

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2023 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

Senate Bill 590

FISCAL
NOTE

By Senators Nelson, Plymale, Barrett, Roberts,

Deeds, Woelfel, and Queen

[Introduced February 09, 2023; referred
to the Committee on the Pensions; and then to the
Committee on Finance]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §16-5V-2, §16-5V-6, and §16-5V-14a of the Code of West Virginia,
2 1931, as amended; and to amend said code by adding thereto a two new sections,
3 designated §16-5V-6c and §16-5V-6d, all relating to the Emergency Medical Services
4 Retirement System; defining terms; updating terms to comply with federal laws;
5 authorizing certain 911 personnel to be members of the Emergency Medical Services
6 Retirement System under certain circumstances; providing for transfer of assets pertaining
7 to 911 personnel; requiring certain computations to be made by the Consolidated Public
8 Retirement Board; and terminating liability of the Public Employees Retirement System;
9 and providing for purchase of service time through payment.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 5V. EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES RETIREMENT SYSTEM ACT.

§16-5V-2.

Definitions.

1 As used in this article, unless a federal law or regulation or the context clearly requires a
2 different meaning:

3 (a) "Accrued benefit" means on behalf of any member two and six 10ths percent per year
4 of the member's final average salary for the first 20 years of credited service. Additionally, two
5 percent per year for 21 through 25 years and one and one-half percent per year for each year over
6 25 years will be credited with a maximum benefit of 67 percent. A member's accrued benefit may
7 not exceed the limits of section 415 of the Internal Revenue Code and is subject to the provisions
8 of §16-5V-12 of this code.

9 (1) The board may, upon the recommendation of the board's actuary, increase the
10 employees' contribution rate to 10 and five-tenths percent should the funding of the plan not reach
11 70 percent funded by July 1, 2012. The board shall decrease the contribution rate to eight and one-
12 half percent once the plan funding reaches the 70 percent support objective as of any later
13 actuarial valuation date.

14 (2) Upon reaching the 75 percent actuarial funded level, as of an actuarial valuation date,

15 the board shall increase the two and six-tenths percent to two and three-quarter percent for the
16 first 20 years of credited service. The maximum benefit will also be increased from 67 percent to
17 90 percent.

18 (3) For 911 personnel with assets transferred pursuant to section §16-5V-6d of this code,
19 who did not elect to pay back higher past contributions, with interest: "Accrued benefit" means on
20 behalf of member two percent per year of the member's final average salary for all credited service
21 that was credited as a result of transferred assets. Additionally, two and three-quarter percent for
22 the first 20 years of new credited service earned from date of membership in this plan. Additionally,
23 two percent per year for 21 through 25 years of new credited service earned from date of
24 membership in this plan and one and one-half percent per year for each year over 25 years earned
25 from date of membership in this plan will be credited with a maximum benefit of 90 percent. A
26 member's accrued benefit may not exceed the limits of section 415 of the Internal Revenue Code
27 and is subject to the provisions of §16-5V-12 of this code.

28 (4) For 911 personnel with assets transferred pursuant to section §16-5V-6d of this code,
29 who did elect to pay back higher past contributions, with interest, for eligible 911 service credit:
30 "accrued benefit" means on behalf of member two percent per year of the member's final average
31 salary for all non-911 credited service that was credited as a result of transferred assets.
32 Additionally, two and three-quarter percent for the first 20 years of credited 911 service and all new
33 service earned from date of membership in this plan. Additionally, two percent per year for 21
34 through 25 years of credited 911 service and all new service earned from date of membership in
35 this plan and one and one-half percent per year for each year over 25 years of 911-eligible service
36 and all new service earned from date of membership in this plan will be credited with a maximum
37 benefit of 90 percent. A member's accrued benefit may not exceed the limits of section 415 of the
38 Internal Revenue Code and is subject to the provisions of §16-5V-12 of this code.

39 (b) "Accumulated contributions" means the sum of all retirement contributions deducted
40 from the compensation of a member, or paid on his or her behalf as a result of covered

41 employment, together with regular interest on the deducted amounts.

42 (c) "Active military duty" means full-time active duty with any branch of the armed forces of
43 the United States, including service with the National Guard or reserve military forces when the
44 member has been called to active full-time duty and has received no compensation during the
45 period of that duty from any board or employer other than the armed forces.

46 (d) "Actuarial equivalent" means a benefit of equal value computed upon the basis of the
47 mortality table and interest rates as set and adopted by the board in accordance with the
48 provisions of this article.

49 (e) "Annual compensation" means the wages paid to the member during covered
50 employment within the meaning of section 3401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, but determined
51 without regard to any rules that limit the remuneration included in wages based upon the nature or
52 location of employment or services performed during the plan year plus amounts excluded under
53 section 414(h)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code and less reimbursements or other expense
54 allowances, cash or noncash fringe benefits or both, deferred compensation and welfare benefits.
55 Annual compensation for determining benefits during any determination period may not exceed
56 the maximum compensation allowed as adjusted for cost of living in accordance with §5-10D-7 of
57 this code and section 401(a)(17) of the Internal Revenue Code.

58 (f) "Annual leave service" means accrued annual leave.

59 (g) "Annuity starting date" means the first day of the month for which an annuity is payable
60 after submission of a retirement application. For purposes of this subsection, if retirement income
61 payments commence after the normal retirement age, "retirement" means the first day of the
62 month following or coincident with the latter of the last day the member worked in covered
63 employment or the member's normal retirement age and after completing proper written
64 application for retirement on an application supplied by the board.

65 (h) "Board" means the Consolidated Public Retirement Board.

66 (i) "Contributing service" or "contributory service" means service rendered by a member

67 while employed by a participating public employer for which the member made contributions to the
68 plan. Contributory service that was transferred in full from the Public Employees Retirement
69 System will qualify as contributory service in this plan.

70 (j) "County commission or political subdivision" has the meaning ascribed to it in this code.

71 (k) "Covered employment" means either: (1) Employment as a full-time emergency
72 medical technician, emergency medical technician/paramedic or emergency medical
73 services/registered nurse and the active performance of the duties required of emergency medical
74 services officers; or (2) employment as a full-time employee of a county 911 public safety
75 answering point; or (3) employment as a full-time county firefighter; or (4) the period of time during
76 which active duties are not performed but disability benefits are received under this article; or (3)
77 (5) concurrent employment by an emergency medical services officer, 911 personnel, or county
78 firefighter in a job or jobs in addition to his or her employment as an emergency medical services
79 officer, 911 personnel, or county firefighter where the secondary employment requires the
80 emergency medical services officer, 911 personnel, or county firefighter to be a member of another
81 retirement system which is administered by the Consolidated Public Retirement Board pursuant to
82 this code: *Provided*, That the emergency medical services officer, 911 personnel, or county
83 firefighter contributes to the fund created in this article the amount specified as the member's
84 contribution in §16-5V-8 of this code.

85 (l) "Credited service" means the sum of a member's years of service, active military duty,
86 disability service, transferred service, and accrued annual and sick leave service.

87 (m) "Dependent child" means either:

88 (1) An unmarried person under age eighteen who is:

89 (A) A natural child of the member;

90 (B) A legally adopted child of the member;

91 (C) A child who at the time of the member's death was living with the member while the
92 member was an adopting parent during any period of probation; or

93 (D) A stepchild of the member residing in the member's household at the time of the
94 member's death; or

95 (2) Any unmarried child under age 23:

96 (A) Who is enrolled as a full-time student in an accredited college or university;

97 (B) Who was claimed as a dependent by the member for federal income tax purposes at
98 the time of the member's death; and

99 (C) Whose relationship with the member is described in paragraph (A), (B) or (C),
100 subdivision (1) of this subsection.

101 (n) "Dependent parent" means the father or mother of the member who was claimed as a
102 dependent by the member for federal income tax purposes at the time of the member's death.

103 (o) "Disability service" means service received by a member, expressed in whole years,
104 fractions thereof or both, equal to one half of the whole years, fractions thereof, or both, during
105 which time a member receives disability benefits under this article.

106 (p) "Early retirement age" means age 45 or over and completion of 20 years of contributory
107 service.

108 (q) "Effective date" means January 1, 2008.

109 (r) "Emergency medical services officer" means an individual employed by the state,
110 county or other political subdivision as a medical professional who is qualified to respond to
111 medical emergencies, aids the sick and injured and arranges or transports to medical facilities, as
112 defined by the West Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services. This definition is construed to
113 include employed ambulance providers and other services such as law enforcement, rescue or
114 fire department personnel who primarily perform these functions and are not provided any other
115 credited service benefits or retirement plans. These persons may hold the rank of emergency
116 medical technician/basic, emergency medical technician/paramedic, emergency medical
117 services/registered nurse, or others as defined by the West Virginia Office of Emergency Medical
118 Services and the Consolidated Public Retirement Board.

119 (s) "Employer error" means an omission, misrepresentation or deliberate act in violation of
120 relevant provisions of the West Virginia Code or of the West Virginia Code of State Rules or the
121 relevant provisions of both the West Virginia Code and of the West Virginia Code of State Rules by
122 the participating public employer that has resulted in an underpayment or overpayment of
123 contributions required.

124 (t) "Final average salary" means the average of the highest annual compensation received
125 for covered employment by the member during any five consecutive plan years within the
126 member's last 10 years of service while employed, prior to any disability payment. If the member
127 did not have annual compensation for the five full plan years preceding the member's attainment
128 of normal retirement age and during that period the member received disability benefits under this
129 article, then "final average salary" means the average of the monthly salary determined paid to the
130 member during that period as determined under §16-5V-19 of this code multiplied by 12. Final
131 average salary does not include any lump sum payment for unused, accrued leave of any kind or
132 character.

133 (u) "Full-time employment" means permanent employment of an employee by a
134 participating public employer in a position which normally requires 12 months per year service and
135 requires at least 1040 hours per year service in that position.

136 (v) "Fund" means the West Virginia Emergency Medical Services Retirement Fund created
137 by this article.

138 (w) "Hour of service" means:

139 (1) Each hour for which a member is paid or entitled to payment for covered employment
140 during which time active duties are performed. These hours shall be credited to the member for the
141 plan year in which the duties are performed; and

142 (2) Each hour for which a member is paid or entitled to payment for covered employment
143 during a plan year but where no duties are performed due to vacation, holiday, illness, incapacity
144 including disability, layoff, jury duty, military duty, leave of absence or any combination thereof and

145 without regard to whether the employment relationship has terminated. Hours under this
146 subdivision shall be calculated and credited pursuant to West Virginia Division of Labor rules. A
147 member will not be credited with any hours of service for any period of time he or she is receiving
148 benefits under §16-5V-19 or §16-5V-20 of this code; and

149 (3) Each hour for which back pay is either awarded or agreed to be paid by the employing
150 county commission or political subdivision, irrespective of mitigation of damages. The same hours
151 of service shall not be credited both under subdivision (1) or (2) of this subsection and under this
152 subdivision. Hours under this paragraph shall be credited to the member for the plan year or years
153 to which the award or agreement pertains, rather than the plan year in which the award,
154 agreement or payment is made.

155 (x) Member" means either: (1) a person first hired as an emergency medical services
156 officer by an employer which is a participating public employer of the ~~Public Employees~~
157 Retirement System or the Emergency Medical Services Retirement System after the effective
158 date of this article, as defined in subsection (q) of this section; or (2) an emergency medical
159 services officer of an employer which is a participating public employer of the Public Employees
160 Retirement System first hired prior to the effective date and who elects to become a member
161 pursuant to this article; or (3) or a person first hired by a county 911 public safety answering center
162 after the participating public employer elects to participate in the Emergency Medical Services
163 Retirement System; or (4) a county firefighter hired on or after June 10, 2022; or (5) a county
164 firefighter of an employer which is a participating public employer of the Public Employees
165 Retirement System first hired prior to June 10, 2022, and who elects to become a member
166 pursuant to §16-5V-6a of this code; or (6) a person first hired by a county 911 public safety
167 answering center prior to July 1, 2022, and who elect to become a member pursuant to §16-5V-6
168 of this code. A member shall remain a member until the benefits to which he or she is entitled
169 under this article are paid or forfeited.

170 (y) "Monthly salary" means the W-2 reportable compensation received by a member during

171 the month.

172 (z) "Normal form" means a monthly annuity which is one twelfth of the amount of the
173 member's accrued benefit which is payable for the member's life. If the member dies before the
174 sum of the payments he or she receives equals his or her accumulated contributions on the
175 annuity starting date, the named beneficiary shall receive in one lump sum the difference between
176 the accumulated contributions at the annuity starting date and the total of the retirement income
177 payments made to the member.

178 (aa) "Normal retirement age" means the first to occur of the following:

179 (1) Attainment of age 50 years and the completion of 20 or more years of regular
180 contributory service, excluding active military duty, disability service and accrued annual and sick
181 leave service;

182 (2) While still in covered employment, attainment of at least age 50 years and when the
183 sum of current age plus regular contributory years of service equals or exceeds 70 years;

184 (3) While still in covered employment, attainment of at least age 60 years and completion
185 of 10 years of regular contributory service; or

186 (4) Attainment of age 62 years and completion of five or more years of regular contributory
187 service.

188 (bb) "Participating public employer" means: (1) any county commission, or political
189 subdivision, or county 911 public safety answering point in the state which has elected to cover its
190 emergency medical services officers or 911 personnel, as defined in this article, under the West
191 Virginia Emergency Medical Services Retirement System; or (2) any county commission who
192 employs county firefighters.

193 (cc) "Plan" means the West Virginia Emergency Medical Services Retirement System
194 established by this article.

195 (dd) "Plan year" means the 12-month period commencing on January 1 of any designated
196 year and ending the following December 31.

197 (ee) "Political subdivision" means a county, city or town in the state; any separate
198 corporation or instrumentality established by one or more counties, cities or towns, as permitted by
199 law; any corporation or instrumentality supported in most part by counties, cities or towns; and any
200 public corporation charged by law with the performance of a governmental function and whose
201 jurisdiction is coextensive with one or more counties, cities or towns: *Provided*, That any public
202 corporation established under §7-15-4 of this code is considered a political subdivision solely for
203 the purposes of this article.

204 (ff) "Public Employees Retirement System" means the West Virginia Public Employee's
205 Retirement System created by West Virginia Code.

206 (gg) "Regular interest" means the rate or rates of interest per annum, compounded
207 annually, as the board adopts in accordance with the provisions of this article.

208 (hh) "Required beginning date" means April 1 of the calendar year following the later of: (1)
209 The calendar year in which the member attains age 70.5 (if born before July 1, 1949) or age 72 (if
210 born after June 30, 1949); or (2) the calendar year in which he or she retires or otherwise
211 separates from covered employment.

212 (ii) "Retirant" means any member who commences an annuity payable by the plan.

213 (jj) "Retire" or "retirement" means a member's withdrawal from the employ of a
214 participating public employer and the commencement of an annuity by the plan.

215 (kk) "Retirement income payments" means the monthly retirement income payments
216 payable under the plan.

217 (ll) "Spouse" means the person to whom the member is legally married on the annuity
218 starting date.

219 (mm) "Surviving spouse" means the person to whom the member was legally married at
220 the time of the member's death and who survived the member.

221 (nn) "Totally disabled" means a member's inability to engage in substantial gainful activity
222 by reason of any medically determined physical or mental impairment that can be expected to

223 result in death or that has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than
 224 12 months.

225 For purposes of this subsection:

226 (1) A member is totally disabled only if his or her physical or mental impairment or
 227 impairments is so severe that he or she is not only unable to perform his or her previous work as an
 228 emergency medical services officer, 911 personnel, or county firefighter but also cannot,
 229 considering his or her age, education and work experience, engage in any other kind of substantial
 230 gainful employment which exists in the state regardless of whether: (A) The work exists in the
 231 immediate area in which the member lives; (B) a specific job vacancy exists; or (C) the member
 232 would be hired if he or she applied for work. For purposes of this article, substantial gainful
 233 employment is the same definition as used by the United States Social Security Administration.

234 (2) "Physical or mental impairment" is an impairment that results from an anatomical,
 235 physiological or psychological abnormality that is demonstrated by medically accepted clinical and
 236 laboratory diagnostic techniques. The board may require submission of a member's annual tax
 237 return for purposes of monitoring the earnings limitation.

238 (oo) "Year of service" means a member shall, except in his or her first and last years of
 239 covered employment, be credited with years of service credit based upon the hours of service
 240 performed as covered employment and credited to the member during the plan year based upon
 241 the following schedule:

| Hours of Service | Years of Service Credited |
|------------------|---------------------------|
| Less than 500 | 0 |
| 500 to 999 | 1/3 |
| 1000 to 1499 | 2/3 |
| 1500 or more | 1 |

242 During a member's first and last years of covered employment, the member shall be
 243 credited with one twelfth of a year of service for each month during the plan year in which the

244 member is credited with an hour of service for which contributions were received by the fund. A
245 member is not entitled to credit for years of service for any time period during which he or she
246 received disability payments under §16-5V-19 or §16-5V-20 of this code. Except as specifically
247 excluded, years of service include covered employment prior to the effective date.

248 Years of service which are credited to a member prior to his or her receipt of accumulated
249 contributions upon termination of employment pursuant to §16-5V-18 of this code or §5-10-30 of
250 this code, shall be disregarded for all purposes under this plan unless the member repays the
251 accumulated contributions with interest pursuant to section §16-5V-18 of this code or has prior to
252 the effective date made the repayment pursuant to §5-10-18 of this code.

253 (rr) "911 personnel" means an individual employed in full-time employment with a county
254 911 public safety answering point.

§16-5V-6. Members.

1 (a) Any emergency medical services officer or 911 personnel first employed by a county or
2 political subdivision in covered employment after the effective date of this article shall be a
3 member of this retirement plan as a condition of employment and upon membership does not
4 qualify for membership in any other retirement system administered by the board, so long as he or
5 she remains employed in covered employment: *Provided*, That any emergency medical services
6 officer or 911 personnel who has concurrent employment in an additional job or jobs which would
7 require the emergency medical services officer or 911 personnel to be a member of the West
8 Virginia Deputy Sheriff Retirement System, the West Virginia Municipal Police Officers and
9 Firefighters Retirement System, or the West Virginia Natural Resources Police Officer Retirement
10 System shall participate in only one retirement system administered by the board, and the
11 retirement system applicable to the concurrent employment for which the employee has the
12 earliest date of hire shall prevail.

13 (b) Any emergency medical services officer employed in covered employment by an
14 employer which is currently a participating public employer of the Public Employees Retirement

15 System shall notify in writing both the county commission in the county or officials in the political
16 subdivision in which he or she is employed and the board of his or her desire to become a member
17 of the plan by December 31, 2007. Any emergency medical services officer who elects to become
18 a member of the plan ceases to be a member or have any credit for covered employment in any
19 other retirement system administered by the board and shall continue to be ineligible for
20 membership in any other retirement system administered by the board so long as the emergency
21 medical services officer remains employed in covered employment by an employer which is
22 currently a participating public employer of this plan: *Provided*, That any emergency medical
23 services officer who does not affirmatively elect to become a member of the plan continues to be
24 eligible for any other retirement system as is, from time to time, offered to other county employees
25 but is ineligible for this plan regardless of any subsequent termination of employment and rehire.

26 (c) Any emergency medical services officer who was employed as an emergency medical
27 services officer prior to the effective date, but was not employed on the effective date of this article,
28 shall become a member upon rehire as an emergency medical services officer. For purposes of
29 this section, the member's years of service and credited service prior to the effective date shall not
30 be counted for any purposes under this plan unless the emergency medical services officer has
31 not received the return of his or her accumulated contributions in the Public Employees Retirement
32 System pursuant to §5-10-30 of this code. The member may request in writing to have his or her
33 accumulated contributions and employer contributions from covered employment in the Public
34 Employees Retirement System transferred to the plan. If the conditions of this subsection are met,
35 all years of the emergency medical services officer's covered employment shall be counted as
36 years of service for the purposes of this article.

37 (d) Any emergency medical services officer employed in covered employment on the
38 effective date of this article who has timely elected to transfer into this plan as provided in
39 subsection (b) of this section shall be given credited service at the time of transfer for all credited
40 service then standing to the emergency medical services officer's service credit in the Public

41 Employees Retirement System regardless of whether the credited service (as that term is defined
42 in §5-10-2 of this code) was earned as an emergency medical services officer. All credited service
43 standing to the transferring emergency medical services officer's credit in the Public Employees
44 Retirement System at the time of transfer into this plan shall be transferred into the plan created by
45 this article and the transferring emergency medical services officer shall be given the same credit
46 for the purposes of this article for all service transferred from the Public Employees Retirement
47 System as that transferring emergency medical services officer would have received from the
48 Public Employees Retirement System as if the transfer had not occurred. In connection with each
49 transferring emergency medical services officer receiving credit for prior employment as provided
50 in this subsection, a transfer from the Public Employees Retirement System to this plan shall be
51 made pursuant to the procedures described in this article: *Provided*, That any member of this plan
52 who has elected to transfer from the Public Employees Retirement System into this plan pursuant
53 to subsection (b) of this section may not, after having transferred into and becoming an active
54 member of this plan, reinstate to his or her credit in this plan any service credit relating to periods in
55 which the member was not in covered employment as an emergency medical services officer and
56 which service was withdrawn from the Public Employees Retirement System prior to his or her
57 elective transfer into this plan.

58 (e) Once made, the election made under this section is irrevocable. All emergency medical
59 services officers employed by an employer which is a participating public employer of the Public
60 Employees Retirement System after the effective date and emergency medical services officers
61 electing to become members as described in this section shall be members as a condition of
62 employment and shall make the contributions required by this article.

63 (f) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this article, any individual who is a leased
64 employee is not eligible to participate in the plan. For purposes of this plan, a "leased employee"
65 means any individual who performs services as an independent contractor or pursuant to an
66 agreement with an employee leasing organization or similar organization. If a question arises

67 regarding the status of an individual as a leased employee, the board has final power to decide the
68 question.

§16-5V-6c. 911 Personnel

1 (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this article to the contrary, a person employed as
2 a 911 personnel may be a member of this retirement plan subject to the provisions of this section.
3 Full-time employment as a 911 personnel satisfies the definition of "covered employment" as
4 defined in this article.

5 (b) Any 911 personnel first employed by a participating employer after July 1, 2022, shall
6 be a member of this retirement plan by virtue of that employment and upon membership does not
7 qualify for membership in any other retirement system administered by the board, so long as he or
8 she remains employed in covered employment: *Provided*, That if a member has concurrent
9 employment in an additional job or jobs the relevant concurrent employment provisions of this
10 code shall apply.

11 (c) Any 911 personnel employed in covered employment by a participating employer which
12 is currently a participating public employer of the Public Employees Retirement System shall notify
13 in writing both the participating employer in which he or she is employed and the board of his or her
14 desire to become a member of the plan by December 31, 2023. Any 911 personnel who elects to
15 become a member of the plan does not qualify for active membership in any other retirement
16 system administered by the board, so long as he or she remains employed in covered
17 employment: *Provided*, That any 911 personnel who has concurrent employment in an additional
18 job or jobs which would require the 911 personnel to be an active member of the West Virginia
19 Deputy Sheriff Retirement System, the West Virginia Municipal Police Officers and Firefighters
20 Retirement System, or the West Virginia Natural Resources Police Officer Retirement System
21 shall actively participate in only one retirement system administered by the board, and the
22 retirement system applicable to the concurrent employment for which the employee has the
23 earliest date of hire shall prevail. Any 911 personnel shall continue to receive their accrued benefit

24 of other retirement systems administered by the board, except in the case of Public Employee
25 Retirement System, when credit and assets are transferred to the Emergency Services
26 Retirement System.

27 (d) Any 911 personnel who was employed as 911 personnel prior to the effective date, but
28 was not employed on the effective date of this article, shall become a member upon rehire as 911
29 personnel. For purposes of this section, the member's years of service and credited service prior
30 to the effective date shall not be counted for any purposes under this plan unless the 911
31 personnel has not received the return of his or her accumulated contributions in the Public
32 Employees Retirement System pursuant to §5-10-30 of this code. The member may request in
33 writing to have his or her accumulated contributions and employer contributions from covered
34 employment in the Public Employees Retirement System transferred to the plan. If the conditions
35 of this subsection are met, all years of the 911 personnel's covered employment shall be counted
36 as years of service for the purposes of this article.

37 (e) Any 911 personnel employed in covered employment on the effective date of this article
38 who has timely elected to transfer into this plan as provided in subsection (c) of this section shall
39 be given credited service at the time of transfer for all credited service then standing to the 911
40 personnel's service credit in the Public Employees Retirement System regardless of whether the
41 credited service, as defined in §5-10-2 of this code, was earned as a 911 personnel. All credited
42 service standing to the transferring 911 personnel's credit in the Public Employees Retirement
43 System at the time of transfer into this plan shall be transferred into the plan created by this article.
44 and the transferring 911 personnel shall be given the same credit for the purposes of this article for
45 all service transferred from the Public Employees Retirement System as that transferring 911
46 personnel would have received from the Public Employees Retirement System as if the transfer
47 had not occurred but with accrued benefit multipliers subject to the provisions of §16-5V-12 of this
48 code. In connection with each transferring 911 personnel receiving credit for prior employment as
49 provided in this subsection, a transfer from the Public Employees Retirement System to this plan

50 shall be made pursuant to the procedures described in this article: *Provided*, That any member of
51 this plan who has elected to transfer from the Public Employees Retirement System into this plan
52 pursuant to subsection (c) of this section may not, after having transferred into and becoming an
53 active member of this plan, reinstate to his or her credit in this plan any service credit relating to
54 periods in which the member was not in covered employment as a 911 personnel and which
55 service was withdrawn from the Public Employees Retirement System prior to his or her elective
56 transfer into this plan.

57 (f) Once made, the election made under this section is irrevocable. All 911 personnel
58 employed by an employer which is a participating public employer of the Public Employees
59 Retirement System after the effective date and 911 personnel electing to become members as
60 described in this section shall be members as a condition of employment and shall make the
61 contributions required by this article.

§16-5V-6d. Transfer of 911 personnel assets from Public Employees Retirement System.

1 (a) The Consolidated Public Retirement Board shall, within 180 days of January 1, 2024,
2 transfer assets from the Public Employees Retirement System Trust Fund into the West Virginia
3 Emergency Medical Services Trust Fund.

4 (b) The amount of assets to be transferred for each transferring 911 personnel shall be
5 computed as of January 1, 2024, using July 1, 2023, actuarial valuation of the Public Employees
6 Retirement System, and updated with 7.25 percent annual interest to the date of the actual asset
7 transfer. The market value of the assets of the transferring 911 personnel in the Public Employees
8 Retirement System shall be determined as of the end of the month preceding the actual transfer.
9 To determine the computation of the asset share to be transferred the board shall:

10 (1) Compute the market value of the Public Employees Retirement System assets as of
11 July 1, 2023, actuarial valuation date under the actuarial valuation approved by the board;

12 (2) Compute the actuarial accrued liabilities for all Public Employees Retirement System
13 retirees, beneficiaries, disabled retirees, and terminated inactive members as of July 1, 2023,
14 actuarial valuation date;

15 (3) Compute the market value of active member assets in the Public Employees
16 Retirement System as of July 1, 2023, by reducing the assets value under subdivision (1) of this
17 subsection by the inactive liabilities under subdivision (2) of this subsection;

18 (4) Compute the actuarial accrued liability for all active Public Employees Retirement
19 System members as of July 1, 2023, actuarial valuation date approved by the board;

20 (5) Compute the funded percentage of the active members' actuarial accrued liabilities
21 under the Public Employees Retirement System as of July 1, 2023, by dividing the active
22 members' market value of assets under subdivision (3) of this subsection by the active members'
23 actuarial accrued liabilities under subdivision (4) of this subsection;

24 (6) Compute the actuarial accrued liabilities under the Public Employees Retirement
25 System as of July 1, 2023, for active emergency medical services officers transferring to the
26 Emergency Medical Services Retirement System;

27 (7) Determine the assets to be transferred from the Public Employees Retirement System
28 to the Emergency Medical Services Retirement System by multiplying the active members' funded
29 percentage determined under subdivision (5) of this subsection by the transferring active
30 members' actuarial accrued liabilities under the Public Employees Retirement System under
31 subdivision (6) of this subsection and adjusting the asset transfer amount by interest at 7.25
32 percent for the period from the calculation date of July 1, 2023, through the first day of the month in
33 which the asset transfer is to be completed.

34 (c) Once a 911 personnel has elected to transfer from the Public Employees Retirement
35 System, transfer of that amount as calculated in accordance with the provisions of subsection (b)
36 of this section by the Public Employees Retirement System shall operate as a complete bar to any
37 further liability to the Public Employees Retirement System and constitutes an agreement

38 whereby the transferring 911 personnel forever indemnifies and holds harmless the Public
39 Employees Retirement System from providing him or her any form of retirement benefit
40 whatsoever until that emergency medical services officer obtains other employment which would
41 make him or her eligible to reenter the Public Employees Retirement System with no credit
42 whatsoever for the amounts transferred to the Emergency Medical Services Retirement System.

43 (d) The Consolidated Public Retirement Board shall, within 180 days of January 1, 2024,
44 provide each 911 personnel, who has timely elected to transfer into this plan, and whose
45 participating employer has provided years of service as 911 personnel, a quote to qualify time
46 spent only as 911 personnel as eligible for the full 2.75% multiplier. Other PERS employment is
47 eligible for transfer, but only at the 2% multiplier. To determine the computation of the quote
48 provided, the board shall:

49 (1) Compute the contributions made by each 911 personnel for eligible 911 years under
50 PERS.

51 (2) Compute the contributions that would have been required under EMSRS for eligible
52 911 years.

53 (3) Compute the difference with interest that each 911 personnel would have been required
54 to pay had he or she originally participated in EMSRS for eligible 911 years.

55 (4) Provide the quote with options similar to reinstatement of prior service: full
56 reinstatement amount must be repaid (in a lump sum or payments) no later than January 1, 2030
57 with payments starting no later than January 1, 2026.

§16-5V-14a. Rollovers and transfers to purchase service credit or repay withdrawn contributions.

1 (a) Notwithstanding any provision of this article to the contrary that would otherwise
2 prohibit or limit rollovers and plan transfers to this system, the plan shall accept the following
3 rollovers and plan transfers on behalf of a member solely for the purpose of purchasing permissive
4 service credit, in whole or in part, as otherwise provided in this article or for the repayment of

5 withdrawn or refunded contributions, in whole and in part, with respect to a previous forfeiture of
6 service credit as otherwise provided in this article or for the purpose of paying higher contributions
7 with interest for credit towards eligible 911 service upon initial transfer into this plan: (A) One or
8 more rollovers within the meaning of Section 408(d)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code from an
9 individual retirement account described in Section 408(a) of the Internal Revenue Code or from an
10 individual retirement annuity described in Section 408(b) of the Internal Revenue Code; (B) one or
11 more rollovers described in Section 402(c) of the Internal Revenue Code from a retirement plan
12 that is qualified under Section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code or from a plan described in
13 Section 403(b) of the Internal Revenue Code; (C) one or more rollovers described in Section
14 457(e)(16) of the Internal Revenue Code from a governmental plan described in Section 457 of the
15 Internal Revenue Code; or (D) direct trustee-to-trustee transfers or rollovers from a plan that is
16 qualified under Section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, from a plan described in Section
17 403(b) of the Internal Revenue Code or from a governmental plan described in Section 457 of the
18 Internal Revenue Code: Provided, That any rollovers or transfers pursuant to this section shall be
19 accepted by the system only if made in cash or other asset permitted by the board and only in
20 accordance with such policies, practices and procedures established by the board from time to
21 time. For purposes of this article, the following definitions and limitations apply:

22 (1) "Permissive service credit" means service credit which is permitted to be purchased
23 under the terms of the retirement system by voluntary contributions in an amount which does not
24 exceed the amount necessary to fund the benefit attributable to the period of service for which the
25 service credit is being purchased, all as defined in Section 415(n)(3)(A) of the Internal Revenue
26 Code: Provided, That no more than five years of "nonqualified service credit", as defined in
27 Section 415(n)(3)(C) of the Internal Revenue Code, may be included in the permissive service
28 credit allowed to be purchased (other than by means of a rollover or plan transfer), and no
29 nonqualified service credit may be included in any such purchase (other than by means of a

30 rollover or plan transfer) before the member has at least five years of participation in the retirement
31 system.

32 (2) "Repayment of withdrawn or refunded contributions" means the payment into the
33 retirement system of the funds required pursuant to this article for the reinstatement of service
34 credit previously forfeited on account of any refund or withdrawal of contributions permitted in this
35 article, as set forth in Section 415(k)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

36 (3) Any contribution (other than by means of a rollover or plan transfer) to purchase
37 permissive service credit under any provision of this article must satisfy the special limitation rules
38 described in Section 415(n) of the Internal Revenue Code, and shall be automatically reduced,
39 limited or required to be paid over multiple years if necessary to ensure such compliance. To the
40 extent any such purchased permissive service credit is qualified military service within the
41 meaning of Section 414(u) of the Internal Revenue Code, the limitations of Section 415 of the
42 Internal Revenue Code shall be applied to such purchase as described in Section 414(u)(1)(B) of
43 the Internal Revenue Code.

44 (4) For purposes of Section 415(b) of the Internal Revenue Code, the annual benefit
45 attributable to any rollover contribution accepted pursuant to this section shall be determined in
46 accordance with Treasury Regulation §1.415(b)-1(b)(2)(v), and the excess, if any, of the annuity
47 payments attributable to any rollover contribution provided under the retirement system over the
48 annual benefit so determined shall be taken into account when applying the accrued benefit
49 limitations of Section 415(b) of the Internal Revenue Code and section twelve of this article.

50 (b) Nothing in this section may be construed as permitting rollovers or transfers into this
51 system or any other system administered by the retirement board other than as specified in this
52 section and no rollover or transfer shall be accepted into the system in an amount greater than the
53 amount required for the purchase of permissive service credit or repayment of withdrawn or
54 refunded contributions.

55 (c) Nothing in this section shall be construed as permitting the purchase of service credit or
56 repayment of withdrawn or refunded contributions except as otherwise permitted in this article.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to transfer existing 911 Personnel from the Public Employees Retirement System to the Emergency Medical Services Retirement System.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law, and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.