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To: Ohio Retirement Study Council Members
From: Jeffery A. Bernard, Senior Research Associate
Date: December 5, 2024
Subject: Update to H.B. 78 (STRS elections and pre-service teaching)

Summary of Am. H.B. 78 and Sub. H.B. 101

On November 9, 2023, the ORSC recommended passage of Am. H.B. 78. That bill would allow re-employed teachers who have retired from the State Teachers Retirement System (STRS) to seek election on the STRS Board as retired members. These individuals are often referred to as “re-employed retirants.” These employed retirants are, under current law, ineligible to seek election on the STRS Board, but they may vote in the elections for the two retired STRS Board members.

The bill also specified that those holding a three-year pre-service teaching permit for student teachers, authorized under Am. Sub. H.B. 33 of the 135th General Assembly, are members of the State Teachers Retirement System. H.B. 33 did not specifically include these individuals in any state retirement system.

Summary of Legislative Action on Am. H.B. 78 and Sub. H.B. 101

During the legislative process, the pre-service teaching provisions of H.B. 78 were added to Sub. H.B. 101, which became effective April 30, 2024. These provisions were therefore removed from H.B. 78 in the Senate. The House concurred on the Senate amendments and the bill was passed on December 4, 2024. Both components of H.B. 78, as recommended by the ORSC, have been passed by the General Assembly.