

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION
LEGISLATIVE BILL 927

Introduced by Nordquist, 7.

Read first time January 15, 2014

Committee: Judiciary

A BILL

1 FOR AN ACT relating to the Judges Retirement Act; to amend section
2 24-703, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2013; to provide
3 that certain court fees cannot be waived; and to repeal
4 the original section.
5 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Section 24-703, Revised Statutes Supplement,
2 2013, is amended to read:

3 24-703 (1) Each original member shall contribute monthly
4 four percent of his or her monthly compensation to the fund until the
5 maximum benefit as limited in subsection (1) of section 24-710 has
6 been earned. It shall be the duty of the Director of Administrative
7 Services in accordance with subsection (10) of this section to make a
8 deduction of four percent on the monthly payroll of each original
9 member who is a judge of the Supreme Court, a judge of the Court of
10 Appeals, a judge of the district court, a judge of a separate
11 juvenile court, a judge of the county court, a clerk magistrate of
12 the county court who was an associate county judge and a member of
13 the fund at the time of his or her appointment as a clerk magistrate,
14 or a judge of the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Court showing the
15 amount to be deducted and its credit to the fund. The Director of
16 Administrative Services and the State Treasurer shall credit the four
17 percent as shown on the payroll and the amounts received from the
18 various counties to the fund and remit the same to the director in
19 charge of the judges retirement system who shall keep an accurate
20 record of the contributions of each judge.

21 (2)(a) In addition to the contribution required under
22 subdivision (c) of this subsection, beginning on July 1, 2004, each
23 future member who has not elected to make contributions and receive
24 benefits as provided in section 24-703.03 shall contribute monthly
25 six percent of his or her monthly compensation to the fund until the

1 maximum benefit as limited in subsection (2) of section 24-710 has
2 been earned. After the maximum benefit as limited in subsection (2)
3 of section 24-710 has been earned, such future member shall make no
4 further contributions to the fund, except that (i) any time the
5 maximum benefit is changed, a future member who has previously earned
6 the maximum benefit as it existed prior to the change shall
7 contribute monthly six percent of his or her monthly compensation to
8 the fund until the maximum benefit as changed and as limited in
9 subsection (2) of section 24-710 has been earned and (ii) such future
10 member shall continue to make the contribution required under
11 subdivision (c) of this subsection.

12 (b) In addition to the contribution required under
13 subdivision (c) of this subsection, beginning on July 1, 2004, a
14 judge who first serves as a judge on or after such date or a future
15 member who elects to make contributions and receive benefits as
16 provided in section 24-703.03 shall contribute monthly eight percent
17 of his or her monthly compensation to the fund until the maximum
18 benefit as limited by subsection (2) of section 24-710 has been
19 earned. In addition to the contribution required under subdivision
20 (c) of this subsection, after the maximum benefit as limited in
21 subsection (2) of section 24-710 has been earned, such judge or
22 future member shall contribute monthly four percent of his or her
23 monthly compensation to the fund for the remainder of his or her
24 active service.

25 (c) Beginning on July 1, 2009, a member or judge

1 described in subdivisions (a) and (b) of this subsection shall
2 contribute monthly an additional one percent of his or her monthly
3 compensation to the fund.

4 (d) It shall be the duty of the Director of
5 Administrative Services to make a deduction on the monthly payroll of
6 each such future member who is a judge of the Supreme Court, a judge
7 of the Court of Appeals, a judge of the district court, a judge of a
8 separate juvenile court, a judge of the county court, a clerk
9 magistrate of the county court who was an associate county judge and
10 a member of the fund at the time of his or her appointment as a clerk
11 magistrate, or a judge of the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Court
12 showing the amount to be deducted and its credit to the fund. This
13 shall be done each month. The Director of Administrative Services and
14 the State Treasurer shall credit the amount as shown on the payroll
15 and the amounts received from the various counties to the fund and
16 remit the same to the director in charge of the judges retirement
17 system who shall keep an accurate record of the contributions of each
18 judge.

19 (3) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, a
20 Nebraska Retirement Fund for Judges fee of six dollars shall be taxed
21 as costs in each (a) civil cause of action, criminal cause of action,
22 traffic misdemeanor or infraction, and city or village ordinance
23 violation filed in the district courts, the county courts, and the
24 separate juvenile courts, (b) filing in the district court of an
25 order, award, or judgment of the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Court

1 or any judge thereof pursuant to section 48-188, (c) appeal or other
2 proceeding filed in the Court of Appeals, and (d) original action,
3 appeal, or other proceeding filed in the Supreme Court. In county
4 courts a sum shall be charged which is equal to ten percent of each
5 fee provided by sections 33-125, 33-126.02, 33-126.03, and 33-126.06,
6 rounded to the nearest even dollar. No judges retirement fee shall be
7 charged for filing a report pursuant to sections 33-126.02 and
8 33-126.06. When collected by the clerk of the district or county
9 court, such fees shall be paid and information submitted to the
10 director in charge of the judges retirement system on forms
11 prescribed by the board by the clerk within ten days after the close
12 of each calendar quarter. The board may charge a late administrative
13 processing fee not to exceed twenty-five dollars if the information
14 is not timely received or the money is delinquent. In addition, the
15 board may charge a late fee of thirty-eight thousandths of one
16 percent of the amount required to be submitted pursuant to this
17 section for each day such amount has not been received. Such director
18 shall promptly thereafter remit the same to the State Treasurer for
19 credit to the fund. ~~No Nebraska Retirement Fund for Judges fee which~~
20 ~~is uncollectible for any reason shall be waived by a county judge as~~
21 ~~provided in section 29-2709. No fee which is to be credited to the~~
22 ~~Nebraska Retirement Fund for Judges pursuant to this section or~~
23 ~~section 25-2804, 33-103, 33-103.01, 33-106.02, 33-123, 33-124,~~
24 ~~33-125, 33-126.02, 33-126.03, or 33-126.06 may be waived.~~

25 (4) All expenditures from the fund shall be authorized by

1 voucher in the manner prescribed in section 24-713. The fund shall be
2 used for the payment of all annuities and other benefits and for the
3 expenses of administration.

4 (5) The fund shall consist of the total fund as of
5 December 25, 1969, the contributions of members as provided in this
6 section, all supplementary court fees as provided in subsection (3)
7 of this section, and any required contributions of the state.

8 (6) Not later than January 1 of each year, the State
9 Treasurer shall transfer to the fund the amount certified by the
10 board as being necessary to pay the cost of any benefits accrued
11 during the fiscal year ending the previous June 30 in excess of
12 member contributions for that fiscal year and court fees as provided
13 in subsection (3) of this section and fees pursuant to sections
14 25-2804, 33-103, 33-103.01, 33-106, 33-106.02, 33-123, 33-125,
15 33-126.02, 33-126.03, and 33-126.06 and directed to be remitted to
16 the fund, if any, for that fiscal year plus any required
17 contributions of the state as provided in subsection (9) of this
18 section.

19 (7) Benefits under the retirement system to members or to
20 their beneficiaries shall be paid from the fund.

21 (8) Any member who is making contributions to the fund on
22 December 25, 1969, may, on or before June 30, 1970, elect to become a
23 future member by delivering written notice of such election to the
24 board.

25 (9) Not later than January 1 of each year, the State

1 Treasurer shall transfer to the fund an amount, determined on the
2 basis of an actuarial valuation as of the previous June 30 and
3 certified by the board, to fully fund the unfunded accrued
4 liabilities of the retirement system as of June 30, 1988, by level
5 payments up to January 1, 2000. Such valuation shall be on the basis
6 of actuarial assumptions recommended by the actuary, approved by the
7 board, and kept on file with the board. For the fiscal year beginning
8 July 1, 2013, and each fiscal year thereafter, the actuary for the
9 board shall perform an actuarial valuation of the system using the
10 entry age actuarial cost method. Under this method, the actuarially
11 required funding rate is equal to the normal cost rate, plus the
12 contribution rate necessary to amortize the unfunded actuarial
13 accrued liability on a level percentage of salary basis. The normal
14 cost under this method shall be determined for each individual member
15 on a level percentage of salary basis. The normal cost amount is then
16 summed for all members. Beginning July 1, 2006, any existing unfunded
17 liabilities shall be reinitialized and amortized over a thirty-year
18 period, and during each subsequent actuarial valuation, changes in
19 the funded actuarial accrued liability due to changes in benefits,
20 actuarial assumptions, the asset valuation method, or actuarial gains
21 or losses shall be measured and amortized over a thirty-year period
22 beginning on the valuation date of such change. If the unfunded
23 actuarial accrued liability under the entry age actuarial cost method
24 is zero or less than zero on an actuarial valuation date, then all
25 prior unfunded actuarial accrued liabilities shall be considered

1 fully funded and the unfunded actuarial accrued liability shall be
2 reinitialized and amortized over a thirty-year period as of the
3 actuarial valuation date. If the actuarially required contribution
4 rate exceeds the rate of all contributions required pursuant to the
5 Judges Retirement Act, there shall be a supplemental appropriation
6 sufficient to pay for the differences between the actuarially
7 required contribution rate and the rate of all contributions required
8 pursuant to the Judges Retirement Act.

9 (10) The state or county shall pick up the member
10 contributions required by this section for all compensation paid on
11 or after January 1, 1985, and the contributions so picked up shall be
12 treated as employer contributions pursuant to section 414(h)(2) of
13 the Internal Revenue Code in determining federal tax treatment under
14 the code and shall not be included as gross income of the member
15 until such time as they are distributed or made available. The
16 contributions, although designated as member contributions, shall be
17 paid by the state or county in lieu of member contributions. The
18 state or county shall pay these member contributions from the same
19 source of funds which is used in paying earnings to the member. The
20 state or county shall pick up these contributions by a compensation
21 deduction through a reduction in the compensation of the member.
22 Member contributions picked up shall be treated for all purposes of
23 the Judges Retirement Act in the same manner and to the extent as
24 member contributions made prior to the date picked up.

25 Sec. 2. Original section 24-703, Revised Statutes

1 Supplement, 2013, is repealed.