

Designation of state retirement systems; combining contributions and service credits.

Sec. 145.37. For the purpose of further co-ordinating and integrating membership in the teachers retirement system and the school employees retirement system with membership in the public employees retirement system for the purposes of retirement, the following provisions shall apply:

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State retirement systems are the public employees retirement system, state teachers retirement system, and the school employees retirement system, all of which are established under the laws of the state.

At the option of a member or of a beneficiary as provided in sections 145.43 and 145.45 of the Revised Code, total contributions and service credit in all state retirement systems shall be used in determining the eligibility and total retirement allowance for the purpose of superannuation, commuted superannuation, disability retirement, and other benefits. Where total contributions and service credit are so combined, the following provisions apply:

(A) Superannuation and commuted superannuation retirement shall be effective at the end of the quarter of the calendar year then current.

(B) "Total service credit" includes the total credit in all state retirement systems. Such credit shall not exceed one year for any period of twelve months. If such total service credit is ten or more years he shall qualify for an indefinite membership leave of absence under the provisions of section 145.41 of the Revised Code.

(C) The cost of the "basic annual pension" and the minimum allowance shall be shared by each of the systems involved but such basic annual pension shall not exceed one hundred eighty dollars. The portion payable by the public employees retirement system shall be equal to the ratio that total service credit in such system bears to the total service credit in all the state retirement systems.

(D) The member's accumulated contributions in all state retirement systems, based upon total salaries received from employment covered by all such systems, shall not exceed an amount which would have accumulated had contributions been made to one system. The total service credit in each system for each year shall be in the ratio that the contribution bears to the total contributions in all systems for such year and any excess contributions shall be refunded to the member.

(E) Effective June 30, 1955, for the purpose of this section only, "final average salary" means the highest average annual compensation of a member during any five years within the ten years immediately preceding termination of contributions and shall be determined by dividing the total earnings as a public employee during such period by the service credited during such period. ***

(F) In determining eligibility for disability retirement, the medical examiner's report to the retirement board of any state retirement system, showing that the member's disability incapacitates him for the performance of duty and that he ought to be retired, may be accepted as sufficient for granting disability retirement.

(G) The portion of the total allowance payable by the public employees retirement system, and that portion only, shall be paid directly by such system to the annuitant.

When a member or beneficiary elects to combine total contributions and service credit in all state retirement systems, the public employees retirement board, together with the other retirement boards, shall decide all problems arising in connection therewith and their decisions are final.

Effective September 16, 1957