

House Bill No. 885

An act relating to the Florida Retirement System; amending s. 121.055, F.S.; revising provisions with respect to the Senior Management Service Class to permit certain local government senior managers to withdraw from the Florida Retirement System altogether; providing for matters relative thereto; amending s. 121.055, F.S.; requiring that a judge of compensation claims who is a member of the Florida Retirement System participate in the Senior Management Service Class unless such judge elects to participate in the Senior Management Service Optional Annuity Program; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section 121.055, Florida Statutes, 1998 Supplement, is amended to read:

121.055 Senior Management Service Class.—There is hereby established a separate class of membership within the Florida Retirement System to be known as the “Senior Management Service Class,” which shall become effective February 1, 1987.

(1)

(b)1. Except as provided in subparagraph 2., effective January 1, 1990, participation in the Senior Management Service Class shall be compulsory for the president of each community college, the manager of each participating city or county, and all appointed district school superintendents. Effective January 1, 1994, additional positions may be designated for inclusion in the Senior Management Service Class of the Florida Retirement System, provided that:

a. Positions to be included in the class shall be designated by the local agency employer. Notice of intent to designate positions for inclusion in the class shall be published once a week for 2 consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation published in the county or counties affected, as provided in chapter 50.

b. One nonelective full-time position may be designated for each local agency employer reporting to the Division of Retirement; for local agencies with 100 or more regularly established positions, additional nonelective full-time positions may be designated, not to exceed 1 percent of the regularly established positions within the agency.

c. Each position added to the class must be a managerial or policymaking position filled by an employee who is not subject to continuing contract and serves at the pleasure of the local agency employer without civil service protection, and who:

(I) Heads an organizational unit; or

(II) Has responsibility to effect or recommend personnel, budget, expenditure, or policy decisions in his or her areas of responsibility.

2. ~~In lieu of participation in the Senior Management Service Class, members of the Senior Management Service Class pursuant to the provisions of subparagraph 1. may withdraw from the Florida Retirement System altogether and participate in a lifetime monthly annuity program which may be provided by the employing agency. The cost to the employer for such annuity shall equal the normal cost portion of the contributions required in the Senior Management Service Class. The employer providing such annuity shall contribute an additional amount to the Florida Retirement System Trust Fund equal to the unfunded actuarial accrued liability portion of the Senior Management Service Class contribution rate. The decision to withdraw from the Florida Retirement System participate in such local government annuity shall be irrevocable for as long as the employee holds such a position eligible for the annuity. Any service creditable under the Senior Management Service Class shall be retained after the member withdraws from the Florida Retirement System; however, additional service credit in the Senior Management Service Class shall not be earned after such withdrawal. Such members shall not be eligible to participate in the Senior Management Service Optional Annuity Program.~~

Section 2. Subsection (1) of section 121.055, Florida Statutes, 1998 Supplement, is amended to read:

121.055 Senior Management Service Class.—There is hereby established a separate class of membership within the Florida Retirement System to be known as the “Senior Management Service Class,” which shall become effective February 1, 1987.

(1)(a) Participation in the Senior Management Service Class shall be limited to and compulsory for any member of the Florida Retirement System who holds a position in the Senior Management Service of the State of Florida, established by part III of chapter 110, unless such member elects, within the time specified herein, to participate in the Senior Management Service Optional Annuity Program as established in subsection (6).

(b)1. Except as provided in subparagraph 2., effective January 1, 1990, participation in the Senior Management Service Class shall be compulsory for the president of each community college, the manager of each participating city or county, and all appointed district school superintendents. Effective January 1, 1994, additional positions may be designated for inclusion in the Senior Management Service Class of the Florida Retirement System, provided that:

a. Positions to be included in the class shall be designated by the local agency employer. Notice of intent to designate positions for inclusion in the class shall be published once a week for 2 consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation published in the county or counties affected, as provided in chapter 50.

b. One nonelective full-time position may be designated for each local agency employer reporting to the Division of Retirement; for local agencies with 100 or more regularly established positions, additional nonelective full-time positions may be designated, not to exceed 1 percent of the regularly established positions within the agency.

c. Each position added to the class must be a managerial or policymaking position filled by an employee who is not subject to continuing contract and serves at the pleasure of the local agency employer without civil service protection, and who:

(I) Heads an organizational unit; or

(II) Has responsibility to effect or recommend personnel, budget, expenditure, or policy decisions in his or her areas of responsibility.

2. In lieu of participation in the Senior Management Service Class, members of the Senior Management Service Class pursuant to the provisions of subparagraph 1. may withdraw from the Florida Retirement System altogether and participate in a lifetime monthly annuity program which may be provided by the employing agency. The cost to the employer for such annuity shall equal the normal cost portion of the contributions required in the Senior Management Service Class. The employer providing such annuity shall contribute an additional amount to the Florida Retirement System Trust Fund equal to the unfunded actuarial accrued liability portion of the Senior Management Service Class contribution rate. The decision to participate in such local government annuity shall be irrevocable for as long as the employee holds a position eligible for the annuity. Any service creditable under the Senior Management Service Class shall be retained after the member withdraws from the Florida Retirement System; however, additional service credit in the Senior Management Service Class shall not be earned after such withdrawal. Such members shall not be eligible to participate in the Senior Management Service Optional Annuity Program.

(c)1. Effective January 1, 1990, participation in the Senior Management Service Class shall be compulsory for up to 75 nonelective positions at the level of committee staff director or higher or equivalent managerial or policymaking positions within the House of Representatives, as selected by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, up to 50 nonelective positions at the level of committee staff director or higher or equivalent managerial or policymaking positions within the Senate, as selected by the President of the Senate, all staff directors of joint committees and service offices of the Legislature, the Auditor General and up to 9 managerial or policymaking positions within his or her office as selected by the Auditor General, and the executive director of the Commission on Ethics.

2. Participation in this class shall be compulsory, except as provided in subparagraph 3., for any legislative employee who holds a position designated for coverage in the Senior Management Service Class, and such participation shall continue until the employee terminates employment in a covered position.

3. In lieu of participation in the Senior Management Service Class, at the discretion of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, such members may participate in the Senior Management Service Optional Annuity Program as established in subsection (6).

(d) Effective January 1, 1991, participation in the Senior Management Service Class shall be compulsory for any member of the Florida Retirement System in a position that has been designated eligible for inclusion in the Executive Service of the State University System or who holds a position as president of a state university, unless such member elects, pursuant to s. 121.35, to participate in the optional retirement program.

(e) Effective January 1, 1991, participation in the Senior Management Service Class shall be compulsory for the number of senior managers who have policymaking authority with the State Board of Administration, as determined by the Governor, Treasurer, and Comptroller acting as the State Board of Administration, unless such member elects to participate in the Senior Management Service Optional Annuity Program as established in subsection (6) in lieu of participation in the Senior Management Service Class. Such election shall be made in writing and filed with the division and the personnel officer of the State Board of Administration within 90 days after becoming eligible for membership in the Senior Management Service Class.

(f) Effective July 1, 1997:

1. Any elected state officer eligible for membership in the Elected State and County Officers' Class under s. 121.052(2)(a), (b), or (c) who elects membership in the Senior Management Service Class under s. 121.052(3)(c) may, within 6 months after assuming office or within 6 months after this act becomes a law for serving elected state officers, elect to participate in the Senior Management Service Optional Annuity Program, as provided in subsection (6), in lieu of membership in the Senior Management Service Class.

2. Any elected county officer eligible for membership in the Elected State and County Officers' Class under s. 121.052(2)(d) who elects membership in the Senior Management Service Class under s. 121.052(3)(c) may, within 6 months after assuming office, or within 6 months after this act becomes a law for serving elected county officers, elect to participate in a lifetime monthly annuity program, as provided in subparagraph (b)2., in lieu of membership in the Senior Management Service Class.

(g) Effective July 1, 1996, participation in the Senior Management Service Class shall be compulsory for any member of the Florida Retirement System employed with the Department of Military Affairs in the positions of the Adjutant General, Assistant Adjutant General-Army, Assistant Adjutant General-Air, State Quartermaster, Director of Military Personnel, Director of Administration, and additional directors as designated by the agency head, not to exceed a total of 10 positions. In lieu of participation in the Senior Management Service Class, such members may participate in the Senior Management Service Optional Annuity Program as established in subsection (6).

(h)1. Except as provided in subparagraph 3., effective January 1, 1994, participation in the Senior Management Service Class shall be compulsory for the State Courts Administrator and the Deputy State Courts Administrators, the Clerk of the Supreme Court, the Marshal of the Supreme Court, the Executive Director of the Justice Administrative Commission, the Capital Collateral Representative, the clerks of the district courts of appeals, the marshals of the district courts of appeals, and the trial court administrator in each judicial circuit. Effective January 1, 1994, additional positions in the offices of the state attorney and public defender in each judicial circuit may be designated for inclusion in the Senior Management Service Class of the Florida Retirement System, provided that:

a. Positions to be included in the class shall be designated by the state attorney or public defender, as appropriate. Notice of intent to designate positions for inclusion in the class shall be published once a week for 2 consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation published in the county or counties affected, as provided in chapter 50.

b. One nonelective full-time position may be designated for each state attorney and public defender reporting to the Division of Retirement; for agencies with 200 or more regularly established positions under the state attorney or public defender, additional nonelective full-time positions may be designated, not to exceed 0.5 percent of the regularly established positions within the agency.

c. Each position added to the class must be a managerial or policymaking position filled by an employee who serves at the pleasure of the state attorney or public defender without civil service protection, and who:

(I) Heads an organizational unit; or

(II) Has responsibility to effect or recommend personnel, budget, expenditure, or policy decisions in his or her areas of responsibility.

2. Participation in this class shall be compulsory, except as provided in subparagraph 3., for any judicial employee who holds a position designated for coverage in the Senior Management Service Class and such participation shall continue until the employee terminates employment in a covered position.

3. In lieu of participation in the Senior Management Service Class, such members may participate in the Senior Management Service Optional Annuity Program as established in subsection (6).

(i)1. Except as provided in subparagraph 2., effective July 1, 1999, participation in the Senior Management Service Class is compulsory for any member of the Florida Retirement System who is employed as a judge of compensation claims with the Office of the Judges of Compensation Claims within the Department of Labor and Employment Security.

2. In lieu of participating in the Senior Management Service Class, a judge of compensation claims may participate in the Senior Management Service Optional Annuity Program established under subsection (6).

(j)(i) Except as may otherwise be provided, any member of the Senior Management Service Class may purchase additional retirement credit in such class for creditable service within the purview of the Senior Management Service Class retroactive to February 1, 1987, and may upgrade retirement credit for such service, to the extent of 2 percent of the member's average monthly compensation as specified in paragraph (4)(d) for such service. Contributions for upgrading the additional Senior Management Service credit pursuant to this paragraph shall be equal to the difference in the contributions paid and the Senior Management Service Class contribution rate as a percentage of gross salary in effect for the period being claimed, plus interest thereon at the rate of 6.5 percent a year, compounded annually until the date of payment. This service credit may be purchased by the employer on behalf of the member.

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 1999.

Approved by the Governor June 8, 1999.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 8, 1999.