3305.05 or 3305.051 of the Revised Code, "earnable salary" as defined in division (R) of section 145.01 of the Revised Code;

- (2) If the electing employee would be subject to Chapter 3307. of the Revised Code had the employee not made an election pursuant to section 3305.05 or 3305.051 of the Revised Code, "compensation" as defined in division (L) of section 3307.01 of the Revised Code;
- (3) If the electing employee would be subject to Chapter 3309. of the Revised Code had the employee not made an election pursuant to section 3305.05 or 3305.051 of the Revised Code, "compensation" as defined in division (V) of section 3309.01 of the Revised Code.
- (F) "Provider Vendor" means an entity designated under section 3305.03 of the Revised Code as <u>eligible to be</u> a provider of investment options for an alternative retirement plan.
- (G) "Provider" means, with respect to each public institution of higher education, a vendor that has entered into an agreement with that public institution of higher education in accordance with section 3305.04 of the Revised Code.

Sec. 3305.02. An alternative retirement program is hereby established in accordance with this chapter for the purpose of providing to eligible employees the opportunity of participating in an alternative retirement plan as an alternative to participating in a state retirement system. The employer is the sponsor of each alternative retirement plan offered under this chapter.

Each alternative retirement plan offered under this program shall be a defined contribution plan qualified under section 401 (a) of the Internal Revenue Code that provides retirement and, to the extent applicable, death benefits through investment options. The options shall be offered to electing employees <u>pursuant to trust or custodial accounts or pursuant to group or individual annuity contracts</u>, and certificates issued under group contracts, and. The options may include life insurance, annuities, variable annuities, regulated investment trusts, pooled investment funds, or other forms of investment, at the option of each electing employee.

Notwithstanding this chapter, any retirement plan established by a public institution of higher education prior to March 31, 1997, as an alternative to participating in any state retirement system may continue in effect and be modified without regard to this chapter for all employees at the public institution eligible to participate in the plan.

Sec. 3305.03. (A) The department of insurance Ohio board of regents shall designate three or more the entities that are eligible to provide investment options under alternative retirement plans established maintained by public institutions of higher education in accordance with this chapter.