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Termination of membership; leave of absence.

Sec. 145.41. Membership shall cease upon refund of accumulated contributions or upon retirement except as provided in section 145.39 of the Revised Code relative to disability retirement. A member who separates from his service as a public employee for any reason other than death, or retirement may leave his accumulated contributions on deposit

with the public employees retirement board and, for the purposes of the public employees retirement system, be considered on a leave of absence for a period of *** ten years. At the end of said *** ten-year period, if said member has not returned to active service as a public employee, has ten or more years of total service credit, with not less than two years of contributing service credit in this retirement system, the public employees retirement board shall grant said member an indefinite membership leave of absence. Total service credited in the state teachers retirement system, the school employees retirement system and the public employees retirement system shall be used for the purpose of determining eligibility for an indefinite leave of absence. Members on such leaves of absence shall retain all rights, obligations and privileges of membership in the public employees retirement system. In no case shall a member on leave of absence as provided in this section add to his total number of years of service credit by reason of such leave of absence, unless such member was receiving benefits from the state insurance fund and by reason of such benefits qualified for additional service credit as provided in division (H) of section 145.01 of the Revised Code, or was eligible to and does make a payment, with regular interest thereon, equal to the amount he would have paid if he had been contributing to the public employees retirement system regularly during such *** period of employment covered by this system.

Effective September 16, 1957