section 3305.05 of the Revised Code and ending on the day before the day on which contributions commence under an alternative retirement plan.

Sec. 3305.06. (A) Each electing employee shall contribute an amount, which shall be a certain percentage of the employee's compensation, to the provider of the investment option the employee has selected. This percentage shall be the percentage the electing employee would have otherwise been required to contribute to the state retirement system that applies to the employee's position, except that the percentage shall not be less than three per cent. Employee contributions under this division may be treated as employer contributions in accordance with Internal Revenue Code 414(h).

- (B) Each public institution of higher education employing an electing employee shall contribute a percentage of the employee's compensation to the provider of the investment option the employee has selected. This percentage shall be equal to the percentage that the public institution of higher education would otherwise contribute on behalf of that employee to the state retirement system that would otherwise cover that employee's position, less the percentage contributed by the public institution of higher education under division (D) of this section.
- (C)(1) In no event shall the amount contributed by the electing employee pursuant to division (A) of this section and on the electing employee's behalf pursuant to division (B) of this section be less than the amount necessary to qualify the plan as a state retirement system pursuant to Internal Revenue Code 3121(b)(7) and the regulations adopted thereunder.
- (2) The full amount of the electing employee's contribution under division (A) of this section and the full amount of the employer's contribution made on behalf of that employee under division (B) of this section shall be paid to the appropriate provider for application to the electing employee's investment option.
- (D) Each public institution of higher education employing an electing employee shall contribute on behalf of that employee to the state retirement system that otherwise applies to the electing employee's position a percentage of the electing employee's compensation to mitigate any negative financial impact of the alternative retirement program on the state retirement system. The percentage shall be six per cent, except that the percentage may be adjusted by the Ohio retirement study council to reflect the determinations made determined by the actuarial studies study conducted under section 171.07–145.222, 3307.514, or 3309.212 of the Revised Code, as applicable. Any adjustment shall become effective on the first day of the second month following submission of the actuarial study to the Ohio board of regents under section 171.07 of the Revised Code.

Contributions on behalf of an electing employee shall continue in accordance with this division until the occurrence of the following:

- (1) If the electing employee would be subject to Chapter 145. of the Revised Code had the employee not made an election pursuant to section 3305.05 or 3305.051 of the Revised Code, until the unfunded actuarial accrued liability for all benefits, except health care benefits provided under section 145.58 or 145.584 of the Revised Code and benefit increases provided after March 31, 1997, is fully amortized, as determined by the annual actuarial valuation prepared under section 145.22 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, until

the unfunded actuarial accrued liability for all benefits, except health care benefits provided under section 3307.39 of the Revised Code and benefit increases provided after March 31, 1997, is fully amortized, as determined by the annual actuarial valuation prepared under section 3307.51 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, until the unfunded actuarial accrued liability for all benefits, except health care benefits provided under section 3309.375 or 3309.69 of the Revised Code and benefit increases provided after March 31, 1997, is fully amortized, as determined by the annual actuarial valuation prepared under section 3309.21 of the Revised Code.

Sec. 3307.01. As used in this chapter:

- (A) "Employer" means the board of education, school district, governing authority of any community school established under Chapter 3314. of the Revised Code, a science, technology, engineering, and mathematics school established under Chapter 3326. of the Revised Code, college, university, institution, or other agency within the state by which a teacher is employed and paid.
  - (B)(1) "Teacher" means all of the following:
- (a) Any person paid from public funds and employed in the public schools of the state under any type of contract described in section 3311.77 or 3319.08 of the Revised Code in a position for which the person is required to have a license issued pursuant to sections 3319.22 to 3319.31 of the Revised Code;
- (b) Except as provided in division (B)(2)(b) or (c) of this section, any person employed as a teacher or faculty member in a community school or a science, technology, engineering, and mathematics school pursuant to Chapter 3314. or 3326. of the Revised Code;
- (c) Any person having a license issued pursuant to sections 3319.22 to 3319.31 of the Revised Code and employed in a public school in this state in an educational position, as determined by the state board of education, under programs provided for by federal acts or regulations and financed in whole or in part from federal funds, but for which no licensure requirements for the position can be made under the provisions of such federal acts or regulations;
- (d) Any other teacher or faculty member employed in any school, college, university, institution, or other agency wholly controlled and managed, and supported in whole or in part, by the state or any political subdivision thereof, including Central state university, Cleveland state university, and the university of Toledo;
- (e) The educational employees of the department of education, as determined by the state superintendent of public instruction.

In all cases of doubt, the state teachers retirement board shall determine whether any person is a teacher, and its decision shall be final.

- (2) "Teacher" does not include any of the following:
- (a) Any eligible employee of a public institution of higher education, as defined in section 3305.01 of the Revised Code, who elects to participate in an alternative retirement plan established under Chapter 3305. of the Revised Code;
- (b) Any person employed by a community school operator, as defined in section 3314.02 of the Revised Code, if on or before February 1, 2016, the school's operator was withholding and paying