compensation.

41       (3) If there is no surviving widow, [dependent] widower, child or  
42 dependent parent, there shall be paid to any other beneficiary of the  
43 deceased member, his aggregate contributions at the time of death.

44       (4) In no case shall the death benefit provided in subsection (2) be  
45 less than that provided under subsection (3).

46       (5) In addition to the foregoing benefits payable under subsection

1     (2) or (3), there shall also be paid in one sum to such beneficiary, if  
2     living, as the member shall have nominated by written designation duly  
3     executed and filed with the retirement system, otherwise to the  
4     executor or administrator of the member's estate, an amount equal to  
5     3 ½ times the compensation upon which contributions by the member  
6     to the annuity savings fund were based in the last year of creditable  
7     service.

8         (6) In addition to the foregoing benefits, the State shall pay to the  
9     member's employer-sponsored health insurance program all health  
10    insurance premiums for the coverage of the member's surviving widow  
11    or [dependent] widower and dependent children.<sup>2</sup>

12    (cf: P.L.1994, c.15, s.1)

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14         <sup>2</sup>[2.] 3.<sup>2</sup> This act shall take effect immediately and shall be  
15    retroactive to January 1, 1995.

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20    Shortens to one year duration of marriage requirement for PFRS  
21    widow's or widower's pension; eliminates dependency requirement for  
22    PFRS widower's pension.