

AN ACT concerning public employee benefits.

**Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,
represented in the General Assembly:**

Section 5. The Illinois Pension Code is amended by changing Section 15-139.5 as follows:

(40 ILCS 5/15-139.5)

Sec. 15-139.5. Return to work by affected annuitant; notice and contribution by employer.

(a) An employer who employs or re-employs a person receiving a retirement annuity from the System in an academic year beginning on or after August 1, 2013 must notify the System of that employment within 60 days after employing the annuitant. The notice must include a summary of the contract of employment or specify the rate of compensation and the anticipated length of employment of that annuitant. The notice must specify whether the annuitant will be compensated from federal, corporate, foundation, or trust funds or grants of State funds that identify the principal investigator by name. The notice must include the employer's determination of whether or not the annuitant is an "affected annuitant" as defined in subsection (b).

The employer must also record, document, and certify to the System (i) the amount of compensation paid to the annuitant for

employment during the academic year, and (ii) the amount of that compensation, if any, that comes from either federal, corporate, foundation, or trust funds or grants of State funds that identify the principal investigator by name.

As used in this Section, "academic year" means the 12-month period beginning September 1.

For the purposes of this Section, an annuitant whose employment by an employer extends over more than one academic year shall be deemed to be re-employed by that employer in each of those academic years.

The System may specify the time, form, and manner of providing the determinations, notifications, certifications, and documentation required under this Section.

(b) A person receiving a retirement annuity from the System becomes an "affected annuitant" on the first day of the academic year following the academic year in which the annuitant first meets the following conditions ~~condition~~:

(1) (Blank).

(2) While receiving a retirement annuity under this Article, the annuitant was employed on or after August 1, 2013 by one or more employers under this Article and received or became entitled to receive during an academic year compensation for that employment in excess of 40% of his or her highest annual earnings prior to retirement; except that compensation paid from federal, corporate, foundation, or trust funds or grants of State funds that

identify the principal investigator by name is excluded.

(3) The annuitant received an annualized retirement annuity under this Article of at least \$10,000.

A person who becomes an affected annuitant remains an affected annuitant, except for any period during which the person returns to active service and does not receive a retirement annuity from the System.

(c) It is the obligation of the employer to determine whether an annuitant is an affected annuitant before employing the annuitant. For that purpose the employer may require the annuitant to disclose and document his or her relevant prior employment and earnings history. Failure of the employer to make this determination correctly and in a timely manner or to include this determination with the notification required under subsection (a) does not excuse the employer from making the contribution required under subsection (e).

The System may assist the employer in determining whether a person is an affected annuitant. The System shall inform the employer if it discovers that the employer's determination is inconsistent with the employment and earnings information in the System's records.

(d) Upon the request of an annuitant, the System shall certify to the annuitant or the employer the following information as reported by the employers, as that information is indicated in the records of the System: (i) the annuitant's highest annual earnings prior to retirement, (ii) the

compensation paid for that employment in each academic year, and (iii) whether any of that employment or compensation has been certified to the System as being paid from federal, corporate, foundation, or trust funds or grants of State funds that identify the principal investigator by name. The System shall only be required to certify information that is received from the employers.

(e) In addition to the requirements of subsection (a), an employer who employs an affected annuitant must pay to the System an employer contribution in the amount and manner provided in this Section, unless the annuitant is compensated by that employer solely from federal, corporate, foundation, or trust funds or grants of State funds that identify the principal investigator by name.

The employer contribution required under this Section for employment of an affected annuitant in an academic year shall be equal to 12 times the amount of the gross monthly retirement annuity payable to the annuitant for the month in which the first paid day of that employment in that academic year occurs, after any reduction in that annuity that may be imposed under subsection (b) of Section 15-139.

If an affected annuitant is employed by more than one employer in an academic year, the employer contribution required under this Section shall be divided among those employers in proportion to their respective portions of the total compensation paid to the affected annuitant for that

employment during that academic year.

If the System determines that an employer, without reasonable justification, has failed to make the determination of affected annuitant status correctly and in a timely manner, or has failed to notify the System or to correctly document or certify to the System any of the information required by this Section, and that failure results in a delayed determination by the System that a contribution is payable under this Section, then the amount of that employer's contribution otherwise determined under this Section shall be doubled.

The System shall deem a failure to correctly determine the annuitant's status to be justified if the employer establishes to the System's satisfaction that the employer, after due diligence, made an erroneous determination that the annuitant was not an affected annuitant due to reasonable reliance on false or misleading information provided by the annuitant or another employer, or an error in the annuitant's official employment or earnings records.

(f) Whenever the System determines that an employer is liable for a contribution under this Section, it shall so notify the employer and certify the amount of the contribution. The employer may pay the required contribution without interest at any time within one year after receipt of the certification. If the employer fails to pay within that year, then interest shall be charged at a rate equal to the System's prescribed rate of interest, compounded annually from the 366th day after

receipt of the certification from the System. Payment must be concluded within 2 years after receipt of the certification by the employer. If the employer fails to make complete payment, including applicable interest, within 2 years, then the System may, after giving notice to the employer, certify the delinquent amount to the State Comptroller, and the Comptroller shall thereupon deduct the certified delinquent amount from State funds payable to the employer and pay them instead to the System.

(g) If an employer is required to make a contribution to the System as a result of employing an affected annuitant and the annuitant later elects to forgo his or her annuity in that same academic year pursuant to subsection (c) of Section 15-139, then the required contribution by the employer shall be waived, and if the contribution has already been paid, it shall be refunded to the employer without interest.

(h) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Article, the employer contribution required under this Section shall not be included in the determination of any benefit under this Article or any other Article of this Code, regardless of whether the annuitant returns to active service, and is in addition to any other State or employer contribution required under this Article.

(i) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Section to the contrary, if an employer employs an affected annuitant in order to continue critical operations in the event of either an

employee's unforeseen illness, accident, or death or a catastrophic incident or disaster, then, for one and only one academic year, the employer is not required to pay the contribution set forth in this Section for that annuitant. The employer shall, however, immediately notify the System upon employing a person subject to this subsection (i). For the purposes of this subsection (i), "critical operations" means teaching services, medical services, student welfare services, and any other services that are critical to the mission of the employer.

(j) This Section shall be applied and coordinated with the regulatory obligations contained in the State Universities Civil Service Act. This Section shall not apply to an annuitant if the employer of that annuitant provides documentation to the System that (1) the annuitant is employed in a status appointment position, as that term is defined in 80 Ill. Adm. Code 250.80, and (2) due to obligations contained under the State Universities Civil Service Act, the employer does not have the ability to limit the earnings or duration of employment for the annuitant while employed in the status appointment position.

(Source: P.A. 97-968, eff. 8-16-12; 98-596, eff. 11-19-13.)