[No. 205]

(HB 4173)

AN ACT to amend 1943 PA 240, entitled "An act to provide for a state employees' retirement system; to create a state employees' retirement board and prescribe its powers and duties; to establish certain funds in connection with the retirement system; to require contributions to the retirement system by and on behalf of members and participants of the retirement system; to create certain accounts and provide for expenditures from those accounts; to prescribe the powers and duties of certain state and local officers and employees and certain state departments and agencies; and to prescribe penalties and provide remedies," by amending sections 1a, 17j, 19, and 31 (MCL 38.1a, 38.17j, 38.19, and 38.31), section 1a as amended by 1995 PA 176, section 17j as amended by 1989 PA 9, section 19 as amended by 1996 PA 521, and section 31 as amended by 1991 PA 48, and by adding section 17m; and to repeal acts and parts of acts.

The People of the State of Michigan enact:

38.1a Definitions; A. [M.S.A. 3.981(1a)]

Sec. 1a. (1) "Accumulated contributions" means the sum of all amounts deducted from the compensation of a member and credited to the member's individual account in the employees' savings fund, together with regular interest on that account.

(2) "Actuarial cost" means an amount that shall be paid, except as otherwise specifically provided by this act, by a member to purchase additional service credit as allowed under this act. Actuarial cost shall be computed as provided in section 17j.

(3) "Annuity" means annual payments for life derived from the accumulated contributions of a member. An annuity shall be paid in equal monthly installments.

(4) "Annuity reserve" means the present value, computed upon the basis of mortality and other tables adopted by the retirement board, of all payments to be made on account of an annuity, or benefits in lieu of an annuity, granted to a member under this act.

(5) "Appointing authority" means the departmental officer who has the responsibility of making appointments and handling all other personnel transactions affecting the employees in the agency that the officer represents.

38.17j Purchase of combined total of more than 10 years prohibited; purchase of service credit in separate increments; future purchases not barred; refund; actuarial cost. [M.S.A. 3.981(17j)]

Sec. 17j. (1) On and after June 23, 1987, a member who is otherwise entitled to purchase service credit under section 17g, 17h, 17i, 17k, 17*l*, or 17m shall not purchase a combined total of more than 10 years of service credit under those sections.

(2) On and after June 23, 1987, a member who under section 17c, 17e, 17f, 17g, 17h, 17i, 17k, 17*l*, 17m, or 18(2) is otherwise entitled to purchase service credit may purchase the service credit in separate increments equal to 1 or more full years, or a remaining fraction of a year, if any, or both. Partial purchase of service credit under this section does not bar future purchases otherwise in compliance with this section and the provisions of this act authorizing the purchase, but computation of the amount of payment due shall be made separately for each purchase.

(3) If a member who made payment under this section dies and a retirement allowance is not payable or if the member leaves service with this state before his or her retirement allowance becomes effective, the payment made by the member shall be refunded upon request to the member, to the person designated by the member in writing to the board, or if a person is not designated, then to the member's legal representative or estate.

(4) Actuarial cost shall be equal to the product of subdivisions (a), (b), and (c), as follows:

(a) A percentage, determined by the retirement board and the department, that when multiplied by a member's compensation, as determined under subdivision (b), results in the average actuarial present value of the additional benefits resulting from the crediting of 1 additional year of service. The percentage may vary because of age, credited service, or benefit coverage. An increase or decrease in the percentage under this subdivision shall not become effective before the expiration of 6 months or more after the retirement board notifies the members of the increase or decrease.

(b) A member's compensation. The member's compensation shall be the member's compensation earned in the fiscal year immediately before the fiscal year in which the application to purchase and payment for the service are made. The compensation amount used shall not be less than the highest compensation previously earned by the member.

(c) The number of years, including any fraction of a year, of credited service a member elects to purchase up to the maximum allowed.

38.17m Purchase of service credit; limitation; refund. [M.S.A. 3.981(17m)]

Sec. 17m. (1) A member may elect to purchase not more than 5 years of service credit less the number of years of service credit purchased under sections 17e, 17f, and 17k, upon request and payment to the retirement system of the actuarial cost.

(2) Service credit purchased under this section may not be used to satisfy the minimum number of years of service credit required to receive a retirement allowance under this act.

(3) If a member who made payment under this section dies and a retirement allowance is not payable, or if the member leaves service and a retirement allowance is not payable, the payment made by the member shall be refunded upon request to the member, the member's refund beneficiary, if any, or to the member's legal representative or estate.

38.19 Retirement upon written application to retirement board; retirement without reduction in retirement allowance; definitions; layoff status because agency or inpatient facility designated for closure; conditions; certification; application; funding additional costs; employees of state accident fund, Michigan biologic products institute, or liquor control commission. [M.S.A. 3.981(19)]

Sec. 19. (1) A member who is 60 years of age or older and has 10 or more years of credited service or a member who is 60 years of age or older and has 5 or more years of credited service as provided in section 20(4) or (5) may retire upon written application to the retirement board, stating a date, not less than 30 or more than 90 days after the execution and filing of the application, on which he or she desires to retire. Beginning on the retirement allowance effective date, he or she shall receive a retirement allowance computed according to section 20(1).

(2) A member who is 55 years of age or older, but less than 60 years of age, and has 15 or more years of credited service, may retire upon written application to the retirement board stating a date, not less than 30 or more than 90 days after the execution and filing of the application, on which he or she desires to retire. Upon retirement he or she shall receive a retirement allowance computed according to section 20(1). Except as otherwise provided in this act, the retirement allowance of a member who has less than 30 years of credited service shall be reduced by an amount that is 0.5% of the retirement allowance

multiplied by the number of months the person's age at retirement is under 60 years. The reduction of 1/2 of 1% for each month and fraction of a month from the member's retirement allowance effective date to the date of the member's sixtieth birthday provided for in this subsection does not apply to a member who retired before July 1, 1974 and before attainment of age 60, with 30 or more years of credited service. The retirement allowance of a retirant or beneficiary of a retirant who retired before that date shall be recalculated disregarding the reduction, and the person receiving the retirement allowance is eligible to receive an adjusted retirement allowance based on the recalculation beginning October 1, 1987, but is not eligible to receive the adjusted amount attributable to any month beginning before October 1, 1987. The recalculated retirement allowance provided by this subsection shall be paid by January 1, 1988. The retirement allowance of a retirant who dies before January 1, 1988, and who has not nominated a retirement allowance beneficiary pursuant to section 31, shall not be recalculated pursuant to this subsection.

(3) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, effective April 1, 1988, a member may retire with a retirement allowance computed according to section 20(1), without regard to the reduction in subsection (2), if all of the following apply:

(a) The member files a written application with the retirement board stating a date, not less than 30 or more than 90 days after the execution and filing of the application, on which the member desires to retire, and which is within the early retirement effective period.

(b) The member was employed by the state for the 6-month period immediately preceding the member's retirement allowance effective date. This subdivision does not apply to a member who had been restored to active service during that 6-month period pursuant to section 33.

(c) On the last day of the month immediately preceding the retirement allowance effective date stated in the application, the member's combined age and length of credited service is equal to or greater than 80 years and the member is 50 years of age or older.

(d) For purposes of this subsection, "early retirement effective period" means 1 of the following:

(*i*) Except as provided in subparagraph (*ii*), the period beginning on April 1, 1988 and ending on April 1, 1989.

(*ii*) For a member employed by a hospital or facility owned or operated by the department formerly known as the department of mental health that is in the process of being closed by the department formerly known as the department of mental health, the period beginning on April 1, 1988 and ending on October 1, 1989.

(4) As used in subsections (5) to (9):

(a) "Agency of the department" means 1 of the following:

(*i*) Southwest Michigan community living services.

(*ii*) Wayne community living services.

(b) "Department inpatient facility" means 1 of the following:

(*i*) A developmental disability center that is directly operated by the department formerly known as the department of mental health for purposes of providing inpatient care and treatment services to persons with developmental disabilities.

(*ii*) A psychiatric hospital that is directly operated by the department formerly known as the department of mental health for purposes of providing inpatient diagnostic and therapeutic services to persons who are mentally ill.

(5) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, a member who is an employee of an agency of the department or a department inpatient facility and is on layoff status because the agency or inpatient facility has been designated by the state officer formerly known as the director of mental health for closure on or after October 1, 1989, may retire as provided in subsection (7) or (8), as applicable, with a retirement allowance computed according to section 20(1), without regard to the reduction in subsection (2), upon satisfaction of any 1 of the following conditions:

(a) The member is 51 years of age or older and has 25 or more years of credited service, the last 5 of which are as an employee of an agency of the department designated for closure or a department inpatient facility designated for closure.

(b) The member is at least 56 years of age and has 10 or more years of credited service, the last 5 of which are as an employee of an agency of the department designated for closure or a department inpatient facility designated for closure.

(c) The member has 25 or more years of credited service, regardless of age, as an employee of an agency of the department designated for closure or a department inpatient facility designated for closure.

(6) When a department inpatient facility or agency is designated for closure on or after October 1, 1989, the state officer formerly known as the director of mental health shall certify in writing to the state legislature and the retirement board, not less than 240 days before the designated official date of closure, which facility or agency is to be closed and the designated official date of closure.

(7) Except as provided in subsection (8), a member who is eligible to receive a retirement allowance under subsection (5) may retire effective on the date that an agency of the department or a department inpatient facility designated for closure as provided in subsection (5) actually closes, upon written application to the retirement board not less than 30 or more than 180 days before the designated official date of closure. Beginning on the retirement allowance effective date, he or she shall receive a retirement allowance computed according to section 20(1).

(8) A member who is on layoff status, is not working for the state, and becomes eligible to receive a retirement allowance under subsection (5) and who was an employee of an agency of the department or a department inpatient facility that has been designated for closure as provided in subsection (5) and that actually closes on or after October 1, 1989, may retire upon written application to the retirement board, stating a date, not less than 30 or more than 180 days after the facility actually closes, upon which he or she wishes to retire. Beginning on the retirement allowance effective date, he or she shall receive a retirement allowance computed according to section 20(1).

(9) Any additional accrued actuarial cost and costs for health insurance resulting from the implementation of subsection (5) shall be funded from appropriations to the department formerly known as the department of mental health for this purpose.

(10) A member who is an employee of the state accident fund on the date of transfer to a permitted transferee as that term is defined by section 701a of the worker's disability compensation act of 1969, 1969 PA 317, MCL 418.701a, may retire if the member's age and his or her length of service is equal to or greater than 70 years on the date of transfer. The member may retire upon written application to the retirement board, stating a date, not less than 30 or more than 90 days after the execution and filing of the application, on which he or she desires to retire. Beginning on the retirement allowance effective date, he or she shall receive a retirement allowance computed according to section 20(1) without regard to the reduction required by subsection (2).

(11) A member who is an employee of the Michigan biologic products institute on the date the institute is conveyed pursuant to the Michigan biologic products institute transfer act, 1996 PA 522, MCL 333.26331 to 333.26340, may retire if the member's age and his or her length of service is equal to or greater than 70 years on the date of the conveyance. The member may retire upon written application to the retirement board, stating a date, not less than 30 or more than 90 days after the execution and filing of the application, on which he or she desires to retire. Beginning on the retirement allowance effective date, he or she shall receive a retirement allowance computed according to section 20(1) without regard to the reduction required by subsection (2).

(12) A member who is an employee of the liquor control commission created by section 5 of the Michigan liquor control act, 1933 (Ex Sess) PA 8, MCL 436.5, whose employment is terminated due to the privatization of the distribution of spirits within this state is effectuated pursuant to the resolution and order adopted by the liquor control commission on February 7, 1996, a plan adopted pursuant to statute or court order, or a plan adopted pursuant to both statute and order of the liquor control commission may retire if the member's age and his or her length of service is equal to or greater than 70 years on the date the privatization is effectuated. The member may retire under this subsection upon written application to the retirement board, stating a date, not less than 30 or more than 90 days after the execution and filing of the application, on which he or she desires to retire. Beginning on the retirement allowance effective date, he or she shall receive a retirement allowance computed according to section 20(1), without regard to the reduction required by subsection (2). The cost of benefits paid under this section shall be paid out of the revolving fund created under section 10 of the Michigan liquor control act, 1933 (Ex Sess) PA 8, MCL 436.10.

38.31 Election of regular retirement allowance or reduced retirement allowance; payment options; designation of beneficiary; effect of beneficiary's death or divorce; request by nonduty disability retirant to change elections; death of member before effective date of retirement; retirement allowance subject to eligible domestic relations order. [M.S.A. 3.981(31)]

Sec. 31. (1) Except as provided in subsection (6), before the effective date of retirement, but not after the effective date of retirement, a member or deferred member who is eligible for retirement, as provided in this act, shall elect to receive his or her benefit in a retirement allowance payable throughout life, which shall be called a regular retirement allowance, or to receive the actuarial equivalent at that time of his or her regular retirement allowance in a reduced retirement allowance payable throughout the lives of the retirant and a retirement allowance beneficiary, pursuant to 1 of the following payment options:

(a) Option A. Upon the retirant's death, his or her reduced retirement allowance shall be continued throughout the life of and paid to the retirement allowance beneficiary whom the member nominated by written designation duly executed and filed with the retirement board before the effective date of his or her retirement.

(b) Option B. Upon the retirant's death, 1/2 of his or her reduced retirement allowance shall be continued throughout the life of and paid to the retirement allowance beneficiary whom the member nominated by written designation duly executed and filed with the retirement board before the effective date of his or her retirement.

(c) Option C. On and after January 1, 2000, upon the retirant's death, 3/4 of his or her reduced retirement allowance shall be continued throughout the life of and paid to the retirement allowance beneficiary whom the member nominated by written designation duly executed and filed with the retirement board before the effective date of his or her retirement.

(2) Except as provided in subsections (3) and (8), the election of a payment option under subsection (1) shall not be changed on or after the effective date of the retirement allowance. A retirement allowance beneficiary designated under this section shall not be changed on or after the effective date of the retirement allowance, and shall be either a spouse, brother, sister, parent, child, including an adopted child, or grandchild of the person making the designation. Payment to a retirement allowance beneficiary shall begin on the first day of the month following the death of the retirant or member.

(3) If the retirement allowance beneficiary named under a payment option under subsection (1) predeceases the retirant, the retirant's benefit shall revert to the regular retirement allowance, effective with the first day of the month following the retirement allowance beneficiary's death. For a retirant whose effective date of retirement was on or before June 28, 1976, this subsection shall apply, but the regular retirement allowance is not payable for any month beginning before the later of the retirement allowance beneficiary's death or January 1, 1986. A retirant who on January 1, 1986 is receiving a reduced retirement allowance because the retirant designated a retirement allowance beneficiary and the retirement allowance beneficiary predeceased the retirant is eligible to receive the regular retirement allowance beginning January 1, 1986, but the regular retirement allowance is not payable for any month beginning before January 1, 1986.

(4) A member who continues in the employ of this state on and after the date he or she acquires 10 years of service credit or becomes eligible for deferred retirement as provided by section 20(4) or (5), whichever occurs first, may by written declaration duly executed and filed with the retirement board elect option A, provided for in subsection (1)(a), and nominate a retirement allowance beneficiary in the same manner as if the member were then retiring from service, notwithstanding that the member may not have attained 60 years of age. If the beneficiary's death or divorce from the member occurs before the effective date of the member's retirement, the member's election of option A and nomination of retirement allowance beneficiary shall be automatically revoked and the member may again elect option A and nominate a retirement allowance beneficiary at any time before the effective date of retirement. If a member who has made an election and nominated a retirement allowance beneficiary as provided in this subsection dies before the effective date of his or her retirement, then the retirement allowance beneficiary shall immediately receive the retirement allowance that he or she would have been entitled to receive under option A if the member had been regularly retired on the date of the member's death. Except as otherwise provided by subsection (5), if a member who has made an election under this subsection subsequently retires under this act, his or her election of option A shall take effect at the time of retirement. Subject to the requirements of subsection (5), the member, before the effective date of retirement, but not after the effective date of retirement, may revoke his or her previous election of option A and elect to receive his or her retirement allowance as a regular retirement allowance or under option B or C as provided for in subsection (1). A retirement allowance shall not be paid under this subsection on account of the death of a member if any benefits are paid under section 27 on account of his or her death. If a deferred member who has an option A election in effect dies before the effective date of his or her retirement, the retirement allowance payable under option A shall be paid to the retirement allowance beneficiary at the time the deceased deferred member otherwise would have been eligible to begin receiving benefits.

(5) If a member, deferred member, retiring member, or retiring deferred member is married at the effective date of the retirement allowance, an election under this section, other than an election of a payment option under subsection (1) naming the spouse as retirement allowance beneficiary, shall not be effective unless the election is signed by the

spouse. However, this requirement may be waived by the retirement board if the signature of a spouse cannot be obtained because of extenuating circumstances. As used in this subsection, "spouse" means the person to whom the member, deferred member, retiring member, or retiring deferred member is married at the effective date of the retirement allowance.

(6) Until July 1, 1991, upon request in a form as determined by the retirement board, a nonduty disability retirant who retired under section 24 may change his or her election to receive a disability retirement allowance computed as a regular retirement allowance and elect to receive the actuarial equivalent at the time of the election pursuant to this subsection of his or her disability retirement allowance in a reduced retirement allowance payable to the retirant and the retirant's spouse pursuant to the provisions of a payment option as provided in subsection (1), if the disability retirement allowance effective date was before November 12, 1985 and the retirant had 25 or more years of credited service on the disability retirement allowance effective date. The nonduty disability retirant shall begin to receive the reduced retirement allowance under this subsection effective the first day of the month following the month in which the retirant makes the election pursuant to this subsection. As used in this subsection, "spouse" means the person to whom the nonduty disability retirant was married on the effective date of his or her disability retirement allowance and on the date the retirant makes the election pursuant to this subsection.

(7) If a member who continues in the employ of this state on and after the date he or she acquires 10 years of service credit, or on and after the date he or she becomes eligible for deferred retirement as provided by section 20(4) or (5), whichever occurs first, and who does not have an election of option A in force as provided in subsection (4), dies before the effective date of retirement and leaves a surviving spouse, the spouse shall receive a retirement allowance computed in the same manner as if the member had retired effective the day before the date of his or her death, elected option A, and nominated the spouse as retirement allowance beneficiary. When the retirement allowance beneficiary dies, his or her retirement allowance shall terminate. If the aggregate amount of retirement allowance payments received by the beneficiary is less than the accumulated contributions credited to the member's account in the employees' savings fund at the time of the member's death, the difference between the accumulated contributions and the aggregate amount of retirement allowance payments received by the beneficiary shall be transferred from the employer's accumulation fund or pension reserve fund to the employees' savings fund and paid pursuant to section 29. A retirement allowance shall not be paid under this subsection on account of the death of a member if benefits are paid under section 27 on account of his or her death.

(8) If a retirant receiving a reduced retirement allowance under a payment option under subsection (1) is divorced from the spouse who had been designated as the retirant's retirement allowance beneficiary under the option, the election of the payment option shall be considered void by the retirement system if the judgment of divorce or award or order of the court, or an amended judgment of divorce or award or order of the court, described in section 40 and dated after June 27, 1991 provides that the election of the payment option under subsection (1) is to be considered void by the retirement system and the retirant provides a certified copy of the judgment of divorce or award or order of the court, or an amended judgment of divorce or award or order of the court, to the retirement system. If the election of a payment option under subsection (1) is considered void by the retirement system under this subsection, the retirant's retirement allowance shall revert to a regular retirement allowance, including postretirement adjustments, if any, subject to an award or order of the court as described in section 40. The retirement

allowance shall revert to a regular retirement allowance under this subsection effective the first of the month after the date the retirement system receives a certified copy of the judgment of divorce or award or order of the court. This subsection does not supersede a judgment of divorce or award or order of the court in effect on June 27, 1991. This subsection does not require the retirement system to distribute or pay retirement assets on behalf of a retirant in an amount that exceeds the actuarially determined amount that would otherwise become payable if a judgment of divorce had not been rendered.

(9) A retirement allowance payable under a payment option provided in this section is subject to an eligible domestic relations order under the eligible domestic relations order act, 1991 PA 46, MCL 38.1701 to 38.1711.

Repeal of §§38.17e, 38.17f, and 38.17k.

Enacting section 1. Sections 17e, 17f, and 17k of the state employees' retirement act, 1943 PA 240, MCL 38.17e, 38.17f, and 38.17k, are repealed.

Effective date.

Enacting section 2. This amendatory act takes effect August 1, 1998.

Conditional effective date.

Enacting section 3. This amendatory act does not take effect unless House Bill No. 4897 of the 89th Legislature is enacted into law.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.
Approved July 1, 1998.
Filed with Secretary of State July 1, 1998.

Compiler's note: House Bill No. 4897, referred to in enacting section 3, was filed with the Secretary of State July 1, 1998, and became P.A. 1998, No. 213, Eff. March 23, 1999.