

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 2

An act relating to retirement; amending s. 121.053, F.S.; authorizing elected officers participating in DROP to terminate participation in DROP and enroll in a subclass of the Elected Officers' Class; amending s. 121.091, F.S.; increasing the time for participation in the Deferred Retirement Option Program for members of the Elected Officers' Class of the Florida Retirement System; providing that elected officers are not subject to termination limitations; amending s. 122.0515, F.S., relating to special risk membership; revising criteria for members inclusion in the Elected Officers' Class; providing requirements for the appointment of the executive director of the State Board of Administration; providing a declaration of an important state interest; providing for a one-time cost-of-living increase for certain retired members of the Florida Retirement System who have service credit earned between September 30, 1978, and January 1, 1993, in the Special Risk Class of the Florida Retirement System; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section 121.053, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

121.053 Participation in the Elected Officers' Class for retired members.—

(1)

(b) Any retired member of the Florida Retirement System, or any existing system as defined in s. 121.021(2), who, on or after July 1, 1990, is serving in, or is elected or appointed to, an elective office covered by the Elected Officers' Class shall be enrolled in the appropriate subclass of the Elected Officers' Class of the Florida Retirement System, and applicable contributions shall be paid into the Florida Retirement System Trust Fund as provided in s. 121.052(7). Pursuant thereto:

1. Any such retired member shall be eligible to continue to receive retirement benefits as well as compensation for the elected officer service for as long as he or she remains in an elective office covered by the Elected Officers' Class.

2. If any such member serves in an elective office covered by the Elected Officers' Class and becomes vested under that class, he or she shall be entitled to receive an additional retirement benefit for such elected officer service.

3. Such member shall be entitled to purchase additional retirement credit in the Elected Officers' Class for any postretirement service performed in an elected position eligible for the Elected Officers' Class prior to July 1, 1990, or in the Regular Class for any postretirement service performed in

any other regularly established position prior to July 1, 1991, by paying the applicable Elected Officers' Class or Regular Class employee and employer contributions for the period being claimed, plus 4 percent interest compounded annually from the first year of service claimed until July 1, 1975, and 6.5 percent interest compounded thereafter, until full payment is made to the Florida Retirement System Trust Fund. The contribution for postretirement Regular Class service between July 1, 1985, and July 1, 1991, for which the reemployed retiree contribution was paid, shall be the difference between such contribution and the total applicable contribution for the period being claimed, plus interest. The employer of such member may pay the applicable employer contribution in lieu of the member. If a member does not wish to claim credit for all of the postretirement service for which he or she is eligible, the service the member claims must be the most recent service.

4. Creditable service for which credit was received, or which remained unclaimed, at retirement may not be claimed or applied toward service credit earned following renewed membership. However, service earned in accordance with the renewed membership provisions in s. 121.122 may be used in conjunction with creditable service earned under this paragraph, provided applicable vesting requirements and other existing statutory conditions required by this chapter are met.

5. Any elected officer who is a participating member of DROP may terminate participation at any time during the 60-month DROP participation period and elect to enroll in the appropriate subclass of the Elected Officers' Class, including participating in the Senior Management Service Class, effective the first day of the following month.

Section 2. Paragraph (b) of subsection (13) of section 121.091, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

121.091 Benefits payable under the system.—Benefits may not be paid under this section unless the member has terminated employment as provided in s. 121.021(39)(a) or begun participation in the Deferred Retirement Option Program as provided in subsection (13), and a proper application has been filed in the manner prescribed by the department. The department may cancel an application for retirement benefits when the member or beneficiary fails to timely provide the information and documents required by this chapter and the department's rules. The department shall adopt rules establishing procedures for application for retirement benefits and for the cancellation of such application when the required information or documents are not received.

(13) DEFERRED RETIREMENT OPTION PROGRAM.—In general, and subject to the provisions of this section, the Deferred Retirement Option Program, hereinafter referred to as the DROP, is a program under which an eligible member of the Florida Retirement System may elect to participate, deferring receipt of retirement benefits while continuing employment with his or her Florida Retirement System employer. The deferred monthly benefits shall accrue in the System Trust Fund on behalf of the participant, plus interest compounded monthly, for the specified period of the DROP participation, as provided in paragraph (c). Upon termination of employment, the

participant shall receive the total DROP benefits and begin to receive the previously determined normal retirement benefits. Participation in the DROP does not guarantee employment for the specified period of DROP.

(b) Participation in the DROP.—

1. An eligible member may elect to participate in the DROP for a period not to exceed a maximum of 60 calendar months immediately following the date on which the member first reaches his or her normal retirement date or the date to which he or she is eligible to defer his or her election to participate as provided in subparagraph (a)2. However, a member who has reached normal retirement date prior to the effective date of the DROP shall be eligible to participate in the DROP for a period of time not to exceed 60 calendar months immediately following the effective date of the DROP, except a member of the Special Risk Class who has reached normal retirement date prior to the effective date of the DROP and whose total accrued value exceeds 75 percent of average final compensation as of his or her effective date of retirement shall be eligible to participate in the DROP for no more than 36 calendar months immediately following the effective date of the DROP.

2. Upon deciding to participate in the DROP, the member shall submit, on forms required by the division:

a. A written election to participate in the DROP;

b. Selection of the DROP participation and termination dates, which satisfy the limitations stated in paragraph (a) and subparagraph 1. Such termination date shall be in a binding letter of resignation with the employer, establishing a deferred termination date. The member may change the termination date within the limitations of subparagraph 1., but only with the written approval of his or her employer;

c. A properly completed DROP application for service retirement as provided in this section; and

d. Any other information required by the division.

3. The DROP participant shall be a retiree under the Florida Retirement System for all purposes, except for paragraph (5)(f) and subsection (9) and ss. 112.3173, 112.363, 121.053, and 121.122. However, participation in the DROP does not alter the participant's employment status and such employee shall not be deemed retired from employment until his or her deferred resignation is effective and termination occurs as provided in s. 121.021(39).

4. Elected officers shall be eligible to participate in the DROP subject to the following:

a. An elected officer who reaches normal retirement date during a term of office may defer the election to participate in the DROP until the next succeeding term in that office. Such elected officer who exercises this option may participate in the DROP for up to 60 calendar months or a period of no longer than such succeeding term of office, whichever is less.

b. An elected or a nonelected participant may run for a term of office while participating in DROP and, if elected, extend the DROP termination date accordingly, except, however, if such additional term of office exceeds the 60-month limitation established in subparagraph 1., and the officer does not resign from office within such 60-month limitation, the retirement and the participant's DROP shall be null and void as provided in subparagraph (c)5.d.

c. An elected officer who is dually employed and elects to participate in DROP shall be required to satisfy the definition of termination within the 60-month limitation period as provided in subparagraph 1. for the nonelected position and may continue employment as an elected officer as provided in s. 121.053. The elected officer will be enrolled as a renewed member in the Elected Officers' Class or the Regular Class, as provided in ss. 121.053 and 121.22, on the first day of the month after termination of employment in the nonelected position and termination of DROP. Distribution of the DROP benefits shall be made as provided in paragraph (c).

d. An elected officer who is elected or appointed to an elective office is not subject to termination limitations as provided in chapter 121.

Section 3. Effective October 1, 2001, subsection (2) of section 121.0515, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

121.0515 Special risk membership.—

(2) CRITERIA.—A member, to be designated as a special risk member, must meet the following criteria:

(a) The member must be employed as a law enforcement officer and be certified, or required to be certified, in compliance with s. 943.1395; however, sheriffs and elected police chiefs shall be excluded from meeting the certification requirements of this paragraph. In addition, the member's duties and responsibilities must include the pursuit, apprehension, and arrest of law violators or suspected law violators; or the member must be an active member of a bomb disposal unit whose primary responsibility is the location, handling, and disposal of explosive devices; or the member must be the supervisor or command officer of a member or members who have such responsibilities; provided, however, administrative support personnel, including, but not limited to, those whose primary duties and responsibilities are in accounting, purchasing, legal, and personnel, shall not be included;

(b) The member must be employed as a firefighter and be certified, or required to be certified, in compliance with s. 633.35 and be employed solely within the fire department of a local government ~~the employer or an agency of state government~~ with firefighting responsibilities. In addition, the member's duties and responsibilities must include ~~on-the-scene fighting of fires, fire prevention, or firefighter training; or direct supervision of firefighting units, fire prevention, or firefighter training; or aerial firefighting surveillance performed by fixed-wing pilots employed by the Division of Forestry of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services;~~ or the member must be the supervisor or command officer of a member or members who

have such responsibilities; provided, however, administrative support personnel, including, but not limited to, those whose primary duties and responsibilities are in accounting, purchasing, legal, and personnel, shall not be included;

(c) The member must be employed as a correctional officer and be certified, or required to be certified, in compliance with s. 943.1395. In addition, the member's primary duties and responsibilities must be the custody, and physical restraint when necessary, of prisoners or inmates within a prison, jail, or other criminal detention facility, or while on work detail outside the facility, or while being transported; or the member must be the supervisor or command officer of a member or members who have such responsibilities; provided, however, administrative support personnel, including, but not limited to, those whose primary duties and responsibilities are in accounting, purchasing, legal, and personnel, shall not be included; however, wardens and assistant wardens, as defined by rule, shall participate in the Special Risk Class;

(d) The member must be employed by a licensed Advance Life Support (ALS) or Basic Life Support (BLS) employer as an emergency medical technician or a paramedic and be certified in compliance with s. 401.27. In addition, the member's primary duties and responsibilities must include on-the-scene emergency medical care or direct supervision of emergency medical technicians or paramedics, or the member must be the supervisor or command officer of one or more members who have such responsibility. However, administrative support personnel, including, but not limited to, those whose primary responsibilities are in accounting, purchasing, legal, and personnel, shall not be included;

(e) The member must be employed as a community-based correctional probation officer and be certified, or required to be certified, in compliance with s. 943.1395. In addition, the member's primary duties and responsibilities must be the supervised custody, surveillance, control, investigation, and counseling of assigned inmates, probationers, parolees, or community controllees within the community; or the member must be the supervisor of a member or members who have such responsibilities. Administrative support personnel, including, but not limited to, those whose primary duties and responsibilities are in accounting, purchasing, legal services, and personnel management, shall not be included; however, probation and parole circuit and deputy circuit administrators shall participate in the Special Risk Class; or

(f) The member must be employed in one of the following classes and must spend at least 75 percent of his or her time performing duties which involve contact with patients or inmates in a correctional or forensic facility or institution:

1. Dietitian (class codes 5203 and 5204).
2. Public health nutrition consultant (class code 5224).
3. Psychological specialist (class codes 5230 and 5231).

4. Psychologist (class code 5234).
5. Senior psychologist (class codes 5237 and 5238).
6. Regional mental health consultant (class code 5240).
7. Psychological Services Director—DCF (class code 5242).
8. Pharmacist (class codes 5245 and 5246).
9. Senior pharmacist (class codes 5248 and 5249).
10. Dentist (class code 5266).
11. Senior dentist (class code 5269).
12. Registered nurse (class codes 5290 and 5291).
13. Senior registered nurse (class codes 5292 and 5293).
14. Registered nurse specialist (class codes 5294 and 5295).
15. Clinical associate (class codes 5298 and 5299).
16. Advanced registered nurse practitioner (class codes 5297 and 5300).
17. Advanced registered nurse practitioner specialist (class codes 5304 and 5305).
18. Registered nurse supervisor (class codes 5306 and 5307).
19. Senior registered nurse supervisor (class codes 5308 and 5309).
20. Registered nursing consultant (class codes 5312 and 5313).
21. Quality management program supervisor (class code 5314).
22. Executive nursing director (class codes 5320 and 5321).
23. Speech and hearing therapist (class code 5406); or
24. Pharmacy manager (class code 5251).

Section 4. Effective October 1, 2001, subsection (1) of section 121.055, Florida Statutes, 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. Up to 10 nonelective full-time positions may be designated for each local agency employer reporting to the Department of Management Services; 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. The decision to withdraw from the Florida Retirement System shall be irrevocable for as long as the employee holds such a position. 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 posi-

tions 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 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 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 Regional Counsels, 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 Department of Management Services; 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. Effective January 1, 2001, participation in this class is compulsory for assistant state attorneys, assistant statewide prosecutors, assistant public defenders, and assistant capital collateral regional counsels. Effective January 1, 2002, participation in this class is compulsory for assistant attorneys general.

3. In lieu of participation in the Senior Management Service Class, such members, excluding assistant state attorneys, assistant public defenders, assistant statewide prosecutors, assistant attorneys general, and assistant capital collateral regional counsels, 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) 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 5. Subsection (1), paragraph (a) of subsection (2), paragraph (e) of subsection (4), paragraph (b) of subsection (8), and paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (9) of section 121.4501, Florida Statutes, are amended, and paragraph (f) is added to subsection (9) of that section, to read:

121.4501 Public Employee Optional Retirement Program.—

(1) The Trustees of the State Board of Administration shall establish an optional defined contribution retirement program for members of the Florida Retirement System under which retirement benefits will be provided for eligible employees who elect to participate in the program. The benefits to be provided for or on behalf of participants in such optional retirement program shall be provided through employee-directed investments, in accordance with s. 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code and its related regulations. The employers shall contribute, as provided in this section and s. 121.571, to the Public Employee Optional Retirement Program Trust Fund toward the funding of such optional benefits.

(2) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

(a) “Approved provider” or “provider” means a private sector company that is selected and approved by the state board to offer one or more investment products or services to the Public Employee Optional Retirement Pro-

gram. The term includes a bundled provider that offers participants a range of individually allocated or unallocated investment products and may offer a range of administrative and customer services, which may include accounting and administration of individual participant benefits and contributions; individual participant recordkeeping; asset purchase, control, and safekeeping; direct execution of the participant's instructions as to asset and contribution allocation; calculation of daily net asset values; direct access to participant account information; periodic reporting to participants, at least quarterly, on account balances and transactions; guidance, advice, and allocation services directly relating to its own investment options or products, but only if the bundled provider complies with the standard of care of s. 404(a)(1)(A-B) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and if providing such guidance, advice, or allocation services does not constitute a prohibited transaction under s. 4975(c)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code or s. 406 of ERISA, notwithstanding that such prohibited transaction provisions do not apply to the optional retirement program; a broad array of distribution options; asset allocation; and retirement counseling and education. Private sector companies include investment management companies, insurance companies, depositories, and mutual fund companies.

(4) PARTICIPATION; ENROLLMENT.—

(e) After the period during which an eligible employee had the choice to elect the defined benefit program or the Public Employee Optional Retirement Program, the employee shall have one opportunity, at the employee's discretion, to choose to move from the defined benefit program to the Public Employee Optional Retirement Program or from the Public Employee Optional Retirement Program to the defined benefit program. This paragraph shall be contingent upon approval from the Internal Revenue Service for including the choice described herein within the programs offered by the Florida Retirement System.

1. If the employee chooses to move to the Public Employee Optional Retirement Program, the applicable provisions of this section shall govern the transfer.

2. If the employee chooses to move to the defined benefit program, the employee must transfer from his or her Public Employee Optional Retirement account and from other employee moneys as necessary, a sum representing the present value of that employee's accumulated benefit obligation immediately following the time of such movement, determined assuming that attained service equals the sum of service in the defined benefit program and service in the Public Employee Optional Retirement Program all contributions that would have been made to the defined benefit plan for that employee and the actual return that would have been earned on those contributions had they been invested in the defined benefit program. Benefit commencement occurs on the first date the employee would become eligible for unreduced benefits, using the discount rate and other relevant actuarial assumptions that were used to value the Florida Retirement System defined benefit plan liabilities in the most recent actuarial valuation. For any employee who, at the time of the second election, already maintains an accrued

benefit amount in the defined benefit plan, the then-present value of such accrued benefit shall be deemed part of the required transfer amount described in this subparagraph. The division shall ensure that the transfer sum is prepared using a formula and methodology certified by an enrolled actuary.

3. Notwithstanding subparagraph 2., an employee who chooses to move to the defined benefit program and who became eligible to participate in the Public Employee Optional Retirement Program by reason of employment in a regularly established position with a state employer after June 1, 2002; a district school board employer after September 1, 2002; or a local employer after December 1, 2002, must transfer from his or her Public Employee Optional Retirement Program account and, from other employee moneys as necessary, a sum representing that employee's actuarial accrued liability.

4. Employees' ability to transfer from the Florida Retirement System defined benefit program to the Public Employee Optional Retirement Program pursuant to paragraphs (a) through (d), and the ability for current employees to have an option to later transfer back into the defined benefit program under subparagraph 2., shall be deemed a significant system amendment. Pursuant to s. 121.031(4), any such resulting unfunded liability arising from actual original transfers from the defined benefit program to the optional program shall be amortized within 30 plan years as a separate unfunded actuarial base independent of the reserve stabilization mechanism defined in s. 121.031(3)(f). For the first 25 years, no direct amortization payment shall be calculated for this base. During this 25-year period, such separate base shall be used to offset the impact of employees exercising their second program election under this paragraph. It is the legislative intent that the actuarial funded status of the Florida Retirement System defined benefit plan is neither beneficially nor adversely impacted by such second program elections in any significant manner, after due recognition of the separate unfunded actuarial base. Following this initial 25-year period, any remaining balance of the original separate base shall be amortized over the remaining 5 years of the required 30-year amortization period.

(8) ADMINISTRATION OF PROGRAM.—

(b)1. The state board shall select and contract with one third-party administrator to provide administrative services if those services cannot be competitively and contractually provided by the Division of Retirement within the Department of Management Services. With the approval of the state board, the third-party administrator may subcontract with other organizations or individuals to provide components of the administrative services. As a cost of administration, the board may compensate any such contractor for its services, in accordance with the terms of the contract, as is deemed necessary or proper by the board. The third-party administrator may not be an approved provider or be affiliated with an approved provider.

2. These administrative services may include, but are not limited to, enrollment of eligible employees, collection of employer contributions, disbursement of such contributions to approved providers in accordance with the allocation directions of participants; services relating to consolidated

billing; individual and collective recordkeeping and accounting; asset purchase, control, and safekeeping; and direct disbursement of funds to and from the third-party administrator, the division, the board, employers, participants, approved providers, and beneficiaries. This section does not prevent or prohibit a bundled provider from providing any administrative or customer service, including accounting and administration of individual participant benefits and contributions; individual participant recordkeeping; asset purchase, control, and safekeeping; direct execution of the participant's instructions as to asset and contribution allocation; calculation of daily net asset values; direct access to participant account information; or periodic reporting to participants, at least quarterly, on account balances and transactions, if these services are authorized by the board as part of the contract.

3. The state board shall select and contract with one or more organizations to provide educational services. With approval of the board, the organizations may subcontract with other organizations or individuals to provide components of the educational services. As a cost of administration, the board may compensate any such contractor for its services in accordance with the terms of the contract, as is deemed necessary or proper by the board. The education organization may not be an approved provider or be affiliated with an approved provider.

4. Educational services shall be designed by the board and department to assist employers, eligible employees, participants, and beneficiaries in order to maintain compliance with United States Department of Labor regulations under s. 404(c) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and to assist employees in their choice of defined benefit or defined contribution retirement alternatives. Educational services include, but are not limited to, disseminating educational materials; providing retirement planning education; explaining the differences between the defined benefit retirement plan and the defined contribution retirement plan; and offering financial planning guidance on matters such as investment diversification, investment risks, investment costs, and asset allocation. An approved provider may also provide educational information, including retirement planning and investment allocation information concerning its products and services.

(9) INVESTMENT OPTIONS OR PRODUCTS; PERFORMANCE REVIEW.—

(a) The board shall develop policy and procedures for selecting, evaluating, and monitoring the performance of approved providers and investment products to which employees may direct retirement contributions under the program. In accordance with such policy and procedures, the board shall designate and contract for a number of investment products as determined by the board. The board shall also select one or more bundled providers each of whom may offer multiple ~~who offer multiple~~ investment options and related services ~~products~~ when such an approach is determined by the board to afford value to the participants otherwise not available through individual investment products. Each approved bundled provider may offer investment options that provide participants with the opportunity to invest in

each of the following asset classes, to be composed of individual options that represent either a single asset class or a combination thereof: money markets, United States fixed income, United States equities, and foreign stock. The board shall review and manage all educational materials, contract terms, fee schedules, and other aspects of the approved provider relationships to ensure that no provider is unduly favored or penalized by virtue of its status within the plan.

(b) The board shall consider investment options or products it considers appropriate to give participants the opportunity to accumulate retirement benefits, subject to the following:

1. The Public Employee Optional Retirement Program must offer a diversified mix of low-cost investment products that span the risk-return spectrum and may include a guaranteed account as well as investment products, such as individually allocated guaranteed and variable annuities, which meet the requirements of this subsection and combine the ability to accumulate investment returns with the option of receiving lifetime income consistent with the long-term retirement security of a pension plan and similar to the lifetime-income benefit provided by the Florida Retirement System.

2. Investment options or products offered by the group of approved providers may include mutual funds, group annuity contracts, individual retirement annuities, interests in trusts, collective trusts, separate accounts, and other such financial instruments, and may include products that give participants the option of committing their contributions for an extended time period in an effort to obtain returns higher than those that could be obtained from investment products offering full liquidity.

3. The board shall not contract with any provider that imposes a front-end, back-end, contingent, or deferred sales charge, or any other fee that limits or restricts the ability of participants to select any investment product available in the optional program. This prohibition does not apply to fees or charges that are imposed on withdrawals from products that give participants the option of committing their contributions for an extended time period in an effort to obtain returns higher than those that could be obtained from investment products offering full liquidity, provided that the product in question, net of all fees and charges, produces material benefits relative to other comparable products in the program offering full liquidity.

4. Fees or charges for insurance features, such as mortality and expense-risk charges, must be reasonable relative to the benefits provided.

(f)1. An approved provider shall comply with all federal and state securities and insurance laws and regulations applicable to the provider, as well as the applicable rules and guidelines of the National Association of Securities Dealers which govern the ethical marketing of investment products. In furtherance of this mandate, an approved provider must agree in its contract with the board to establish and maintain a compliance education and monitoring system to supervise the activities of all personnel who directly communicate with individual participants and recommend investment products, which system is consistent with rules of the National Association of Securities Dealers.

2. Approved provider personnel who directly communicate with individual participants and who recommend investment products shall make an independent and unbiased determination as to whether an investment product is suitable for a particular participant.

3. The board shall develop procedures to receive and resolve participant complaints against a provider or approved provider personnel, and, when appropriate, refer such complaints to the appropriate agency.

4. Approved providers may not sell or in any way distribute any customer list or participant identification information generated through their offering of products or services through the optional retirement program.

Section 6. Subsection (9) is added to section 121.0515, Florida Statutes, to read:

121.0515 Special risk membership.—

(9) CREDIT FOR UPGRADED SERVICE.—Any member of the Special Risk Class who has earned creditable service in another membership class of the Florida Retirement System as an emergency medical technician or paramedic, which service is within the purview of the Special Risk Class, may purchase additional retirement credit to upgrade such service to Special Risk Class service, to the extent of the percentages of the member's average final compensation provided in s. 121.091(1)(a)2. Contributions for upgrading such service to Special Risk Class credit under this subsection shall be equal to the difference in the contributions paid and the Special Risk 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 7. It is the intent of the Legislature that any additional cost attributable to the upgrade in the retirement benefits for emergency medical technicians and paramedics above the contributions paid in accordance with section 4 of this act shall be funded by recognition of the necessary amount from the excess actuarial assets of the Florida Retirement System Trust Fund.

Section 8. Paragraph (e) of subsection (3) of section 121.052, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

121.052 Membership class of elected officers.—

(3) PARTICIPATION AND WITHDRAWAL, GENERALLY.—Effective July 1, 1990, participation in the Elected Officers' Class shall be compulsory for elected officers listed in paragraphs (2)(a)-(d) and (f) assuming office on or after said date, unless the elected officer elects membership in another class or withdraws from the Florida Retirement System as provided in paragraphs (3)(a)-(d):

(e) Effective July 1, 2001 1997, the governing body of a municipality or special district may, by majority vote, elect to designate all its elected positions for inclusion in the Elected Officers' Class. Such election shall be made

between July 1, ~~2001~~ 1997, and December 31, ~~2001~~ 1997, and shall be irrevocable. The designation of such positions shall be effective the first day of the month following receipt by the department of the ordinance or resolution passed by the governing body.

Section 9. The appointment of the executive director of the State Board of Administration shall be subject to the approval by a majority vote of the Board of Trustees of the State Board of Administration and the Governor must vote on the prevailing side. Such appointment must be reaffirmed in the same manner by the Board of Trustees on an annual basis.

Section 10. For those members with creditable service in the Florida Retirement System Special Risk Class who have retirement service credit in the Special Risk Class after September 30, 1978, and before January 1, 1993, and who retired or entered the Deferred Retirement Option Program of the Florida Retirement System prior to July 1, 2000, such members, or their beneficiaries if the member is deceased, shall receive a one-time special cost-of-living increase on January 1, 2002, equal to 12 percent of their gross retirement benefit. Such increase shall be in addition to the normal cost-of-living increase provided to such members on July 1, 2001.

Section 11. It is the intent of the Legislature that the costs attributable to the additional cost-of-living increase for special risk retirees and Deferred Retirement Option Program participants as provided under section 2 shall be funded by recognition of excess actuarial assets, amortized over 30 years with the payments assumed to remain relatively stable when expressed as a percentage of payroll. For fiscal year 2001-2002, the payment shall be \$9.3 million. For fiscal year 2002-2003, the payment shall be \$19 million, and, thereafter, payments shall increase by 5 percent per year. If insufficient funds are available to fund this additional cost through recognition of excess actuarial assets in fiscal year 2002-2003 and any year thereafter, and there remains an unfunded actuarial liability attributable to the one-time cost-of-living increase provided under section 2, the payroll contribution rate for the Special Risk Class of the Florida Retirement System shall be increased by .93 percent effective July 1 of that year, unless the Legislature provides an alternative funding mechanism before that date.

Section 12. The Legislature finds that a proper and legitimate state purpose is served when employees and retirees of the state and its political subdivisions and the dependents, survivors, and beneficiaries of such employees and retirees are extended the basic protections afforded by governmental retirement systems that provide fair and adequate benefits and that are managed, administered, and funded in an actuarially sound manner, as required by Section 14, Article X, of the State Constitution and part VII of chapter 112, Florida Statutes. Therefore, the Legislature determines and declares that this act fulfills an important state interest.

Section 13. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

Approved by the Governor June 14, 2001.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 14, 2001.