

2017 -- S 0571

LC002027

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- TEACHERS' RETIREMENT BENEFITS

Introduced By: Senator Daniel DaPonte

Date Introduced: March 15, 2017

Referred To: Senate Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 16-16-26 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
3 amended to read as follows:

4 **16-16-26. Spouse's or domestic partner's benefits.** -- (a) Spouse's and domestic
5 partner's benefits are payable following the decease of a member as provided in §§ 16-16-25
6 through 16-16-38. (b) The spouse or domestic partner shall be entitled to benefits upon attaining
7 the age of sixty (60) years. (c) The spouse or domestic partner was living with the deceased
8 member at the time of the member's death. A spouse or domestic partner is deemed to have been
9 living with the deceased member if they were both members of the same household on the date of
10 the deceased member's death, or the spouse or domestic partner was receiving regular
11 contributions from the deceased member toward support on that date, or the deceased member
12 had been ordered by a court to contribute to the spouse's or domestic partner's support. (d)
13 Remarriage of the spouse or domestic partner or establishment of a domestic partnership shall
14 render him or her ineligible to receive current or future benefits under this section. (e) The
15 spouse or domestic partner of a member, as defined in this section, shall be entitled to monthly
16 benefits payable in accordance with the following table:

17 Highest Annual Salary	Spouse's or Domestic Partner's Monthly Minimum Benefit
18 \$17,000 <u>33,000</u> or less	\$750 <u>1,267</u>
19 \$17,001 <u>33,001</u> to \$25,000 <u>40,000</u>	875 <u>\$1,425</u>

1	\$25,001 <u>40,001</u> to \$33,000 <u>50,000</u>	1,000 <u>\$1,583</u>
2	\$33,001 to \$40,000	1,125
3	\$40,001 <u>50,001</u> and over	1,250 <u>\$1,900</u>

4 (f) ~~A yearly cost of living adjustment for spouse's or domestic partner's benefits shall be~~
5 ~~based on the annual social security adjustment.~~ On January 1 of each year, the minimum benefit
6 amount provided by this section shall be annually adjusted for cost-of-living using the previous
7 year's social security adjustment.

8 (g) Adjustments to minimum benefits provided under subsection (f) of this section shall
9 not be compounded.

10 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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RELATING TO EDUCATION -- TEACHERS' RETIREMENT BENEFITS

- 1 This act would increase the monthly minimum benefits of spouses and domestic partners
- 2 of retired teachers, and would authorize additional yearly non-compounded adjustments.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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