

State of Arkansas
93rd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2021

A Bill

SENATE BILL 103

By: Senator B. Sample
By: Representative Warren

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE ARKANSAS STATE
HIGHWAY EMPLOYEES' DEFERRED RETIREMENT OPTION PLAN
CONTRIBUTION REQUIREMENTS; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY;
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE ARKANSAS
STATE HIGHWAY EMPLOYEES' DEFERRED
RETIREMENT OPTION PLAN CONTRIBUTION
REQUIREMENTS; AND TO DECLARE AN
EMERGENCY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 24-5-202(a)(4), concerning member and employer contribution requirements relating to the Arkansas State Highway Employees' Deferred Retirement Option Plan, is amended to read as follows:

(4) When a member begins participation in the Arkansas State Highway Employees' Deferred Retirement Option Plan, the member's contributions and the state's contributions, as employer, to the Arkansas State Highway Employees' Retirement System shall ~~cease~~ be as follows:

(A) Beginning on July 1, 2021, the state shall remit contributions to the Arkansas State Highway Employees' Retirement System for a member participating in the Arkansas State Highway Employees' Deferred Retirement Option Plan in an amount equal to the employer contribution for an active employee as prescribed in § 24-5-109;



(B) For an employee hired before July 1, 2021, the employee contribution to the Arkansas State Highway Employees' Retirement System shall cease upon beginning participation in the Arkansas State Highway Employees' Deferred Retirement Option Plan; and

(C) For an employee hired after June 30, 2021, the employee shall be required to remit member contributions to the Arkansas State Highway Employees' Retirement System in an amount equal to the current active employee contribution rate upon beginning participation in the Arkansas State Highway Employees' Deferred Retirement Option Plan;

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 24-5-202(b)(3), concerning member and employer contribution requirements relating to the Arkansas State Highway Employees' Deferred Retirement Option Plan, is amended to read as follows:

~~(3)(A) In order to participate in the Arkansas State Highway Employees' Deferred Retirement Option Plan for a period of longer than five (5) years, the member shall contribute six percent (6%) of his or her gross salary, and the Arkansas Department of Transportation shall contribute six and nine tenths percent (6.9%) of the member's gross salary~~ An employee hired before July 1, 2021, who participates in the Arkansas State Highway Employees' Deferred Retirement Option Plan for more than five (5) years shall contribute six percent (6%) of his or her gross salary to the Arkansas State Highway Employees' Retirement System.

(B) An employee hired after June 30, 2021, shall contribute the current member contribution rate for active members to the Arkansas State Highway Employees' Retirement System as prescribed in § 24-5-108.

SECTION 3. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that certain provisions of the law applicable to the Arkansas State Highway Employees' Retirement System are in urgent need of revision to bring the operations of the system into conformance with sound public pension policy; that amendments to the law in this act are of great importance to the citizens of this state; and that this act is necessary to maintain an orderly system of benefits for the members of the system. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall

become effective on July 1, 2021.

APPROVED: 2/23/21