

Coordinating membership in state retirement systems; combining contributions and service credits.

Sec. 145.37. For the purpose of further co-ordinating and integrating membership in the public school employees retirement system and the state teachers retirement system with membership in the public employees retirement system for the purposes of retirement, the following provisions apply:

(A) State retirement systems are the public employees retirement system, the state teachers retirement system, and the school employees retirement system.

(B) At the option of a member, total contributions and service credit in all state retirement systems shall be used in determining the eligibility and total retirement allowance payable. When total contributions and service credit are so combined, the following provisions apply:

(1) *Disability, *** superannuation* and commuted superannuation retirement are effective on the first day of *** the month next succeeding the date the application is filed, or the first day of the month next succeeding the last day for which compensation was paid, whichever is the later date.

(2) "Total service credit" includes the total credit in all state retirement systems except that such credit shall not exceed one year for any period of twelve months.

(3) Effective July 1, 1959, for the purposes of this section, "final average salary" means the highest average annual compensation or earnings of a member during any five years of contributions and shall be determined by dividing the total compensation or earnings during such period by the service credit granted to such member during such period. Provided, *** if a member has at least three years, but less than five years, of total service credit within the ten-year period immediately preceding termination of contributions, then the final average salary shall not be less than the average annual compensation during such period as determined by dividing the total compensation or earnings during such ten-year period by the contributing service credit granted to him during such period. *Provided that the "final average salary" may not exceed the actual average earnings of a member during the "final average salary" period.*

(4) In determining eligibility for a disability retirement allowance, the medical examiner's report to the retirement board of any state retirement system, showing that the member's disability incapacitates him for the performance of duty and that he ought to be retired, may be accepted by the state retirement boards as sufficient for granting disability retirement.

(5) The state retirement system in which the member had the greatest service credit without adjustment, shall determine and pay the total retirement allowance. Where his credit is equal in two or more state retirement systems, the system having the largest total contributions of the member shall determine and pay the total retirement allowance.

(6) In determining the total credit to be used in calculating the retirement allowance, credit shall not be reduced below that certified by the system or systems transferring credit, except that such total combined service credit shall not exceed one year of credit for any one "year" as defined in the law of the system making the calculation.

(7) The state retirement system determining and paying the retirement allowance shall receive from the other system or systems only the member's accumulated contributions and guaranteed interest.

(a) The annuity rates and mortality tables of the state retirement system making the calculation and paying the retirement allowance shall be exclusively applicable.

(b) Deposits made for the purpose of an additional annuity, and including guaranteed interest, upon the request of the member, shall be transferred to the state retirement system paying the retirement allowance. The return upon such deposits shall be that offered by the state retirement system making the calculation and paying the retirement allowance.

(8) *Any member who was an elective official of this state, or of any political subdivision thereof, shall be entitled to have his retirement allowance computed as provided in division (E) of sections 145.33, 145.34, 3307.38, 3307.40, 3309.36, and 3309.38 of the Revised Code,*

notwithstanding the provision requiring three or more years of total service credit within the ten years immediately prior to retirement.

(C) A former member receiving a retirement allowance under this section, who accepts employment amenable to coverage in any state retirement system which participated in his combined retirement, shall be subject to the applicable provisions of law governing such re-employment. The state retirement system paying a combined retirement allowance shall terminate the entire pension portion of such allowance being paid such former member, for the period of re-employment, once the applicable provisions of law relative to days re-employed or compensation earned, have transpired. If a former member should be paid any amount in a retirement allowance, to which he is not entitled under the applicable provisions of law governing such re-employment, such amount shall be recovered by the state retirement system paying such allowance by utilizing any recovery procedure available under the code provisions of the state retirement system covering such re-employment.

(D) When a member elects to combine total contributions and service credit in all state retirement systems for any purpose enumerated in this section, the public employees retirement board, together with the other retirement boards, shall decide all problems arising in connection therewith, and their decisions shall be final.