

HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS

HB 31

2017 Regular Session

Hoffmann

RETIREMENT/TEACHERS: Provides relative to the reemployment of retirees in positions covered by the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana

Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. Require benefit suspension for a retiree whose benefit is reduced pursuant to present law and who returns to work within the first 36 months after the date of retirement.

Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

Return to Work

Present law generally provides that a retiree of TRSL may not return to work in a position covered by the system and continue to receive retirement benefits while reemployed. Further provides exceptions to present law but prohibits retired teachers who return to work under any condition from receiving their retirement benefit within the 12-month period following the date of their retirement.

Present law provides that a member who became a member prior to July 1, 1999, and who retires on or after July 1, 1997, at age 60 with five years of service or at any age with 20 years of service shall receive an annual benefit calculated using a 2% accrual rate multiplied by the number of years of creditable service. Provides that members whose first employment making them eligible for membership in one of the state systems occurred on or after July 1, 1999, may retire at any age with 20 years of service credit with an actuarially reduced benefit.

Proposed law retains present law and provides that any person who receives a reduced retirement benefit as provided by present law shall not be authorized to return to work and receive a benefit provided by present law unless the person has been retired for at least 36 months. Proposed law does not apply to a member who retired on or before June 30, 2010, or who holds an advanced degree in speech therapy, speech pathology, or audiology.

Critical Shortage Return to Work

Present law provides that in certain circumstances a retiree may return to work in a "critical shortage area" (defined in present law) without reduction of benefits. Such circumstances include returning as a certified classroom teacher, as a certified speech therapist, speech pathologist, audiologist, educational diagnostician, school social worker, or school counselor. Proposed law adds school psychologist to the list of certified professionals who may return to work in a critical shortage area without reduction of benefits.

Present law provides procedures for establishing that a "critical shortage area" exists for purposes of present law. Requires advertisement in the official journal of the employer's governing authority and posting of job vacancies at certain post-secondary institutions. Further limits authority to rehire a retiree for the critical shortage position if more than three non-retirees apply for the position. Proposed law retains present law and requires such certification procedures before a retiree may be reemployed as a school psychologist pursuant to proposed law.

Effective July 1, 2017.

(Amends R.S. 11:710(A)(3) and (4)(b) and (F); Adds R.S. 11:710(B)(3))