

Sec. 145.01 (486-32). As used in sections 145.01 to 145.57, inclusive, of the Revised Code:

(A) "Public employee" means any person holding an office, not elective, under the state or any county, municipal corporation, park district, conservancy district, sanitary district, health district, township, metropolitan housing authority, state retirement board, or public library, or employed and paid in whole or in part by the state or any of the authorities named in this division in any capacity.

In all cases of doubt the public employees retirement board shall determine whether any person is a public employee, and its decision is final.

(B) "Member" means any person included in the membership of the public employees retirement system.

(C) "Head of the department" means the elective or appointive head of the several executive, judicial, and administrative departments, institutions, boards, and commissions of the state and local government as the same are created and defined by the laws of this state or in case of a charter government by such charter.

(D) "Employer" means the state or any county, municipal corporation, park district, conservancy district, sanitary district, health district, township, metropolitan housing authority, state retirement board, or the public library.

(E) "Prior service" means all service as a public employee rendered before January 1, 1935, and all service as an employee of any employer who comes within the state teachers retirement system or of the state public school employees retirement system or of any other retirement system established under the laws of this state rendered prior to January 1, 1935, if the employee claiming such service did not become a member of such system, provided that if the employee served as an employee in any two or all of said capacities, "prior service" means the total combined service rendered in said capacities prior to January 1, 1935. "Prior service" also means all service credited for active duty with the armed forces of the United States as provided in section 145.30 of the Revised Code.

(F) "Contributor" means any person who has an account in the employees' savings fund created by section 145.23 of the Revised Code.

(G) "Beneficiary" means any person in receipt of a retirement allowance or other benefits provided by sections 145.01 to 145.57, inclusive, of the Revised Code.

(H) "Total service", except as provided in section 145.37 of the Revised Code, means all service credited to a member of the public employees retirement system since January 1, 1935, and in addition, all his prior service, computed as provided in sections 145.01 to 145.57, inclusive, of the Revised Code.

(I) "Regular interest" means interest at such rates for the respective funds as the public employees retirement board determines, which rates shall never be more than four per cent per annum, compounded annually. Upon retirement the annuity granted any member shall have a reserve equal to the total of such employee's regular contribution with interest at the rate of four per cent per annum, compounded annually. In the purchase of additional annuity, as provided in division (C) of section 145.23 of the Revised Code, or when an indefinite leave of absence has been granted, as provided in section 145.41 of the Revised Code, interest shall be computed and credited to reserves at such rate as the board fixes as the regular interest thereon. Interest on contributions from members within any one calendar year shall begin on the first day of the calendar year next following and shall be computed at the end of each calendar year, except in the case of an employee who retires before the end of the year.

(J) "Accumulated contributions" means the sum of all amounts deducted from the compensation of a member and credited to his individual account in the employees' savings fund together with regular interest thereon.

(K) "Final average salary" means the total annual earnings of a member within and during the five consecutive calendar years in the last ten calendar years of contributing service in which the earnings of the member were at the highest level, divided by the actual number of years and fractions of a year employed within that period. *** Provided, however, for the purpose of computing the disability benefit authorized in division (B) of section 145.36 and the prior service pension authorized in division (C) of section 145.33 and division (C) of section 145.34 of the Revised Code, such final average salary in no case shall exceed two thousand dollars.

(L) "Annuity" means payments for life derived from contributions made by a contributor and paid from the annuity and pension reserve fund as provided in sections 145.01 to 145.57, inclusive, of the Revised Code. All annuities shall be paid in twelve equal monthly installments.

(M) "Annuity reserve" means the present value, computed upon the basis of such mortality and other tables as are adopted by the board, of all payments to be made on account of any annuity, or benefit in lieu of any annuity, granted to a member under such sections.

(N) "Disability retirement" means retirement as defined in section 145.36 of the Revised Code.

(O) "Superannuation retirement" means retirement as defined in section 145.33 of the Revised Code.

(P) "Superannuation retirement age" means sixty years of age unless otherwise specified.

(Q) "Pensions" means annual payments for life derived from appropriations made by the employer and paid from the employer's accumulation fund or the annuity and pension reserve fund as provided in sections 145.01 to 145.57, inclusive, of the Revised Code. All pensions shall be paid in twelve equal monthly installments.

(R) "Retirement allowance" means the pension plus the annuity.

(S) "Salary earnable" means salary or wages receivable during a payroll period for personal services plus such allowance for maintenance as are certified by the heads of departments.

(T) "Pension reserve" means the present value computed upon the basis of such mortality and other tables adopted by the board of all payments to be made on account of any pension, or benefits in lieu of any pension, granted to a member under sections 145.01 to 145.57, inclusive, of the Revised Code.

(U) "Contributing service" means all service credited to a member of the system since January 1, 1935. If the board determines that a position of any member in any one calendar year was a part-time position, the board may determine what fractional part of a year's credit shall be allowed. In determining what credit shall be allowed to part-time employees, the board shall allow a full day's credit to any employee toward retirement who is called to work and works any portion of a day.

(V) "State retirement board" means the public employees retirement board, the state school employees retirement board, or the state teachers retirement board.