SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5424

State of Washington 68th Legislature 2023 Regular Session

By Senate Labor & Commerce (originally sponsored by Senators Lovick, Holy, Dhingra, Frame, Keiser, Kuderer, Shewmake, Stanford, Valdez, Warnick, and Wellman)

READ FIRST TIME 02/01/23.

- AN ACT Relating to flexible work for general and limited 1 2 amending RCW 41.26.030; authority Washington peace officers; 3 reenacting and amending RCW 10.93.020; and adding a new section to 4
- chapter 49.28 RCW.

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- 5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:
- 6 NEW SECTION. Sec. 1. A new section is added to chapter 49.28 7 RCW to read as follows:
 - (1) Every general authority and limited authority Washington law enforcement agency may adopt a flexible work policy. The policy may allow for general authority and limited authority Washington peace officers to work at less than full time when feasible, such as supplementing work during peak hours with part-time officers. The flexible work policy may include alternative shift and work schedules that fit the needs of the law enforcement agency.
- 15 (2) The flexible work policy adopted in subsection (1) of this 16 section may require an officer have a certain number of years of 17 experience as a full-time officer or have additional training for the 18 officer to work part time or be eligible for any other types of 19 flexible work.

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1 (3) The flexible work policy adopted in subsection (1) of this 2 section may not cause the layoff or otherwise displace any full-time 3 officer.

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- (4) This section does not alter any existing collective bargaining unit, the provisions of any existing collective bargaining agreement, or the duty of a law enforcement agency to meet their duty to bargain under chapter 41.56 or 41.80 RCW. Full-time and part-time officers working for the same law enforcement agency who are covered by a collective bargaining agreement must be in the same bargaining unit.
- (5) This section does not alter any laws or workplace policies relating to restrictions on secondary employment for general authority and limited authority Washington peace officers.
- 14 (6) For the purposes of this section, the definitions in this subsection apply.
 - (a) "General authority and limited authority Washington law enforcement agency" has the same meaning as "general authority Washington law enforcement agency" and "limited authority Washington law enforcement agency" as defined in RCW 10.93.020 (3) and (5), respectively.
- 21 (b) "General authority and limited authority Washington peace 22 officers" has the same meaning as "general authority Washington peace 23 officer" and "limited authority Washington peace officer" as defined 24 in RCW 10.93.020 (4) and (6), respectively.
- Sec. 2. RCW 10.93.020 and 2021 c 318 s 307 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

As used in this chapter, the following terms have the meanings indicated unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

- (1) "Agency with primary territorial jurisdiction" means a city or town police agency which has responsibility for police activity within its boundaries; or a county police or sheriff's department which has responsibility with regard to police activity in the unincorporated areas within the county boundaries; or a statutorily authorized port district police agency or four-year state college or university police agency which has responsibility for police activity within the statutorily authorized enforcement boundaries of the port district, state college, or university.
- (2) "Federal peace officer" means any employee or agent of the United States government who has the authority to carry firearms and

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make warrantless arrests and whose duties involve the enforcement of criminal laws of the United States.

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- (3) "General authority Washington law enforcement agency" means any agency, department, or division of a municipal corporation, political subdivision, or other unit of local government of this state, and any agency, department, or division of state government, having as its primary function the detection and apprehension of persons committing infractions or violating the traffic or criminal laws in general, as distinguished from a limited authority Washington law enforcement agency, and any other unit of government expressly designated by statute as a general authority Washington law enforcement agency. The Washington state patrol and the department of fish and wildlife are general authority Washington law enforcement agencies.
- (4) "General authority Washington peace officer" means any ((full-time,)) fully compensated and elected, appointed, or employed officer of a general authority Washington law enforcement agency who is commissioned to enforce the criminal laws of the state of Washington generally.
- (5) "Limited authority Washington law enforcement agency" means any agency, political subdivision, or unit of local government of this state, and any agency, department, or division of state government, having as one of its functions the apprehension or detection of persons committing infractions or violating the traffic or criminal laws relating to limited subject areas, including but not limited to, the state departments of natural resources and social and health services, the state gambling commission, the state lottery commission, the state parks and recreation commission, the state utilities and transportation commission, the state liquor and cannabis board, the office of the insurance commissioner, the state department of corrections, and the office of independent investigations.
- (6) "Limited authority Washington peace officer" means any ((full-time,)) fully compensated officer of a limited authority Washington law enforcement agency empowered by that agency to detect or apprehend violators of the laws in some or all of the limited subject areas for which that agency is responsible. A limited authority Washington peace officer may be a specially commissioned Washington peace officer if otherwise qualified for such status under this chapter.

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(7) "Mutual law enforcement assistance" includes, but is not limited to, one or more law enforcement agencies aiding or assisting one or more other such agencies through loans or exchanges of personnel or of material resources, for law enforcement purposes.

- (8) "Primary commissioning agency" means (a) the employing agency in the case of a general authority Washington peace officer, a limited authority Washington peace officer, a tribal peace officer from a federally recognized tribe, or a federal peace officer, and (b) the commissioning agency in the case of a specially commissioned Washington peace officer (i) who is performing functions within the course and scope of the special commission and (ii) who is not also a general authority Washington peace officer, a limited authority Washington peace officer from a federally recognized tribe, or a federal peace officer.
- (9) "Primary function of an agency" means that function to which greater than fifty percent of the agency's resources are allocated.
- (10) "Specially commissioned Washington peace officer," for the purposes of this chapter, means any officer, whether part-time or full-time, compensated or not, commissioned by a general authority Washington law enforcement agency to enforce some or all of the criminal laws of the state of Washington, who does not qualify under this chapter as a general authority Washington peace officer for that commissioning agency, specifically including reserve peace officers, and specially commissioned full-time, fully compensated peace officers duly commissioned by the states of Oregon or Idaho or any such peace officer commissioned by a unit of local government of Oregon or Idaho. A reserve peace officer is an individual who is an officer of a Washington law enforcement agency who does not serve such agency on a full-time basis but who, when called by the agency into active service, is fully commissioned on the same basis as full-time peace officers to enforce the criminal laws of the state.
- **Sec. 3.** RCW 41.26.030 and 2021 c 12 s 2 are each amended to read as follows:
- As used in this chapter, unless a different meaning is plainly required by the context:
- 36 (1) "Accumulated contributions" means the employee's contributions made by a member, including any amount paid under RCW 41.50.165(2), plus accrued interest credited thereon.

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(2) "Actuarial reserve" means a method of financing a pension or retirement plan wherein reserves are accumulated as the liabilities for benefit payments are incurred in order that sufficient funds will be available on the date of retirement of each member to pay the member's future benefits during the period of retirement.

- (3) "Actuarial valuation" means a mathematical determination of the financial condition of a retirement plan. It includes the computation of the present monetary value of benefits payable to present members, and the present monetary value of future employer and employee contributions, giving effect to mortality among active and retired members and also to the rates of disability, retirement, withdrawal from service, salary and interest earned on investments.
- (4) (a) "Basic salary" for plan 1 members, means the basic monthly rate of salary or wages, including longevity pay but not including overtime earnings or special salary or wages, upon which pension or retirement benefits will be computed and upon which employer contributions and salary deductions will be based.
- (b) "Basic salary" for plan 2 members, means salaries or wages earned by a member during a payroll period for personal services, including overtime payments, and shall include wages and salaries deferred under provisions established pursuant to sections 403(b), 414(h), and 457 of the United States Internal Revenue Code, but shall exclude lump sum payments for deferred annual sick leave, unused accumulated vacation, unused accumulated annual leave, or any form of severance pay. In any year in which a member serves in the legislature the member shall have the option of having such member's basic salary be the greater of:
- (i) The basic salary the member would have received had such member not served in the legislature; or
- 30 (ii) Such member's actual basic salary received for nonlegislative public employment and legislative service combined.
 32 Any additional contributions to the retirement system required 33 because basic salary under (b)(i) of this subsection is greater than 34 basic salary under (b)(ii) of this subsection shall be paid by the 35 member for both member and employer contributions.
- 36 (5)(a) "Beneficiary" for plan 1 members, means any person in 37 receipt of a retirement allowance, disability allowance, death 38 benefit, or any other benefit described herein.

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- (b) "Beneficiary" for plan 2 members, means any person in receipt of a retirement allowance or other benefit provided by this chapter resulting from service rendered to an employer by another person.
- (6) (a) "Child" or "children" means an unmarried person who is under the age of eighteen or mentally or physically disabled as determined by the department, except a person who is disabled and in the full time care of a state institution, who is:
 - (i) A natural born child;

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- 9 (ii) A stepchild where that relationship was in existence prior 10 to the date benefits are payable under this chapter;
 - (iii) A posthumous child;
- 12 (iv) A child legally adopted or made a legal ward of a member 13 prior to the date benefits are payable under this chapter; or
- 14 (v) An illegitimate child legitimized prior to the date any 15 benefits are payable under this chapter.
 - (b) A person shall also be deemed to be a child up to and including the age of twenty years and eleven months while attending any high school, college, or vocational or other educational institution accredited, licensed, or approved by the state, in which it is located, including the summer vacation months and all other normal and regular vacation periods at the particular educational institution after which the child returns to school.
- 23 (7) "Department" means the department of retirement systems 24 created in chapter 41.50 RCW.
 - (8) "Director" means the director of the department.
 - (9) "Disability board" for plan 1 members means either the county disability board or the city disability board established in RCW 41.26.110.
 - (10) "Disability leave" means the period of six months or any portion thereof during which a member is on leave at an allowance equal to the member's full salary prior to the commencement of disability retirement. The definition contained in this subsection shall apply only to plan 1 members.
 - (11) "Disability retirement" for plan 1 members, means the period following termination of a member's disability leave, during which the member is in receipt of a disability retirement allowance.
- 37 (12) "Domestic partners" means two adults who have registered as domestic partners under RCW 26.60.020.
- 39 (13) "Employee" means any law enforcement officer or firefighter 40 as defined in subsections (17) and (19) of this section.

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(14) (a) "Employer" for plan 1 members, means the legislative authority of any city, town, county, district, or regional fire protection service authority or the elected officials of any municipal corporation that employs any law enforcement officer and/or firefighter, any authorized association of such municipalities, and, except for the purposes of RCW 41.26.150, any labor guild, association, or organization, which represents the firefighters or law enforcement officers of at least seven cities of over 20,000 population and the membership of each local lodge or division of which is composed of at least sixty percent law enforcement officers or firefighters as defined in this chapter.

- (b) "Employer" for plan 2 members, means the following entities to the extent that the entity employs any law enforcement officer and/or firefighter:
- (i) The legislative authority of any city, town, county, district, public corporation, or regional fire protection service authority established under RCW 35.21.730 to provide emergency medical services as defined in RCW 18.73.030;
 - (ii) The elected officials of any municipal corporation;
- (iii) The governing body of any other general authority law enforcement agency;
 - (iv) A four-year institution of higher education having a fully operational fire department as of January 1, 1996; or
 - (v) The department of social and health services or the department of corrections when employing firefighters serving at a prison or civil commitment center on an island.
 - (c) Except as otherwise specifically provided in this chapter, "employer" does not include a government contractor. For purposes of this subsection, a "government contractor" is any entity, including a partnership, limited liability company, for-profit or nonprofit corporation, or person, that provides services pursuant to a contract with an "employer." The determination whether an employer-employee relationship has been established is not based on the relationship between a government contractor and an "employer," but is based solely on the relationship between a government contractor's employee and an "employer" under this chapter.
 - (15)(a) "Final average salary" for plan 1 members, means (i) for a member holding the same position or rank for a minimum of twelve months preceding the date of retirement, the basic salary attached to such same position or rank at time of retirement; (ii) for any other

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member, including a civil service member who has not served a minimum of twelve months in the same position or rank preceding the date of retirement, the average of the greatest basic salaries payable to such member during any consecutive twenty-four month period within such member's last ten years of service for which service credit is allowed, computed by dividing the total basic salaries payable to such member during the selected twenty-four month period by twenty-four; (iii) in the case of disability of any member, the basic salary payable to such member at the time of disability retirement; (iv) in the case of a member who hereafter vests pursuant to RCW 41.26.090, the basic salary payable to such member at the time of vesting.

- (b) "Final average salary" for plan 2 members, means the monthly average of the member's basic salary for the highest consecutive sixty service credit months of service prior to such member's retirement, termination, or death. Periods constituting authorized unpaid leaves of absence may not be used in the calculation of final average salary.
- (c) In calculating final average salary under (a) or (b) of this subsection, the department of retirement systems shall include:
- (i) Any compensation forgone by a member employed by a state agency or institution during the 2009-2011 fiscal biennium as a result of reduced work hours, mandatory or voluntary leave without pay, temporary reduction in pay implemented prior to December 11, 2010, or temporary layoffs if the reduced compensation is an integral part of the employer's expenditure reduction efforts, as certified by the employer;
- (ii) Any compensation forgone by a member employed by the state or a local government employer during the 2011-2013 fiscal biennium as a result of reduced work hours, mandatory leave without pay, temporary layoffs, or reductions to current pay if the reduced compensation is an integral part of the employer's expenditure reduction efforts, as certified by the employer. Reductions to current pay shall not include elimination of previously agreed upon future salary increases; and
- (iii) Any compensation forgone by a member employed by the state or a local government employer during the 2019-2021 and 2021-2023 fiscal biennia as a result of reduced work hours, mandatory leave without pay, temporary layoffs, furloughs, reductions to current pay, or other similar measures resulting from the COVID-19 budgetary crisis, if the reduced compensation is an integral part of the

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- employer's expenditure reduction efforts, as certified by the employer. Reductions to current pay shall not include elimination of previously agreed upon future salary increases.
- (16) "Fire department" includes a fire station operated by the department of social and health services or the department of corrections when employing firefighters serving a prison or civil commitment center on an island.
 - (17) "Firefighter" means:

- (a) Any person who is serving on a full time, fully compensated basis as a member of a fire department of an employer and who is serving in a position which requires passing a civil service examination for firefighter, and who is actively employed as such;
- (b) Anyone who is actively employed as a full time firefighter where the fire department does not have a civil service examination;
 - (c) Supervisory firefighter personnel;
- (d) Any full time executive secretary of an association of fire protection districts authorized under RCW 52.12.031. The provisions of this subsection (17)(d) shall not apply to plan 2 members;
- (e) The executive secretary of a labor guild, association or organization (which is an employer under subsection (14) of this section), if such individual has five years previous membership in a retirement system established in chapter 41.16 or 41.18 RCW. The provisions of this subsection (17)(e) shall not apply to plan 2 members;
- (f) Any person who is serving on a full time, fully compensated basis for an employer, as a fire dispatcher, in a department in which, on March 1, 1970, a dispatcher was required to have passed a civil service examination for firefighter;
- (g) Any person who on March 1, 1970, was employed on a full time, fully compensated basis by an employer, and who on May 21, 1971, was making retirement contributions under the provisions of chapter 41.16 or 41.18 RCW; and
- (h) Any person who is employed on a full-time, fully compensated basis by an employer as an emergency medical technician that meets the requirements of RCW 18.71.200 or 18.73.030(((12))) (13), and whose duties include providing emergency medical services as defined in RCW 18.73.030.
- 38 (18) "General authority law enforcement agency" means any agency, 39 department, or division of a municipal corporation, political 40 subdivision, or other unit of local government of this state, and any

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agency, department, or division of state government, having as its primary function the detection and apprehension of persons committing infractions or violating the traffic or criminal laws in general, but including the Washington state patrol. Such an department, or division is distinguished from a limited authority law enforcement agency having as one of its functions the apprehension or detection of persons committing infractions or violating the traffic or criminal laws relating to limited subject areas, including but not limited to, the state departments of natural resources and social and health services, the state gambling commission, the state lottery commission, the state parks and recreation commission, the state utilities and transportation commission, the state liquor and cannabis board, and the state department of corrections. A general authority law enforcement agency under this chapter does not include a government contractor.

(19) "Law enforcement officer" beginning January 1, 1994, means any person who is commissioned and employed by an employer on a full time, fully compensated basis to enforce the criminal laws of the state of Washington generally, with the following qualifications:

- (a) No person who is serving in a position that is basically clerical or secretarial in nature, and who is not commissioned shall be considered a law enforcement officer;
- (b) Only those deputy sheriffs, including those serving under a different title pursuant to county charter, who have successfully completed a civil service examination for deputy sheriff or the equivalent position, where a different title is used, and those persons serving in unclassified positions authorized by RCW 41.14.070 except a private secretary will be considered law enforcement officers;
- (c) Only such full time commissioned law enforcement personnel as have been appointed to offices, positions, or ranks in the police department which have been specifically created or otherwise expressly provided for and designated by city charter provision or by ordinance enacted by the legislative body of the city shall be considered city police officers;
- (d) The term "law enforcement officer" also includes the executive secretary of a labor guild, association or organization (which is an employer under subsection (14) of this section) if that individual has five years previous membership in the retirement

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system established in chapter 41.20 RCW. The provisions of this subsection (19)(d) shall not apply to plan 2 members; ((and))

- (e) The term "law enforcement officer" also includes a person employed on or after January 1, 1993, as a public safety officer or director of public safety, so long as the job duties substantially involve only either police or fire duties, or both, and no other duties in a city or town with a population of less than ten thousand. The provisions of this subsection (19)(e) shall not apply to any public safety officer or director of public safety who is receiving a retirement allowance under this chapter as of May 12, 1993; and
- (f) Beginning July 1, 2023, the term "law enforcement officer" also includes any person who is commissioned and employed by an employer on a fully compensated basis to enforce the criminal laws of the state of Washington generally, on a less than full-time basis, with the qualifications in (a) through (e) of this subsection.
- 16 (20) "Medical services" for plan 1 members, shall include the 17 following as minimum services to be provided. Reasonable charges for 18 these services shall be paid in accordance with RCW 41.26.150.
- 19 (a) Hospital expenses: These are the charges made by a hospital, 20 in its own behalf, for
 - (i) Board and room not to exceed semiprivate room rate unless private room is required by the attending physician due to the condition of the patient.
- 24 (ii) Necessary hospital services, other than board and room, 25 furnished by the hospital.
- 26 (b) Other medical expenses: The following charges are considered 27 "other medical expenses," provided that they have not been considered 28 as "hospital expenses".
 - (i) The fees of the following:

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- 30 (A) A physician or surgeon licensed under the provisions of 31 chapter 18.71 RCW;
- 32 (B) An osteopathic physician and surgeon licensed under the 33 provisions of chapter 18.57 RCW;
- 34 (C) A chiropractor licensed under the provisions of chapter 18.25 35 RCW.
- 36 (ii) The charges of a registered graduate nurse other than a 37 nurse who ordinarily resides in the member's home, or is a member of 38 the family of either the member or the member's spouse.
- 39 (iii) The charges for the following medical services and 40 supplies:

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- 1 (A) Drugs and medicines upon a physician's prescription;
 - (B) Diagnostic X-ray and laboratory examinations;
 - (C) X-ray, radium, and radioactive isotopes therapy;
 - (D) Anesthesia and oxygen;

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- 5 (E) Rental of iron lung and other durable medical and surgical 6 equipment;
 - (F) Artificial limbs and eyes, and casts, splints, and trusses;
- 8 (G) Professional ambulance service when used to transport the 9 member to or from a hospital when injured by an accident or stricken 10 by a disease;
 - (H) Dental charges incurred by a member who sustains an accidental injury to his or her teeth and who commences treatment by a legally licensed dentist within ninety days after the accident;
 - (I) Nursing home confinement or hospital extended care facility;
 - (J) Physical therapy by a registered physical therapist;
- 16 (K) Blood transfusions, including the cost of blood and blood 17 plasma not replaced by voluntary donors;
- 18 (L) An optometrist licensed under the provisions of chapter 18.53 19 RCW.
 - (21) "Member" means any firefighter, law enforcement officer, or other person as would apply under subsection (17) or (19) of this section whose membership is transferred to the Washington law enforcement officers' and firefighters' retirement system on or after March 1, 1970, and every law enforcement officer and firefighter who is employed in that capacity on or after such date.
 - (22) "Plan 1" means the law enforcement officers' and firefighters' retirement system, plan 1 providing the benefits and funding provisions covering persons who first became members of the system prior to October 1, 1977.
 - (23) "Plan 2" means the law enforcement officers' and firefighters' retirement system, plan 2 providing the benefits and funding provisions covering persons who first became members of the system on and after October 1, 1977.
- 34 (24) "Position" means the employment held at any particular time, 35 which may or may not be the same as civil service rank.
- 36 (25) "Regular interest" means such rate as the director may 37 determine.
- 38 (26) "Retiree" for persons who establish membership in the 39 retirement system on or after October 1, 1977, means any member in 40 receipt of a retirement allowance or other benefit provided by this

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1 chapter resulting from service rendered to an employer by such 2 member.

- (27) "Retirement fund" means the "Washington law enforcement officers' and firefighters' retirement system fund" as provided for herein.
- 6 (28) "Retirement system" means the "Washington law enforcement 7 officers' and firefighters' retirement system" provided herein.
 - (29) (a) "Service" for plan 1 members, means all periods of employment for an employer as a firefighter or law enforcement officer, for which compensation is paid, together with periods of suspension not exceeding thirty days in duration. For the purposes of this chapter service shall also include service in the armed forces of the United States as provided in RCW 41.26.190. Credit shall be allowed for all service credit months of service rendered by a member from and after the member's initial commencement of employment as a firefighter or law enforcement officer, during which the member worked for seventy or more hours, or was on disability leave or disability retirement. Only service credit months of service shall be counted in the computation of any retirement allowance or other benefit provided for in this chapter.
 - (i) For members retiring after May 21, 1971 who were employed under the coverage of a prior pension act before March 1, 1970, "service" shall also include (A) such military service not exceeding five years as was creditable to the member as of March 1, 1970, under the member's particular prior pension act, and (B) such other periods of service as were then creditable to a particular member under the provisions of RCW 41.18.165, 41.20.160, or 41.20.170. However, in no event shall credit be allowed for any service rendered prior to March 1, 1970, where the member at the time of rendition of such service was employed in a position covered by a prior pension act, unless such service, at the time credit is claimed therefor, is also creditable under the provisions of such prior act.
 - (ii) A member who is employed by two employers at the same time shall only be credited with service to one such employer for any month during which the member rendered such dual service.
 - (iii) Reduction efforts such as furloughs, reduced work hours, mandatory leave without pay, temporary layoffs, or other similar situations as contemplated by subsection (15)(c)(iii) of this section do not result in a reduction in service credit that otherwise would have been earned for that month of work, and the member shall receive

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the full service credit for the hours that were scheduled to be worked before the reduction.

- (b)(i) "Service" for plan 2 members, means periods of employment by a member for one or more employers for which basic salary is earned for ninety or more hours per calendar month which shall constitute a service credit month. Periods of employment by a member for one or more employers for which basic salary is earned for at least seventy hours but less than ninety hours per calendar month shall constitute one-half service credit month. Periods of employment by a member for one or more employers for which basic salary is earned for less than seventy hours shall constitute a one-quarter service credit month.
- (ii) Members of the retirement system who are elected or appointed to a state elective position may elect to continue to be members of this retirement system.
- (iii) Service credit years of service shall be determined by dividing the total number of service credit months of service by twelve. Any fraction of a service credit year of service as so determined shall be taken into account in the computation of such retirement allowance or benefits.
- (iv) If a member receives basic salary from two or more employers during any calendar month, the individual shall receive one service credit month's service credit during any calendar month in which multiple service for ninety or more hours is rendered; or one-half service credit month's service credit during any calendar month in which multiple service for at least seventy hours but less than ninety hours is rendered; or one-quarter service credit month during any calendar month in which multiple service for less than seventy hours is rendered.
- (v) Reduction efforts such as furloughs, reduced work hours, mandatory leave without pay, temporary layoffs, or other similar situations as contemplated by subsection (15)(c)(iii) of this section do not result in a reduction in service credit that otherwise would have been earned for that month of work, and the member shall receive the full service credit for the hours that were scheduled to be worked before the reduction.
- 37 (30) "Service credit month" means a full service credit month or 38 an accumulation of partial service credit months that are equal to 39 one.

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1 (31) "Service credit year" means an accumulation of months of service credit which is equal to one when divided by twelve.

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- (32) "State actuary" or "actuary" means the person appointed pursuant to RCW 44.44.010(2).
 - (33) "State elective position" means any position held by any person elected or appointed to statewide office or elected or appointed as a member of the legislature.
- (34) "Surviving spouse" means the surviving widow or widower of a member. "Surviving spouse" shall not include the divorced spouse of a member except as provided in RCW 41.26.162.

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