

The Louisiana Assessors' Retirement Fund

Employee Handbook

July 1, 2009

INTRODUCTION

The information contained in this pamphlet is valid as of July 1, 2009 and is meant to be an extract of the most important Louisiana Revised Statutes related to the Assessors' Retirement Fund effective on that date. Other sections of the state's revised statutes and/or federal codes and regulations may affect members' retirement benefits. All of this information is subject to legislative amendment and revision and/or changes that may be adopted and implemented by the fund's Board of Trustees without notice.

THIS SUMMARY PRESENTATION OF PLAN PROVISIONS IS PROVIDED FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY AND IN NO WAY CONSTITUTES A CONTRACT BETWEEN YOU AND THE RETIREMENT FUND. THIS IS NOT A LEGAL DOCUMENT AND IT IS NOT INTENDED TO SERVE AS A BASIS FOR LEGAL INTERPRETATION. THE LOUISIANA REVISED STATUTES AND CONSTITUTION, RELEVANT FEDERAL REGULATIONS AND LAWS, AND THE OFFICIAL BOARD POLICIES SHALL SERVE TO GUIDE DECISIONS RELATED TO MEMBERS AND EMPLOYERS PARTICIPATING IN THE ASSESSORS' RETIREMENT FUND.

Official legal references for the Assessors' Retirement Fund are found in the Louisiana Revised Statutes 11:1401 through 1494. (See also Louisiana Revised Statutes 11:1 through 323. Many of these general retirement provisions apply to the Assessors' Retirement Fund.) The retirement fund and its members and employers are covered by other sections of state law and by federal laws and regulations. This booklet in no way attempts to provide a full restatement of all applicable laws or regulations. Instead, it is meant to provide convenient access to many of the statutory provisions of law. It is a tool meant to assist members and employers in making decisions related to matters of retirement planning. For questions related to specific cases and for information on matters not covered in this booklet, please contact the retirement system office. Members should not rely solely on this booklet to estimate their benefit or make final decisions related to eligibility for benefits.

This pamphlet attempts to provide a restatement of the Louisiana Revised Statutes under which the retirement fund operates. There may be specific statutes, rules, policies, or regulations which, when and where applicable, could cause results different from the rules stated herein, based on individual and/or unique factual situations. Sections or subsections of the revised statutes that in no way pertain to the Assessors' Retirement Fund are indicated by the use of the statement "Not applicable to Assessors' Retirement Fund". Although every attempt was made to avoid any typographical or formatting errors, if errors are found they will be fixed in future printings.

As a qualified public pension plan, the Assessors' Retirement Fund is subject to certain IRS codes and regulations. This handbook does not include such codes and regulations. Additionally, this handbook does not include provisions related to the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP), formerly located in R.S. 11:1456. This section was repealed by Acts 2008, No. 398.

Any questions you may have regarding your rights in the fund and any other matter involving the fund should be directed to the fund's office, preferably in writing. Please provide your social security number and the name of your employing Assessor's office in all correspondence.

Address correspondence to: **Louisiana Assessors' Retirement Fund**
 P. O. Box 14699
 Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70898

Physical Address: **3060 Valley Creek Drive**
 Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808

Telephone numbers: (225) 928-8886 or (800) 925-4446 and facsimile number (225) 928-4677.

For additional information on the retirement fund, log onto www.louisianaassessors.org.

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PROVISIONS SPECIFIC TO ASSESSORS' RETIREMENT FUND

(Found in R.S. 11:1401 through 11:1494)

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FUND

Creation of Retirement Fund and of Corporate Board of Trustees; Powers of Board - R.S. 11:1401

There is hereby created effective July 26, 1950, an "Assessors' Retirement Fund" for all parishes of the state of Louisiana, and a public corporation to be known as the "Board of Trustees of the Assessors' Retirement Fund" for the assessors and assessors' employees throughout the state of Louisiana, which corporation shall be vested with the power to administer the fund herewith provided for, to sue and be sued, to buy and sell securities for investment of the surplus monies of said fund, to allot disability payments and retirement allowances as hereinafter set forth.

Definitions - R.S. 11:1402

As used in this Chapter, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings ascribed to them unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

- (1) "Accumulated employee contributions" means the sum of all amounts deducted from a member's salary and paid to the fund.
- (2) "Board" means the board of trustees of the Assessors' Retirement Fund.
- (3) "Designated beneficiary" means the person most recently designated in writing by a member to receive any benefits to which the member may be entitled.
- (4) "Fund" means the Assessors' Retirement Fund.
- (5) "Minor child" means a child who is less than the age of eighteen years or who is physically or mentally disabled, regardless of age, who is the issue of a marriage of the member or former member, the legally adopted child of a member or former member, the natural child of a female member or former member, or the child of a male member or former member if a court of competent jurisdiction has, during the lifetime of such male member or former member, issued an order of filiation declaring the paternity of such male member for the child.
- (6) (a) "Monthly average final compensation", for a member whose first employment making him eligible for membership in the system began on or before September 30, 2006, means the average of a member's monthly salary during the highest compensated thirty-six consecutive months or successive joined months if service was interrupted.

- (b) "Monthly average final compensation", for a member whose first employment making him eligible for membership in the system began on or after October 1, 2006, means the average of a member's monthly salary during the highest compensated sixty consecutive months or successive joined months if service was interrupted.
 - (c) Compensation of a member in excess of one hundred fifty thousand dollars, as adjusted for increases in the cost of living under Section 401(a)(17)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code shall not be taken into account for years beginning on or after January 1, 1994, and ending before January 1, 2002. Compensation of a member in excess of two hundred thousand dollars as adjusted for increases in the cost of living under Section 401(a)(17)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code shall not be taken into account for years beginning on or after January 1, 2002. However, in determining monthly average final compensation for a member retiring on or after January 1, 2002, compensation which is permitted to be taken into account on or after January 1, 2002, but which occurred in a prior year that was included in the averaging period shall be taken into account.
- (7) "Surviving spouse" means a person who is legally married to a member of the system and living with the member at the time of his death.
 - (8) "Actuarial equivalent" means a benefit of equivalent value to the accumulated contributions, annuity or benefits and regular interest, as the case may be, computed on the basis of such mortality and interest tables as shall be adopted by the board of trustees in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 11:1404. In the absence of resolution by the board, the following assumptions shall be used:
 - (a) Interest shall be compounded annually at a rate of seven percent per annum.
 - (b) Annuity rates shall be determined on the basis of one hundred ten percent of the 1971 Group Annuity Unisex Mortality Tables.

Exemption from Seizure for Debt, Taxation - R.S. 11:1403

The right of a person to a pension, an annuity, retirement allowance, disability benefit, surviving spouse benefits, dependent child's benefit, or to a return of contributions, the pension, annuity, retirement allowance, disability benefit, surviving spouse benefit, dependent child's benefit itself, any optional benefit or any right accrued or accruing to any person under the provisions of the Assessors' Retirement Fund, and the monies in said fund are hereby exempt from any state or municipal tax, from all state income tax, and from levy and sale, garnishment, attachment, or any other process whatsoever, except as provided in R.S. 11:292.

Amendment of Provisions of Retirement System - R.S. 11:1404

- A. The provisions of the retirement system established by R.S. 11:1401 may be amended by action of the legislature in the same manner as any other statute may be amended by the legislature. In addition, action of the board with respect to the payment of cost-of living adjustments, with respect to the payment of employee contributions, with respect to actuarial assumptions, as provided in R.S. 11:1402 shall be considered amendments to the provisions of the retirement fund.
- B. No amendment to this retirement system shall operate to deprive any member of a benefit to which he is already entitled. In the case of any merger or consolidation with, or transfer of assets or liabilities to, any other retirement system, each member in the retirement system would, if the retirement system is then terminated, receive a benefit immediately after the merger, consolidation, or transfer which is equal to or greater than the benefit he would have been entitled to receive immediately before the merger, consolidation, or transfer if the retirement system had then terminated.
- C. Upon the termination or partial termination of the retirement system, the board of trustees shall reevaluate and redetermine the benefit of each member, and the entire benefit of each member may be paid or commence to be paid and distributed to such member, or in the case of his death before such distribution, to the beneficiary or beneficiaries designated by such member, unless the member is still employed, in the case of a partial termination, in which case payment shall not be made until retirement or termination, or may be held until payment is otherwise due under the provisions of the retirement system. A member's right to his benefit is not conditioned upon a sufficiency of plan assets in the event of termination.
- D. Upon termination or partial termination of the retirement system, a member's interest in the system shall be nonforfeitable to the extent funded.
- E. (1) Employer contributions on behalf of any of twenty-five highest paid employees at the time the plan is established and whose anticipated annual benefit exceeds one thousand five hundred dollars shall be restricted as provided in Paragraph (2) of this Subsection upon the occurrence of the following conditions:
 - (a) The plan is terminated within ten years after its establishment.
 - (b) The benefits of the employee described in the introductory Paragraph of this Paragraph become payable within ten years after the establishment of the plan.
 - (c) If Section 412 of the Internal Revenue Code, without regard to Section 412(h)(2) thereof, does not apply to this plan, the benefits of the employee described in the introductory Paragraph of this Paragraph become payable after the plan has been in effect for ten years and the full current costs of the plan for the first ten years have not been funded.
- (2) Employer contributions which may be used for the benefit of an employee described in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection shall not exceed the greater of twenty thousand

dollars or twenty percent of the first fifty thousand dollars of the employee's compensation multiplied by the number of years between the date of the establishment of the plan and:

- (a) If Subparagraph (1)(a) of this Subsection applies, the date of the termination of the plan.
 - (b) If Subparagraph (1)(b) of this Subsection applies, the date the benefits become payable.
 - (c) If Subparagraph (1)(c) of this Subsection applies, the date of the failure to meet the full current costs.
- (3) If the plan is amended so as to increase the benefit actually payable in the event of the subsequent termination of the plan, or the subsequent discontinuance of contributions thereunder, the provisions of Paragraph (2) of this Subsection shall be applied to the plan as so changed as if it were a new plan established on the date of the change. The original group of twenty-five employees as described in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection shall continue to have the limitations in Paragraph (2) of this Subsection apply as if the plan had not been changed. The restrictions relating to the change of plan shall apply to benefits or funds for each of the twenty-five highest paid employees on the effective date of the change except that such restrictions shall not apply with respect to any employee in this group for whom the normal annual pension or annuity provided by employer contributions prior to that date and during the ensuing ten years, based on his rate of compensation on that date, could not have exceeded one thousand five hundred dollars.
- (4) The employer contributions used for the benefit of the new group of twenty-five employees shall be limited to the greater of:
- (a) The employer contributions, or funds attributable thereto, which would have applied to provide the benefits for the employee if the previous plan had been continued without change;
 - (b) Twenty thousand dollars; or
 - (c) The sum of (i) the employer contributions, or funds attributable thereto, which would have applied to provide benefits for the employee under the previous plan if it had been terminated the day before the effective date of change, and (ii) an amount computed by multiplying the number of years for which the current costs of the plan after that date are met by either twenty percent of his annual compensation or ten thousand dollars, whichever is smaller.
- (5) Notwithstanding the limitations provided in Paragraph (4) of this Subsection, the following limitations shall apply if they would result in a greater amount of employer contributions to be used for the benefit of the restricted employee:
- (a) In the case of a substantial owner, as defined in 29 U.S.C. 4022(b)(5), a dollar amount which equals the present value of their benefit guaranteed for such

employee under 29 U.S.C. 4022, or if the plan has not terminated, the present value of the benefit that would be guaranteed if the plan terminated on the date the benefit commences, determined in accordance with the regulations of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

- (b) In the case of the other restricted employees, a dollar amount which equals the present value of the maximum benefit described in 29 U.S.C. 4022(b)(3)(B), determined on the date the plan terminates or the date benefits commence, whichever is earlier, and determined in accordance with regulations of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, without regard to any other limitations of 29 U.S.C. 4022.
- (6) (a) If, as of the date this plan terminates, the value of plan assets is not less than the present value of all accrued benefits, whether or not nonforfeitable, distributions of assets to each member equal to the present value of that member's accrued benefit shall not be discriminatory if the formula for computing benefits as of the date of termination is not discriminatory. All present values and the value of plan assets shall be computed using assumptions satisfying 29 U.S.C. 4044.2.
 - (b) If the provisions of Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph become applicable, the amount by which the value of plan assets exceeds the present value of accrued benefits, whether or not nonforfeitable, shall revert to the employer.
- (7) Notwithstanding the otherwise applicable restrictions on distributions of benefits incidental to early plan termination, a member's otherwise restricted benefit may be distributed in full upon depositing with an acceptable depository property having a fair market value equal to one hundred twenty-five percent of the amount which would be repayable had the plan terminated on the date of the lump sum distribution. If the market value of the property held by the depository falls below one hundred ten percent of the amount which would be repayable if the plan were then to terminate, additional property necessary to bring the value of the property held by the depository up to one hundred twenty-five percent of such amount shall be deposited.

MEMBERSHIP AND CREDITABLE SERVICE

Membership in Fund - R.S. 11:1410

- A. Membership in the Assessors' Retirement Fund and eligibility for retirement benefits shall be determined as set forth hereunder:
- (1) Any assessor who was serving in office on July 26, 1950, or who is elected or appointed to office after July 26, 1950, shall be a member of this fund.
 - (2) Any assessor's employee who was employed in an assessor's office on July 26, 1950, or who is employed in an assessor's office after July 26, 1950, shall be a member of this fund.
 - (3) The secretary and regular employees of the Assessors' Retirement Fund and permanent employees of the Louisiana Assessors' Association and the Louisiana Assessors' Insurance Fund shall be members of this fund, provided that the Louisiana Assessors' Association and the Louisiana Assessors' Insurance Fund each pay the employer contributions for their employees who become members of this fund.
- B. (1) Membership shall not be allowed on a part-time, temporary, or intermittent basis. Membership in the fund shall be allowed only to assessors, full-time permanent employees of assessors, the secretary and regular employees of the Assessors' Retirement Fund, and permanent employees of the Louisiana Assessors' Association and the Louisiana Assessors' Insurance Fund. Each member shall start paying into the fund the first regular payroll period after employment begins. Full-time, permanent employees as used herein, shall mean those employed on a full twelve-month basis within each calendar year; provided, however, that members may be granted leaves of absence, with no creditable service to be allowed for time on leave.
- (2) Any person who is not an employee of an assessor or of one of the entities listed in Paragraph (3) of Subsection A of this Section, who has performed services for and under the primary direction and control of an assessor or one of the entities listed in Paragraph (3) of Subsection A of this Section or any related person determined in accordance with Section 414(n)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code, on a substantially full-time basis for a period of at least a year pursuant to an agreement between the person's employer and assessor or one of the entities listed in Paragraph (3) of Subsection A of this Section shall not be a member of the fund.

Creditable Service - R.S. 11:1411

- A. Commencing October 1, 1989, and thereafter, a member shall receive credit for all service rendered as an assessor, assessor's employee, secretary and regular employees of the fund for which contributions have been paid and not withdrawn.

- B. In the computation of service rendered prior to October 1, 1989, creditable service shall be counted from January first of the calendar year in which a member first became a member of the fund.
- C. If a member's service is terminated for any cause whatsoever, such time lost shall not be counted as creditable service. If the member elects to leave his or her contributions in the fund, upon his or her return to regular active service in an assessor's office or other creditable employment, creditable service shall count from date of such return to service and be added to his or her prior service, but only if such member returns to active service within ten years after the date of withdrawal from service in an assessor's office or other creditable service.
- D. If a member takes a leave of absence governed by the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA), then upon his return to employment covered by the fund, the member shall share in employer contributions in the same manner as other members and shall not be considered to have terminated employment or to have incurred a break in service during such leave of absence. The employer shall be permitted to make an employer contribution in satisfaction of the affected employee's rights under USERRA. A member who does not return to employment shall not be affected by this provision.

Credit for Non-Credited Prior Service - R.S. 11:1412

Any person who was eligible for membership but was not enrolled as a member for whatever reason may upon application receive credit for the time such person was otherwise eligible for membership. The person's employer must certify the inclusive dates of employment and the salary earned by the member during these dates, or the person shall submit such other evidence in lieu thereof as shall be requested by the board. The person, his employer, and any other person submitting evidence on his behalf, shall certify all evidence by an affidavit in authentic form. Should any facts or evidence disqualify him from benefits, the person shall lose all rights to any benefits from this system. In order to receive this credit the person and the employer shall pay the greater of an amount equal to the employee and employer contributions which would have been paid had the person been enrolled at the time of employment, plus interest as determined by the board, which shall be not less than seven percent compounded annually, or an amount which, on an actuarial basis, totally offsets the increase in accrued liability of the system resulting from the receipt of the credit by the person. The amount payable shall be calculated by use of the actuarial funding method, assumptions, and tables in use by the system at the time of the person's application for credit. The fund shall accept as the employee's payment of amounts payable by the employee under this Section any assets held in an individual retirement account or annuity or a plan qualified under Section 401(a) or Section 403(a) of the Internal Revenue Code or a governmental deferred compensation arrangement subject to Section 457(g) of the Internal Revenue Code or a tax sheltered annuity or other arrangement under Section 403(b) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Reemployment of a Retiree - R.S. 11:1413

A retiree receiving retirement benefits from the system may be temporarily reemployed by an assessor but the retiree shall not be or become a member of the system during such reemployment. If the retiree is reemployed in any capacity for more than one hundred working days during any calendar year, or the equivalent thereof, during any calendar year, the benefits payable to the retiree shall be reduced by the amount he earned after thirty working days, or the equivalent thereof. The retiree and the assessor shall immediately notify the board of the date of reemployment, the amount of salary paid, any changes in salary, the number of hours employed per week, the estimated duration of reemployment, and the date of the termination of the reemployment. If the retiree dies during reemployment, benefits shall be paid to any other person as if death occurred regardless of reemployment pursuant to any option which may have been selected by the retiree at the time of retirement.

NORMAL RETIREMENT BENEFITS

Eligibility for Normal Retirement - R.S. 11:1421

- A. All members of the fund who have twelve years or more years of creditable service and who have attained the age of fifty-five years or over shall be eligible for participation in the benefits of this fund upon written application for such allowance to the board of trustees.
- B. All members of the fund with at least thirty years of creditable service in the fund shall be eligible for participation in benefits of this fund upon written application for such allowance to the board of trustees.

Computation of Normal Retirement Benefit - R.S. 11:1422

- A. Any member whose first employment making him eligible for membership in the system began on or before September 30, 2006, and who is eligible for normal retirement shall, upon making written application to the board of trustees, be retired, and shall be paid a monthly sum equal to three and one-third percent of the highest monthly average final compensation received during any thirty-six consecutive months while employed in an assessor's office or other creditable employment times the number of years of the member's creditable service not to exceed one hundred percent of the member's monthly average final compensation, after taking into account the reduction arising from any optional retirement selected.
- B. Any member whose first employment making him eligible for membership in the system began on or after October 1, 2006, and who is eligible for normal retirement shall, upon making written application to the board of trustees, be retired, and shall be paid a monthly sum equal to three and one-third percent of the highest monthly average final compensation received during any sixty consecutive months while employed in an assessor's office or other creditable employment times the number of years of the member's creditable service not to exceed one hundred percent of the member's monthly average final compensation after taking into account the reduction arising from any optional retirement selected.

Mode of Payment; Options; Effective Date - R.S. 11:1423

- A. Upon application for normal retirement, any participant may elect to receive his benefit in a retirement allowance payable throughout life, or he or she may elect at that time to receive the actuarial equivalent of his retirement allowance in a reduced retirement payable throughout life with the following options:

Option 1. If a member dies before he has received in retirement payments purchased by his contributions the amount he had contributed to the fund before his retirement, the

balance shall be paid to his legal representatives or to such person as he shall nominate by written designation duly acknowledged and filed with the board.

Option 2. Upon a member's death, his or her reduced retirement allowance shall be continued throughout the life of and paid to his or her surviving spouse, upon written designation by the member duly acknowledged and filed with the board of trustees at the time of his or her retirement.

Option 3. Upon the member's death, one-half of his or her reduced retirement allowance shall be continued throughout the life of and paid to his or her surviving spouse, upon written designation by the member duly acknowledged and filed with the board of trustees at the time of his retirement.

Option 4. Some other benefit or benefits shall be paid either to the member or to such person or persons as he shall nominate provided, such other benefit or benefits together with the reduced retirement allowance shall be of equivalent actuarial value to his retirement allowance and approved by the board of trustees, at the election of the member, which benefit shall be in lieu of any other option provided herein.

- B. No option shall become effective until the date specified by the member in his or her application for retirement, and no selection of an option nor any change in the option selected shall be permitted after the application has been officially filed with the board.
- C. Should a member upon retirement select his or her spouse as his or her beneficiary under Option 2, Option 3, or Option 4, the actuarial equivalence and option reductions shall be based on the ages of the member and his or her beneficiary as of the member's sixtieth birthday. Should the member select a non-spousal beneficiary under Option 4, the actuarial equivalence and option reduction shall be based on the ages of the member and beneficiary as of the later of the date of the member's retirement or the member's sixtieth birthday. The actuarial equivalence and option reduction factors for Option 2 benefits payable upon the death of a member while the member is still in service shall be based on the ages of the member and his or her spouse as of the member's sixtieth birthday.

DISABILITY RETIREMENT BENEFITS

Eligibility for Disability Retirement - R.S. 11:1431

Eligibility for disability benefits, procedures for application for disability benefits, procedures for the certification of continuing eligibility for disability benefits, the authority of the board of trustees to modify disability benefits, and procedures governing the restoration to active service of a formerly disabled employee are specifically described and provided for in R.S. 11:201 through 224.

Computation of Disability Retirement Benefit - R.S. 11:1432

- A. The board of trustees shall award disability benefits to eligible members who have been officially certified as disabled by the State Medical Disability Board. The disability benefit shall be the lesser of (1) or (2) as set forth below:
 - (1) A sum equal to the greater of forty-five percent of final average compensation or the member's accrued retirement benefit at the time of termination of employment due to disability; or
 - (2) The retirement benefit which would be payable assuming accrued creditable service plus additional accrued service, if any, to the earliest normal retirement age based on final average compensation at the time of termination of employment due to disability.

- B. Upon approval for disability benefits, the member shall exercise an optional retirement allowance as provided in R.S. 11:1423 and no change in the option selected shall be permitted after it has been filed with the board. The retirement option factors shall be the same as those utilized for regular retirement based on the age of the retiree and that of the spouse, had the retiree continued in active service until the earliest normal retirement date.

SURVIVORS' BENEFITS

Surviving Spouse's Benefit - R.S. 11:1441

- A. If a member of this fund dies in service with less than twelve years of creditable service, and leaves a surviving spouse, his accumulated contributions shall be paid to the surviving spouse.
- B. If a member dies and has twelve or more years of creditable service and is not eligible for retirement, the surviving spouse shall receive an automatic optional benefit which is equal to the joint and survivorship amounts provided in Option 2 as provided in R.S. 11:1423, which shall cease upon a subsequent remarriage, or a refund of the member's accumulated contributions, whichever the spouse elects to receive.
- C. If a member dies and is eligible for retirement, the surviving spouse shall receive an automatic optional benefit which is equal to the Option 2 benefits provided for in R.S. 11:1423, which shall not terminate upon a subsequent remarriage.
- D. Benefits set forth in Subsection B of this Section shall cease upon remarriage and shall resume upon a subsequent divorce or death of a new spouse. The spouse shall be entitled to receive a monthly benefit equal to the amount being received prior to remarriage.

Surviving Minor Children - R.S. 11:1442

Should a member of this fund die solely from injuries received in line of duty, or should he die from natural causes after four years creditable service, and should leave no surviving spouse, but should leave a child or children under the age of eighteen years, or a child or children over the age of eighteen years who are physically or mentally disabled and who are dependent upon him or her for support, the sum of fifty dollars per month shall be paid for one child, and ten dollars per month shall be paid for each additional child until he reaches the age of eighteen years, or as long as he is physically or mentally disabled.

Payment to Designated Beneficiary - R.S. 11:1443

If a member dies before retiring and leaves no surviving spouse or minor or dependent children, the designated beneficiary shall be entitled to the accumulated contributions in the fund, provided that the designation of beneficiary has been previously filed with the retirement fund. However, if no beneficiary has been designated as provided herein, the accumulated contributions shall be paid to the member's estate.

Limitation on Payment of Benefits - R.S. 11:1444

- A. (1) Unless the member has elected otherwise on or before December 31, 1983, the entire benefit of a member shall be distributed over a period not longer than the longest of the following periods:
 - (a) The member's life.
 - (b) The life of the member's designated beneficiary or the joint and last survivor lives of the member and his designated beneficiary.
 - (c) The member's life expectancy.
 - (d) The joint and last survivor life expectancy of the member and his designated beneficiary.
- (2) If the member is married and his spouse survives him, the designated beneficiary shall be his spouse. If a member dies after the commencement of his benefits, the remaining portion of his benefit shall be distributed at least as rapidly as before his death.
- B. (1) If the member dies before his benefit has commenced, the remainder of such interest shall be distributed to the member's beneficiary within five years after the date of such member's death.
- (2) Paragraph (1) of this Subsection shall not apply to any portion of a member's benefit which is payable to or for the benefit of a designated beneficiary or beneficiaries, over the life of or over the life expectancy of such beneficiary, so long as such distributions begin not later than one year after the date of the member's death, or, in the case of the member's surviving spouse, the date the member would have attained the age of seventy and one-half years. If the designated beneficiary is the member's surviving spouse and if the surviving spouse dies before the distribution of benefits commences, then Paragraph (1) of this Subsection shall be applied as if the surviving spouse were the member. If the designated beneficiary is a child of the member, for purposes of satisfying the requirement of Paragraph (1) of this Subsection, any amount paid to such child shall be treated as if paid to the member's surviving spouse if such amount would become payable to such surviving spouse, if alive, upon the child's reaching age eighteen.
- (3) Paragraph (1) of this Subsection shall not apply if the distribution of the member's interest has commenced and is for a term certain over a period permitted in Subsection A of this Section.
- C. If a survivor benefit is payable to a specified person or persons or if a benefit is payable at death under an option elected pursuant to R.S. 11:1932, the member shall be considered to have designated such person as a designated beneficiary hereunder. If there is more than one such person, then the oldest such person shall be considered to have been so designated, or, if none, then the oldest person entitled to receive a survivor benefit shall be

considered to have been so designated. The designation of a designated beneficiary hereunder shall not prevent payment to multiple beneficiaries but shall only establish the permitted period of payments.

- D. Distributions from the system shall be made in accordance with the requirements set forth in Section 401(a)(9) of the Internal Revenue Code, including the minimum distribution incidental benefit rules applicable thereunder.
- E. (1) A member's benefits shall commence to be paid on or before the required beginning date.
(2) The required beginning date shall be April first of the calendar year following the later of the calendar year in which the member attains seventy and one-half years of age, or the calendar year in which the employee retires.
- F. The provisions of this Section shall be effective July 1, 1997.

Guaranteed Return of Accumulated Contributions - R.S. 11:1445

- A. If the total of all benefits paid to a retiree and all benefits paid on his account after his death, if any, is less than the retiree's accumulated employee contributions, the remaining accumulated employee contributions shall be paid to the retiree's beneficiary, designated by him in writing and duly acknowledged by him and filed with the board prior to his death.
- B. Upon the death of a member or former member who has not been paid any benefits from the fund, including a withdrawal of accumulated employee contributions, and who is not survived by any person eligible for any benefits from the fund, the accumulated employee contributions of the member or former member shall be paid to his beneficiary, designated by him in writing and duly acknowledged by him and filed with the board prior to his death.
- C. A member or former member may, at any time prior to his death, withdraw, refile, or amend the written designation of his beneficiary.
- D. If any sum becomes payable to a member's or former member's duly designated beneficiary and that beneficiary predeceased the member or former member, or if any sum would otherwise be payable to a beneficiary, but a beneficiary was not designated by the member or former member, then such sum shall be paid to the estate of the member or former member.
- E. If survivor benefits become payable upon the death of a member or former member, the survivor, in lieu of survivor benefits, may elect to be paid in one lump sum the member's or former member's accumulated employee contributions by notifying the board, in writing, and waiving the right to all other benefits. If survivor benefits are payable to more than one person, no payment of the remaining accumulated employee contributions may be made unless all persons eligible for survivor benefits agree, in writing, to the distribution of the remaining accumulated contributions.

- F. Payments made pursuant to this Section shall be paid only upon receipt by the board, of an application therefor, providing such information and in such form as the board may require. Such payment shall discharge the board and the fund from any other responsibility or liability to any other person, shall cancel all rights in the fund and cause credit for all service to be forfeited, and neither the former member nor any other person shall be entitled to any benefits on the former member's account.

PAYMENT OF BENEFITS

Conditions for Payment of Benefit - R.S. 11:1451

No regular, disability, survivor, or other benefit from the fund, including a refund of accumulated employee contributions and any optional benefit, shall be payable until and unless a written application therefor is filed with the board providing such information and in such form as the board may require and until and unless all contributions by or for the member or former member have been received by the board and until and unless the member or former member has terminated service.

Deferred Retirement - R.S. 11:1452

If the services as an employee or assessor of any member who has twelve or more years of credited service are terminated prior to the time the member becomes fifty-five years of age, the former member may leave his contributions in the fund and upon attaining the age of fifty-five years he shall be eligible for a regular retirement benefit. If the services as an employee or assessor of any member who has thirty or more years of credited service are terminated prior to the time the member becomes fifty years of age, the former member may leave his contributions in the fund and upon attaining the age of fifty years, he shall be eligible for a regular retirement benefit.

Application; Effective Date; Commencement of Benefits - R.S. 11:1453

- A. Any member may retire upon written application to the board of trustees upon eligibility therefor. An application for retirement shall be officially filed with the board when received in the retirement office. Application shall be granted within thirty days if the applicant is entitled to retirement benefits.
- B. If a written application for any benefits is received by the board within ninety days of the date the applicant became eligible for the benefit, benefits shall be paid retroactive to the date of becoming eligible therefor. If an application for any benefit is received by the board after ninety days of the date the applicant became eligible therefor, benefits shall be paid only from the date the application is received by the board.

Dual Retirement Benefits Prohibited - R.S. 11:1454

No member of this fund shall be eligible to draw more than one retirement from this fund at the same time, except that a surviving spouse of a member may draw retirement benefits and also surviving spouse benefits from this fund at the same time.

Withdrawal of Accumulated Employee Contributions; Repayment – R.S. 11:1455

- A. If the membership of a member who is not eligible to retire is terminated, the former member may make a written application for and obtain a refund of his accumulated employee contributions. However, no refund shall be paid until and unless the accuracy of the information on the application therefor has been certified by the assessor by whom the former member was employed and the former member remains out of service for sixty days and until all contributions for the former member have been paid into the fund. Payment of such a refund to the former member cancels all rights in the fund; neither the former member nor any other person shall be entitled to any benefits on the former member's account, and credit for all service shall be forfeited.
- B. If a former member who has withdrawn his accumulated contributions again becomes a member of the fund, he may repay to the fund, in a lump sum, the amount he withdrew, plus annually compounded interest at the valuation interest rate from the date of withdrawal. Upon such repayment, the member shall be credited for all service which was canceled and forfeited at the time of the prior refund and all other rights shall be restored.

Back-Deferred Retirement Option Program – R.S. 11:1456.1

- A.
 - (1) There is hereby created an optional retirement benefit program for members of the fund called the "Back-Deferred Retirement Option Program" which shall be referred to in this Chapter as "Back-DROP".
 - (2) In lieu of receiving a normal retirement benefit pursuant to R.S. 11:1421 through 1423, an eligible member of the fund may elect to retire and have his benefits structured, calculated, and paid as provided in this Section.
- B. An active, contributing member of the fund shall be eligible for Back-DROP only if all of the following apply:
 - (1) The member has accrued more service credit than the minimum required for eligibility for a normal retirement benefit.
 - (2) The member has attained an age that is greater than the minimum required for eligibility for a normal retirement benefit, if applicable.
 - (3) The member has revoked his participation, if any, in the Deferred Retirement Option Plan pursuant to R.S. 11:1456.2.
- C. At the time of retirement, a member who elects to receive a Back-DROP benefit shall select a Back-DROP period to be specified in whole months. The duration of the Back-DROP period shall not exceed the lesser of thirty-six months or the number of months of creditable service accrued after the member first attained eligibility for normal retirement.

The Back-DROP period shall be comprised of the most recent calendar days corresponding to the member's employment for which service credit in the fund accrued.

- D. (1) The Back-DROP benefit shall have two portions: a lump-sum portion and a monthly benefit portion.
- (2) The member's Back-DROP monthly benefit shall be calculated pursuant to the provisions applicable for service retirement set forth in R.S. 11:1421 through 1423, subject to the following conditions:
- (a) For purposes of this Paragraph, creditable service shall not include service credit reciprocally recognized pursuant to R.S. 11:142.
 - (b) Accrued service at retirement shall be reduced by the Back-DROP period.
 - (c) Final average compensation shall be calculated by excluding all earnings during the Back-DROP period.
 - (d) Contributions received by the retirement fund during the Back-DROP period and any interest that has accrued on employer and employee contributions received during the period shall remain with the fund and shall not be refunded to the member or to the employer.
 - (e) The member's Back-DROP monthly benefit shall be calculated based upon the member's age and service and the fund provisions in effect on the last day of creditable service before the Back-DROP period.
 - (f) At retirement, the member's maximum monthly retirement benefit payable as a life annuity shall be equal to the Back-DROP monthly benefit.
 - (g) The member may elect to receive a reduced monthly benefit in accordance with the options provided in R.S. 11:1423 based upon the member's age and the age of the member's beneficiary as of the actual effective date of retirement. No change in the option selected or beneficiary shall be permitted after the option is filed with the board of trustees.
- (3) In addition to the monthly benefit received pursuant to Paragraph (2) of this Subsection, the member shall be paid a lump-sum benefit equal to the Back-DROP maximum monthly retirement benefit multiplied by the number of months selected as the Back-DROP period.
- (4) Cost-of-living adjustments shall not be payable on the member's Back-DROP lump sum.
- (5) Upon the death of a member who selected the maximum option pursuant to R.S. 11:1423, the member's named beneficiary or, if none, the member's estate shall receive the deceased member's remaining contributions, less the Back-DROP benefit amount.

- (6) Upon the death of a member who selected Option 1 pursuant to R.S. 11:1423, the member's named beneficiary or, if none, the member's estate, shall receive the member's annuity savings fund balance as of the member's date of retirement reduced by the portion of the Back-DROP account balance and his previously paid retirement benefits that are attributable to the member's annuity payments as provided by the annuity savings fund.

Rescission of Participation in the Deferred Retirement Option Plan – R.S. 11:1456.2

Not applicable after March 31, 2009.

Qualified Plan; Direct Rollover; Eligible Retirement Plan; Election – R.S. 11:1457

- A. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary that would otherwise limit a state or statewide retirement system member's election under this Section, a distributee may elect, at the time and in the manner prescribed by the plan administrator, to have any portion of an eligible rollover distribution paid directly to an eligible retirement plan specified by the distributee in a direct rollover.
- B. If a distribution is one to which Sections 401(a)(11) and 417 of the Internal Revenue Code do not apply, such distribution may commence less than thirty days after the notice required under Section 1.411(a)-11(c) of the Income Tax Regulations is given, provided that:
 - (1) The plan administrator clearly informs the participant that the participant has a right to a period of at least thirty days after receiving the notice to consider the decision of whether or not to elect a distribution and, if applicable, a particular distribution option, and
 - (2) The participant, after receiving the notice, affirmatively elects a distribution.
- C. As used in this Section, the following terms shall mean the following:
 - (1) "Direct rollover" means a payment by the plan to the eligible retirement plan specified by the distributee.
 - (2) "Distributee" means a member or former member. In addition, the member's or former member's surviving spouse, or the member's spouse or former member's spouse with whom a benefit or return of employee contributions is to be divided pursuant to R.S. 11:291(B) are distributees with reference to an interest of the member or former spouse.
 - (3) "Eligible retirement plan" means an individual retirement account described in Section 408(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, an individual retirement annuity

described in Section 408(b) of the Internal Revenue Code, an annuity plan described in Section 403(a) of the Code, or a qualified trust described in Section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, that accepts the distributee's eligible rollover distribution. However, in the case of an eligible rollover distribution to the surviving spouse, an eligible retirement plan is an individual retirement account or individual retirement annuity. "Eligible retirement plan" shall also mean an annuity contract described in Section 403(b) of the Internal Revenue Code and an eligible plan under Section 457(b) of the Internal Revenue Code which is maintained by a state, a political subdivision of a state, or any agency or instrumentality of a state or political subdivision of a state agreeing to account separately for amounts transferred into such plan from this fund. A distribution to a surviving spouse or to a spouse or former spouse who is the alternate payee under a qualified domestic relations order shall not make the retirement plan ineligible.

- (4) "Eligible rollover distribution" means any distribution of all or any portion of the balance to the credit of the distributee, except that an eligible rollover distribution does not include: any distribution that is one of a series of substantially equal periodic payments, not less frequently than annually, made for the life or life expectancy of the distributee or the joint lives or joint life expectancies of the distributee and the distributee's designated beneficiary, or for a specified period of ten years or more; any distribution to the extent such distribution is required under Section 401(a)(9) of the Internal Revenue Code; and the portion of any distribution that is not includable in gross income, determined without regard to the exclusion for net unrealized appreciation with respect to employer securities. A portion of a distribution shall not fail to be an eligible rollover distribution merely because the portion consists of after-tax employee contributions which are not includable in gross income; however, such portion may be paid only to an individual retirement account or annuity described in Section 408(a) or (b) of the Internal Revenue Code, or to a qualified defined contribution plan described in Section 401(a) or 403(a) of the Internal Revenue Code that agrees to account separately for amounts so transferred, including accounting separately for the portion of such distribution which is includable in gross income and the portion of such distribution which is not includable. The fund shall accept participant rollover contributions, direct rollovers of distributions made after December 31, 2001, or both, from the following types of plans: individual retirement accounts or annuities or plans qualified under Section 401(a) or Section 403(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, or governmental deferred compensation arrangements subject to Section 457(b) of the Internal Revenue Code or tax sheltered annuities or other arrangements under Section 403(b) of the Internal Revenue Code, beginning on the effective date specified; but only for the purposes of repaying prior distributions or purchasing service credits as permitted under Section 415(k)(3) and Section 415(n) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Computation of Retirement Benefits - R.S. 11:1458

- A. (1) This Section is intended to comply with Section 415 of the Internal Revenue Code.
- (2) The normal retirement benefit of a member shall not exceed the dollar amount set forth in this Section.
- B. (1) **Maximum annual benefit.** The retirement benefit of any member of the retirement system and which is not attributable to the member's after-tax employee contribution, when expressed as an annual benefit may not exceed one hundred sixty-five thousand dollars per year, as adjusted for increases in the cost of living pursuant to Section 415 of the Internal Revenue Code. For purposes of determining whether a member's benefit exceeds this limitation, if the normal form of benefit is other than a single life annuity, such form shall be adjusted actuarially to the equivalent of a single life annuity. This single life annuity shall not exceed the maximum dollar limitation outlined in this Paragraph. No adjustment is required for qualified joint and survivor annuity benefits; pre-retirement disability benefits; or pre-retirement death benefits.
- (2) (a) **Adjustment if benefit begins at age other than social security retirement age.** If benefit distribution begins before age sixty-two, the actual retirement benefit shall not exceed the adjusted dollar limitation. The adjusted dollar limitation shall be the equivalent, determined in a manner consistent with reduction of benefits for early retirement under the federal Social Security Act, of one hundred sixty-five thousand dollars beginning at age sixty-two, or, if greater, for a benefit beginning on or after age fifty-five, seventy-five thousand dollars per year. For benefits beginning before age fifty-five, the dollar limitation shall not exceed the actuarial equivalent of seventy-five thousand dollars per year beginning at age fifty-five.
- (b) **Adjustment if benefit begins after social security retirement age.** If benefit distribution begins after social security retirement age, the dollar limitation shall be increased to the equivalent of one hundred sixty-five thousand dollars beginning at social security retirement age, as adjusted for increases in the cost of living pursuant to Section 415 of the Internal Revenue Code.
- (c) **Social security retirement age defined.** For purposes of this Subsection, the term "social security retirement age" means the age used as the retirement age under 42 U.S.C. 416(1) of the Social Security Act, except that such Section shall be applied without regard to the age increase factor, and as if the early retirement age under Section 416(1)(2) of such Act were sixty-two.
- (d) **Interest assumption.** The interest rate used for adjusting the maximum limitations above shall be:
 - (i) For benefits commencing before social security retirement age and for forms of benefit other than straight life annuity, the greater of five percent, or the rate used to determine actuarial equivalence for other purposes of this retirement system.

- (ii) For benefits commencing after social security retirement age, the lesser of five percent, or the rate used to determine actuarial equivalence for other purposes under this retirement system.
 - (3) **Adjustment for less than ten years of participation or service.**
 - (a) If retirement benefits are payable under this retirement system to a member who has less than ten years of participation in the retirement system, the dollar limitation referred to in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection shall be multiplied by a fraction, the numerator of which is the member's number of years of participation in the system and the denominator of which is ten.
 - (b) If retirement benefits are payable under this retirement system to a member who has less than ten years of service with the employer, the dollar limitation referred to in Paragraph (9) of Subsection E of this Section shall be multiplied by a fraction, the numerator of which is the member's number of years of service with the employer and the denominator of which is ten.
 - (4) **Annual adjustment.** The one hundred sixty-five thousand dollar limitation and seventy-five thousand dollar limitation provided in this Subsection shall be adjusted annually to the maximum dollar limits allowable as determined by the commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service under Section 415(d) of the Internal Revenue Code.
 - (5) **Member or participant in more than one plan.** If a member is a member or participant in more than one defined benefit pension plan maintained by the state, its agencies, or its political subdivisions, then such member's benefit, considered in the aggregate after taking into account the benefits provided by all such retirement plans, shall not exceed the limits provided in this Subsection.
 - (6) **Treasury regulation applicable.** That portion of the benefit designated herein which is attributable to member contributions shall be determined in accordance with Treasury Regulations §1.415-3(d)(1).
- C. **Total annual benefits not in excess of ten thousand dollars.** Notwithstanding the provisions of Subsection B, the benefits payable with respect to a participant under any defined benefit plan shall be deemed not to exceed the limitations of this Subsection if:
- (1) The retirement benefits payable with respect to such participant under such plan and under all other defined benefit plans of the employer do not exceed ten thousand dollars for the plan year, or for any prior plan year, and
 - (2) The employer has not at any time maintained a defined contribution plan in which the participant participated.
- D. **Average compensation.**
- (1) For purposes of R.S. 11:1422 and 1432, average compensation shall include any amounts properly considered as the regular rate of pay of the member, as defined in R.S. 11:231, and unreduced by amounts excluded from income for federal income tax

- purposes by reason of 26 USC 125, 132(f), 402(e)(3), 402(h)(1)(B), 403(b), 414(h), or 457, or any other provision of federal law of similar effect.
- (2) In addition to other applicable limitations set forth in the plan, and notwithstanding any other provisions of the plan to the contrary, for plan years beginning on or after January 1, 1994, and before January 1, 2002, the annual compensation of each employee taken into account under the plan shall not exceed the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 annual compensation limit. The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 annual compensation limit is one hundred fifty thousand dollars, as adjusted by the commissioner of Internal Revenue for increases in the cost of living in accordance with Section 401(a)(17)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code. The cost-of-living adjustment in effect for a calendar year applies to any period, not exceeding twelve months, over which compensation is determined beginning in such calendar year. If a determination period consists of fewer than twelve months, the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 annual compensation limit will be multiplied by a fraction, the numerator of which is the number of months in the determination period, and the denominator of which is twelve.
 - (3) For plan years beginning on or after January 1, 2002, the annual compensation limitation shall not exceed two hundred thousand dollars, as adjusted for cost-of-living increases under Section 401(a)(17)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code. If compensation for an earlier period is taken into account in determining an employee's benefits accruing in the current plan year, the compensation for the earlier period shall be subject to the compensation limit for the current year.
- E. The provisions of this Section shall apply if any member is covered, or has ever been covered, by another plan maintained by the employer, including a qualified plan, or a welfare benefit fund, as defined in ex Section 419(e) of the Internal Revenue Code, or an individual medical account, as defined in Section 415(l)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, which provides an annual addition as described in Paragraph (4) of this Subsection.
- (1) If a member is, or has ever been, covered under more than one defined benefit plan maintained by the employer, the sum of the member's annual benefits from all such plans shall not exceed the maximum permissible amount set forth in Subsection D of this Section.
 - (2) If the employer maintains or at any time maintained one or more qualified defined contribution plans covering any member in this system, a welfare benefit fund as defined in Internal Revenue Code Section 419(e), or an individual medical account as defined in Internal Revenue Code Section 415(l)(2), the sum of the member's defined contribution fraction and defined benefit fraction shall not exceed 1.0 in any limitation year, and the annual benefit otherwise payable to the member under this system shall be limited in order to satisfy such limitation. This provision shall no longer be effective for plan years beginning after December 31, 1999.
 - (3) (a) "Defined contribution dollar limitation" shall mean forty thousand dollars as adjusted for cost-of-living increases provided in Section 415(d) of the Internal Revenue Code.

- (b) If a member is, or ever has been covered under more than one defined contribution plan maintained by the employer, the sum of the member's annual additions to all such plans for each limitation year shall not exceed the maximum permissible amount.
 - (c) The annual addition for any limitation year beginning before January 1, 1987, shall not be recomputed to treat all employee contributions as annual additions.
- (4) "Annual additions" of a member for the limitation year shall mean the sum of the following amounts credited to a member's account for the limitation year:
- (a) Employer contributions.
 - (b) Employee contributions.
 - (c) Forfeitures.
 - (d) Amounts allocated to an individual medical account, as defined in Section 415(l)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, which is a part of a pension or annuity plan maintained by the employer, are treated as annual additions to a defined contribution plan. Additionally, amounts derived from contributions paid or accrued after December 31, 1985, in taxable years ending after such date, which are attributable to post-retirement medical benefits allocated to the separated account of a key employee, as defined in Section 419A(d)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or under a welfare benefit fund, as defined in Section 419(e) of the Internal Revenue Code, maintained by the employer, are treated as annual additions to a defined contribution plan.
 - (e) The employee contribution shall be deemed to be a defined contribution plan. If a member has made nondeductible employee contributions pursuant to the provisions of this system, the amount of such contributions shall be treated as an annual addition to a qualified defined contribution plan, for purposes of this Section.
- (5) The amount of annual additions which may be credited to the member's account for any limitation year shall not exceed the maximum permissible amount. Contributions and benefits under any other plan of the employer, to the extent that an adjustment is required to satisfy the requirements of this Section in the aggregate, shall be limited or reduced to the extent necessary to satisfy such requirement without reducing accrued benefits; however, only after such other plans have been modified shall the benefits and contributions under this plan be reduced. As soon as it is administratively feasible after the end of the limitation year, the maximum permissible amount for the limitation year shall be determined on the basis of the member's actual compensation for the limitation year. If there is an excess amount, the excess shall be disposed of as follows:
- (a) Any nondeductible voluntary employee contribution to the extent it would reduce the excess amount shall be returned to the member.

- (b) If, after the application of Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph, an excess amount still exists, then any nondeductible mandatory contribution to the extent it would reduce the excess amount shall be returned to the member.
 - (c) If, after the application of Subparagraph (b) of this Paragraph, an excess amount still exists, and the member is covered by the plan at the end of the limitation year, the excess amount in the member's account shall be used to reduce employer contributions, including any allocation of forfeitures, for such member in the next limitation year if necessary.
 - (d) If after the application of Subparagraph (b) of this Paragraph, an excess amount still exists, and the member is not covered by the plan at the end of the limitation year, the excess amount shall be held unallocated in a suspense account. The suspense account shall be applied to reduce future employer contributions for all remaining members in the next limitation year, and each succeeding limitation year if necessary.
 - (e) If a suspense account is in existence at any time during a limitation year pursuant to the provisions of this Section, it shall not participate in the allocation of the trust's investment gains and losses. If a suspense account is in existence at any time during a particular limitation year, all amounts in the suspense account shall be allocated and reallocated to members' accounts before any employer or any employee contributions may be made to the plan for that limitation year. Excess amounts shall not be distributed to members or former members.
- (6) "Excess amount" of a member for a limitation year shall mean the excess of the member's annual additions for the limitation year over the maximum permissible amount.
 - (7) The "limitation year" shall be the calendar year, or the twelve consecutive month period elected by the employer hereunder.
 - (8) (a) The "maximum permissible amount" for a member for a limitation year shall be the maximum annual addition that may be contributed or allocated to a member's account under the plan for any limitation year and shall not exceed the lesser of:
 - (i) The defined contribution dollar limitation.
 - (ii) One hundred percent of the member's compensation for the limitation year.
 - (b) The compensation limitation provided for in Item (a)(ii) of this Paragraph shall not apply to any contribution for medical benefits within the meaning of Section 401(h) or 419A(f)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, which is otherwise treated as an annual addition pursuant to Section 415(l) or Section 419A(d)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code.

COST-OF-LIVING INCREASES

Cost-of-Living Increase; Determination by Board of Trustees - R.S. 11:1461

- A. The board of trustees may use excess interest earnings on investments of the system in excess of normal requirements as determined by the actuary to provide a cost-of-living increase in benefits for retired members or their beneficiaries in an amount not to exceed three percent of the original benefit, excluding any additional annuity, for each year of retirement but not to exceed three hundred dollars per year for each year of retirement. Such benefits shall be paid in such a manner and in such amount as may be determined by the board of trustees, based on funds available, and the board of trustees shall be authorized to set a maximum amount of such benefits.

- B.
 - (1) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, in particular R.S. 11:242, the board of trustees is authorized to provide a permanent monthly cost-of-living adjustment for retirees or their beneficiaries who would otherwise be eligible for a cost-of-living adjustment pursuant to Subsection A of this Section. The cost-of-living adjustment shall be payable in a monthly amount not to exceed three percent of the normal monthly benefit payable to the retiree or beneficiary on the date the increase is granted but shall not be less than twenty dollars per month.

 - (2) The authority of the board of trustees to provide the cost-of-living adjustment provided in this Subsection shall become effective July 1, 2008. The authority of the board of trustees to provide the cost-of-living adjustment shall be nonrecurring, and the board of trustees shall not grant more than one cost-of-living adjustment pursuant to Paragraph (1) of this Subsection.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Membership and Organization of Board; Election of Members; Vacancies - R.S. 11:1471

- A. The board of trustees shall be composed of the president, vice president, and treasurer of the Louisiana Assessors' Association and twelve other members who shall be elected for terms of two years, as provided in this Subsection, and who may be reelected:
- (1) Eight regular member representatives, one elected from each of the eight election districts established by the Louisiana Assessors' Association. Elections for regular member representatives on the board shall be held in even-numbered years for even-numbered districts and in odd-numbered years for odd-numbered districts, in conformity with the bylaws of the association.
 - (2) Two retiree representatives, nominated by the board and elected by the retirees of the fund.
 - (3) Two assessor employee representatives who are members of the fund, nominated by the board and elected by the assessor employees who are members of the fund.
 - (4) The initial election for each of the twelve board members in Paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of this Subsection shall be held in 2003. The members elected from even-numbered districts in 2003 shall serve three-year terms. Thereafter, elections shall be held as provided in this Subsection.
- B. (1) The president and vice president of the Louisiana Assessors' Association shall be president and vice president of the retirement board, and the treasurer of the association shall be the treasurer of the retirement board.
- (2) The vice president and the treasurer shall have no voting rights on the board. The president shall be ineligible to vote except in case of a tie.
- C. In the event of a vacancy on the board, the vacancy shall be filled within sixty days after the vacancy occurs. Any vacancy in the officer positions shall be filled as provided for in the association bylaws. Any vacancy in one of the twelve other board positions shall be filled in the manner provided for in Subsection A of this Section.

Secretary of Board; Records and Reports; Part-Time Employees – R.S. 11:1472

- A. The board of trustees shall have authority to appoint a secretary, and shall fix, at its discretion, the salary to be paid as compensation for such services, and to employ actuarial, clerical, and other help as necessary; to contract for group insurance covering the secretary,

regular employees, and their dependents, as provided by the assessors' insurance act. The salaries and insurance premiums shall be paid out of the Assessors' Retirement Fund. The secretary of the board of trustees shall keep in book provided for the purpose, a full and complete record of all proceedings of the board of trustees, particularly with reference to investment of funds belonging to the said retirement fund, as hereinafter provided for. The secretary shall keep all correspondence of the board, keep minutes of all of its meetings and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned him or her by the board of trustees, including the preparation of the warrants for the various disbursements from the said fund and the keeping of an accurate record thereof.

- B. The secretary shall keep a service record of each assessor and assessor's employees who are qualified members of the fund, which shall show date of election or entry into the assessor's department, interruptions of service, and the cause thereof. The service record shall show the total number of years' service. The secretary shall keep the records of the board, and a list of retired assessors and assessors' employees receiving retirement and disability benefits, and shall file a report with the president at least once a year composed of a list of the assessors and assessors' employees receiving such benefits, and a summary of the audit of the accounts made by the board's accountant or the legislative auditor if consistent with his authority.
- C. Each assessor shall furnish the secretary with a service record, as set forth above, for all of his employees, including himself, who are eligible for participation as members of this fund, and the names of additional employees who become eligible for membership in the future, not later than thirty days after his or her service begins. Provided that the board of trustees of the fund may deny the right of membership in this fund to any class of employees who are occupying positions on a part-time or intermittent basis.

FINANCING OF FUND

Financing of Fund; Deductions; Deficiencies and Surpluses; Remedies – R.S. 11:1481

The fund shall be financed as set forth hereunder:

- (1) (a) (i) Each sheriff and ex officio tax collector of the state of Louisiana, or other official responsible for such tax collection, is hereby authorized and required to deduct one-fourth of one percent of taxes shown to be collectible by the tax rolls, including that shown on the tax rolls to be exempted by virtue of the homestead exemptions of each respective parish, and the city tax collector for the city of New Orleans, or other official responsible for such tax collection, is hereby authorized and required to deduct one-fourth of one percent of taxes shown to be collectible by the tax rolls, including that shown on the tax roll to be exempted by virtue of homestead exemptions, for the city of New Orleans and the parish of Orleans which money each respective sheriff, tax collector, or any other person performing said duties shall remit to the Assessors' Retirement Fund in a lump sum from first tax collections each year or periodically at the same time said sheriff and tax collector shall disburse funds to the tax recipient bodies of his respective parish. The amount remitted to the Assessors' Retirement Fund shall be based on the total amount of taxes shown to be collectible on the roll, including that shown on the tax roll to be exempted by virtue of homestead exemption, on the date the tax roll is filed for collection.
- (ii) (aa) All tax recipient agencies of ad valorem taxes of each and every parish and municipality of the state of Louisiana, including the police jury, council, commission, school board, levee district, special districts, municipalities and all tax recipients of any nature whatsoever of ad valorem taxes are hereby required to furnish the legislative auditor the authorizing ordinances or resolutions, the tax rolls, and the tax rate to be applied to the assessed values for ad valorem tax purposes no later than June first of every year.
- (bb) The board shall certify to each sheriff and ex officio tax collector for the state of Louisiana, other official responsible for such tax collection, or any other person performing such duties for any person, parish, city, or governmental entity that all amounts due the fund have been received. For each payment received, the certification shall include the date the fund received the payment, the amount of the payment, and the jurisdiction remitting the payment.
- (cc) The board shall calculate any shortfall in the fund and shall take reasonable steps to ascertain its cause. The board shall certify to the

legislative auditor the amount of the shortfall and its cause. In the event the shortfall is due to the failure of any person, parish, city, or other governmental entity to remit all funds required by this Section or any predecessor law, the certification shall so indicate.

- (dd) The amounts due to the Assessors' Retirement Fund pursuant to this Paragraph shall be certified as correct by the legislative auditor.

- (iii) (aa) In addition to the payment required pursuant to Item (i) of this Subparagraph, each sheriff and ex officio tax collector for the state of Louisiana, other official responsible for tax collection, or any other person performing such duties for any person, parish, city, or governmental entity certified by the board as having failed to remit all monies required by this Section, shall remit to the Assessors' Retirement Fund an amount to be determined by the board of revenue sharing monies otherwise due to the delinquent person, parish, city, or other governmental entity. The remittance pursuant to this Item shall be paid until the amount of the certified shortfall, including interest and any professional fees incurred through attempts at collection, has been satisfied; however, the board has the authority to negotiate a lesser amount to be paid in satisfaction of this debt. The board shall notify the sheriff and ex officio tax collector for the state of Louisiana, other official responsible for tax collection, or any other person performing such duties by November first that said remittance shall be due for the upcoming year.

- (bb) Should the sheriff and ex officio tax collector for the state of Louisiana, other official responsible for such tax collection, or any other person performing such duties for any person, parish, city, or other governmental entity fail to comply with Subitem (aa) of this Item, the board of trustees of the Assessors' Retirement Fund is hereby empowered to make demand upon the state treasurer for the monies due to the fund. The treasurer shall pay such demand before distribution of any revenue sharing dollars to the person, parish, city, or other governmental entity. The board shall submit to the treasurer a resolution certifying the name of the governmental entity, its failure to pay, and the amount owed, and authorizing a designee or designees to act on its behalf.

- (cc) The remedies provided in this Item are remedial and curative and may be exercised by the board at any time for any identifiable shortfall in the fund, regardless of when the shortfall initially arose.

- (b) Each assessor shall contribute three and one-half percent of the salaries of the assessor and the assessor's employees who are eligible for membership in the fund. The board of trustees of the fund shall contribute three and one-half

percent of the salaries of the secretary and regular employees of the Assessors' Retirement Fund to the fund. For purposes of this Section, the term "salaries" shall include expense allowances provided by law in addition to regular salary to be paid from the assessors' general fund. For purposes of this Section, in no event shall the expense allowance exceed ten percent of the salary of the assessor. On and after October 1, 1989, each assessor and the board of trustees of the fund shall contribute the employer contributions required by R.S. 11:103.

- (2) (a) Each assessor in the state of Louisiana shall deduct eight percent from the salaries of the assessor and the assessor's employees who are eligible for membership in this fund, and the board of trustees of the Assessors' Retirement Fund shall deduct eight percent from the salaries of the secretary and regular employees of the Assessors' Retirement Fund who are eligible for membership in this fund; said eight percent shall be deducted from the respective salaries each regular payroll period, and paid into the fund monthly; said amount to be paid by said assessor and board of trustees within ten days after the close of each month that said salaries were paid.
- (b) (i) Notwithstanding the provisions of Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph and in addition to the amounts required to be paid by the employer, upon providing written notice to the Assessors' Retirement Fund at least fifteen days prior to the beginning of a calendar year, each assessor may elect to pay all or any portion of the contributions required in Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph of the assessor and the assessor's employees who are eligible for membership in the fund.
- (ii) The board of trustees of the Assessors' Retirement Fund may elect to pay all or any portion of the contributions required in Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph of the secretary and regular employees of the fund who are eligible for membership in the fund.
- (iii) Except as provided in Subparagraph (c) of this Paragraph, if the assessor or board of trustees chooses to pay a portion of the contributions required in Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph, then the portion that is paid shall be the same proportion of the salary of each employee in the office of the assessor or board of trustees and no employee shall be able to choose the amount of such payment.
- (iv) If the assessor or board of trustees elects to pay a portion of the contributions required in Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph, then the election shall remain in effect for one year and shall be rescinded only upon providing written notice to the Assessors' Retirement Fund at least fifteen days prior to the beginning of a calendar year. The contributions shall be paid into the fund within ten days after the close of each month.
- (c) (i) The assessor for the parish of Orleans may pay all or any portion of the contributions required in Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph on his behalf, provided the respective assessor has elected and is paying the same

portion of employee contributions for his employees who are eligible for membership in the fund that he directs the president to pay on his behalf.

- (ii) If the assessor for the parish of Orleans pays all or a portion of his employee contribution, then he shall pay from his district allotment the exact amount of any employee contributions paid on his behalf to the assessor within at least ten days after the close of each month.
- (d) (i) The failure of any assessor or the Louisiana Assessors' Association to remit all required contributions to the fund within thirty days of becoming due shall render any such applicable assessor or Louisiana Assessor's Association liable to suspension of membership and participation in the fund at the discretion of the board.
- (ii) If the board suspends any assessor pursuant to the provisions of this Subparagraph, then it shall notify the assessor of his suspension by registered mail sent to him at his address as it appears upon the records of the system and it shall prescribe the conditions and terms pursuant to which he may be reinstated.
- (iii) If any assessor continues to be delinquent in the payment of the required contributions for a period exceeding ninety days, then he shall be personally liable to the fund in his individual capacity for the delinquent contributions and for a penalty equal to twenty-five percent of all delinquent contributions. If and when the delinquent contributions and penalty are collected, both shall be paid into and constitute a part of the fund.

Funds to Which Assets Credited - R.S. 11:1482

- A. The annuity savings fund shall be the fund to which shall be credited all accumulated contributions of members. From this fund shall be paid the refunded contributions because of withdrawal or death of a member, and the amounts required to be transferred to the annuity reserve funds as provided in Subsection C herein.
- B. The pension accumulation fund shall be the fund to which shall be credited all payments to the system, exclusive of payments to the annuity savings fund and including contributions from employers and taxes from sheriffs and ex officio tax collectors.
- C. The annuity reserve fund shall be the fund in which shall be held the reserves for liabilities for retirees and beneficiaries. Upon retirement or death of a member the annuity reserve fund shall be credited with the member's accumulated contributions and the required additional amount from the pension accumulation fund, so as to provide for the benefits of the member. All benefits shall be paid to retirees or beneficiaries from the annuity reserve fund, including any refund of contributions upon death after retirement. Should a member, retired for disability, return to active employment at a rate of compensation not less than

his final compensation at time of his last retirement, the balance of his accumulated contributions reduced by the member's annuity payments received, shall be transferred to the annuity savings fund and credited to his individual account therein.

Control and Expenditure of Funds; Investments; Warrants; Expenses; Deposits - R.S. 11:1483

- A. The board of trustees shall have complete control of the funds and shall have the power to draw such sums of money from its treasury for expenses as hereinafter provided for and to invest such funds in the name of the board of trustees of the fund in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 11:263. All securities shall be deposited with the secretary of the board of trustees of the retirement fund and shall be subject to the orders of the said board.
- B. All monies ordered to be paid from the retirement fund to any person or persons, shall be paid by the secretary of said board only upon warrants signed by the president and secretary of the board and countersigned by the treasurer thereof, except in event of physical disability of any one of these officers, then the vice president is authorized to sign provided certification is furnished by a medical doctor that said officer is disabled. No warrant shall be drawn except by orders of the board, duly entered upon the records of the proceedings of the board. In the event the said retirement fund, or any part thereof, shall by orders of said board, or otherwise, be deposited in any bank or banks, all interest or money which may be paid on account of any sum on deposit, shall belong to and constitute a part of said funds; provided that nothing herein contained shall be construed as authorizing said secretary to deposit said fund or any part thereof, unless so authorized by the board.
- C. The board of trustees shall have authority to instruct the secretary to reimburse each member for any actual expenses incurred in connection with his official duties on this board; or to pay any other incidental expenses which the board might incur in the performance of its official duties, provided said total annual expenses of the board of trustees do not exceed one per cent of the annual receipts of the assessors' retirement fund.
- D. The board shall deposit all monies received by it in the bank or banks selected by the board of trustees, which deposits are secured under the federal insurance plan to the extent thereof and the balance by collateral in like amount posted as directed by the board.

Reversion of Funds Prohibited - R.S. 11:1484

- A. At no time shall it be possible for the plan assets to be used for, or diverted to, any person or purpose other than for the exclusive benefit of the members and their beneficiaries, except that contributions made by the employer may be returned to the employer if the contribution was made due to a mistake of fact and the contribution is returned within one year of the mistaken payment of the contribution.

- B. The amount of any contribution returned shall not exceed the difference between the amount actually contributed and the amount which would have been contributed had there been no mistake of fact and shall not include the earnings attributable to such contribution. The amount of the contributions returned shall be reduced by any losses attributable to the contribution, and no participant shall have his benefit payable hereunder reduced by the return of the contribution to less than such benefit would have been had the returned contribution never been made.

- C. Notwithstanding the above, if the system is terminated and all obligations under the system are fully funded and provided for, then any excess funds held by the system shall be returned to the employer.

EXCESS BENEFIT PLAN

Establishment of Plan - R.S. 11:1491

There is hereby created a separate, unfunded, non-qualified excess benefit plan containing the terms and provisions set forth in this Part and intended to be a qualified governmental excess benefit arrangement, as defined in Section 415(m)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.¹

¹ 26 U.S.C.A § 415 (m)(3)

Definitions - R.S. 11:1492

- A. All definitions prescribed in Part I of this Chapter are applicable to the plan created pursuant to this Part, unless a different definition is set forth in this Part or the context in which a term is used in this Part indicates a different meaning than that prescribed in Part I of this Chapter.
- B. "Excess benefit participant" shall mean any member whose retirement benefit, as determined on the basis of all qualified plans without regard to the limitations of R.S. 11:1458 and comparable provisions of other qualified plans of the employer, would exceed the maximum benefit permitted under Section 415 of the Internal Revenue Code.
- C. "Maximum benefit" shall mean the retirement benefit a member is entitled to receive from the fund set forth in Part III of this Chapter, in any month after giving effect to R.S. 11:1458 and any similar provisions of any other qualified plans designed to conform to Section 415 of the Internal Revenue Code.¹
- D. "Unrestricted benefit" shall mean the monthly retirement benefit a member, or the spouse, child, or single dependent parent of a member, would have received under the terms of all qualified plans of the employer, except for the restrictions of R.S. 11:1458 and any similar provisions of any other qualified plans designed to conform to Section 415 of the Internal Revenue Code.

¹ 26 U.S.C.A § 415

Benefit Provided - R.S. 11:1493

- A. An excess benefit participant who is receiving benefits from the fund is entitled to a monthly benefit under this excess benefit plan in an amount equal to the lesser of:
 - (1) The member's unrestricted benefit less the maximum benefit.
 - (2) The amount by which the member's monthly benefit from the fund has been reduced because of the limitations of R.S. 11:1458.

- B. A retirement benefit payable under this excess benefit plan shall be paid in the form and at the time it would have been paid as a monthly pension under the fund, except for the limitations under R.S. 11:1458 and Section 415 of the Internal Revenue Code.¹ Each optional benefit form permitted under this excess benefit plan shall be the actuarial equivalent of each other permitted benefit form.
- C. This plan shall be administered by the board. Except as provided to the contrary by this Part, the rights, duties, and responsibilities of the board shall be the same for this excess benefit plan as for the fund set forth in Part I of this Chapter.
- D. The actuary employed by the board is responsible for determining the amount of benefits that may not be provided under the fund solely because of the limitations of R.S. 11:1458 and Section 415 of the Internal Revenue Code and thus, the amount of contributions that will be made to this excess benefit plan, rather than to the fund.
- E. The actuary designated in R.S. 11:1461 shall also provide advice to the board for this excess benefit plan.

¹ 26 U.S.C.A § 415

Contributions - R.S. 11:1494

- A. (1) Contributions may not be accumulated under this excess benefit plan to pay future retirement benefits. Instead, each payment of contributions by the employer that would otherwise be made to the fund shall be reduced by the amount, determined by the board as necessary to meet the requirements for retirement benefits under this excess benefit plan, until the next payment of contributions is expected to be made to the fund by the employer.
- A. (2) The employer shall then pay to this excess benefit plan, out of the contributions that would otherwise have been made to the fund, no later than the fourteenth day before the date of each distribution of monthly retirement benefits is required to be made from this excess benefit plan, the amount necessary to satisfy the obligation to pay monthly retirement benefits under this excess benefit plan.
- B. The board shall satisfy the obligation of this excess benefit plan to pay retirement benefits out of the employer contributions so transferred.
- C. The employer contributions otherwise required to be made to the fund and any other qualified plans of the employer shall be divided into those contributions required to pay retirement benefits pursuant to this Part, and those contributions paid into and accumulated to pay the maximum benefits required by any such other qualified plans.
- D. Employer contributions made to provide retirement benefits pursuant to this Part may not be commingled with the monies of the fund or any other qualified plan, nor may this plan ever receive any transfer of assets from the fund.

GENERAL PROVISIONS THAT APPLY TO ASSESSORS' RETIREMENT FUND

(Found in R.S. 11:1 through R.S. 11:316)

ACTUARIAL VALUATION METHODS

Methods of Actuarial Valuation Established – R.S. 11:22

- A. The provisions of this Section govern the funding methods utilized by state and statewide public retirement systems to determine actuarially required contributions.
- B. The following funding methods shall be utilized to determine actuarially required contributions:
 - (1) Assessors' Retirement Fund: frozen attained age normal.
- C. For any of the systems set forth in Subsection B of this Section which have established excess benefit plans, the present value of benefits shall for funding purposes include the present value of any credits granted to employers for contributions to such excess benefit plans.

Unfunded Accrued Liabilities; Amortization – R.S. 11:42

- A. The provisions of this Section govern the amortization of unfunded accrued liabilities of the state and statewide public retirement systems referenced in Subsection B hereof, as provided by said Subsection B.
- B. The provisions of this Subsection shall be implemented and accomplished by the governing authorities of the state and statewide public retirement systems as set forth herein.
 - (1) Assessors' Retirement Fund. The unfunded accrued liability, as of September 30, 1989, determined under the funding method specified in R.S. 11:22(B)(1), shall be amortized over a forty year period, commencing with fiscal year ending 1990, with payments forming an annuity increasing at three and one-half percent annually.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Employee Contributions Established - R.S. 11:62

Employee contributions to state and statewide public retirement systems shall be paid at the following rates:

- (1) Assessors' Retirement Fund - 8%.

Ad Valorem Tax Contributions Established – R.S. 11:82

- A. Ad valorem tax contributions to state and statewide public retirement systems shall be as follows:
 - (1) Assessors' Retirement Fund. Dedicated funds are .25% (1% for Orleans Parish) of aggregate taxes shown to be collectible by the tax rolls of each parish.
- B. Provided, however, in the event the employer contributions become zero and employee contributions and dedicated taxes prescribed in this Section provide more than the total actuarially required contribution to any system, then the Public Retirement Systems' Actuarial Committee shall determine the amount of the aggregate taxes shown on the tax rolls of each parish that shall be remitted to such retirement system.

Employer Contributions; Determination; Statewide Systems - R.S. 11:103

- A. The provisions of this Section are applicable with respect to the statewide public retirement systems, whose benefits are not guaranteed by Article X, Section 29(A) and (B) of the Louisiana Constitution.
- B.
 - (1) Except as provided in Subsection C of this Section, for each fiscal year beginning with the fiscal year ending 1990, for each statewide retirement system, the employer contribution rate shall equal the actuarially required employer contribution as determined under Paragraph (3) of this Subsection, divided by the total projected payroll of all active members of the particular system for the fiscal year. Active member payroll shall include participants in the Deferred Retirement Option Plan, but only if direct employer contributions are made based on salaries for such participants.
 - (2) At the end of each fiscal year, the difference between the actuarially required employer contribution for the fiscal year, as determined under Paragraph (3) of this Subsection by the most recent actuarial valuation, and the amount of employer contributions actually received for the fiscal year, excluding any amounts received for the extraordinary purchase of additional benefits or service, shall be determined to be

that fiscal year's short fall amount.

- (3) The actuarially required employer contribution for each fiscal year, commencing with fiscal year ending 1997, shall be that dollar amount equal to the sum of:
 - (a) The employer's normal cost for that fiscal year, computed as of the first of the fiscal year using the system's actuarial funding method as specified in R.S. 11:22 and taking into account the value of employee contributions, including interest thereon, such employer's normal cost projected to the middle of the fiscal year at the assumed actuarial interest rate.
 - (b) The projected noninvestment related administrative expenses for the fiscal year.
 - (c) That fiscal year's payment, computed at the first of that fiscal year and projected to the middle of that fiscal year, at the actuarially assumed interest rate necessary to amortize previous years' shortfall amounts, if any, in the same manner as provided in Subsection (B)(3)(e)(i) of this Section if an immediate gain funding method is used; otherwise, amortized over the future working lifetime of current participants.
 - (d) That fiscal year's payment, computed as of the first of that fiscal year using that system's amortization method specified in R.S. 11:42, necessary to amortize the unfunded accrued liability as of the end of the fiscal year ending 1989, such unfunded accrued liability computed using the system's actuarial funding method as specified in R.S. 11:22, such payment projected to the middle of that fiscal year at the actuarially assumed interest rate.
 - (e) That fiscal year's payment, computed as of the first of that fiscal year and projected to the middle of that fiscal year at the actuarially assumed interest rate, necessary to amortize changes in actuarial liability due to:
 - (i) Not Applicable to the Assessors' Retirement Fund
 - (ii) Not Applicable to the Assessors' Retirement Fund
 - (iii) Changes in actuarial funding methods, excluding changes in methods of valuing of assets, such payments to be computed as level dollar amounts over a period of thirty years from the year of occurrence of the change.
 - (iv) (aa) Except as provided in Subitem (bb), changes in actuarial accrued liability, computed using the actuarial funding method as specified in R.S. 11:22, due to legislation changing plan provisions, such payments to be computed in the manner and over the time period specified in the legislation creating the change or, if not specified in such legislation, as level dollar amounts over a period of fifteen years from the year of occurrence of the change.
 - (bb) Not Applicable to the Assessors' Retirement Fund
- (4) At the end of the fiscal year during which the assets, excluding the outstanding

balance due to Subparagraph (B)(3)(c) of this Section, exceed the actuarial accrued liability, the amortization schedules contained in Subparagraphs (B)(3)(d) and (e) of this Section shall be fully liquidated and assets in excess of the actuarial accrued liability shall be amortized as a credit in accordance with the provisions of Subparagraph (B)(3)(e) of this Section.

- C. The net direct actuarially required employer contribution for each fiscal year, beginning with fiscal year ending 1997, shall be that dollar amount equal to the contribution rate specified in Subparagraph (2)(b) of this Subsection, if any, increased by the cost itemized in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection, reduced by the contributions itemized in Paragraph (2) of this Subsection, rounded to the nearest one-quarter percent:
 - (1) The gross required employer contribution as provided in Paragraph (B)(1) of this Section.
 - (2) Elements of the gross employer contributions:
 - (a) Dedicated ad valorem taxes and revenue sharing funds.
 - (b) Not applicable to the Assessors' Retirement Fund
 - (c) Not applicable to the Assessors' Retirement Fund
- D. Not Applicable to the Assessors' Retirement Fund
- E. Not Applicable to the Assessors' Retirement Fund

Employer Contributions; Determination Date; Notification – R.S. 11:104

- A. The employer contribution rate as referred to in this Subpart shall be determined by the Public Retirement Systems' Actuarial Committee by the fifteenth day of January of each year for those systems that have a fiscal year ending on the thirtieth day of June.
- B. Within ten business days thereafter, the chairman of the Public Retirement Systems' Actuarial Committee shall notify each employer or retirement system that the referenced rate will be recommended to the legislature for approval, or that the given rate shall be used by the employer or retirement system, whichever is appropriate under the provisions contained in R.S. 11:102 and 103.

Employer Contributions; Maintaining Rates – R.S. 11:105

- A. The provisions of this Section shall apply to the following statewide public retirement systems:
 - (1) Assessors' Retirement Fund.

- B. Notwithstanding the provisions of R.S. 11:103 and 104, in any fiscal year during which the net direct employer contribution rates would otherwise be decreased for any retirement system or fund referenced in Subsection A of this Section, the board of trustees of any such system or fund is hereby authorized to maintain the net direct employer contribution rate in effect at the time that the decrease would otherwise occur according to R.S. 11:103.
- C. If the board of trustees of any retirement system or fund referenced in Subsection A of this Section elects, pursuant to Subsection B of this Section, to maintain the net direct employer contribution rate in effect at the time that a decrease would otherwise occur according to R.S. 11:103, any excess funds resulting from maintaining the contribution rate shall be combined with any contribution surplus, or offset by any contribution shortfall, and the resulting balance, if greater than zero, shall be applied, until exhausted, exclusively for and in the order of the following purposes:
 - (1) To reduce the frozen unfunded accrued liability, if any; however, the future payments on the frozen unfunded accrued liability shall continue to be made according to the original amortization schedule established to initiate compliance with the requirements of Article X, Section 29(E)(2)(c) and (3) of the Constitution of Louisiana until the outstanding balance is fully liquidated.
 - (2) To reduce the outstanding amortization charge base or bases with the greatest number of outstanding payments; however, the future payments on the base or bases shall continue to be made according to the original amortization schedule until the outstanding balance is fully liquidated.
 - (3) To establish a contribution surplus amortization base or add to the otherwise established contribution surplus base for the fiscal year if an immediate gain funding method is used, or to reduce the present value of future employer normal costs if a spread gain funding method is used.

Additional Employer Contributions; Increasing Rates - R.S. 11:106

- A. The provisions of this Section shall apply to the Assessors' Retirement Fund.
- B. Notwithstanding the provisions of R.S. 11:103, 104, and 105, the board of trustees of any retirement system or fund to which this Section applies is authorized to require a net direct contribution rate of up to three percent more than the rate determined under R.S. 11:103.
- C. If the board of trustees of any retirement system or fund referenced in Subsection A of this Section elects, pursuant to Subsection B of this Section, to increase the net direct employer contribution rate determined under R.S. 11:103, any excess funds resulting from increasing the contribution rate shall be combined with any contribution surplus, or offset by any contribution shortfall, and the resulting balance, if greater than zero, shall be applied, until exhausted, exclusively for and in the order of the following purposes:

- (1) To reduce the frozen unfunded accrued liability, if any; however, the future payments on the frozen unfunded accrued liability shall continue to be made according to the original amortization schedule established to initiate compliance with the requirements of Article X, Section 29(E)(2)(c) and (3) of the Constitution of Louisiana until the outstanding balance is fully liquidated.
- (2) To reduce the outstanding amortization charge base or bases with the greatest number of outstanding payments; however, the future payments on the base or bases shall continue to be made according to the original amortization schedule until the outstanding balance is fully liquidated.
- (3) To establish a contribution surplus amortization base or add to the otherwise established contribution surplus base for the fiscal year, if an immediate gain funding method is used, or to reduce the present value of future employer normal costs, if a spread gain funding method is used.

Additional Employer Contributions; Reducing Rate Decreases - R.S. 11:107

- A. The provisions of this Section shall apply to the following statewide public retirement systems or funds:
 - (1) The Assessors' Retirement Fund.
- B. Notwithstanding the provisions of R.S. 11:103, 104, and 105(B), in any fiscal year during which the net direct employer contribution rates would otherwise be decreased for any retirement system or fund to which this Section applies, the board of trustees of that system or fund is hereby authorized to set the employer contribution rate at any point between the previous year's employer contribution rate and the decreased rate that would otherwise occur pursuant to R.S. 11:103 and 104. Any excess funds resulting from the additional contributions shall be applied as provided in R.S. 11:105(C).

Funding Deposit Account – R.S. 11:107.1

- A. The provisions of this Section shall apply to the following statewide public retirement systems or funds, hereinafter referred to in this Section as "systems":
 - (1) The Assessors' Retirement Fund.
- B.
 - (1) There shall be established a funding deposit account for each system to which this Section applies. Such account shall be credited and charged solely as provided in this Section.
 - (2) The balance in the account shall be set equal to zero as of December 31, 2008.
 - (3) Notwithstanding any provision of this Subpart to the contrary, for any fiscal year ending on or after December 31, 2008, in which the board of trustees of a system elects or previously elected to set the net direct employer contribution rate higher

than the minimum recommended rate pursuant to this Subpart, all surplus funds collected by the system shall be credited to the system's funding deposit account.

- C. The funds in the account shall earn interest annually at the board-approved actuarial valuation interest rate, and such interest shall be credited to the account at least once a year.
- D. Beginning with the first valuation on or after December 31, 2008, the board of trustees of each system may in any fiscal year direct that funds from the account be charged for the following purposes:
 - (1) To reduce the unfunded accrued liability as prescribed in this Subpart.
 - (2) To reduce the present value of future normal costs for systems using an aggregate funding method.
 - (3) To pay all or a portion of any future net direct employer contributions.
- E. In no event shall the funds charged from the account exceed the outstanding account balance.
- F. If the board of trustees of a system elects to charge funds from the funding deposit account pursuant to Paragraph (D)(3) of this Section, the percent reduction in the minimum recommended employer contribution rate otherwise applicable shall be determined by dividing the interest-adjusted value of the charges from the funding deposit account by the projected payroll for the fiscal year for which the contribution rate is to be reduced.
- G. For funding purposes, any asset value utilized in the calculation of the actuarial value of assets of a system shall exclude the funding deposit account balance as of the asset determination date for such calculation.
- H. For all purposes other than funding, the funds in the account shall be considered assets of the system.

SPECIAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO AGE

Compulsory Retirement Prohibited; Exceptions - R.S. 11:133

- A. Except as provided in Subsection B of this Section, in accordance with the provisions of the federal Age Discrimination in Employment Act,¹ no employee of the state of Louisiana, or any political subdivision thereof, or of any district, board, commission, or other agency of either, or of any other such public entity shall be separated from the public service by his appointing authority because of the employee having attained any particular age following employment by the appointing authority.
- B. Not Applicable to the Assessors' Retirement Fund.

¹ 29 U.S.C.A § 621 et seq.

Retention of Credits – R.S. 11:141

- A. Any person who is a member of any actuarially funded system paid for in whole or part from public funds, other than the State Employees' Retirement System of Louisiana, the Louisiana School Employees' Retirement System of Louisiana, and the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana, and who transfers to other public employment where he is no longer eligible for membership in the original retirement system but becomes a member of another actuarially funded system paid for in whole or part from public funds and who has creditable service in the first system for at least ten years, shall have the right to retain membership in the first system, and in the event he becomes eligible for retirement under this second system he shall be entitled to receive a pro rata benefit from each system, each such benefit to be calculated on the years of creditable service and the formula in use in the system from which the benefit is paid.

CREDITS, CREDITABLE SERVICE, RECIPROACITY

Reciprocal Recognition of Credited Service in State, Parochial, and Municipal Systems - R.S. 11:142

- A. A member of any state, municipal, or parochial retirement system with membership service credit in any other state, municipal, or parochial retirement system, or an eligible survivor of a member, shall have the option of combining all service for which the member has credit in every such retirement system in order that eligibility for regular retirement, disability retirement, and survivor's benefits may be acquired, subject to the limitations of this Section; however, such other credited service shall not be recognized until and unless the member has earned at least six months service credit in the member's current system.
- B. To exercise such option, a member shall make application to the system in which he is currently contributing or to which he last contributed if he is not actively contributing to any system at the time of application, or an eligible survivor shall make application to the system in which the member last contributed. The application shall contain the name of all other retirement systems in which the member claims membership service credit and any other necessary information. When the system receives the application it shall forward a copy thereof to each other retirement system in which the member claims credit. Each such application shall contain such information as is mutually agreed upon by the retirement systems involved. Each retirement system receiving the application shall certify to each other retirement system in which the member claims membership service credit the official membership service credit in that retirement system, including specific dates of such service, provided that certification of such agreements for reciprocal service shall be approved by the board of trustees of each such system when application is made by a survivor.
- C. Each of the retirement systems shall keep and retain complete, permanent records on each member, and also shall retain and maintain all contributions and liabilities for service performed by the member in that retirement system.
- D. Eligibility for disability or regular retirement, or for survivor's benefits, shall require the member to meet the highest age and years of service requirements of each system in which he has membership service credit; however, service in any one system sufficient to meet the eligibility requirements of that system shall qualify the member for benefits from that system, but, for the purposes of benefits under this Section, no member shall be eligible to receive benefits from any system so long as he is contributing to another system.
- E. The retirement system in which a member covered by this Section is currently active or in which the member had last actively contributed shall be responsible for coordinating with other retirement systems in which credit is held by promptly notifying each such system when a covered member ceases to be an active member due to resignation, or by death in service, or by application for service or disability retirement or when an inactive member becomes eligible for benefits by reason of attainment of age.

- F. Each system in which a member has membership service credit shall compute the benefits due from that system using its benefit formula in effect on the date of retirement, or on the date of death while in service, and in addition, the following provisions shall apply:
- (1) Only the compensation and years of service actually earned or credited while in that system shall be used in this computation.
 - (2) If the benefit computation of any system requires the use of a minimum number of years, and the member has credit in the system for fewer than the minimum number of years, the benefit shall be a pro rata portion, based upon the membership service actually to his credit in this system, of what the benefit would be if he had credit for the minimum required years of membership service.
 - (3) If two or more systems provide a lump sum benefit as part of the formula benefit, as in the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System, the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana, and the School Employees' Retirement System of Louisiana, but not limited to these systems, each such system shall pay only that percentage of the additional lump sum benefit that credited service in that system represents of total credited service with respect to all of the systems which provide an additional lump sum benefit; however, in no instance shall the total additional lump sum benefit payable by all of the systems be less than the greatest lump sum benefit payable by any of them, and if the total benefit payable as above provided is less than such greatest lump sum benefit, the system having the greatest lump sum benefit shall pay the difference.
 - (4) Each system shall notify each other system in which the member has membership service credit of the amount of benefits payable by it and show the computation of such benefit.
 - (5) All of the retirement systems involved may agree that benefit payments will be made by one system, and that each other system will make appropriate reimbursement to the system making the payment of the amount attributable to it.
- G. No more than one year of membership service shall be credited for any one calendar or fiscal year, and there shall be no duplication of membership service credit for any period, including military service. No more than a total of four years of military service shall be credited unless five years of such credit has been obtained under the rules applicable in a system, in which instance a maximum of five years shall be credited. In the event of duplication of military service credit in more than one system or a total credit for military service in excess of five years, the retirement systems involved shall mutually agree on an appropriate procedure to assure that maximum credit in all systems does not exceed five years.
- H. (1) The total benefits payable from all systems, plus primary employee social security benefits then available by reason of the fact that social security is a part of any of the retirement systems involved, shall not exceed:
- (a) One hundred percent of the highest average compensation on which benefits are based, computed in accordance with Subsection F above.

- (b) The highest benefit that any one of the systems would provide if all service had been credited in that system.
- (2) If the total computation exceeds either (a) or (b) above, then each retirement system shall reduce the benefits to be paid by it in the proportion its benefits represent of total computed benefits.
- I. Membership in any state, municipal, or parochial retirement system for which his employment makes him eligible for membership shall not be denied any employee by reason of attained age if his credited service in another state, municipal, or parochial retirement system, together with his prospective employment in that system until normal retirement age, would make him eligible for regular retirement benefits.
- J. A board of trustees shall have the right to modify or terminate any transfer agreement it has entered into with another system where necessary to comply with this or any future law, or to reflect a policy of the board which is in compliance with laws enacted by the legislature and each board shall adopt such rules and regulations as are necessary to carry out the provisions and intent of this Section. Each board of trustees shall adopt such rules and regulations and establish such records and procedures of proof, not in conflict herewith, as are necessary to carry out the provisions and intent of this Section.
- K. In those retirement systems where thirty-six months or three years is used in the computation of average compensation, the average salary shall be computed on the actual time in the retirement system when the person has less than thirty-six months of service but eighteen or more months of service credit.
- L. Prior to retirement from any system, a member may cancel an application for reciprocal recognition of service credit by notifying in writing each system in which he has credit of his cancellation of his application.

Transfers Between Systems - R.S. 11:143

- A. (1) As provided in Subsection F of this Section, any person who is in active service and is a member of any public retirement or pension system, fund, or plan maintained primarily for officers and employees of the state of Louisiana or of any political subdivision thereof, or of any district, board, commission, or other agency of either, or of any other such public entity who has been a member of such system, fund, or plan for at least six months and who has membership credit in or who transferred service credit from any other such system, fund, or plan shall have the option of transferring all of his credit from every such system, fund, or plan to the system, fund, or plan he is currently contributing to or to the system to which he last contributed.
- (2) (a) Any member who transfers credit to the system, fund, or plan to which he last contributed shall be subject to the provisions of this Subsection.

- (b) A member shall only be allowed to execute a reverse transfer one time and the transfer must be executed immediately prior to retirement from the receiving system.
 - (c) The request for a reverse transfer shall be accompanied by the member's application for retirement from the receiving system, and, on the day of the transfer, the member must terminate employment that made him eligible to be a member of the transferring system, and the member's date of retirement shall be made effective on the next business day following the transfer.
 - (d) The member shall be allowed to apply such transferred credit toward attainment of the retirement eligibility requirements of the receiving system.
 - (e) Any member who would not be eligible to retire from the receiving system after the transfer shall not be eligible to execute such a transfer under the provisions of this paragraph.
 - (f) Any member who executes a reverse transfer and is reemployed by an employer who is covered by the transferring system shall be ineligible for membership in the transferring system after the effective date of the transfer.
 - (g) After the transfer is executed, the member who is transferring credit shall be ineligible for active contributing membership in the receiving system, unless the member is:
 - (i) Employed in a capacity which would require membership in the receiving system as a condition of employment, and
 - (ii) The member complies with all applicable provisions of law regarding the reemployment of a retiree.
 - (h) A reverse transfer shall be subject to the provisions of Subsection D of this section.
- B. All credit that the employee had in the system, fund, or plan from which he is transferring, whether regular service credit, prior service credit, military service credit, or other credit, shall be transferred, except as provided below:
- (1) In the event that the member has six months or more of concurrent service in the transferring and receiving systems, the concurrent service in the transferring system and the funds attributable to such service shall remain in the transferring system.
 - (2) In the event that the member has less than six months of concurrent service in the transferring and receiving systems, the concurrent service in the transferring system shall be canceled and the funds attributable to such service shall be transferred to the receiving system.
- C. Except as provided in Paragraph (5) of this Subsection and notwithstanding the provisions of law to the contrary, the system, fund, or plan from which the person transfers such credit

shall transfer to the receiving system, fund, or plan an amount which is the lesser of the following:

- (1) The greater of, the actuarial cost to the receiving system for the service transferred, or all employee contributions from the transferring system.
 - (2) All employee contributions, all employer contributions, provided that in any system, fund, or plan, where the employer contribution is not a fixed percentage of the employee's earnings, an employer contribution which is equal to the employee contribution, in addition to a sum, representing interest, equal to the board-approved actuarial valuation rate of the transferring system, fund, or plan compounded annually, of all contributions per annum for each year of contribution to the date of transfer.
- D.
- (1) In the event that the amount of funds transferred is less than the actuarial cost of the service transferred in the receiving system, the person transferring, except as provided for herein, shall pay the deficit or difference including the interest thereon at the board-approved actuarial valuation rate of the receiving system.
 - (2) In lieu of paying the deficit or difference plus interest, the person may at his option, but only at the time of transfer, be granted an amount of credit in the receiving system, fund, or plan which is based on the amount of funds actually transferred by the transferring system, fund, or plan plus any additional funds less than the deficit paid by the member.
 - (3) If the person transferring had any free service credit in the transferring system, he may transfer said service to the receiving system, but only upon payment of the employer and employee contributions that would have been paid if he had been a member of the receiving system at the time of service, plus interest thereon at the board approved actuarial valuation rate of the receiving system from date of such service until paid.
 - (4) In the event that a person completes a transfer under the provisions of this Section, the retirement percentage factor of the transferring system shall be used to calculate his retirement benefit based on the number of years transferred.
 - (5) Any member of the Louisiana judiciary who took office prior to July 1, 1986, and who transfers service credit from the District Attorneys' Retirement System to another retirement system shall not be required to pay the actuarial cost for such transfer between systems, and the actuarial cost of such transfer shall be paid from the interest earnings of the receiving system which exceed the actuarially projected interest earnings in the fiscal years following such transfer.
- E. After the date on which the transfer is completed, the system, fund, or plan from which the member transfers shall have no future liability with respect to the person who transferred.
- F.
- (1) Each board of trustees or other such governing board shall adopt such rules and regulations, not in conflict herewith, as are necessary to carry out the provisions and intent of this Section and to prevent any duplication of credit.

- (2) Each governing authority shall determine at the first board meeting after January 1, 1986, if transfers into the system will be approved as provided in this Section, and such determination cannot be changed until the first board meeting of each successive year thereafter. The transfer of service credit and funds out of the system shall be at the sole option of the member.
- (3) No governing authority shall approve a transfer in which the transferred amount is less than one hundred percent of the increase in accrued liability to the receiving system created by such transfer; however, the person can pay the difference in the assets to be transferred and the actuarial cost to the receiving system.
- G. (1) A member of a receiving system, fund, or plan must make a written application to the receiving system, fund, or plan requesting a transfer under this Section.
- (2) (a) In the event that a member dies after a written application for a transfer under this Section is received in the office of a receiving system, fund, or plan which normally accepts such transfers, such system, fund or plan shall complete the transfer, and it shall be considered as completed the day before the death of the member.
- (b) A survivor, heir, or the estate of a deceased person or member shall not be allowed to request a transfer under this Section.

Repayment of Refunded Contributions - R.S. 11:144

- A. For purposes of R.S. 11:142 and 143, a member of any state, parochial, or municipal retirement system having credit for at least six months in any such system may repay refunded contributions, plus compounded interest at the board-approved actuarial valuation rate thereon from date of refund until paid, to any other state, parochial, or municipal retirement system in order to reestablish such credited service.
- B. Not applicable to the Assessors' Retirement Fund.

Credit for Military Service - R.S. 11:153

- A. Any member of a state or statewide public retirement system shall be eligible to purchase credit for regular or non-regular military service, subject to the provisions of this Section.
- B. For purposes of this Section:
 - (1) Regular military service shall mean any state or federal full-time active duty military service.
 - (2) Nonregular military service shall mean any state or federal military service, which is not regular service, for which retirement points are assigned for participation in such

service, and shall include but not be limited to duty served in the state national guard, coast guard, or any reserve component of the United States armed forces.

- C. (1) (a) Any member shall be entitled to purchase credit for up to four years of either regular or nonregular military service, or a combination of both not exceeding four years total, provided an application is filed with the appropriate retirement system, together with proof of the inclusive dates of military service performed.
 - (b) Credit for regular service shall be based on one day of retirement credit for each day of full-time active duty service.
 - (c) (i) Credit for nonregular service shall be based on one day of retirement credit for each one of the member's accrued retirement points.
 - (ii) Any member seeking to purchase credit for nonregular military service shall also submit with his application to purchase such credit an official copy of the record of his retirement points as maintained by the member's respective military branch.
 - (2) In order to purchase such credit for military service, the member shall pay into the system the amount required under the provisions of R.S. 11:158. The amount to be paid shall be paid in one lump sum or in such installments as shall be agreed upon by the member and the system's board of trustees, but such amount shall be paid in full within three years after the date of application for such credit.
- D. (1) No member shall be entitled to purchase credit for military service if he has previously received credit for such service in any other public retirement system domiciled in this state if he is receiving any form of retirement benefits from that system.
 - (2) (a) (i) Except as provided in Subparagraph (b) of this Paragraph, no member shall be entitled to purchase credit for military service if he has previously received credit for such service in any retirement system for members of the armed forces of the United States from which plan the member is drawing a regular retirement benefit.
 - (ii) The restriction set forth in this Subparagraph shall not apply to members who are drawing disability benefits based on twenty-five percent or less disability received as a result of military service.
 - (b) Any member who is receiving retirement benefits pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 1223 of Title 10 of the United States Code shall be eligible to purchase credit for military service pursuant to the provisions of this Section, and any such service being purchased may be regular or nonregular service, provided that the service being purchased was rendered prior to the initial date of employment which made him eligible to participate in the applicable Louisiana state or statewide public retirement system.

- E. (1) (a) Except as otherwise provided in this Paragraph, military service shall not be used for purposes of acquiring eligibility for disability or survivor's benefits and shall only be used for purposes of acquiring eligibility for normal retirement benefits.
 - (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph or any other provision of law to the contrary, any retiree who has earned benefits equal to one hundred percent of his average compensation shall be eligible to purchase credit on an actuarial basis under the provisions of this Section, but only for the limited purpose of using such credit for survivor benefits.
- (2) In those systems which authorize retirement with twenty or more years of service at any age, or twenty or more years of service at age fifty, military service credit shall not be computed until after the completion of twenty full years of service. In addition, such military service credit shall not be used to meet the minimum eligibility requirement of any regular retirement of less than twenty years.
- F. Military service credit shall not be used as the highest thirty-six successive months, or as the highest thirty-six joined months of employment where interruption of service occurred, in computing the average compensation for retirement benefit computation.
- G. No member who has been released or discharged from service under less than honorable conditions shall be eligible to purchase credit for military service pursuant to the provisions of this Section.
- H. Not applicable to the Assessors' Retirement Fund.
- I. Each state and statewide public retirement system shall cause to be promulgated such regulations as are necessary for the administration of purchases made pursuant to this Section.
- J. (1) All purchases of credit for regular military service and service in the state national guard or reserve forces of the United States that were transacted on or before June 30, 1999, shall be governed by the provisions of R.S. 11:153 as that law was in force and effect on the date of the purchase.
 - (2) All purchases of credit for service in the state national guard, coast guard, or reserve forces, which are or were transacted between July 1, 1999 and June 30, 2001, both inclusive, shall be governed by the provisions of R.S. 11:153.1 as that law was in force and effect on the date of the purchase.
 - (3) The provisions of this Section shall apply to all purchases of credit for any military service transacted on and after July 1, 2001.
- K. Not applicable to the Assessors' Retirement Fund.

Tax Sheltering of Employee Contributions to Retirement - R.S. 11:154

- A. The provisions of this Section shall be applicable to the following public retirement systems and pension funds:
 - (6) Assessors' Retirement Fund.
- B. Each board may adopt a plan whereby the employee's contributions to the retirement system shall not be included in the employee's gross income for computation of the taxes under the provisions of the United States Internal Revenue Code. The plan shall provide that the employer pay the employee's share of the contributions directly to the retirement system. The contributions shall be treated as employer contributions only for the purposes of the Internal Revenue Code.
- C. After the adoption of the plan by the board, the employer shall pay the amount of the contribution by a reduction in the salary of the employee or an offset against future salary or a combination of both. These funds shall be paid from the same source of funds which is used in paying earnings to the employee. The employee's participation in the plan shall not be optional.
- D. Repealed by Acts 1997, No. 689, § 2, retroactive to Jan. 1, 1993.
- E. Any deductions from an employee's gross income, during the highest thirty-six consecutive months of employment prior to retirement, for purposes of tax sheltering said deductions under the provisions of this Section shall be included in the base from which retirement benefits are to be computed for the purposes of ascertaining an employee's average compensation.

Receipt of Benefits - R.S. 11:155

Notwithstanding any other provisions of law to the contrary and specifically the laws governing all public, state, municipal, or parochial retirement systems, allowing "optional allowances", no member, retiree, beneficiary, or survivor shall be entitled to receive his benefit in a lump sum, or actuarial equivalent lump sum, or a lump sum of equivalent actuarial value and shall only receive his benefit in equal monthly benefits payable throughout life or the legally allowed time if a shorter time is specified by the laws governing the specific retirement system, except as provided in R.S. 11:446, 783, 1150, or 1307. This Section shall not apply to the return of accumulated contributions without interest if a person terminates employment and requests such a refund under the laws applicable to the systems.

Purchase of Service Credit in Public Retirement Systems; Price - R.S. 11:158

- A. (1) Effective July 1, 1986, the provisions of this Section shall govern the payment required with respect to the otherwise authorized purchase of service credit in the

- public retirement or pension systems, funds, and plans referenced in Subsection B of this Section.
- (2) This Section does not repeal provisions relative to the purchase of service credit contained within the laws governing the covered systems, or which are otherwise applicable thereto, but it is to be controlling in cases of conflict as to the payment required in order to receive the credit.
 - (3) This Section is inapplicable with respect to the purchase of service credit which is in the form of a repayment of a refund.
- B. The provisions of this Section are applicable to the following public retirement or pension systems, funds, and plans:
- (1) Assessors Retirement Fund
- C. (1) In order for a purchase of service credit, which is otherwise authorized, to be effective, there shall be paid into the applicable retirement or pension system, fund, or plan the greater of either:
- (a) An amount which, on an actuarial basis, totally offsets the increase in accrued liability of the system resulting from the purchase of the credit.
 - (b) The employee and employer contributions that would have been paid to the applicable system, fund, or plan, plus interest thereon, compounded annually from the time the contributions would have been paid, at the assumed actuarial valuation rate of interest of the system, fund, or plan in which the credit is being purchased.
- (2) (a) The amount payable shall be calculated based on the actuarial funding method, assumptions, and tables in use by the system at the time of application for credit.
- (b) The actuary may modify the assumptions utilized to reflect the effects of anti-selection.

Funds or Benefits Payable to a Succession - R.S. 11:165

When funds or benefits are payable to the succession of a deceased member or retiree of a state or statewide retirement system, the retirement system shall be considered an employer for purposes of R.S. 9:1515, and the funds or benefits may be paid to the surviving spouse or major child in accordance with that statute, regardless of whether the funds or benefits were payable to the deceased member or retiree himself, or only to his succession.

STATEMENTS AND REPORTS

Submission of Reports to Legislature – R.S. 11:171

- A. Each actuarially funded state, municipal, parochial, or other retirement system as supported in whole or in part by public funds shall submit to the chairmen of the standing committees on retirement of the House of Representatives and the Senate, at least thirty days prior to the beginning of each regular session of the legislature, a copy of the most recent official actuarial report prepared by the system's fully accredited actuarial firm, together with a financial statement of the system for the fiscal year immediately preceding each such session of the legislature. The actuarial report shall include but not be limited to an actuarial evaluation of the assets and liabilities of the system; actuarial assumptions and considerations; cost of living adjustment evaluations, where applicable; and a five-year projection of cash flow requirements, with the number of retirees and amounts of benefits based on an annual basis.

- B. Each state, municipal, parochial and other retirement system supported in whole or in part by public funds which is not actuarially funded shall submit to the chairman of the standing committees on retirement of the House of Representatives and the Senate, at least thirty days prior to the beginning of each regular session of the legislature, a certified statement of the condition of the system for the fiscal year immediately preceding each session of the legislature. The certified statement of condition shall include but not be limited to a statement of the assets and liabilities of the retirement system; cost of living adjustments, where applicable; and an estimated five-year projection of cash flow requirements with the number of retirees and amounts of benefits listed on an annual basis.

Audit Reports; Certified Public Accountants – R.S. 11:173

- A. This Section shall be applicable to the following public retirement systems:
 - (5) Assessors' Retirement Fund.

- B. The board of trustees of each of the retirement systems enumerated in Subsection A shall have an annual audit of the system performed by a certified public accountant at the expense of the system or performed in accordance with R.S. 24:513. A copy of the report shall be forwarded to the chairman of the House Committee on Retirement and the chairman of the Senate Committee on Retirement.

Death Reports – R.S. 11:174

- A. By the tenth day of each month, the secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals shall send to each retirement system and pension fund enumerated in Subsection B hereof, a report, certified as correct over his signature or the signature of his authorized representative, containing the name, date of birth, date of death, address, and sex of each person who died in the state within the preceding calendar month.
- B. The provisions of Subsection A shall be applicable to the following public retirement systems and pension funds:
 - (5) Assessors' Retirement Fund.
- C. The director of the system shall have the custody and control of these reports. Such reports shall be confidential and shall not be considered as public records under R.S. 44:1, et seq. The information received by the retirement systems and pension funds listed herein shall be used for statistical and administrative purposes only and shall not be divulged to any person or persons for any reason, except that the department may authorize the Social Security Administration to share information on name, date of death, place of death, sex, race, and date of birth as necessary with federal and state agencies for the sole purpose of identifying payments erroneously issued to beneficiaries after their deaths.

Membership Information; Public Access – R.S. 11:175

- A. In addition to the public records that are made accessible pursuant to the provisions of R.S. 44:16, any person of the age of majority shall be eligible to inspect, copy or reproduce, or obtain a reproduction of the following information from the records of any public retirement system, plan, or fund regarding any active member of the system, plan, or fund:
 - (1) The name of the employing agency or agencies and the dates of any employment of the member in which the member has been eligible for membership in the system, plan, or fund.
 - (2) The salary reported by the member's employer or employers for the purpose of determining contributions paid or payable to the system and the number of years of service credited to the member's account.
 - (3) The amount of benefits paid or payable to the member's Deferred Retirement Option Plan account, if any.
- B. Any information requested pursuant to this Section shall be provided by the system in accordance with the laws relative to public records, R.S. 44:1 et seq.

Operating Budget Approval – R.S. 11:176

- A. Each state and statewide public retirement system shall submit its proposed annual operating budget to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget for its review.
- B. The operating budgets of state public retirement systems shall be subject to the approval of the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget. At no time shall a state public retirement system make any expenditures or obligate itself for items which deviate from its approved operating budget.
- C.
 - (1) A state public retirement system may submit a proposed modification to its approved annual operating budget to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget for its review and approval at any time during the course of the fiscal year.
 - (2) A statewide public retirement system shall submit any modification to its annual operating budget proposed at any time during the course of the fiscal year to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget for its review.

RETIREMENT BOARDS

Composition of Governing Boards of State and Statewide Systems; Per Diem and Expenses - R.S. 11:181

- A. Not applicable to the Assessors' Retirement Fund.
- B. Notwithstanding any other provision of law contained in any of the laws governing the statewide retirement systems or funds listed in this Subsection, or any other laws to the contrary, the chairman of the House Committee on Retirement and the chairman of the Senate Committee on Retirement, or their designees, shall serve as voting ex officio members of the governing boards of each of the following statewide retirement systems or funds:
 - (1) The Assessors' Retirement Fund.
- C. A majority of the members shall constitute the quorum necessary for meetings of these governing boards unless a greater number is specified by statute.
- D. Except as provided in Subsection E of this Section, the members of the governing boards of the above enumerated retirement systems or the designees of members for whom designees are authorized shall receive for attendance at meetings of the boards or committees thereof a per diem of seventy-five dollars per day plus the normal expense allowance allowed state employees by the division of administration, provided funds are available for this purpose. There shall be no such per diem payment for those meetings in excess of the number allowed by law.
- E. The chairmen of the House and Senate committees on retirement, or their designees if members of the legislature, shall receive for attendance at meetings of the governing boards of the above enumerated retirement systems the same per diem and expenses as they receive for attendance at legislative committee meetings, and from the same sources.

Boards of Trustees of State and Statewide Public Retirement Systems; Per Diem and Expenses – R.S. 11:182

- A. (1) Notwithstanding any other provisions of law to the contrary, the members of the boards of trustees of the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System, the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana, the Louisiana School Employees' Retirement System, the Municipal Police Employees' Retirement System, the State Police Pension and Retirement System, the Parochial Employees' Retirement System of Louisiana, the Municipal Employees' Retirement System of Louisiana, the Firefighters' Retirement System, the Assessors' Retirement Fund, the Clerks' of Court Retirement and Relief Fund, the Registrars of Voters Employees' Retirement System, the Sheriffs' Pension and Relief Fund, and the District Attorneys' Retirement System

shall receive for attendance at meetings of the boards a per diem of seventy-five dollars per meeting plus the normal expense allowance, provided funds are available for this purpose.

- (2) If more than one board meeting occurs during any seven calendar day period, members shall receive per diems only for such board meetings which exceed three hours in duration. However, at least one per diem shall be paid for such seven calendar day period in which there occurs at least one board meeting. No more than one per diem shall be paid for more than one board meeting in one calendar day. Mileage expenses for attendance at board meetings shall not be allowed when travel to such meetings takes place in a governmentally owned vehicle, nor shall more than one member be reimbursed for mileage when more than one member travels to a board meeting in the same vehicle.

- B. The boards as enumerated herein shall receive per diem for each meeting required by law. There shall be no such per diem payments for those meetings above and beyond the number required by law.

Board Members Subject to Code of Governmental Ethics – R.S. 11:183

Any member of a state or statewide retirement system board of trustees who does not hold an office by virtue of an election conducted pursuant to the Louisiana Election Code shall be deemed a public employee for purposes of compliance with Chapter 15 of Title 42 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950.

Meetings of State and Statewide Retirement Boards and Committees – R.S. 11:184

By December first of each calendar year, the board of trustees of each state and statewide retirement system shall submit to the House and Senate committees on retirement a proposed schedule of all board and committee meetings for the following calendar year. The proposed schedule shall be subject to review by the committees, and the chairman of either committee may request changes in the proposed schedule of any system in order to avoid conflicting meetings or for any other purpose.

Educational Requirements for Members of Retirement System Boards of Trustees – R.S. 11:185

- A. Not applicable to the Assessors' Retirement Fund.
- B. The provisions of this Section shall apply to the following statewide retirement systems:

- (1) The Assessors' Retirement Fund.
- C.
- (1) For purposes of this Section "actuarial science" means the application of mathematical and statistical methods to estimate future payment for benefits, to set forth an orderly and convenient way to provide the funds necessary to make those future payments, to determine the effects of asset and liability experience on pension fund costs, and to study the demographics of plan members, particularly in relation to long-term risk assessments, mortality, and morbidity.
 - (2) For each system to which the provisions of this Section apply, every member of the board of trustees shall complete continuing education or professional development training during each twelve-month period from September first to August thirty-first as provided in this Subsection. By October fifteenth of each year, the board of trustees of each state and statewide retirement system shall submit to the House and Senate committees on retirement a letter stating whether or not each member of that board has met the requirements of this Section in the previous twelve-month period and giving the date or dates upon which the required training hours were completed by each member.
 - (3) Each year, any member to whom this Section applies shall attend at least eight hours of investment training, two hours of actuarial science information education, one hour of education regarding the laws, rules, and regulations applicable to his system, and one hour of instruction on fiduciary duty and ethics. These training hours may be conducted by the staff of the respective retirement systems or by outside experts. Two or more systems may combine any such training. Any member who is elected or appointed to the board for the first time on or after June first shall only be required to comply with the provisions of Paragraph (4) of this Subsection.
 - (4) Except as otherwise provided by the constitution or in R.S. 42:3.1, no board member to whom this Section applies shall receive per diem during any calendar year unless and until he has completed the fiduciary and ethics requirement and at least one hour each of investment, actuarial science, and legal education in the current twelve-month cycle. The system shall submit evidence of training in compliance with this Paragraph to the speaker of the House of Representatives and the president of the Senate within fourteen days after the completion thereof.
 - (5) Additionally, no new board member to whom this Section applies shall be permitted to vote on any matter until he has completed one hour of education in each of the four required areas.

DUAL EMPLOYMENT; DUAL MEMBERSHIP

Dual Employment - R.S. 11:191

- A. Any person who is employed in more than one public employment within this state, and who, by reason of such employment is eligible, as a condition of such employment, to be a member of the public retirement system or fund applicable to employees in each of such public employments, shall be a contributing member of each such retirement system or fund during the term of his employment. In no event shall such person be allowed to earn more than one year of service credit in any one year. Service credit earned in more than one retirement system or fund in any one year shall not be transferred or recognized reciprocally to attain more than one year of service credit in any one system in any one year.
- B. Any person who is a member of any public retirement system or fund on September 6, 1991, who has been employed in any public employment within the state and who has not been allowed to become a member of and to make contributions to the retirement system or fund applicable to employees in such public employment shall be allowed to purchase the service credit to which he would have been entitled in the system had he been an active contributing member of the retirement system or fund during the full term of his employment, by paying to the retirement system or fund an amount that totally offsets the actuarial cost of the receipt of the service credit. The employer for that employment may pay one-half of the actuarial cost of the receipt of the service credit; however, if the employer pays one-half of the actuarial cost for one employee, the employer shall pay one-half of the actuarial cost for all employees purchasing service credit under this Section provided the respective retirement system has a policy, in effect prior to August 15, 1995, for purchase of such service credit. If a retirement system does not have a policy for purchase of service credit as provided in this Subsection, then the employee shall pay the entire actuarial cost of the receipt of service credit provided in this Section.

Overpayment of Benefits; Corrections; Repayment - R.S. 11:192

Whenever any state, parochial, or municipal retirement system or pension fund pays any sum of money or benefits to a retiree, beneficiary, or survivor which is not due them, the board of trustees shall adjust the amount payable to the correct amount, and the board is hereby authorized to recover any overpayment by reducing the corrected benefit such that the overpayment will be repaid within a reasonable number of months. The board shall notify the beneficiary, or survivor, of the amount of overpayment in benefits and the amount of the adjustment in benefits, thirty days prior to any reduction from the benefit amount without the overpayment.

DISABILITY RETIREMENT

Assessors' Retirement Fund - R.S. 11:213

- A. A member who becomes disabled, and who files for disability benefits while in service, and who upon medical examination and certification as provided for elsewhere in this Subpart, is found to be totally disabled solely as the result of injuries sustained in the performance of his official duties, or for any cause, provided the member has at least twelve years of creditable service, and provided that the disability was incurred while the member was an active contributing member in active service, shall be entitled to disability benefits under the provisions of R.S. 11:1432. However, if the application for disability benefits is not filed while the member is in service, it shall be presumed that the disability was not incurred while the member was an active contributing member in active service. Such presumption may be overcome only by clear, competent, and convincing evidence that the disability was incurred while the member was an active contributing member in active service.
- B. A member with twenty years creditable service, who after having withdrawn from service prior to reaching retirement age becomes totally and permanently disabled for any cause, is also eligible for disability benefits under the provisions of R.S. 11:1432.

Preexisting Conditions - R.S. 11:216

Any disability claimed by a member of a state or statewide retirement system must have been incurred after commencement of service in the system with which the claim is filed. Disability claims shall not be honored in the case of preexisting conditions.

Disability Vesting - R.S. 11:217

Any member of a state or statewide retirement system who has completed twenty years of creditable service, and who has withdrawn from active service prior to the age at which he is eligible to begin receiving retirement benefits, shall be eligible in the event of total and permanent disability, for the lesser of all nonservice related disability benefits provided by his retirement system, or the normal vested retirement benefit. Upon attaining the normal vested retirement age, his disability benefit shall cease and he shall receive his full vested regular retirement.

**Application and Examination Procedures; Certification of Disability –
R.S. 11:218**

- A. Any eligible member of a state or statewide retirement system listed in this Subpart who becomes disabled may apply for disability benefits to the board of trustees of the retirement system of which he is a member. The board of trustees shall require the supervisor of the applicant to submit to the board a report which shall include a brief history of the case and the supervisor's opinion as to the applicant's present ability to perform the normal duties required of him.
- B. The applicant's disability case history shall be examined either by that member of the State Medical Disability Board whose area of specialty most closely relates to the nature of the claimed disability or by an outside physician designated by the board. The examining physician shall either conduct a medical examination of the applicant, or waive the medical examination if obvious and overwhelming medical evidence of disability exists to his satisfaction. The cost of the examination, including costs of laboratory tests, X-rays, and other such direct examination procedures shall be borne by the applicant's retirement system; however, all nondirect costs such as hospital room and board charges and other such expenses shall be borne by the applicant. The initial examination shall be completed within six weeks of the date of the applicant's filing for benefits.
- C. The examining physician shall submit to the appropriate board of trustees an in-depth report which shall include a medical evaluation and his conclusions as to the applicant's claimed disability. Each member of the State Medical Disability Board and any board designated physician shall have full authority to certify total disability in those applicants whom he examines. An applicant shall be considered as certified totally disabled if in the in-depth report submitted by the examining physician to the board of trustees, the physician declares the applicant to be totally incapacitated for the further performance of his normal duties and states that such incapacity is likely to be permanent. In the case of partial disability, the physician shall indicate the degree of incapacity.
- D. (1) Should the examining physician's final certification decision be contested by either the applicant or the applicant's board of trustees, the contesting party shall have the right to a second medical examination if a written appeal is filed within thirty days of notification of the certification decision. This second examination shall be performed by a member of the State Medical Disability Board, or by a board designated physician and shall be at the expense of the requesting party. The second physician shall also submit an in-depth report to the applicant's board of trustees which shall include his medical evaluation and conclusions as to the applicant's claimed disability.

(2) If the second examining physician concurs in the findings and recommendations of the first physician, the first physician's original decision on certification shall stand as final and binding and shall not be subject to further appeal other than through the courts.

- (3) If the second examining physician disagrees with the findings and recommendations of the first physician, the two physicians shall select a third specialist to conduct another examination and prepare and file a third report in the same manner as provided for above. The majority opinion of the three examining physicians shall be final and binding and not subject to further appeal other than through the courts. The cost of the third medical examination shall be borne by the retirement system of the applicant if he is certified as disabled, or by the applicant if his disability claim is denied.
- E. The board of trustees of a state or statewide retirement system shall receive a final and binding disability certification from a member of the State Medical Disability Board, or a board designated physician, and retire an eligible disability applicant within one hundred and twenty days of the applicant's date of filing for disability retirement. Disability benefits shall accrue from the filing date of the application for disability retirement, or from the day following the exhaustion of all sick leave or annual leave claimed by the applicant, whichever is the later.

State Medical Disability Board - R.S. 11:219

- A. The State Medical Disability Board shall be composed of physicians appointed by the board of trustees of each state and statewide retirement system, with each physician serving at the pleasure of the board of trustees that appointed him. Each medical board member shall, according to the provisions of R.S. 11:218, be responsible for either reviewing the medical case histories of or conducting medical examinations of members of any state and statewide retirement systems who apply for disability benefits and for submitting his findings and recommendations to the appropriate boards of trustees.
- B. The board of trustees of the appropriate system may, at their discretion or upon recommendation of a physician on the State Medical Disability Board, call upon physicians in any area of medical specialty and from any area of the state either to review case histories or to conduct regular or appeal examinations of disability retirement applicants. These alternate physicians shall follow the same procedures and have the same authority as regular members of the medical board under the provisions of R.S. 11:218(D).

Certification of Continuing Eligibility for Disability Benefits – R.S. 11:220

- A. Once each year during the first five years following retirement of a member of a state or statewide retirement system on a disability retirement allowance, and once in every three-year period thereafter, the appropriate board of trustees may require any disability beneficiary who has not yet attained the equivalent age of regular retirement to undergo a medical examination, at the beneficiary's expense, such examination to be made at the place of residence of said beneficiary if he is immovable or other place mutually agreed upon, by a physician on the State Medical Disability Board or a board designated specialist.

The examining physician shall submit a report to the board of trustees recommending either the continuation or cessation of the beneficiary's disability status. A contested decision shall be appealed under the procedures described in R.S. 11:218.

- B. Should any disability beneficiary who has not yet attained the equivalent age of regular retirement refuse to submit to at least one medical examination in any such year by a medical board physician designated by the board of trustees, his allowance shall be discontinued until his withdrawal of such refusal, and should his refusal continue for one year all his rights in and to his disability pension shall be revoked by the board of trustees.
- C. The board of trustees, upon receipt of a final and binding report from a member of the State Medical Disability Board declaring a beneficiary's total disability to have ceased, shall order the discontinuation of the disability allowance.
- D. Neither the former receipt of, nor the involuntary termination of disability benefits shall affect the right of any person to any regular retirement benefits based upon age or service to which he is eligible.

Authority of Retirement Boards to Modify Benefits; Earnings Statements - R.S. 11:221

- A. (1) Should the board of trustees of a state or statewide retirement system determine that a disability beneficiary is engaged in a gainful occupation paying more than the difference between his retirement allowance and his average final compensation, and should the board of trustees concur in such report, then the amount of his pension shall be reduced to an amount, which, together with his annuity and the amount earnable by him, shall equal the amount of his average final compensation. Should his earning capacity be later changed, the amount of his pension shall be further modified; however, the new pension shall not exceed the amount of the pension originally granted nor an amount, which, when added to the amount earnable by the beneficiary together with his annuity, equals the amount of his average final compensation.
 - (2) Not Applicable to the Assessors' Retirement Fund
- B. For the purposes of this Section, there shall be an annual cost-of-living adjustment to the average final compensation figure used in the modification computations. This cost-of-living adjustment shall be based upon and directly reflect the annual percentage increase or decrease in the Consumer Price Index for the preceding calendar year.
- C. (1) Every disability beneficiary of a state or statewide retirement system shall submit to the board of trustees by May first of every year, a notarized annual earnings statement detailing his earned income from employment in the previous tax year. Should a beneficiary refuse to submit such an earnings statement by May first, his allowance may be discontinued, without retroactive reimbursement, until the statement is filed.

Should his refusal continue for the remainder of the calendar year, all his rights in and to his disability pension may be revoked by the board of trustees.

- (2) Not applicable to the Assessors' Retirement Fund.
- D.
- (1) Any disability retirement allowance, including that received under authority of R.S. 11:217, shall be modified by the board of trustees when the sum of a whole life annuity equivalent of the benefits or financial awards which accrue to a disability retiree solely as a result of his disability and the disability pension to which the retiree is entitled exceeds the amount of his average final compensation, in such a matter that the sum of the above equals the amount of average final compensation. Should these outside benefits or awards be reduced, exhausted, or terminated, the board of trustees may increase the disability pension then being received by retirees so that the sum of the pension benefits and the outside benefits equals the amount of average final compensation; but in no case shall the disability pension be increased to an amount greater than that to which the beneficiary was originally entitled when he retired.
 - (2) Individual private insurance settlements and separate private retirement accounts and other similar nonsystem resources, including disability benefits from the Social Security Administration and the Veterans Administration, other than worker's compensation, shall be specifically exempted from consideration in any of the above computations. Social security shall not be deducted if the retirement system in which the member is vested provides for joint participation and benefits with social security.
 - (3) For the purposes of this Subsection, there shall be an annual cost-of-living adjustment to the average final compensation figure used in the modification computations. This cost-of-living adjustment shall be based upon and directly reflect the annual percentage increased or decreased in the Consumer Price Index for the preceding calendar year.
 - (4) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, any member who retires while in service on a disability retirement and who has credit for the years of service required for normal retirement shall, upon attainment of the age required for normal retirement, be eligible to receive full normal retirement benefits. To receive such benefits, the member shall file an application with the board of trustees of the retirement system. Upon commencement of regular retirement benefits, disability benefits shall cease.
- E. Not applicable to the Assessors' Retirement Fund.

Restoration to Active Service - R.S. 11:224

If any disability retiree of a state or statewide retirement system who is under the age of sixty years is restored to active service, his retirement allowance shall cease, he shall again become a member of the retirement system, and he shall contribute thereafter at the current rate in effect at the time he is restored to service, and if he contributes for at least three years, the period of time

on disability shall be counted as accredited service for purposes of establishing retirement eligibility, but not for computation of benefits. Any prior service certificate on which his service was computed at the time of his retirement shall be restored to full force and effect and, in addition, upon his subsequent retirement he shall be credited with all his service as a member. This Section shall apply to all disability retirees, regardless of the date they qualified for a disability retirement benefit.

RETIREMENT BENEFIT COMPUTATION

Average Compensation - R.S. 11:231

- A. Notwithstanding any other provisions of law to the contrary, the provisions of this Section shall be applicable, unless specifically exempted in Subsection C below, to all members of the following public retirement systems:
 - (4) Assessors' Retirement Fund.

- B. For purposes of retirement benefit computation, average compensation, or its equivalent, shall be based on the thirty-six highest successive months of employment, or on the highest thirty-six successive joined months of employment where interruption of service occurred. The earnings to be considered for the thirteenth through the twenty-fourth month shall not exceed one hundred and twenty-five percent of the earnings of the first through the twelfth month. The earnings to be considered for the final twelve months shall not exceed one hundred and twenty-five percent of the earnings of the thirteenth through the twenty-fourth month. Nothing herein, however, shall change the method of determining the amount of earned compensation received.

- C.
 - (1) Not applicable to the Assessors' Retirement Fund
 - (2) Not applicable to the Assessors' Retirement Fund
 - (3) Not applicable to the Assessors' Retirement Fund
 - (4) Not applicable to the Assessors' Retirement Fund
 - (5) This Section shall not apply to members of the Assessors' Retirement Fund whose first employment making them eligible for system membership began on or after October 1, 2006.

Earnable Compensation - R.S. 11:233

- A. The provisions of this Section shall apply to the following public retirement or pension systems, funds, and plans:
 - (4) Assessors Retirement Fund.

- B.
 - (1) Except as provided in Paragraph (4) of this Subsection, and without repealing comparable provisions contained within the individual laws governing retirement or pension systems, funds, and plans referenced in Subsection A hereof but superseding any such provisions which conflict with the provisions of this Section, for purposes of calculation of the amount of contributions payable by an employer and employee and for computation of average compensation, earnings or earned or earnable

- compensation, or its equivalent, shall mean the full amount earned by an employee for a given pay period.
- (2) Earnings or earned or earnable compensation shall not include:
 - (a) Overtime unless it is required to be worked in the employee's regular tour of duty;
 - (b) Operating expenses;
 - (c) Use of automobile or motor vehicles;
 - (d) The cost of any insurance paid by the employer;
 - (e) Any allowance for expenses incurred as an incident of employment;
 - (f) Payments made in lieu of unused annual or sick leave; and
 - (g) Bonuses, terminal pay, severance pay, deferred salary, or any other type of irregular or nonrecurring payment.
 - (3) Notwithstanding the provisions of Subparagraph (2)(g) of this Subsection amounts deducted for deferred salary shall be included to calculate the amount of contributions payable by an employer and employee and to compute average compensation with respect to the Firefighters' Retirement System, the Sheriffs' Pension and Relief Fund, and the Parochial Employees' Retirement System of Louisiana.
 - (4)
 - (a) To the extent there is a conflict between the provisions of this Subsection and R.S. 11:1902 as to "earnings", the provisions of R.S. 11:1902 shall prevail.
 - (b) To the extent there is a conflict between the provisions of this Subsection and R.S. 11:2252 as to "earnable compensation", the provisions of R.S. 11:2252 shall prevail.
- C. Contributions required to be made by the employer shall not be considered as part of the employee's rate of pay or compensation.
- D.
 - (1) In addition to other applicable limitations set forth in the plan, and notwithstanding any other provision of the plan to the contrary, for plan years beginning on or after January 1, 1994, the annual compensation of each employee taken into account under the plan shall not exceed the annual compensation limit provided in Internal Revenue Code Section 401(a)(17), of one hundred fifty thousand dollars, as adjusted by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue for increases in the cost-of-living in accordance with Internal Revenue Code Section 401(a)(17)(B). The cost-of-living adjustment in effect for a calendar year applies to any period, not exceeding twelve months, over which compensation is determined (determination period) beginning in such calendar year. If a determination period consists of fewer than twelve months, the annual compensation limit provided in Internal Revenue Code Section 401(a)(17) will be multiplied by a fraction, the numerator of which is the number of months in the determination period, and the denominator of which is twelve.
 - (2)
 - (a) For plan years beginning on or after January 1, 1994, any reference in this plan to the limitation under Internal Revenue Code Section 401(a)(17) shall mean the annual compensation limit of Internal Revenue Code Section 401(a)(17) as set forth in this Subsection.
 - (b) If the compensation for a prior determination period is taken into account in determining an employee's benefits accruing in the current plan year, the compensation for that prior determination period is subject to the annual

compensation limit provided in Internal Revenue Code Section 401(a)(17) in effect for that prior determination period. For this purpose, for determination periods beginning before the first day of the first plan year beginning on or after January 1, 1994, the annual compensation limit provided in Internal Revenue Code Section 401(a)(17) is one hundred fifty thousand dollars.

- (c) Effective for plan years beginning before January 1, 1997, the annual compensation limit provided in Internal Revenue Code Section 401(a)(17) shall apply in the aggregate to highly compensated employees and family members, and the allocation of compensation among such family members as spouses and children under age of nineteen years, shall be made in proportion to their compensation before the application of this Section, except that family members who are not eligible to participate in the plan, who participate but are not eligible to share in the benefit accrual because such persons are not members of the eligible class of employees or have completed fewer than the requisite number of hours of service or have terminated employment with the employer, shall not be allocated any portion of the Internal Revenue Code Section 401(a)(17) compensation limit for the year. The aggregation of compensation among family members shall not apply for plan years beginning on or after January 1, 1997.

SURVIVOR BENEFITS

Survivor Benefits – R.S. 11:234

- A. The provisions of this Section shall be applicable to all members of the following public retirement systems:
 - (1) Assessors' Retirement Fund.
- B. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, any person who, after June 22, 1993, is receiving survivor benefits or becomes eligible to receive survivor benefits shall not have their benefits discontinued upon remarriage if such remarriage occurs after their attaining age fifty-five.

Minor's Benefit Placed in Trust; Payable Under Trust Instrument – R.S. 11:235

- A. If a state or statewide retirement system provides for payment of benefits to the minor child of a deceased member, when there is no surviving spouse or when the surviving spouse does not have legal custody of the minor child, then, notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, benefits shall be paid to such minor child in accordance with the law of the respective state or statewide retirement system except as provided in Subsection B of this Section.
- B. If a trust has been created under Louisiana law by the deceased member for the benefit of the child, the terms of the instrument creating the trust so provide, and the respective system has been provided with a certified copy of the trust document, then the survivor benefit due the minor child shall be paid to the trustee for addition to the trust property. If the trust is contested by any party, the respective retirement system shall withhold all survivor benefit payments or deposit them in the registry of the court if a concursus proceeding is filed, until there is a final binding legal agreement or judgment regarding the proper payment of the survivor benefits.

COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENTS

Purpose; Formula for Distribution - R.S. 11:241

- A. The purpose of this Subpart is to provide with respect to a system of cost-of-living adjustments for retirees of public retirement systems, funds, and plans as specified herein. The provisions of this Subpart do not repeal provisions relative to cost-of-living adjustments contained within the individual laws governing the systems, funds, and plans affected by the Subpart; however, the provisions of this Subpart are to be controlling in cases of conflicts with the individual laws.

- B. Any increase of benefits granted by the legislature or by a state or statewide public retirement system shall be distributed in accordance with the provisions of this Subsection, if the legislature or system does not otherwise specify the terms for such distribution. Any such increase shall be a monthly increase in the benefit of each recipient determined in accordance with the formula " $X(A + B)$ ",¹ where "A" is equal to the number of years of credited service accrued at retirement or at death of the member or retiree, "B" is equal to the number of years since retirement or since death of the member or retiree to June thirtieth of the initial year of such increase, and "X" is equal to one dollar. If there are not sufficient funds to fund "X" at the level of one dollar, then "X" shall be a variable value in accordance with the amount of funds that are available to fund the cost-of-living adjustment.

¹ As appears in enrolled bill.

Cost-of-Living Adjustments; Restrictions - R.S. 11:242

- A. The provisions of this Section do not repeal provisions relative to cost-of-living adjustments contained within the individual laws governing the systems, funds, and plans set forth in Subsection B of this Section. However, the provisions of this Section are to be controlling in cases of conflicts with the individual laws.

- B. The power of the respective governing authorities to amend the respective retirement systems to provide cost-of-living adjustments for each of the following public retirement systems:

(1) The Assessors' Retirement Fund.

shall only be effective in calendar years during which the legislature fails to enact legislation granting cost-of-living adjustments, unless in the legislation granting a cost-of-living adjustment, the legislature specifically authorized the aforementioned systems to amend the respective retirement systems to provide an additional cost-of-living adjustment to retirees or survivors of retired public employees of particular systems, funds, and plans set forth in this Subsection.

- C. The governing authorities of the systems, funds, and plans set forth in Subsection B of this Section shall not amend the respective retirement systems to provide a cost-of-living adjustment to any retiree, beneficiary, or survivor during any calendar year prior to the final adjournment of the regular session of the legislature and shall not do so during the same year within which the legislature has granted a cost-of-living adjustment, unless in the legislation granting a cost-of-living adjustment, the legislature specifically authorizes the governing bodies of the aforementioned systems to amend the respective retirement systems to provide an additional cost-of-living adjustment to a particular system, plan, or fund. The restrictions contained in this Subsection shall be inapplicable with respect to any system, fund, or plan relative to which the legislature has failed to grant a cost-of-living adjustment.
- D. Disability retirees and surviving children or surviving spouses shall not be subject to the restrictions set forth in this Section.
- E. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, commencing at the end of the retirement system's 1985-1986 fiscal year, unless thereafter specifically provided for by the legislature, any public retirement or pension system, fund, or plan covered by this Section shall not provide a cost-of-living increase during any fiscal year until the lapse of at least one-half of the fiscal year, and unless the actuary for the system and the legislative auditor certify that the funded ratio of the system, fund, or plan as of the end of the previous fiscal year equals or exceeds the target ratio as of that date for that system, fund, or plan. If the legislative auditor disagrees with the determination of the system's actuary, the matter shall be determined by majority vote of the Louisiana Public Retirement Systems' Actuarial Committee. For purposes of this Subsection, the funded ratio and target ratio are as defined below:
- (1) The "funded ratio" as of any fiscal year end shall be the ratio of the actuarial value of assets to the actuarial accrued liability under the funding method prescribed by the office of the legislative auditor. The actuarial value of assets and actuarial accrued liability for a system shall be those amounts reported to the office of the legislative auditor in the Annual Report for Public Retirement Systems.
 - (2) The "target ratio" as of any fiscal year end shall be the lesser of (a) or (b) below:
 - (a) One hundred percent.
 - (b) The sum of (i), (ii), (iii), and (iv) below:
 - (i) The funded ratio as of the 1986 fiscal year end.
 - (ii) The number of fiscal years elapsed since the 1986 fiscal year end multiplied by one-thirtieth of the difference between one-hundred percent and the funded ratio of the system as of the 1986 fiscal year end.
 - (iii) The amount of each change in funded ratio due to mergers or changes in actuarial methods or assumptions occurring after the fiscal 1986 year end.

- (iv) For each change in funded ratio due to mergers or changes in actuarial methods or assumptions occurring after the 1986 fiscal year end, an amount of opposite arithmetic sign from such change in funded ratio equal in absolute value to the number of fiscal years since the change in funded ratio multiplied by one-thirtieth of the original change in funded ratio due to the merger or change in actuarial methods or assumptions.

Additional Cost-of-Living Adjustments; Retirees and Beneficiaries Over Age Sixty-Five - R.S. 11:246

- A. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the provisions of this Section shall apply to the following public retirement systems:
 - (1) Assessors' Retirement Fund.
- B. In addition to any other cost-of-living increases which the systems and funds enumerated in Subsection A are authorized by law to provide, the board of trustees may provide, on July 1, 1981 and thereafter, from interest income from investments, a supplemental cost-of-living adjustment to all retirees and beneficiaries who are sixty-five years of age or over, which shall consist of an amount equal to two percent of the benefit being received on October 1, 1977, or on the date the benefit is originally received if retirement commenced after October 1, 1977. No board shall provide such additional increases unless the board has received a rate of return in excess of the valuation interest rate based on the actuarial value of assets for the current fiscal year and the cost-of-living increase provided therein shall be payable only from the investment income in excess of that determined by the application of the valuation interest rate to the actuarial value of assets.

Automatic Cost-of-Living Adjustments – R.S. 11:247

- A. (1) Upon application for retirement or participation in the Deferred Retirement Option Plan, any member of a state or statewide retirement system may elect to receive an actuarially reduced retirement allowance plus an annual two and one-half percent cost-of-living adjustment. Such an election shall be irrevocable after the effective date of retirement or after the beginning date of participation in the Deferred Retirement Option Plan. The retirement allowance together with the cost of-living adjustment shall be certified by the system actuary to be actuarially equivalent to the member's maximum or optional retirement allowance and shall be approved by the system's board of trustees.
- (2) The annual cost-of-living adjustment of such retirees shall be based on the retirement allowance received pursuant to the retirement plan option selected by the member and the monthly benefit being paid pursuant thereto on the effective date of the increase,

inclusive of cost-of-living adjustments paid pursuant to this Section, but exclusive of cost-of-living adjustments paid pursuant to any other provision of law.

- (3)
 - (a) The annual cost-of-living adjustment of any Deferred Retirement Option Plan participant shall be credited to the participant's Deferred Retirement Option Plan subaccount during the participation period.
 - (b) Following participation in the Deferred Retirement Option Plan, the annual cost-of-living adjustment shall be applied to the monthly benefit allowance amount determined by the retirement plan option selected, inclusive of cost-of-living adjustments paid pursuant to this Section, but exclusive of cost-of-living adjustments paid pursuant to any other provision of law. The monthly benefit allowance upon retirement shall reflect the annual benefit adjustments set forth in this Paragraph.
 - (c) Upon retirement of a Deferred Retirement Option Plan participant, the annual cost-of-living adjustment shall also be applied to any supplemental benefit earned after the participation period in accordance with applicable law.
 - (d) The provisions of this Section shall not apply to any participant in a Back-Deferred Retirement Option Plan or Program.
 - (4) If a retiree or Deferred Retirement Option Plan participant has chosen an optional retirement allowance wherein a spouse who has been designated as beneficiary will receive a continuing benefit upon the retiree's or Deferred Retirement Option Plan participant's death, the spouse's cost-of-living adjustment shall be payable based on the spouse's allowance on the effective date of the increase.
- B. The annual cost-of-living adjustment authorized by Subsection A of this Section shall be effective annually on the retirement anniversary date of the retiree and shall be payable to any retiree who is age fifty-five or older and not before the retiree would have attained such age if his spouse is receiving the retirement allowance as his designated beneficiary.
 - C. Additional cost-of-living adjustments granted by the system's board of trustees, as otherwise provided by law, shall be computed on the basis of the retiree's benefit amount on the date such cost-of-living adjustment is granted. If an additional cost-of-living adjustment is scheduled to be effective on the same day as the annual cost-of-living adjustment, the annual cost-of-living adjustment shall be calculated first.
 - D. Upon application for retirement or participation in the Deferred Retirement Option Plan and upon certifying that he is contemplating availing himself of the provisions of this Section, a member of a state or statewide retirement system may request that the system provide actuarial estimates of the benefits that such member would receive pursuant to Subsection A of this Section for the fifth, tenth, and fifteenth year following the member's anticipated retirement date. The system shall provide such actuarial estimates to the member upon request.

- E. This Section shall not be applicable to recipients of disability retirement benefits pursuant to R.S. 11:461 et seq. All other persons receiving disability retirement benefits pursuant to the provisions of this Title shall be eligible to elect this retirement option upon conversion to a service retirement, if applicable, under the provisions of this Title for each state or statewide retirement system.

PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL

Legal Counsel, Certified Public Accountants, Professional Investment Personnel – R.S. 11:251

Notwithstanding any other provisions of law to the contrary, the boards of trustees of the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System, the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana, the Louisiana School Employees' Retirement System, the Municipal Police Employees' Retirement System, the State Police Pension and Retirement System, the Parochial Employees' Retirement System of Louisiana, the Municipal Employees' Retirement System of Louisiana, the Firefighters Retirement System, the Assessors' Retirement Fund, the Clerks of Court Retirement and Relief Fund, the Registrars of Voters Employees' Retirement System, the Sheriffs' Pension and Relief Fund, and the District Attorneys' Retirement System are hereby authorized, jointly or otherwise, to at their option either employ or appoint at their own cost and expense legal counsel, certified public accountants, and professional investment personnel who shall be full-time in-house staff members of said systems, who may be members of the appropriate public retirement system, and who may participate in the state's group life, health, and hospitalization insurance program, or to retain legal counsel to represent said systems who shall not be a member of any of the above systems.

FIDUCIARY AND INVESTMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Purpose – R.S. 11:261

The legislature recognizes that the fiscal integrity of various governments of and within this state and the financial security of employees and citizens of these various governments require that the public retirement or pension systems, funds, and plans maintained primarily for officers and employees of the governments be maintained on a sound actuarial basis. It is further recognized that the fiduciary responsibilities and the investment practices of these systems, funds, and plans are an integral part of such maintenance. It is also recognized that the legislative branch of state government bears a responsibility with respect to this maintenance. Accordingly, the purpose of this Subpart is to provide for the governing of fiduciary responsibilities and investments by public retirement or pension systems, funds, and plans.

Applicability – R.S. 11:262

The provisions of this Subpart are applicable to the following public retirement or pension systems, funds, and plans:

- (1) Assessors' Retirement Fund

Prudent-Man Rule; Investments - R.S. 11:263

- A. The prudent-man rule shall be applied by the systems, funds, and plans governed by this Subpart.
- B. The prudent-man rule shall require each fiduciary of a retirement system and each board of trustees acting collectively on behalf of each system to act with the care, skill, prudence, and diligence under the circumstances prevailing that a prudent institutional investor acting in a like capacity and familiar with such matters would use in the conduct of an enterprise of a like character and with like aims.
- C. This standard requires the exercise of reasonable care, skill, and caution, and is to be applied to investments not in isolation, but in the context of the trust portfolio, and as part of an overall investment strategy, which shall include an asset allocation study and plan for implementation thereof, incorporating risk and return objectives reasonably suitable to that trust.
- D. (1) Notwithstanding the prudent-man rule, no governing authority of any system or fund governed by this Subpart shall invest more than fifty-five percent of the total portfolio in equities, except as provided in Paragraph (2) of this Subsection or in R.S. 11:267.

- (2) The governing authority of any system to which R.S. 11:267(A) is inapplicable may invest more than fifty-five percent of the total portfolio in equities, so long as not more than sixty-five percent of the total portfolio is invested in equities and at least ten percent of the total equity portfolio is invested in one or more index funds which seek to replicate the performance of the chosen index or indices.
- E. The prudent-man rule as used herein shall not prohibit investment in small and emerging businesses, small business investment companies, and venture capital firms as provided in R.S. 11:268 so long as such investment otherwise complies with the provisions of this Section.
- F. Notwithstanding the prudent-man rule, a system board of trustees may but is not required to divest itself of any holding in a company having facilities or employees or both located in a prohibited nation as that term is defined in R.S. 11:312(B)(2).

Fiduciary Relationships - R.S. 11:264

With respect to the systems, plans, and funds governed by this Subpart, each of the following persons shall be deemed to be in a fiduciary relationship with the respective funds:

- (1) Any person who exercises any discretionary authority or discretionary control with respect to the management of system funds or assets.
- (2) Any person who renders investment advice or services for compensation, direct or indirect, with respect to system funds or assets.

Liabilities; Discretionary Control – R.S. 11:264.1

Legislators, state officials, system attorneys, accountants, and actuaries shall not be considered fiduciaries unless they exercise discretionary control over the management or administration of the system or some authority or control over system assets.

Fiduciary Restriction; Felony Conviction – R.S. 11:264.2

Any person who has been convicted of a felony offense shall be restricted from serving as a system fiduciary for a period of five years after the conviction or after the end of imprisonment, whichever is later.

Basic Fiduciary Duty – R.S. 11:264.3

The basic duty of a fiduciary is to discharge his duties with respect to the system in the exclusive interest of the members and beneficiaries.

Exclusive Interest Rule – R.S. 11:264.4

A fiduciary must discharge his duties within the law solely in the interest of system members and beneficiaries for the exclusive purpose of providing benefits to participants and beneficiaries, and paying the expenses of administering the plan.

Breach of Fiduciary Duty – R.S. 11:264.5

- A. Any person who is a fiduciary with respect to a plan who breaches any of the responsibilities, obligations, or duties imposed upon fiduciaries by this Subpart shall be personally liable to make good to such plan any losses to the plan resulting from each such breach, and to restore to such plan any profits of such fiduciary which have been made through use of assets of the plan by the fiduciary, and shall be subject to such other equitable or remedial relief as the court may deem appropriate, including removal of such fiduciary.
- B. No fiduciary shall be liable with respect to a breach of fiduciary duty under this Subpart if such breach was committed before he became a fiduciary or after he ceased to be a fiduciary.
- C. It shall not be a breach of fiduciary duty for a board of trustees or any member of such a board to take action to divest the system of any holding in a company having facilities or employees or both located in a prohibited nation as that term is defined in R.S. 11:312(B)(2); however, nothing in this Subsection shall require a board to divest itself of any such holding.

Cofiduciary Liability – R.S. 11:264.6

- A. Any fiduciary who participates in a breach committed by a cofiduciary, or who tries to conceal a cofiduciary's breach, shall be held liable jointly for breach of fiduciary duty. Cofiduciary liability also results from a fiduciary's failure to use reasonable care to prevent a cofiduciary from committing a breach.
- B. Any fiduciary who has knowledge of a cofiduciary's breach has a duty to remedy the breach.

Remedies; Jurisdiction; Authority; Attorney Fees - R.S. 11:264.7

- A. A member, beneficiary, or survivor who can demonstrate a personal interest in a retirement system may bring civil action to enforce the provisions of this Subpart. In any enforcement proceeding the plaintiff may seek and the court may grant any appropriate form of relief, including but not limited to the following:
- (1) A writ of mandamus.
 - (2) Injunctive relief.
 - (3) A declaratory judgment.
 - (4) A judgment rendering certain actions of the board of trustees as void.
 - (5) A judgment awarding civil damages.
 - (6) A judgment requiring payment of the amounts in R. S. 11:269.
- B. Exclusive original jurisdiction for proceedings under this Subpart shall be in the Nineteenth Judicial District Court of Louisiana. In any enforcement proceeding the court has jurisdiction and authority to issue all necessary orders to require compliance with, or to prevent noncompliance with, or to declare the rights of parties under the provisions of this Subpart. Any noncompliance with the orders of the court may be punished as contempt of court.
- C. If a person who brings an enforcement proceeding prevails, he shall be awarded reasonable attorney fees and other costs of litigation. If such person prevails in part, the court may award him reasonable attorney fees or an appropriate portion thereof. If the court finds that the proceeding was of a frivolous nature and was brought with no substantial justification, it may award reasonable attorney fees to the prevailing party.

System Policy Regarding Breach of Fiduciary Duty – R.S. 11:264.8

No retirement system may submit a proposed regulation, or approve any internal policy to relieve a fiduciary from responsibility for breach of fiduciary duty. However, a system may purchase insurance to cover liability or losses due to acts or omissions of fiduciaries. Any such insurance shall maintain the insurance company's right of subrogation. A fiduciary may purchase insurance to cover his own liability, without condition.

Compensation of Investment Advisors – R.S. 11:265

Each board of trustees of the various public retirement systems, plans, or funds is hereby authorized, in requesting proposals for investment advisory services, to require that fees shall be quoted as a fixed fee, a fee based on market value of assets, or a performance fee.

Investment Performance Standards – R.S. 11:266

- A. The provisions of this Section shall be applicable to all Louisiana public retirement or pension systems, funds, and plans, and shall not apply to any investment manager or investment advisor who does not have an office for investment managers or investment advisors domiciled in the United States.
- B. Investment performance reports submitted by any investment manager or investment advisor of any entity covered by Subsection A of this Section shall be in compliance with the current Performance Presentation Standards as amended and published by the Association for Investment Management and Research or any successor entity.
- C.
 - (1) Investment performance composite data submitted in response to a request for proposal or any other solicitation or selection process used by any system, fund, or plan covered by this Section for hiring an investment manager or investment advisor shall be in compliance with the current Performance Presentation Standards as amended and published by the Association Standards as amended and published by the Association for Investment Management and Research or any successor entity.
 - (2) Each such system, plan, or fund shall require, at least annually, the investment managers or investment advisors employed or otherwise retained by such system, plan, or fund to submit investment performance composite data, which contains such systems, plans, or funds portfolio that is subject to a Level I verification as defined in the Performance Presentation Standards as amended and published by the Association for Investment Management and Research or any successor entity.
- D. The Investment Performance Standards required in Subsections B and C of this Section shall not be required for investments in limited partnerships, limited liability partnerships, private placements, and natural resource portfolios.

Indexing; Equity Limitations – R.S. 11:267

- A. The provisions of this Section, except Subsection D, shall apply to each of the following systems:
 - (4) Louisiana Assessors' Retirement Fund.
- B.
 - (1) (a) Each system listed in Subsection A of this Section shall invest an amount equal to at least ten percent of the system's total equity portfolio in one or more index funds which seek to replicate the performance of the chosen index or indices.
 - (b) (i) The governing authority of any system covered by Subsection A of this Section may divest its indexed funds if the Standard and Poor's 500 Composite Index, including dividend reinvestment, declines by an amount exceeding ten percent during the twelve-month period immediately preceding such divestment and further provided that any such governing

authority furnishes written notice of such divestment to the House Retirement Committee and the Senate Retirement Committee within ten days following the governing authority's decision to divest.

- (ii) If any such governing authority divests its indexed funds under the authority of this Subparagraph, and if the Standard and Poor's 500 Composite Index, including dividend reinvestment, increases by an amount exceeding ten percent, as compared to the date that the governing authority took official action causing such divestment, then the governing authority shall reindex equity assets in accordance with the provisions of this Subsection.
- (2) For purposes of this Section, the term "equity" shall mean ownership of a corporation represented by shares that are publicly traded on a recognized exchange, including the National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotation (NASDAQ).
- C. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, and specifically R.S. 11:263(D), any system covered by Subsection A of this Section shall be authorized to invest up to sixty-five percent of the system's total portfolio in equity securities, as that term is defined in Paragraph (B)(2) of this Section.

Disclosure; Consultants; Money Managers - R.S. 11:269

- A. (1) Consultants and money managers shall provide full disclosure to the sponsor of each Louisiana public retirement or pension system, plan, or fund of conflicts of interest, including non-pension sponsor sources of revenue. Consultants also shall provide full disclosure of any payments they receive from money managers, in hard or soft dollars, for any services they provide, including but not limited to performance measurement, business consulting, and education.
- (2) Each consultant and money manager shall submit a written disclosure report semiannually to each system beginning July 1, 2005. A report shall be submitted regardless of whether the consultant or money manager has any conflict or payment to report. Should a reportable agreement be confected during any reporting period, the consultant or money manager shall notify the system of the agreement within seven business days.
- B. (1) Any consultant or money manager found to be in violation of Subsection A of this Section shall pay to the system, plan, or fund an amount of money equal to the value of the revenue or payments he failed to disclose together with any damages caused by the failure to disclose. Additionally, if the failure to disclose is intentional, the consultant or money manager shall pay to the system an amount equal to three times the value of the revenue or payment he failed to disclose as a penalty, in addition to any damages actually caused by the failure to disclose.
- (2) If the consultant or money manager provides services for more than one Louisiana public retirement or pension system, plan, or fund, the amounts in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection shall be paid to each such system to which he fails to make the required disclosure.

UNFUNDED ACCRUED LIABILITY

Purpose; Elimination of Unfunded Accrued Liability – R.S. 11:271

- A. It is recognized that the legislative and executive branches of state government bear a responsibility with respect to the fiscal integrity of the state; that, in connection therewith, it is imperative that the public retirement systems of the state be maintained on a sound actuarial basis, and that such maintenance requires that the unfunded accrued liability of these systems be eliminated. The purpose of this Section is to provide for the furnishing of accurate actuarial data in order to facilitate the effective execution of this responsibility.
- B. The provisions of this Section are applicable to the following public retirement systems:
 - (1) Assessors' Retirement Fund.
- C.
 - (1) On an annual fiscal year basis, at least ninety days prior to the convening of the legislature in regular session, using calculation methods and forms prescribed by the legislative auditor, the governing authority of each public retirement system referenced in Subsection B hereof shall submit to the legislative auditor the amount of funding, stated as a percentage of payroll, which is necessary to meet the system's normal cost and to amortize, at the valuation rate of interest, the system's unfunded accrued liability over a thirty-year period.
 - (2) The legislative auditor shall review, and, when necessary, revise, and submit same to the governor and the legislature, along with his certification of the correctness thereof, and a report detailing the financial and actuarial history of the system and his recommendations relative thereto.

Early Retirement Eligibility - R.S. 11:272

- A. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the provisions of this Section shall be applicable to all members of the following public retirement systems:
 - (5) Assessors' Retirement Fund,
- B. Any member who, on September 1, 1985, has earned sufficient service credit to be eligible for a normal retirement on or before August 31, 1995, but has not, on September 1, 1985, attained the normal retirement age, shall, during the ten year period from September 1, 1985, through August 31, 1995, be eligible for an early retirement, regardless of age, with benefits reduced to a level which would be actuarially equivalent to a retirement at the normal retirement age using the normal retirement formula.
- C. The actuary for each of the systems specified in Subsection A of this Section shall develop reduction factors for use in computing the reduced benefit applicable to early retirement. However, in no event shall such benefit reduction be less than one percent for each

calendar quarter by which the effective date of retirement is advanced before normal retirement eligibility.

- D. Any member who, on January 1, 1982, had earned ten years of service credit, shall be eligible for an early retirement, regardless of age, with benefits reduced to a level which would be actuarially equivalent to a retirement at the normal retirement age using the normal retirement formula and subject to the provisions contained in Subsection C of this Section.

DELINQUENT CONTRIBUTIONS

Failure to Timely Remit Contributions; Effect - R.S. 11:281

- A. Notwithstanding any other provisions of law to the contrary, the provisions of this Section shall be applicable to all members of the following public retirement systems:
 - (4) Assessors' Retirement Fund.

- B. (1) Except as provided in Paragraph (2) of this subsection, all payments of employers' contributions and employees' contributions, including any payments due from the state of Louisiana which are paid after becoming delinquent, shall include interest to be paid to the retirement system at the rate of legal interest computed from the date the payment became delinquent.
 - (2) This subsection is no longer applicable.

APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN COURT ORDERS

Community Property Interest - R.S. 11:291

- A. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, any benefit or a return of employee contributions shall be subject to a temporary restraining order or injunction issued by a court in connection with an action which would result in a termination of the community property regime or partition of community assets and liabilities after such termination, which order or injunction involves a member or retiree of a state or statewide retirement system and his/her spouse or former spouse, and provides that community assets not be disbursed, disposed of, alienated, or otherwise incumbered, but only after a certified copy of such order or judgment is received by the retirement system.
- B. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, any benefit or a return of employee contributions shall be subject to a court order issued by a court upon or after termination of a community property regime, which order recognizes the community interest of a spouse or former spouse of a member or retiree of the retirement system and provides that a benefit or a return of employee contributions be divided by the retirement system with the spouse or former spouse, but only after a certified copy of such order has been received by the retirement system and has been determined by the retirement system to be in compliance with applicable laws, rules, and regulations governing the retirement system.
- C. Repealed by Acts 1995, No. 592, § 2, eff. July 1, 1995.
- D. In connection with Subsection B of this Section, each state or statewide retirement system may promulgate rules establishing requirements with which a court order must comply.
- E. In those instances in which no certified copy of an injunction, temporary restraining order, or court order for division of a benefit or a return of employee contributions has been received and/or approved as required by this Section, a state or statewide retirement system shall pay the entire amount of any benefit or return of employee contributions to the member, retiree, designated beneficiary, survivor benefit recipient, or the estate of a deceased member and payment so made shall constitute a release of all accrued rights of every kind and nature against the retirement system, including but not limited to community property rights of a spouse or former spouse and any rights of an heir or legatee of such spouse or former spouse.
- F. In those instances in which the spouse or former spouse with whom a retirement system is to divide a benefit or a return of employee contributions under the provisions of this Section dies, the retirement system shall pay the entire amount of the benefit or return of employee contributions to the member, retiree, designated beneficiary, survivor benefit recipient, or the estate of a deceased member and payment so made shall constitute a release of all accrued rights of every kind and nature against the retirement system including but not limited to any rights of an heir or legatee of the spouse or former spouse.
- G. A state or statewide retirement system shall not pay any funds to any persons until such funds normally become payable as provided by the laws governing the retirement system.

Seizure for Child Support – R.S. 11:292

Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, any retirement allowance, benefit, or refund of accumulated contributions paid to any member, former member, or retiree under the provisions of any public retirement system, or the portion of a retirement allowance, benefit, or refund of accumulated contributions paid to a spouse or former spouse under the provisions of R.S. 11:291, shall be subject to garnishment or court-ordered assignment to pay child support.

INVESTMENTS IN PROHIBITED NATIONS

Purpose of This Subpart – R.S. 11:311

The purpose of this Subpart is to assure the members and retirees of the state and statewide retirement systems, the state and her political subdivisions as employers, and the taxpayers of Louisiana that the monies held in trust for the benefit of public employees are not used directly or indirectly to support terrorist activities.

Application and Definitions – R.S. 11:312

- A. The provisions of this Subpart shall apply to the following public retirement or pension systems, plans, or funds:
 - (1) Assessors' Retirement Fund.

- B. As used in this Subpart, the following terms shall have the following meanings, unless a different meaning is clearly required by context:
 - (1) "Company" means any foreign domiciled or based entity, real or juridical, which is not a subsidiary of nor owned in whole or in part by any domestic company, and which is engaged in an enterprise for financial gain.
 - (2) "Prohibited nation" means Iran, North Korea, Sudan, or Syria.

- C.
 - (1) Each system or fund to which this Subpart applies shall provide semiannual written reports to the House of Representatives and Senate committees on retirement regarding any investments of that system in any company having facilities or employees or both located in a prohibited nation. The report shall include the name of each such company, the asset allocation class and sector to which it belongs pursuant to the board's asset allocation policy, and the amount of system funds invested therein.
 - (2) The first report shall be due October 31, 2005, and shall contain information for the six-month period ending September 15, 2005. The second report shall be due August 15, 2006, and shall contain information for the period from September 16, 2005 through June 30, 2006. Beginning February 15, 2007, and thereafter, reports shall be due by the fifteenth day of February, containing information for the six-month period ending December thirty-first, and by the fifteenth of August, containing information for the six-month period ending June thirtieth in each calendar year.
 - (3) Each system's money managers shall be responsible for supplying to the system all information necessary to complete the reports in a timely manner as required by this Subsection.

- D. Each system shall adopt rules necessary to implement the provisions of this Subpart, including the provisions of Paragraph (C)(3) of this Section.

Prudent-Man Rule; Investments – R.S. 11:313

Notwithstanding the prudent-man rule, a system board of trustees may but is not required to divest itself of any holding in a company having facilities or employees, or both, located in a prohibited nation as that term is defined in R.S. 11:312(B)(2).

Constructive Engagement; Direct Ownership of Securities – R.S. 11:314

- A. Each system, plan, or fund, referred to in this Section as "system", to which this Subpart applies shall adopt and implement a corporate governance strategy of constructive engagement of each company, in which the system has a direct ownership of securities, having facilities or employees or both located in a prohibited nation. Such corporate governance strategy of constructive engagement shall contain a plan of system action to cause any such company to remove facilities, employees, or both from any prohibited nation. Such plan of system action shall be implemented by not later than one hundred twenty days after August 15, 2007. The system shall continue to implement such plan of system action with respect to a particular company for the period of time that the system continues to possess an ownership interest in the company. As part of each system's corporate governance strategy of constructive engagement, the system shall make its best efforts to identify all such companies. Such efforts shall include all of the following:
- (1) Reviewing and analyzing publicly available information regarding companies having facilities or employees or both located in a prohibited nation, including information provided by but not limited to nonprofit organizations, research firms, international organizations, and government entities.
 - (2) Contacting and obtaining information from asset managers contracted by the systems who invest on behalf of the system in companies having facilities or employees or both located in a prohibited nation.
 - (3) Contacting and obtaining information from other institutional investors, including other public pension systems, that have divested themselves of investments in companies having facilities or employees or both located in a prohibited nation.
- B. Such corporate governance strategy of each system to which this Section applies shall require the system to form strategic shareholder alliances, whether formal or informal, with other public pension systems that have a common ownership interest with the system in any company having facilities or employees or both in a prohibited nation for the purpose of effecting change in the company's policy so as to cause the company to remove its facilities, employees, or both from any prohibited nation. In pursuing such shareholder alliances, the following provisions shall apply:

- (1) The systems to which this Section applies shall semiannually provide to each other a list of companies in which the system invests that have facilities or employees or both located in a prohibited nation. If any systems to which this Subpart applies possess common ownership interests in such companies, those systems shall form a strategic shareholder alliance, whether formal or informal, for the purpose of influencing such companies to cease having facilities or employees or both located in a prohibited nation.
 - (2) Each system to which this Section applies shall, separately or jointly with another system that is a member of a strategic shareholder alliance under this Section, submit semiannually, to each such company having facilities or employees or both located in a prohibited nation, a notice that provides for all of the following:
 - (a) Informs such company of the requirements of this Subpart and of the company's status as having facilities or employees or both located in a prohibited nation.
 - (b) Requests that such company refrain from continuing to have facilities or employees or both located in a prohibited nation.
 - (c) Details the nature of any strategic shareholder alliance of which the system is a member pursuant to this Section, which notice shall include a list of systems, whether this Subpart applies to those systems or not, making up such alliance.
 - (d) Details the percentage of shares that each member of the strategic shareholder alliance possesses.
 - (e) Informs such company that it may become subject to divestment by the systems in the shareholder alliance if such company continues having facilities or employees or both located in a prohibited nation.
- C. Each system to which this Section applies shall adopt rules necessary to implement the provisions of this Section.
- D. Each system to which this Section applies shall report compliance with this Section to the House of Representatives and Senate committees on retirement as part of the report submitted pursuant to R.S. 11:312(C).

Constructive Engagement; Securities Held in a Collective Fund – R.S. 11:315

- A. Each system, plan, or fund, referred to in this Section as "system", to which this Subpart applies shall adopt and implement a corporate governance strategy of constructive engagement of any collective fund investment manager or advisor, requesting such manager or advisor to constructively engage each company having facilities or employees or both located in a prohibited nation in which the system possesses an indirect ownership interest through investment in any such collective fund, excluding private equities and hedge funds. Such corporate governance strategy of constructive engagement shall contain a plan of system action to cause any such collective fund to in turn cause any such

company to remove facilities, employees, or both from any prohibited nation. Such plan of system action shall be implemented by not later than one hundred twenty days after August 15, 2007. The system shall continue to implement such plan of system action with respect to a particular collective fund for the period of time that the system continues to possess an indirect ownership interest in the company through the collective fund investment. As part of each system's corporate governance strategy of constructive engagement, the system shall make its best efforts to identify all such companies. Such efforts shall include:

- (1) Reviewing and analyzing publicly available information regarding companies having facilities or employees or both located in a prohibited nation, including information provided by but not limited to nonprofit organizations, research firms, international organizations, and government entities.
- (2) Contacting and obtaining information from asset managers contracted by the systems who invest on behalf of the system in companies having facilities or employees or both located in a prohibited nation.
- (3) Contacting and obtaining information from other institutional investors, including other public pension systems, that have divested themselves of investments in companies having facilities or employees or both located in a prohibited nation.

B. Such corporate governance strategy of each system to which this Section applies shall require the system to form strategic alliances, whether formal or informal, with other public pension systems that have a common ownership interest with the system in any company having facilities or employees or both in a prohibited nation through participation in the same collective fund, excluding private equities or hedge funds, for the purpose of effecting change in the company's policy so as to cause the company to remove its facilities, employees, or both from any prohibited nation. In pursuing such alliances, the following provisions shall apply:

- (1) The systems to which this Section applies shall semiannually provide to each other a list of companies that have facilities or employees or both located in a prohibited nation in which the system invests through participation in the same collective fund, excluding private equities or hedge funds. If any systems to which this Subpart applies possess such common ownership interests in such companies, those systems shall form a strategic alliance, whether formal or informal, for the purpose of influencing such companies to cease having facilities or employees or both located in a prohibited nation.
- (2) Each system to which this Section applies shall, separately or jointly with another system that is a member of a strategic alliance under this Section, submit semiannually to the investment manager or advisor of any collective fund, requesting any such collective fund manager or advisor to submit to each such company having facilities or employees or both located in a prohibited nation, a notice that provides for all of the following:
 - (a) Informs such company of the requirements of this Subpart and of the company's status as having facilities or employees or both located in a prohibited nation.

- (b) Requests that such company refrain from continuing to have facilities or employees or both located in a prohibited nation.
 - (c) Details the nature of any strategic alliance of which the system is a member pursuant to this Section, which notice shall include a list of systems, whether this Subpart applies to those systems or not, making up such alliance.
 - (d) Details the percentage of shares that each member of the strategic alliance possesses.
 - (e) Informs such company that it may become subject to divestment by the systems in the strategic alliance if such company continues having facilities or employees or both located in a prohibited nation.
- C. Each system to which this Section applies shall adopt rules necessary to implement the provisions of this Section.
- D. Each system to which this Section applies shall report compliance with this Section to the House of Representatives and Senate committees on retirement as part of the report submitted pursuant to R.S. 11:312(C).

Terror-Free Index Fund – R.S. 11:316

- A. As used in this Section, the following terms shall have the following meaning unless a different meaning is clearly required by the context:
- (1) "Screened equities" means stocks or other ownership interest in a company identified as having facilities or employees or both located in a prohibited nation, which equities are excluded from the terror-free index fund.
 - (2) "Terror-free equities" means equities in companies not identified as having facilities or employees or both located in a prohibited nation.
 - (3) "Terror-free index fund" means an international index fund which identifies equities in companies having facilities or employees or both located in a prohibited nation and excludes them from the fund.
- B. Each system or fund to which this Subpart applies that has an investment strategy which includes allocation to international markets shall, within sixty days after August 15, 2007, communicate with investment managers with international investment experience for the establishment of an international terror-free index fund which identifies and excludes from the fund companies having facilities or employees or both in a prohibited nation. The communication shall stipulate that, as part of managing such fund, the manager will replace the screened equities with comparable equities or will adjust the weighting of remaining equities held in a system's portfolio. Each system having an investment strategy which includes allocation to international markets shall, within one hundred eighty days after

August 15, 2007, allocate a portion of its international investments to such terror-free index.

- C. If a system having an investment strategy which includes allocation to international markets does not possess sufficient assets to meet the minimum investment required by the manager to create a terror-free index fund on the system's behalf alone, such system shall join an existing terror-free index fund established pursuant to this Section, or shall join with another system to meet such minimum investment requirements for the purpose of establishing a terror-free index fund common to those systems.
- D. Each system shall adopt rules necessary to implement the provisions of this Section.
- E. Each system shall report compliance with this Section to the House of Representatives and Senate committees on retirement as part of the report submitted pursuant to R.S. 11:312(C).
- F. Nothing in this Section shall require a system to invest in international markets or to utilize collective funds or index funds for such purpose unless otherwise part of the investment strategy adopted by the system. If a system invests in international markets and utilizes collective funds or index funds for such purpose, this Section shall apply.

Certain Provisions That Affect the System Not Found in Title 11

Medical Records of Persons Applying for Disability Retirement Through any State or Statewide Public Retirement System or Pension Plan or Fund – R.S. 44:15

- A. All medical records, application forms, doctor's reports and evaluations, agency certifications, and all other health records of persons applying for disability retirement from any state or statewide public retirement system or pension plan or fund pursuant to the provisions of the applicable laws governing disability retirement for these systems, plans, or funds, and all regulations promulgated pursuant thereto, which are in the custody or control of the board of trustees of any state or statewide public retirement system or pension plan or fund or any duly appointed representative thereof, are exempt from the provisions of this Chapter.
- B. All other records pertaining to membership in or retirement under any state or statewide public retirement system or pension plan or fund which are in the custody or control of the board of trustees of any state or statewide public retirement system or pension plan or fund or any duly appointed representative thereof, are subject to the provisions of this Chapter.

Personal Data Records for Certain Members of Public Retirement Systems, Plans, or Funds - R.S. 44:16

- A. All records of retired members of public retirement systems, plans, or funds or of members who are participating in or who have participated in the Deferred Retirement Option Plan are exempt from the provisions of this Chapter except for the amount of the retired member's retirement allowance, final average compensation, and years of creditable service, and the names of the agencies with which he was employed and the dates of such employment.
- B. The exemption for records of retired members of the public retirement systems, plans, or funds or members who are participating in or who have participated in the Deferred Retirement Option Plan provided in Subsection A of this Section shall not apply to requests for such records by members of the Louisiana Legislature, by any state agency or employer reporting information to the public retirement systems, plans, or funds, or by any association of individuals receiving a retirement allowance or benefit from the public retirement systems, plans, or funds.

Right to Examine Records - R.S. 44:31

- A. Providing access to public records is a responsibility and duty of the appointive or elective office of a custodian and his employees.
- B.
 - (1) Except as otherwise provided in this Chapter or as otherwise specifically provided by law, and in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter, any person of the age of majority may inspect, copy, or reproduce any public record.
 - (2) Except as otherwise provided in this Chapter or as otherwise specifically provided by law, and in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter, any person may obtain a copy or reproduction of any public record.
 - (3) The burden of proving that a public record is not subject to inspection, copying, or reproduction shall rest with the custodian.

Duty to Permit Examination; Prevention of Alteration; Payment for Overtime; Copies Provided; Fees – R.S. 44:32

- A. The custodian shall present any public record to any person of the age of majority who so requests. The custodian shall make no inquiry of any person who applies for a public record, except an inquiry as to the age and identification of the person and may require the person to sign a register and shall not review, examine or scrutinize any copy, photograph, or memoranda in the possession of any such person; and shall extend to the person all reasonable comfort and facility for the full exercise of the right granted by this Chapter; provided that nothing herein contained shall prevent the custodian from maintaining such vigilance as is required to prevent alteration of any record while it is being examined; and provided further, that examinations of records under the authority of this Section must be conducted during regular office or working hours, unless the custodian shall authorize examination of records in other than regular office or working hours. In this event the persons designated to represent the custodian during such examination shall be entitled to reasonable compensation to be paid to them by the public body having custody of such record, out of funds provided in advance by the person examining such record in other than regular office or working hours.
- B. If any record contains material which is not a public record, the custodian may separate the nonpublic record and make the public record available for examination.
- C.
 - (1)
 - (a) For all public records, except public records of state agencies, it shall be the duty of the custodian of such public records to provide copies to persons so requesting. The custodian may establish and collect reasonable fees for making copies of public records. Copies of records may be furnished without charge or at a reduced charge to indigent citizens of this state.
 - (b) For all public records in the custody of a clerk of court, the clerk may also establish reasonable uniform written procedures for the reproduction of any such public record. Additionally, in the parish of Orleans, the recorder of mortgages, the register of conveyances, and the custodian of notarial records

may each establish reasonable uniform procedures for the reproduction of public records.

- (c) The use or placement of mechanical reproduction, microphotographic reproduction, or any other such imaging, reproduction, or photocopying equipment within the offices of the clerk of court by any person described in R.S. 44:31 is prohibited unless ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction.
 - (d) Any person, as provided for in R.S. 44:31, may request a copy or reproduction of any public record and it shall be the duty of the custodian to provide such copy or reproduction to the person so requesting.
- (2) For all public records of state agencies, it shall be the duty of the custodian of such records to provide copies to persons so requesting. Fees for such copies shall be charged according to the uniform fee schedule adopted by the commissioner of administration, as provided by R.S. 39:241.

Copies shall be provided at fees according to the schedule, except for copies of public records the fees for the reproduction of which are otherwise fixed by law. Copies of records may be furnished without charge or at a reduced charge to indigent citizens of this state or the persons whose use of such copies, as determined by the custodian, will be limited to a public purpose, including but not limited to use in a hearing before any governmental regulatory commission.

- (3) No fee shall be charged to any person to examine or review any public records, except as provided in this Section, and no fee shall be charged for examination or review to determine if a record is subject to disclosure, except as may be determined by a court of competent jurisdiction.

D. In any case in which a record is requested and a question is raised by the custodian of the record as to whether it is a public record, such custodian shall within three days, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and legal public holidays, of the receipt of the request, in writing for such record, notify in writing the person making such request of his determination and the reasons therefor. Such written notification shall contain a reference to the basis under law which the custodian has determined exempts a record, or any part thereof, from inspection, copying, or reproduction.

Availability of Records - R.S. 44:33

- A. (1) When a request is made for a public record to which the public is entitled, the official, clerks of court and the custodian of notarial records in and for the parish of Orleans excepted, who has responsibility for the record shall have the record segregated from other records under his custody so that the public can reasonably view the record.
- (2) If, however, segregating the record would be unreasonably burdensome or expensive, or if the record requested is maintained in a fashion that makes it readily identifiable

and renders further segregation unnecessary, the official shall so state in writing and shall state the location of the requested record.

- B. (1) If the public record applied for is immediately available, because of its not being in active use at the time of the application, the public record shall be immediately presented to the authorized person applying for it. If the public record applied for is not immediately available, because of its being in active use at the time of the application, the custodian shall promptly certify this in writing to the applicant, and in his certificate shall fix a day and hour within three days, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and legal public holidays, for the exercise of the right granted by this Chapter.
- (2) The fact that the public records are being audited shall in no case be construed as a reason or justification for a refusal to allow inspection of the records except when the public records are in active use by the auditor.

Retirement Credit - R.S. 29:411

- A. Any employee, who completes his service in the uniformed services and applies for reemployment upon release from service in the uniformed services or discharge from hospitalization incidental to his service in uniformed service, shall be entitled to receive creditable service for such period of service in the uniformed services toward vesting and computation of benefits in the retirement system, pension fund, or employee benefit plan applicable to his employment, as provided in this Subpart.
- B. No employee shall receive more than a total of four years of military service credit in the retirement system, pension fund, or employee benefit plan applicable to his employment, pursuant to this Part.

Contributions; Payment During Military Service - R.S. 29:412

Any employee may, at his option, pay the required employee contributions to the retirement system, pension fund, or employee benefit plan applicable to his employment, during his period of service in the uniformed services and if the payment of contributions is permitted by the Internal Revenue Code, if the plan is a qualified plan. The employee shall timely furnish his employer with sums equal to that which would have been deducted from his compensation for retirement system coverage, as required under the public retirement system or employee benefit plan. Upon such receipt, the employer shall remit the employee contributions to the applicable system or plan, including the employer contributions that would have been contributed on behalf of the employee. The employee shall notify his employer of his election to pay the required employee contributions to the applicable system or plan at the time he enters service in the uniformed services.

Public Retirement Systems; Payment of Contributions; Interest – R.S. 29:414

- A. Any employee, who did not elect to make employee contributions pursuant to R.S. 29:412 to the public retirement system applicable to his employment during his period of service in the uniformed services, shall be entitled to receive credit for his service in the uniformed services toward establishing retirement eligibility and for computation of benefits, upon payment into the system an amount equal to the employee contributions that would have been paid had the employee continued in employment and not been called to service in the uniformed services, together with interest thereon at the valuation interest rate of the system or plan in effect at the time payment is made. The contributions shall be based on the salary, including any increases in compensation that the employee would have received had he remained in employment during the period of service in the uniformed services.
- B. Upon payment by the employee of the employee contributions and interest as provided in Subsection A, the employer shall pay to the retirement system an amount equal to the employer contributions that the employer would have paid to the retirement system had the employee remained in service, together with interest thereon, at the valuation interest rate in effect at the time payment is made. The contributions shall be based on the salary the employee would have received during the period of service in the uniformed services, including any increases in compensation that the employee would have received had he remained in employment during the period of service in the uniformed services. The employer contributions and interest due to the system shall be paid within thirty days after the employee has paid all of the contributions due to the system or fund.
- C. All employee contributions and interest due thereon made in payment for service in the uniformed services credit in accordance with Subsection A must be received by the system within four years of his reemployment.
- D. Should the employee fail to make the required contributions within four years, service in the uniformed services credit shall only count toward determining eligibility for retirement benefits. Any unpaid actuarial cost to the retirement system shall be borne by the employers through reflection in the employer rate established by the Public Retirement Systems Actuarial Committee.

Payment of Death and Survivor Benefits; Public Retirement – R.S. 29:415

- A. The employee's period of service in the uniformed services shall be counted as creditable service in the public retirement system in which he was a member, for determining eligibility for death and survivor benefits and in the computation of benefits, provided that the following conditions are satisfied:
 - (1) The beneficiary of the death or survivor benefits shall provide payment of the unpaid portion of the contributions of the deceased member. The beneficiary may agree in writing to have the payment of the unpaid portion of the contributions of the deceased member deducted from the benefits over a period not to exceed four years. The beneficiary may pay, in the alternative, the actuarial cost of such additional credit in a lump sum prior to the distribution of benefits.

- (2) If there is more than one beneficiary, a written agreement to pay the unpaid contributions of the deceased member shall be unanimous. In the event that a recipient is a minor child, the legal guardian of the minor child shall express consent for the minor child.
 - (3) The board of trustees of every public retirement system defined in R.S. 29:403, shall adopt a written policy covering all beneficiaries' and survivors' rights to pay the required contributions in order to have the employee's military service computed in the computation of any death or survivor benefits payable under the system.
- B. If all of the conditions of Subsection A are satisfied, the employer shall pay the employer contributions in a manner consistent with this Subpart.
 - C. If the beneficiary of the death or survivor benefits of the deceased member elects not to pay the employee contributions due the system on account for such service in the uniformed services credit, the computation of death and survivor benefits shall be based on the actual service of the reservist in the system prior to his call to service in the uniformed services. The death or survivor benefits provided for herein shall be due and payable upon the death of the reservist.
 - D. If the application of any provision set forth in this Section results in an unpaid actuarial cost to the retirement system, it shall be borne by the employers through reflection in the employer rate established by the Public Retirement Systems Actuarial Committee.

Inapplicability to Deferred Retirement Option Plans; Public Retirement – R.S. 29:415.1

The provisions of this Subpart are inapplicable with respect to employees who are participants in a deferred retirement option plan.

Payment to Surviving Spouse or Children of Deceased; Last Wages Due by Employers - R.S. 9:1515

- A. Any employer may pay to the surviving spouse of a deceased employee any wages, sick leave, annual leave, or other benefits due to a deceased employee, provided neither spouse has instituted a divorce proceeding. In the event the deceased employee leaves no surviving spouse or if either spouse has instituted a divorce proceeding, the employer may pay the last wages and other benefits to any major child of the deceased employee.
- B. Before making such payment to the person requesting same, the employer shall require such person to execute an instrument before two witnesses which shall give the name, address, date and place of death of the deceased employee, the relationship of the person requesting payment to said employee, the name and address of the surviving spouse, or children, if any, of said deceased employee and such other information as the employer may require.

- C. The employer may make the payments referred to in this Section, without any court proceedings, order, or judgment authorizing the same and without determining whether or not any inheritance taxes may be due or whether the funds belong to the separate estate of decedent or to the community which existed between the decedent and the surviving spouse, but only if the employer forwards an affidavit stating the name of the deceased, the amount paid, the name of the recipient, and a copy of the release document substantiating the release to the secretary of the Department of Revenue within ten calendar days of the release of the funds.
- D. The execution of the instrument referred to in Subsection B and the receipt of such person for such payment shall constitute a full release and discharge of the employer for the amount paid and for all inheritance taxes which may be determined to be due. No person natural or juridical shall have any right or cause of action against such employer because of such payment. R.S. 47:2410 does not apply in such cases.
- E. The term "employer" as used in this Section includes the state and any of its political subdivisions which employed such deceased employee and owed him any wages, sick leave, annual leave, or other employment benefits at the time of death.

Community Property; Allocation and Assignment of Ownership – R.S. 9:2801.1

When federal law or the provisions of a statutory pension or retirement plan, state or federal, preempt or preclude community classification of property that would have been classified as community property under the principles of the Civil Code, the spouse of the person entitled to such property shall be allocated or assigned the ownership of community property equal in value to such property prior to the division of the rest of the community property. Nevertheless, if such property consists of a spouse's right to receive social security benefits or the benefits themselves, then the court in its discretion may allocate or assign other community property equal in value to the other spouse.

Financial Disclosure; Retirement Systems – R.S. 42:1114.2

- A. Each person who has or is seeking to obtain contractual or other business or financial relationships with a state or statewide public retirement system shall file with the Board of Ethics, in the manner provided in this Section, a report of all expenditures for a retirement official or retirement officials.
- B. A report shall be filed semiannually as follows:
 - (1) By August fifteenth for the period from January first through June thirtieth.
 - (2) By February fifteenth for the period from July first through December thirty-first.

- C. The report shall be filed on forms prescribed by the board, shall be signed by the person filing, and shall include a certification of accuracy by the person responsible for filing the report.
- D. Each report shall include, in the manner prescribed by the Board of Ethics, the following:
- (1) The total of all expenditures per retirement system made during each reporting period, which shall include all expenditures for retirement officials associated with that system whether such expenditures are attributable to an individual retirement official or not.
 - (2) The aggregate total of expenditures attributable to an individual retirement official as provided in Subsection E of this Section during each reporting period, including the name of the retirement official.
 - (3) The aggregate total of expenditures per retirement system for all reporting periods during the same calendar year, which shall include all expenditures for retirement officials associated with that system whether such expenditures are attributable to an individual retirement official or not.
 - (4) The aggregate total of all expenditures attributable to an individual retirement official as provided in Subsection E of this Section for all reporting periods during the same calendar year, including the name of the retirement official.
- E. When the aggregate expenditure for any one retirement official exceeds the sum of fifty dollars on any one occasion, or when the aggregate expenditure for any one retirement official exceeds the sum of two hundred fifty dollars in a reporting period, then the total amount of expenditures for the retirement official during the reporting period shall be attributable to the individual retirement official.
- (1) For the purposes of this Section "retirement official" shall mean a member of a board of trustees of a state or a statewide public retirement system, a public employee of such a system, or an employee of the Department of the Treasury whose function is to assist any such system or systems.
 - (2) For the purposes of this Section "expenditure" shall mean a purchase, payment, donation, advance, deposit, or gift or payment of money or anything of economic value or the purchase, donation, or gift of promotional items, food, drink, or refreshment, transportation, and entertainment for a retirement official.
- F. (1) The chairman of the board of trustees of each state or statewide public retirement system shall provide notice to every person associated with his system whom such chairman knows or reasonably should know is required to file a report pursuant to this Section. The chairman shall forward a copy of each such notification to the Board of Ethics no later than fifteen days after the original notification was sent. The failure of a chairman to give notice as required by the provisions of this Subsection shall not relieve any person from the reporting requirements of this Section or any penalties as provided in this Section.

- (2) The contents of the notice required to be given pursuant to this Subsection shall be prescribed by the Board of Ethics.
- G. (1) Failure to file a report, failure to timely file a report, failure to disclose required information, or filing a false report shall subject a person required to file to penalties as provided by this Chapter.
- (2) Whoever fails to file a report required by this Section, or knowingly and willfully fails to timely file any such report, or knowingly and willfully fails to disclose or to accurately disclose any information required by this Section shall be assessed a civil penalty pursuant to R.S. 42:1157 for each day until such report or the required accurate information is filed. The amount of the penalty shall be one hundred dollars per day.
- H. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Section to the contrary, if a person makes expenditures as defined in this Section of less than five hundred dollars in a calendar year, such person shall not be required to file a report pursuant to this Section.