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SENATE BILL 165

57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025

INTRODUCED BY

Peter Wirth

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES; AMENDING THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
RETIREMENT ACT TO ALLOW CERTIFIED LIFEGUARDS TO RETURN TO WORK
UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. Section 10-11-8 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1987,
Chapter 253, Section 8, as amended) is amended to read:

"10-11-8. NORMAL RETIREMENT--RETURN TO EMPLOYMENT--
BENEFITS CONTINUED--CONTRIBUTIONS.--

A. A member may retire upon fulfilling the
following requirements prior to the selected date of
retirement:

- (1) a written application for normal
retirement, in the form prescribed by the association, is filed
with the association;

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1 (2) employment is terminated with all
2 employers covered by any state system or the educational
3 retirement system;

4 (3) the member selects an effective date of
5 retirement that is the first day of a calendar month; and

6 (4) the member meets the age and service
7 credit requirement for normal retirement specified in the
8 coverage plan applicable to the member.

9 B. The amount of normal retirement pension is
10 determined in accordance with the coverage plan applicable to
11 the member.

12 C. Except as provided in Subsections D, J and K of
13 this section, on or after July 1, 2010, a retired member may be
14 subsequently employed by an affiliated public employer only
15 pursuant to the following provisions:

16 (1) the retired member has not been employed
17 as an employee of an affiliated public employer or retained as
18 an independent contractor by the affiliated public employer
19 from which the retired member retired for at least twelve
20 consecutive months from the date of retirement to the
21 commencement of subsequent employment or reemployment with an
22 affiliated public employer;

23 (2) the retired member's pension shall be
24 suspended upon commencement of the subsequent employment;

25 (3) except as provided in Subsection F of this

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1 section, the retired member shall not become a member and shall
2 not accrue service credit, and the retired member and that
3 person's subsequent affiliated public employer shall not make
4 contributions under any coverage plan pursuant to the Public
5 Employees Retirement Act; and

6 (4) upon termination of the subsequent
7 employment, the retired member's pension shall resume in
8 accordance with the provisions of Subsection A of this section.

9 D. The provisions of Subsections C, G, H, J and K
10 of this section do not apply to:

11 (1) a retired member employed by the
12 legislature for legislative session work;

13 (2) a retired member employed temporarily as a
14 precinct board member for a municipal election or an election
15 covered by the Election Code; or

16 (3) a retired member who is elected to serve a
17 term as an elected official in an office covered pursuant to
18 the Public Employees Retirement Act; provided that:

19 (a) the retired member files an
20 irrevocable exemption from membership with the association
21 within thirty days of taking office; and

22 (b) the irrevocable exemption shall be
23 for the elected official's term of office.

24 E. A retired member who returns to employment
25 during retirement pursuant to Subsection D of this section is

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1 entitled to receive retirement benefits but is not entitled to
2 accrue service credit or to acquire or purchase service credit
3 in the future for the period of the retired member's subsequent
4 employment with an affiliated public employer.

5 F. At any time during a retired member's subsequent
6 employment pursuant to Subsection C of this section, the
7 retired member may elect to become a member and the following
8 conditions shall apply:

9 (1) the previously retired member and the
10 subsequent affiliated public employer shall make the required
11 employee and employer contributions, and the previously retired
12 member shall accrue service credit for the period of subsequent
13 employment; and

14 (2) when the previously retired member
15 terminates the subsequent employment with an affiliated public
16 employer, the previously retired member shall retire according
17 to the provisions of the Public Employees Retirement Act,
18 subject to the following conditions:

19 (a) payment of the pension shall resume
20 in accordance with the provisions of Subsection A of this
21 section;

22 (b) unless the previously retired member
23 accrued at least three years of service credit on account of
24 the subsequent employment, the recalculation of pension shall:

25 1) employ the form of payment selected by the previously

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1 retired member at the time of the first retirement; and 2) use
2 the provisions of the coverage plan applicable to the member on
3 the date of the first retirement; and

4 (c) the recalculated pension shall not
5 be less than the amount of the suspended pension.

6 G. A retired member who returned to work with an
7 affiliated public employer prior to July 1, 2010 shall be
8 subject to the provisions of this section in effect on the date
9 the retired member returned to work; provided that on and after
10 July 1, 2010, the retired member shall pay the employee
11 contribution in an amount specified in the Public Employees
12 Retirement Act for the position in which the retired member is
13 subsequently employed.

14 H. Effective July 1, 2014, if a retired member who,
15 subsequent to retirement, is employed and covered pursuant to
16 the provisions of the Magistrate Retirement Act or Judicial
17 Retirement Act, during the period of subsequent employment:

18 (1) the member shall be entitled to receive
19 retirement benefits;

20 (2) the retired member's cost-of-living
21 pension adjustment shall be suspended upon commencement of the
22 employment; and

23 (3) upon termination of the employment, the
24 retired member's suspended cost-of-living pension adjustment
25 shall be reinstated as provided under Section 10-11-118 NMSA

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1 1978.

2 I. The pension of a member who has earned service
3 credit under more than one coverage plan shall be determined as
4 follows:

5 (1) the pension of a member who has three or
6 more years of service credit earned on or before June 30, 2013
7 under each of two or more coverage plans shall be determined in
8 accordance with the coverage plan that produces the highest
9 pension;

10 (2) the pension of a member who has service
11 credit earned on or before June 30, 2013 under two or more
12 coverage plans but who has three or more years of service
13 credit under only one of those coverage plans shall be
14 determined in accordance with the coverage plan in which the
15 member has three or more years of service credit. If the
16 service credit is acquired under two different coverage plans
17 applied to the same affiliated public employer as a consequence
18 of an election by the members, adoption by the affiliated
19 public employer or a change in the law that results in the
20 application of a coverage plan with a greater pension, the
21 greater pension shall be paid a member retiring from the
22 affiliated public employer under which the change in coverage
23 plan took place regardless of the amount of service credit
24 under the coverage plan producing the greater pension; provided
25 that the member has three or more years of continuous

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1 employment with that affiliated public employer immediately
2 preceding or immediately preceding and immediately following
3 the date the coverage plan changed;

4 (3) the pension of a member who has service
5 credit earned on or before June 30, 2013 under each of two or
6 more coverage plans and who has service credit earned under any
7 coverage plan on or after July 1, 2013 shall be equal to the
8 sum of:

9 (a) the pension attributable to the
10 service credit earned on or before June 30, 2013 determined
11 pursuant to Paragraph (1) or (2) of this subsection; and

12 (b) the pension attributable to the
13 service credit earned under each coverage plan on or after July
14 1, 2013;

15 (4) the pension of a member who has service
16 credit earned only on and after July 1, 2013 shall be equal to
17 the sum of the pension attributable to the service credit the
18 member has accrued under each coverage plan; and

19 (5) the provisions of each coverage plan for
20 the purpose of this subsection shall be those in effect at the
21 time the member ceased to be covered by the coverage plan.

22 "Service credit", for the purposes of this subsection, shall be
23 only personal service rendered an affiliated public employer
24 and credited to the member under the provisions of Subsection A
25 of Section 10-11-4 NMSA 1978. Service credited under any other

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1 provision of the Public Employees Retirement Act shall not be
2 used to satisfy the three-year service credit requirement of
3 this subsection.

4 J. A retired member may be subsequently employed by
5 an affiliated public employer; provided that the retired member
6 has not been employed as an employee of an affiliated public
7 employer or retained as an independent contractor by the
8 affiliated public employer from which the retired member
9 retired for at least ninety consecutive days from the date of
10 retirement to the commencement of subsequent employment or
11 reemployment with an affiliated public employer; and further
12 provided that the:

13 (1) retired member shall only be employed in
14 one of the following positions:

- 15 (a) adult correctional officer;
- 16 (b) adult detention officer;
- 17 (c) certified lifeguard;
- 18 [~~(e)~~] (d) courthouse security officer;
- 19 [~~(d)~~] (e) emergency medical dispatcher;
- 20 [~~(e)~~] (f) emergency medical technician
21 or paramedic;
- 22 [~~(f)~~] (g) firefighter;
- 23 [~~(g)~~] (h) juvenile correctional officer;
- 24 [~~(h)~~] (i) juvenile detention officer;
- 25 [~~(i)~~] (j) municipal police officer;

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1 (8) retired member shall have no seniority
2 based on pre-retirement employment for purposes of selecting
3 shifts;

4 (9) retired member shall have no limitation on
5 the length of time that the retired member can be subsequently
6 employed or reemployed by an affiliated public employer;
7 provided that the retired member shall only receive up to
8 thirty-six consecutive months of pension payments while
9 reemployed;

10 (10) retired member shall not be hired for
11 reemployment into an employment position with a vacancy rate
12 that is lower than ten percent at the time of the retired
13 member's hiring; and

14 (11) subsequent employment begins prior to
15 July 1, 2027.

16 K. An affiliated public employer that employs a
17 retired member provided in Subsection J of this section shall:

18 (1) track and document:

19 (a) the date of hire and date of
20 separation for each reemployed retired member;

21 (b) the retired member's employment
22 position prior to retirement;

23 (c) the salary of each reemployed
24 retired member; and

25 (d) the monthly vacancy rate for each

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1 employment position at the affiliated public employer; and

2 (2) if the affiliated public employer has to
3 lay off employees due to budgetary restrictions, lay off
4 reemployed retired members before laying off any members.

5 L. For the purposes of this section:

6 (1) "adult correctional officer" means a
7 person who is employed as an adult correctional officer or an
8 adult correctional officer specialist by a state correctional
9 facility of the corrections department or its successor agency;

10 (2) "adult detention officer" means a person
11 who is employed by an affiliated public employer other than the
12 state and who has inmate custodial responsibilities at a
13 facility used for the confinement of adults charged with or
14 convicted of a violation of a law or ordinance;

15 (3) "certified lifeguard" means a person who
16 is certified by the American red cross to be a lifeguard and
17 who is employed to oversee the safety of people in aquatic
18 environments;

19 [~~(3)~~] (4) "courthouse security officer" means
20 a person who is employed by the administrative office of the
21 courts who provides security or protective services for a
22 courthouse;

23 [~~(4)~~] (5) "emergency medical dispatcher" means
24 a person who is trained and licensed pursuant to the Emergency
25 Medical Services Act and who receives calls for emergency

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1 medical assistance, provides pre-arrival medical instructions,
2 dispatches emergency medical assistance and coordinates its
3 response;

4 ~~[(5)]~~ (6) "emergency medical technician" means
5 a person who is licensed as an emergency medical technician or
6 paramedic and who provides patient care pursuant to the
7 Emergency Medical Services Act;

8 ~~[(6)]~~ (7) "firefighter" means a person who is
9 employed as a full-time non-volunteer firefighter by an
10 affiliated public employer who has taken the oath for
11 firefighters and who serves in a non-management position
12 serving or supporting the delivery of emergency services in a
13 front line capacity;

14 ~~[(7)]~~ (8) "juvenile correctional officer"
15 means a person who is employed as a juvenile correctional
16 officer by the children, youth and families department or its
17 successor agency;

18 ~~[(8)]~~ (9) "juvenile detention officer" means a
19 person who is employed as a juvenile detention officer or youth
20 program officer by an affiliated public employer other than the
21 state;

22 ~~[(9)]~~ (10) "municipal police officer" means a
23 person who is employed by an affiliated public employer other
24 than the state or a county and who is a law enforcement officer
25 who serves in a uniformed patrol capacity responding to

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1 dispatched calls for service;

2 [~~(10)~~] (11) "peace officer" means a person who
3 is appointed by the attorney general or district attorney and
4 who is a certified law enforcement officer who investigates and
5 enforces state laws, rules and regulations, including the
6 execution of warrants;

7 [~~(11)~~] (12) "protective services investigator"
8 means a person who is an employee of the protective services
9 division of the children, youth and families department who
10 investigates child abuse referrals, assesses the risk and
11 safety of the child and takes appropriate action or prepares
12 cases for transfer to child protective services permanency
13 planning;

14 [~~(12)~~] (13) "public safety telecommunicator"
15 means a person who is an employee of a safety agency who
16 receives calls or dispatches the appropriate personnel or
17 equipment in response to calls for police, fire or medical
18 services and makes decisions affecting the life, health or
19 welfare of the public or safety employees and who has qualified
20 for the certification set forth in the Public Safety
21 Telecommunicator Training Act;

22 [~~(13)~~] (14) "sheriff's deputy" means a person
23 who is employed by a county and who is a law enforcement
24 officer who serves in a uniformed patrol capacity responding to
25 dispatched calls for service or serves as a courthouse security

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1 officer employed by a county; and
2 [~~(14)~~] (15) "state police officer" means a
3 person who is an officer of the New Mexico state police
4 division of the department of public safety, who has taken the
5 oath prescribed for such officers and who serves in a uniformed
6 patrol capacity responding to dispatched calls for service."