

CHAPTER 121

[Senate Bill No. 4731]

RETIREMENT—VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S RELIEF AND PENSION FUND—
MEMBERSHIP IN SHALL NOT SUBJECT AN EMPLOYEE TO EXCLUSION FROM
PUBLIC RETIREMENT SYSTEM

AN ACT Relating to retirement from public employment; and amending section 13, chapter 274, Laws of 1947 as last amended by section 19, chapter 52, Laws of 1982 1st ex. sess. and RCW 41.40.120.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

Sec. 1. Section 13, chapter 274, Laws of 1947 as last amended by section 19, chapter 52, Laws of 1982 1st ex. sess. and RCW 41.40.120 are each amended to read as follows:

Membership in the retirement system shall consist of all regularly compensated employees and appointive and elective officials of employers, as defined in this chapter, with the following exceptions:

(1) Persons in ineligible positions;

(2) Employees of the legislature except the officers thereof elected by the members of the senate and the house and legislative committees, unless membership of such employees be authorized by the said committee;

(3) Persons holding elective offices or persons appointed directly by the governor: PROVIDED, That such persons shall have the option of applying for membership and to be accepted by the action of the director, such application for those taking elective office for the first time after May 21, 1971, shall be submitted within eight years of the beginning of their initial term of office: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That any such persons previously denied service credit because of any prior laws excluding membership which have subsequently been repealed, shall nevertheless be allowed to recover or regain such service credit denied or lost because of the previous lack of authority: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That any persons holding elective offices or persons appointed by the governor who are members in the retirement system and who have, prior to becoming such members, previously held an elective office, and did not at the start of such initial or successive terms of office exercise their option to become members, may apply for membership and be accepted by action of the director, to be effective during such term or terms of office, and shall be allowed to recover or regain the service credit applicable to such term or terms of office upon payment of the employee contributions therefor by the employee and employer contributions therefor by the employer or employee: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That any person who was an elected official eligible to apply for membership pursuant to this subsection, who failed to exercise that option while holding such elected office and who is now a member of the retirement system, shall have the option to recover service credit for such

elected service upon payment to the retirement system of the employee and employer contributions which would have been made had the person been a member during the period of such elective service;

(4) Employees holding membership in, or receiving pension benefits under, any retirement plan operated wholly or in part by an agency of the state or political subdivision thereof, or who are by reason of their current employment contributing to or otherwise establishing the right to receive benefits from any such retirement plan: **PROVIDED, HOWEVER,** In any case where the retirement system has in existence an agreement with another retirement system in connection with exchange of service credit or an agreement whereby members can retain service credit in more than one system, such an employee shall be allowed membership rights should the agreement so provide: **AND PROVIDED FURTHER,** That an employee shall be allowed membership if otherwise eligible while receiving survivor's benefits: **AND PROVIDED FURTHER,** That an employee shall not either before or after the effective date of this 1984 act be excluded from membership or denied service credit pursuant to this subsection solely on account of enrollment under the relief and compensation provisions or the pension provisions of the volunteer firemen's relief and pension fund under chapter 41.24 RCW;

(5) Patient and inmate help in state charitable, penal, and correctional institutions;

(6) "Members" of a state veterans' home or state soldiers' home;

(7) Persons employed by an institution of higher learning or community college, primarily as an incident to and in furtherance of their education or training, or the education or training of a spouse;

(8) Employees of an institution of higher learning or community college during the period of service necessary to establish eligibility for membership in the retirement plans operated by such institutions;

(9) Persons rendering professional services to an employer on a fee, retainer, or contract basis or when the income from these services is less than fifty percent of the gross income received from the person's practice of a profession;

(10) Persons appointed after April 1, 1963, by the liquor control board as agency vendors;

(11) Employees of a labor guild, association, or organization: **PROVIDED,** That elective officials and employees of a labor guild, association, or organization which qualifies as an employer within this chapter shall have the option of applying for membership;

(12) Persons hired in eligible positions on a temporary basis for a period not to exceed six months: **PROVIDED,** That if such employees are employed for more than six months in an eligible position they shall become members of the system;

(13) Persons employed by or appointed or elected as an official of a first class city that has its own retirement system: PROVIDED, That any member elected or appointed to an elective office on or after April 1, 1971, shall have the option of continuing as a member of this system in lieu of becoming a member of the city system. A member who elects to continue as a member of this system shall pay the appropriate member contributions and the city shall pay the employer contributions at the rates prescribed by this chapter. The city shall also transfer to this system all of such member's accumulated contributions together with such further amounts as necessary to equal all employee and employer contributions which would have been paid into this system on account of such service with the city and thereupon the member shall be granted credit for all such service. Any city that becomes an employer as defined in RCW 41.40.010(4) as the result of an individual's election under the first proviso of this subsection shall not be required to have all employees covered for retirement under the provisions of this chapter. Nothing in this subsection shall prohibit a city of the first class with its own retirement system from transferring all of its current employees to the retirement system established under this chapter. Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, persons transferring from employment with a first class city of over four hundred thousand population that has its own retirement system to employment with the state department of agriculture may elect to remain within the retirement system of such city and the state shall pay the employer contributions for such persons at like rates as prescribed for employers of other members of such system;

(14) Employees who (a) are not citizens of the United States, (b) do not reside in the United States, and (c) perform duties outside of the United States;

(15) Employees who (a) are not citizens of the United States, (b) are not covered by chapter 41.48 RCW, (c) are not excluded from membership under this chapter or chapter 41.04 RCW, (d) are residents of this state, and (e) make an irrevocable election to be excluded from membership, in writing, which is submitted to the director within thirty days after employment in an eligible position;

(16) Employees who are citizens of the United States and who reside and perform duties for an employer outside of the United States: PROVIDED, That unless otherwise excluded under this chapter or chapter 41.04 RCW, the employee may apply for membership (a) within thirty days after employment in an eligible position and membership service credit shall be granted from the first day of membership service, and (b) after this thirty-

day period, but membership service credit shall be granted only from the date of application.

Passed the Senate February 7, 1984.

Passed the House February 25, 1984.

Approved by the Governor March 5, 1984.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 5, 1984.

CHAPTER 122

[Engrossed Substitute House Bill No. 1511]

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION ESTABLISHED

AN ACT Relating to tourism development; adding a new section to chapter 53.08 RCW; creating new sections; providing an expiration date; and declaring an emergency.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

NEW SECTION. Sec. 1. It is hereby declared that the attraction of visitors to this state can enhance the economic well-being of our citizens by increasing the jobs and income derived from commerce with tourists traveling in the state.

The state has valuable natural beauty and scenic attractions, and the promotion of these attractions by cooperative efforts between the public and private sectors can significantly contribute to economic growth and employment opportunities by developing the tourism industry in this state.

The state regional tourism development organizations are important and contribute significantly to the state's tourism development effort and help to insure that the benefits of increased tourism in Washington accrue to all geographic areas of the state.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. There is hereby established the Washington state tourism development commission, referred to in sections 1 through 8 of this act as the commission.

***NEW SECTION.** Sec. 3. *The commission shall be composed of twenty-one members.*

Eight members of the commission shall be appointed by the governor, four members shall be appointed by the president of the senate and four members shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.

The commission members appointed by the governor, president of the senate, and speaker of the house of representatives shall represent the eight state regional tourism development organizations, the various geographical areas of the state, and groups of the state tourism industry, including but not limited to the eight state regional tourism development organizations, local and state visitors' organizations/associations, hotels, motels, airlines, restaurants, tourist attractions, inbound travel tours, small businesses, and labor. In making their appointments, the governor, president of the senate, and speaker of the house shall seek nominees for appointment to the commission from the