2022 -- H 7124

LC003376

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- TEACHERS' RETIREMENT

<u>Introduced By:</u> Representatives McNamara, Potter, Corvese, Donovan, and Speakman

Date Introduced: January 20, 2022

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 16-16-13 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-16 entitled "Teachers'

2 Retirement [See Title 16 Chapter 97 - The Rhode Island Board of Education Act]" is hereby

amended to read as follows:

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16-16-13. Amount of service retirement allowance.

5 (a)(1)(i) For teachers eligible to retire on or before September 30, 2009, upon retirement

6 from service under § 16-16-12 a teacher whose membership commenced before July 1, 2005, and

7 who has completed at least ten (10) years of contributory service on or before July 1, 2005, shall,

8 receive a retirement allowance which shall be determined in accordance with schedule A for service

9 prior to July 1, 2012.

10 SCHEDULE A

11 YEARS OF SERVICE PERCENTAGE ALLOWANCE

12 1st through 10th inclusive 1.7%

13 11th through 20th inclusive 1.9%

14 21st through 34th inclusive 3.0%

15 35th 2.0%

16 (ii) For teachers eligible to retire on or after October 1, 2009, who were not eligible to retire 17 on or before September 30, 2009, upon retirement for service under § 16-16-12, a teacher whose 18 membership commenced before July 1, 2005, and who has completed at least ten (10) years of

19 contributory service on or before July 1, 2005, shall receive a retirement allowance which shall be

- determined in accordance with schedule A above for service on before September 30, 2009, and shall be determined in accordance with schedule B in subsection (a)(2) below for service on or after
- 3 October 1, 2009, and prior to July 1, 2012:

4 (2) Upon retirement from service under § 16-16-12 a teacher whose membership 5 commenced after July 1, 2005, or who has not completed at least ten (10) years of contributory 6 service as of July 1, 2005, shall receive a retirement allowance which shall be determined in 7 accordance with Schedule B for service prior to July 1, 2012.

8 SCHEDULE B

9	YEARS OF SERVICE	PERCENTAGE ALLOWANCE
10	1st through 10th inclusive	1.60%
11	11th through 20th inclusive	1.80%
12	21st through 25th inclusive	2.0%
13	26th through 30th inclusive	2.25%
14	31st through 37th inclusive	2.50%
15	38 th	2.25%

(b) The retirement allowance of any teacher whose membership commenced before July 1, 2005, and who has completed at least ten (10) years of contributory service on or before July 1, 2005, shall be in an amount equal to the percentage allowance specified in subsection (a)(1) of his or her average highest three (3) consecutive years of compensation multiplied by the number of years of total service, but in no case to exceed eighty percent (80%) of the compensation, payable at completion of thirty-five (35) years of service; provided, however, for teachers retiring on or after October 1, 2009, who were not eligible to retire as of September 30, 2009, the calculation shall be based on the average highest five (5) consecutive years of compensation.

The retirement allowance of any teacher whose membership commenced after July 1, 2005, or who has not completed at least ten (10) years of contributory service as of July 1, 2005, shall be in an amount equal to the percentage allowance specified in Schedule B of his or her average highest three (3) consecutive years of compensation multiplied by the number of years of total service, but in no case to exceed seventy-five percent (75%) of the compensation, payable at completion of thirty-eight (38) years of service; provided, however, for teachers retiring on or after October 1, 2009, who were not eligible to retire as of September 30, 2009 the calculation shall be based on the average highest five (5) consecutive years of compensation.

Any teacher who has in excess of thirty-five (35) years on or before June 2, 1985, shall not be entitled to any refund, and any teacher with thirty-five (35) years or more on or after June 2, 1985, shall contribute from July 1, 1985, until his or her retirement.

- 1 (c) For service prior to July 2012, the retirement allowance of a teacher shall be determined 2 in accordance with subsections (a)(1) and (a)(2) above. For service on and after July 1, 2012: 3 (i) For teachers with fewer than twenty (20) years of total service as of June 30, 2012, a 4 teacher's retirement allowance shall be equal to one percent (1%) of the teacher's average 5 compensation multiplied by the teacher's years of total service on and after July 1, 2012; and (ii) For teachers with twenty (20) or more years of total service as of June 30, 2012, a 6 7 teacher's retirement allowance shall be equal to one percent (1%) of the teacher's average 8 compensation multiplied by the teacher's years of total service between July 1, 2012, and June 30, 9 2015, and two percent (2%) of the teacher's average compensation multiplied by the teacher's years 10 of total service on and after July 1, 2015. For purposes of computing a teacher's total service under 11 the preceding sentence, service purchases shall be included in total service only with respect to 12 those service purchases approved prior to June 30, 2012, and those applications for service 13 purchases received by the retirement system on or before June 30, 2012. In no event shall a teacher's 14 retirement allowance exceed the maximum limitations set forth in subsection (b) above. 15 (d) For service prior to July 1, 2022, the retirement allowance of a teacher shall be 16 determined in accordance with subsections (a)(1), (a)(2), (b), or (c) of this section, whichever is greater. For all service on or after July 1, 2022, a teacher's retirement allowance shall be equal to 17 two percent (2%) of the teacher's average compensation multiplied by the teacher's years of total 18 19 service, but in no case to exceed eighty percent (80%) of the member's final compensation. 20 SECTION 2. Section 36-10-10 of the General Laws in Chapter 36-10 entitled "Retirement 21 System - Contributions and Benefits" is hereby amended to read as follows: 22 36-10-10. Amount of service retirement allowance. 23 (a)(1)(i) For employees eligible to retire on or before September 30, 2009, upon retirement 24 for service under § 36-10-9, a member whose membership commenced before July 1, 2005, and 25 who has completed at least ten (10) years of contributory service on or before July 1, 2005, shall 26 receive a retirement allowance which shall be determined in accordance with schedule A below for 27 service prior to July 1, 2012: Schedule A Years of Service Percentage Allowance
- Schedule A

 Years of Service
 Percentage Allowance

 1.7%

 11th through 10th inclusive
 1.9%

 21st through 34th inclusive
 3.0%

 35th
 2.0%

34

(ii) For employees eligible to retire on or after October 1, 2009, who were not eligible to

- retire on or before September 30, 2009, upon retirement from service under § 36-10-9, a member whose membership commenced before July 1, 2005, and who has completed at least ten (10) years of contributory service on or before July 1, 2005, shall receive a retirement allowance which shall be determined in accordance with schedule A above for service on before September 30, 2009, and
- 5 shall be determined in accordance with schedule B in subsection (a)(2) below for service on or after

6 October 1, 2009, and prior to July 1, 2012.

(2) Upon retirement for service under § 36-10-9, a member whose membership commenced after July 1, 2005, or who has not completed at least ten (10) years of contributory service as of July 1, 2005, shall, receive a retirement allowance which shall be determined in accordance with Schedule B below for service prior to July 1, 2012:

11 Schedule B

12	Years of Service	Percentage Allowance
13	1st through 10th inclusive	1.60%
14	11th through 20th inclusive	1.80%
15	21st through 25th inclusive	2.0%
16	26th through 30th inclusive	2.25%
17	31st through 37th inclusive	2.50%
18	38th	2.25%

(b) The retirement allowance of any member whose membership commenced before July 1, 2005, and who has completed at least ten (10) years of contributory service on or before July 1, 2005, shall be in an amount equal to the percentage allowance specified in subsection (a)(1) of his or her average highest three (3) consecutive years of compensation multiplied by the number of years of total service, but in no case to exceed eighty percent (80%) of the compensation payable at completion of thirty-five (35) years of service; provided, however, for employees retiring on or after October 1, 2009, who were not eligible to retire as of September 30, 2009 the calculation shall be based on the average highest five (5) consecutive years of compensation. Any member who has in excess of thirty-five (35) years on or before June 2, 1985, shall not be entitled to any refund, and any member with thirty-five (35) years or more on or after June 2, 1985, shall contribute from July 1, 1985, until his or her retirement.

The retirement allowance of any member whose membership commenced after July 1, 2005, or who had not completed at least ten (10) years of contributory service as of July 1, 2005, shall, be in an amount equal to the percentage allowance specified in Schedule B of his or her average highest three (3) consecutive years of compensation multiplied by the number of years of total service, but in no case to exceed seventy-five percent (75%) of the compensation payable at

1	the completion of thirty-eight (38) years of service; provided, however, for employees retiring or	
2	or after October 1, 2009, who were not eligible to retire as of September 30, 2009, the calculation	
3	shall be based on the average highest five (5) consecutive years of compensation.	
4	(c) Any member with thirty-eight (38) years or more of service prior to December 31, 1985,	
5	shall not be required to make additional contributions. Contributions made between December 31,	
6	1985, and July 1, 1987, by members with thirty-eight (38) or more years of service prior t	
7	December 31, 1985, shall be refunded by the retirement board to the persons, their heirs	
8	administrators, or legal representatives.	
9	(d) For service prior to July 1, 2012, the retirement allowance of a member shall be	
10	determined in accordance with subsections (a)(1) and (a)(2) above. For service on and after July 1,	
11	2012, a member's retirement allowance shall be equal to:	
12	(i) For members with fewer than twenty (20) years of total service as of June 30, 2012, one	
13	percent (1%) of the member's average compensation multiplied by the member's years of total	
14	service on and after July 1 2012; and	
15	(ii) For members with twenty (20) or more years of total service as of June 30, 2012, a	
16	member's retirement allowance shall be equal to one percent (1%) of the member's average	
17	compensation multiplied by the member's years of total service between July 1, 2012, and June 30,	
18	2015, and two percent (2%) of the member's average compensation multiplied by the member's	
19	years of total service on and after July 1, 2015. For purposes of computing a member's total service	
20	under the preceding sentence, service purchases shall be included in total service only with respec	
21	to those service purchases approved prior to June 30, 2012, and those applications for service	
22	purchases received by the retirement system on or before June 30, 2012.	
23	In no event shall a member's retirement allowance exceed the maximum limitations set	
24	forth in paragraph (b) above.	
25	(e) For service prior to July 1, 2022, the retirement allowance of a member shall be	
26	determined in accordance with subsections (a)(1), (a)(2), (b), or (d) of this section, whichever is	
27	greater. For all service on and after July 1, 2022, a member's retirement allowance shall be equal	
28	to two percent (2%) of the member's average compensation multiplied by the member's years of	
29	total service, but in no case to exceed eighty percent (80%) of the member's final compensation.	
30	SECTION 3. Section 45-21-17 of the General Laws in Chapter 45-21 entitled "Retiremen	
31	of Municipal Employees" is hereby amended to read as follows:	
32	45-21-17. Service retirement allowance.	
33	(a) Upon retirement from service after January 1, 1969, a member shall receive a retirement	
34	allowance which is a life annuity terminable upon death of the annuitant and is an amount equal to	

two percent (2%) of final compensation multiplied by the number of years of total service, not to
exceed thirty-seven and one-half (37½) years for services on and prior to June 30, 2012. For services
on and after July 1, 2012: (i) For members with fewer than twenty (20) years of total service as o
June 30, 2012, a member's retirement allowance shall be equal to one percent (1%) of the member's
final compensation multiplied by the member's years of total service on and after July 1, 2012; and
(ii) For members with twenty (20) or more years of total service as of June 30, 2012, a member's
retirement allowance shall be equal to one percent (1%) of the member's average compensation
multiplied by the member's years of total service between July 1, 2012, and June 30, 2015, and two
percent (2%) of the member's average compensation multiplied by the member's years of total
service on and after July 1, 2015. For purposes of computing a member's total service under the
preceding sentence, service purchases shall be included in total service only with respect to those
service purchases approved prior to June 30, 2012, and those applications for service purchases
received by the retirement system on or before June 30, 2012. In no event shall a member's
retirement allowance exceed seventy-five percent (75%) of the member's final compensation
Provided, however, that every person elected prior to July 1, 2012, who has served as a part time
elected official of the city of Cranston for a period of ten (10) years, is entitled to receive, upon
retirement from that part time service, and not being otherwise regularly employed by the city o
Cranston in which that person has served, a service retirement allowance equivalent to fifty percent
(50%) of the salary received at the time of retirement by that part time elected official; and
provided, further, that if that person retires after a period of service greater than ten (10) years, the
person is entitled to receive an additional service retirement allowance equivalent to five percen
(5%) of the salary received at the time of retirement for each whole year of service, in excess of ter
(10) years up to a maximum additional allowance equivalent to fifty percent (50%) of the salary
received.
(b) For service prior to July 1, 2022, the retirement allowance of a member shall be
determined in accordance with subsection (a) of this section. For all service on and after July 1
2022, a member's retirement allowance shall be equal to two percent (2%) of the member's average
compensation multiplied by the member's years of total service, but in no case to exceed seventy
five percent (75%) of the member's final compensation.
(b)(c) This section also applies to any former part time elected official of the city of
Cranston who is presently receiving retirement benefits from the municipal retirement system.
(c)(d) Every person elected prior to July 1, 2012, who serves or has served at least four (4)
years as a part time elected official of the city of Cranston may include that person's years of service
as a member of the general assembly, and any other credits acquired while serving as a legislator

- 1 when computing the person's period of service to the city of Cranston pursuant to the provisions of
- 2 this section.
- 3 SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION

BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

OF

AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- TEACHERS' RETIREMENT

This act would increase the retirement allowance for teachers, state employees, and municipal workers in the Municipal Employees' Retirement System (MERS) or the state retirement system. This act would apply to a member's service on and after July 1, 2022.

This act would take effect upon passage.

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