LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE SECOND SESSION

## **LEGISLATIVE BILL 698**

Introduced by Kolterman, 24.

Read first time January 03, 2018

Committee: Nebraska Retirement Systems

1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to retirement; to amend sections 23-2305, 2 23-2306.02, 23-2306.03, 23-2310.05, 23-2323.02, 23-2323.03, 24-704, 3 24-704.01, 24-710, 24-710.05, 24-710.06, 79-904, 79-905, 79-907, 4 79-924, 79-933.01, 79-933.02, 79-933.03, 79-933.04, 79-933.07, 81-2019, 81-2031.03, 81-2031.04, 84-1305, 84-1310.01, 84-1311.03, 5 6 84-1312, and 84-1313, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, sections 7 23-2305.01, 23-2309.01, 81-2019.01, 81-2026, and 84-1305.02, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2016, and sections 23-2323.01, 8 9 79-904.01, 79-926, 84-1325, and 84-1503, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2017; to change provisions to provide permissive 10 authority relating to the adoption of bylaws, prescription of forms, 11 12 and adoption and promulgation of rules and regulations by the Public 13 Employees Retirement Board to carry out state-administered 14 retirement acts as prescribed; to harmonize provisions; and to 15 repeal the original sections.

16 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

-1-

Section 1. Section 23-2305, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
 amended to read:

23-2305 It shall be the duty of the board to administer the County
Employees Retirement Act as provided in section 84-1503. The board may
shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to carry out the act.

Sec. 2. Section 23-2305.01, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
2016, is amended to read:

23-2305.01 (1)(a) If the board determines that the retirement system 8 9 has previously received contributions or distributed benefits which for 10 any reason are not in accordance with the statutory provisions of the County Employees Retirement Act, the board shall refund contributions, 11 12 require additional contributions, adjust benefits, credit dividend 13 amounts, or require repayment of benefits paid. In the event of an overpayment of a benefit, the board may, in addition to other remedies, 14 offset future benefit payments by the amount of the prior overpayment, 15 together with regular interest or interest credits, whichever 16 is 17 appropriate, thereon. In the event of an underpayment of a benefit, the board shall immediately make payment equal to the deficit amount plus 18 regular interest or interest credits, whichever is appropriate. 19

(b) The board shall have the power, through the director of the 20 Nebraska Public Employees Retirement Systems or the director's designee, 21 22 to make a thorough investigation of any overpayment of a benefit, when in the judgment of the retirement system such investigation is necessary, 23 24 including, but not limited to, circumstances in which benefit payments are made after the death of a member or beneficiary and the retirement 25 system is not made aware of such member's or beneficiary's death. In 26 connection with any such investigation, the board, through the director 27 or the director's designee, shall have the power to compel the attendance 28 of witnesses and the production of books, papers, records, and documents, 29 whether in hardcopy, electronic form, or otherwise, and issue subpoenas 30 for such purposes. Such subpoenas shall be served in the same manner and 31

-2-

1 have the same effect as subpoenas from district courts.

2 (2) The board may shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations implementing this section, which may shall include, but not be limited 3 4 to, the following: (a) The procedures for refunding contributions, adjusting future contributions or benefit payments, 5 and requiring additional contributions or repayment of benefits; (b) the process for a 6 7 member, member's beneficiary, employee, or employer to dispute an adjustment of contributions or benefits; and (c) notice provided to all 8 9 affected persons. All notices shall be sent prior to an adjustment and 10 shall describe the process for disputing an adjustment of contributions or benefits. 11

12 Sec. 3. Section 23-2306.02, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is 13 amended to read:

23-2306.02 Under such rules and regulations as the retirement board 14 15 may adopt and promulgate adopts and promulgates, a full-time or part-time employee of a city, village, or township who becomes a county employee 16 17 pursuant to a merger of services may pay to the retirement system an amount equal to the sum of all deductions which were made from the 18 employee's compensation, plus earnings, during such period of employment 19 with the city, village, or township. Payment shall be made within five 20 years after the merger or prior to retirement, whichever comes first, and 21 may be made through direct payment, installment payments, or 22 an irrevocable payroll authorization. 23

24 Sec. 4. Section 23-2306.03, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is 25 amended to read:

23-2306.03 Under such rules and regulations as the retirement board 27 <u>may adopt and promulgate</u> adopts and promulgates, a full-time or part-time 28 employee of a city, village, fire protection district, or township who 29 becomes a municipal county employee shall transfer all of his or her 30 funds in the retirement system of the city, village, fire protection 31 district, or township by paying to the Retirement System for Nebraska

-3-

1 Counties from funds held by the retirement system of the city, village, 2 fire protection district, or township an amount equal to one of the following: (1) If the retirement system of the city, village, fire 3 4 protection district, or township maintains a defined benefit plan, an amount not to exceed the initial benefit transfer value as provided in 5 section 13-2401, leaving no funds attributable to the transferred 6 7 employee within the retirement system of the city, village, fire protection district, or township; or (2) if the retirement system of the 8 9 city, village, fire protection district, or township maintains a defined 10 contribution plan, an amount not to exceed the employee and employer accounts of the transferring employee plus earnings during the period of 11 employment with the city, village, fire protection district, or township. 12 The employee shall receive vesting credit for his or her years of service 13 14 in a governmental plan, as defined in section 414(d) of the Internal Revenue Code, maintained by the city, village, fire protection district, 15 16 or township. Payment shall be made within five years after employment 17 begins with the receiving entity or prior to retirement, whichever comes first, and may be made through direct payment, installment payments, or 18 an irrevocable payroll deduction authorization. 19

Sec. 5. Section 23-2309.01, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
2016, is amended to read:

22 23-2309.01 (1) Each member employed and participating in the 23 retirement system prior to January 1, 2003, who has elected not to 24 participate in the cash balance benefit, shall be allowed to allocate all 25 contributions to his or her employee account to various investment 26 options. The investment options shall include, but not be limited to, the 27 following:

(a) An investor select account which shall be invested under the
direction of the state investment officer with an asset allocation and
investment strategy substantially similar to the investment allocations
made by the state investment officer for the defined benefit plans under

-4-

1 the retirement systems described in subdivision (1)(a) of section 2 84-1503. Investments shall most likely include domestic and international 3 equities, fixed income investments, and real estate, as well as 4 potentially additional asset classes;

5 (b) A stable return account which shall be invested by or under the 6 direction of the state investment officer in a stable value strategy that 7 provides capital preservation and consistent, steady returns;

8 (c) An equities account which shall be invested by or under the 9 direction of the state investment officer in equities;

(d) A balanced account which shall be invested by or under the
direction of the state investment officer in equities and fixed income
instruments;

(e) An index fund account which shall be invested by or under the
direction of the state investment officer in a portfolio of common stocks
designed to closely duplicate the total return of the Standard and Poor's
division of The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc., 500 Index;

(f) A fixed income account which shall be invested by or under thedirection of the state investment officer in fixed income instruments;

(g) A money market account which shall be invested by or under the direction of the state investment officer in short-term fixed income securities; and

22 (h) Beginning July 1, 2006, an age-based account which shall be invested under the direction of the state investment officer with an 23 24 asset allocation and investment strategy that changes based upon the age of the member. The board shall develop an account mechanism that changes 25 the investments as the employee nears retirement age. The asset 26 allocation and asset classes utilized in the investments shall move from 27 aggressive, to moderate, and then to conservative as retirement age 28 approaches. 29

30 If a member fails to select an option or combination of options, all 31 of his or her funds shall be placed in the option described in

-5-

subdivision (b) of this subsection. Each member shall be given a detailed
 current description of each investment option prior to making or revising
 his or her allocation.

(2) 4 Members of the retirement system may allocate their contributions to the investment options in percentage increments as set 5 by the board in any proportion, including full allocation to any one 6 7 option. A member under subdivision (1)(a) of section 23-2321 or his or her beneficiary may transfer any portion of his or her funds among the 8 9 options, except for restrictions on transfers to or from the stable 10 return account pursuant to rule or regulation. The board may shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations for changes of a member's allocation 11 of contributions to his or her accounts after his or her most recent 12 allocation and for transfers from one investment account to another. 13

14 (3) The board shall develop a schedule for the allocation of 15 administrative costs of maintaining the various investment options and 16 shall assess the costs so that each member pays a reasonable fee as 17 determined by the board.

(4) In order to carry out this section, the board may enter into administrative services agreements for accounting or record-keeping services. No agreement shall be entered into unless the board determines that it will result in administrative economy and will be in the best interests of the county and its participating employees.

(5) The state, the board, the state investment officer, the members
of the Nebraska Investment Council, or the county shall not be liable for
any investment results resulting from the member's exercise of control
over the assets in the employee account.

27 Sec. 6. Section 23-2310.05, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is 28 amended to read:

29 23-2310.05 (1) Each member employed and participating in the 30 retirement system prior to January 1, 2003, who has elected not to 31 participate in the cash balance benefit, shall be allowed to allocate all

-6-

1 contributions to his or her employer account to various investment options. Such investment options shall be the same as the investment 2 options of the employee account as provided in subsection (1) of section 3 23-2309.01. If a member fails to select an option or combination of 4 5 options, all of his or her funds in the employer account shall be placed in the balanced account option described in subdivision (1)(d) of section 6 7 23-2309.01. Each member shall be given a detailed current description of each investment option prior to making or revising his or her allocation. 8

9 (2) Each member of the retirement system may allocate contributions to his or her employer account to the investment options in percentage 10 increments as set by the board in any proportion, including full 11 allocation to any one option. A member under subdivision (1)(a) of 12 section 23-2321 or his or her beneficiary may transfer any portion of his 13 or her funds among the options. The board may shall adopt and promulgate 14 rules and regulations for changes of a member's allocation of 15 16 contributions to his or her accounts after his or her most recent allocation and for transfers from one investment account to another. 17

(3) The board shall develop a schedule for the allocation of administrative costs of maintaining the various investment options and shall assess the costs so that each member pays a reasonable fee as determined by the board.

(4) In order to carry out the provisions of this section, the board may enter into administrative services agreements for accounting or record-keeping services. No agreement shall be entered into unless the board determines that it will result in administrative economy and will be in the best interests of the state and participating employees.

(5) The state, the board, the state investment officer, the members
of the Nebraska Investment Council, or the county shall not be liable for
any investment results resulting from the member's exercise of control
over the assets in the employer account.

31 Sec. 7. Section 23-2323.01, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2017, is

-7-

23-2323.01 (1)(a) For military service beginning on or after 2 3 December 12, 1994, but before January 1, 2018, any employee who, while an employee, entered into and served in the armed forces of the United 4 States and who within ninety days after honorable discharge or honorable 5 separation from active duty again became an employee shall be credited, 6 for the purposes of section 23-2315, with all the time actually served in 7 the armed forces as if such person had been an employee throughout such 8 9 service in the armed forces pursuant to the terms and conditions of subdivision (b) of this subsection. 10

(b) Under such rules and regulations as the retirement board may 11 adopt and promulgate adopts and promulgates, an employee who is 12 reemployed on or after December 12, 1994, pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 4301 et 13 14 seq., may pay to the retirement system an amount equal to the sum of all deductions which would have been made from the employee's compensation 15 16 during such period of military service. Payment shall be made within the period required by law, not to exceed five years. To the extent that 17 payment is made, (i) the employee shall be treated as not having incurred 18 a break in service by reason of the employee's period of military 19 service, (ii) the period of military service shall be credited for the 20 purposes of determining the nonforfeitability of the employee's accrued 21 benefits and the accrual of benefits under the plan, and (iii) the 22 23 employer shall allocate the amount of employer contributions to the 24 employee's employer account in the same manner and to the same extent the allocation occurs for other employees during the period of service. For 25 purposes of employee and employer contributions under this section, the 26 employee's compensation during the period of military service shall be 27 the rate the employee would have received but for the military service 28 or, if not reasonably determinable, the average rate the employee 29 received during the twelve-month period immediately preceding military 30 31 service.

-8-

1 (c) The employer shall pick up the employee contributions made 2 through irrevocable payroll deduction authorizations pursuant to this 3 subsection, and the contributions so picked up shall be treated as 4 employer contributions in the same manner as contributions picked up 5 under section 23-2307.

6 (2)(a) For military service beginning on or after January 1, 2018, 7 any employee who is reemployed pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 4301 et seq., shall 8 be treated as not having incurred a break in service by reason of the 9 employee's period of military service. Such military service shall be 10 credited for purposes of determining the nonforfeitability of the 11 employee's accrued benefits and the accrual of benefits under the plan.

(b) The county employing the employee shall be liable for funding any obligation of the plan to provide benefits based upon such period of military service. To satisfy the liability, the county employing the employee shall pay to the retirement system an amount equal to:

16 (i) The sum of the employee and employer contributions that would17 have been paid during such period of military service; and

(ii) Any actuarial costs necessary to fund the obligation of the plan to provide benefits based upon such period of military service. For the purposes of determining the amount of such liability and obligation of the plan, earnings and forfeitures, gains and losses, regular interest, interest credits, or dividends that would have accrued on the employee and employer contributions that are paid by the employer pursuant to this section shall not be included.

(c) The amount required pursuant to subdivision (b) of this subsection shall be paid to the retirement system as soon as reasonably practicable following the date of reemployment but must be paid within eighteen months of the date the board notifies the employer of the amount due. If the employer fails to pay the required amount within such eighteen-month period, then the employer is also responsible for any actuarial costs and interest on actuarial costs that accrue from eighteen

-9-

1 months after the date the employer is notified by the board until the 2 date the amount is paid.

3 (d) The retirement board may adopt and promulgate rules and 4 regulations to carry out this subsection, including, but not limited to, 5 rules and regulations on:

6 (i) How and when the employee and employer must notify the7 retirement system of a period of military service;

8

(ii) The acceptable methods of payment;

9 (iii) Determining the service and compensation upon which the 10 contributions must be made;

(iv) Accelerating the payment from the employer due to unforeseen circumstances that occur before payment is made pursuant to this section, including, but not limited to, the employee's termination or retirement or the employer's reorganization, consolidation, merger, or closing; and

(v) The documentation required to substantiate that the employee was
reemployed pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 4301 et seq.

17 (3) This section only applies to military service that falls within 18 the definition of uniformed service under 38 U.S.C. 4301 et seq. Military 19 service does not include service provided pursuant to sections 55-101 to 20 55-181.

21 Sec. 8. Section 23-2323.02, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is 22 amended to read:

23 23-2323.02 (1) For purposes of this section and section 23-2323.03:
 (a) <u>Direct rollover means a payment by the retirement system to the</u>
 25 <u>eligible retirement plan or plans specified by the distributee</u>
 26 <u>Distributee means the member, the member's surviving spouse, or the</u>
 27 member's former spouse who is an alternate payee under a qualified

28 domestic relations order as defined in section 414(p) of the Internal 29 Revenue Code;

30 (b) <u>Distributee means the member, the member's surviving spouse, or</u>
 31 the member's former spouse who is an alternate payee under a qualified

<u>domestic relations order as defined in section 414(p) of the Internal</u>
 <u>Revenue Code Direct rollover means a payment by the retirement system to</u>
 the eligible retirement plan or plans specified by the distributee;

4 (c) Eligible retirement plan means (i) an individual retirement 5 account described in section 408(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, (ii) an individual retirement annuity described in section 408(b) of the code, 6 except for an endowment contract, (iii) a qualified plan described in 7 section 401(a) of the code, (iv) an annuity plan described in section 8 9 403(a) or 403(b) of the code, (v) except for purposes of section 23-2323.03, an individual retirement plan described in section 408A of 10 the code, and (vi) a plan described in section 457(b) of the code and 11 governmental 12 maintained а employer. For eligible rollover by distributions to a surviving spouse, an eligible retirement plan means 13 subdivisions (1)(c)(i) through (vi) of this section; and 14

(d) Eligible rollover distribution means any distribution to a 15 16 distributee of all or any portion of the balance to the credit of the 17 distributee in the plan, except such term shall not include any distribution which is one of a series of substantially equal periodic 18 payments, not less frequently than annually, made for the life of the 19 distributee or joint lives of the distributee and the distributee's 20 beneficiary or for the specified period of ten years or more and shall 21 not include any distribution to the extent such distribution is required 22 under section 401(a)(9) of the Internal Revenue Code. 23

(2) For distributions made to a distributee on or after January 1,
1993, a distributee may elect to have any portion of an eligible rollover
distribution paid directly to an eligible retirement plan specified by
the distributee.

(3) A member's surviving spouse or former spouse who is an alternate
payee under a qualified domestic relations order and, on or after January
1, 2010, any designated beneficiary of a member who is not a surviving
spouse or former spouse who is entitled to receive an eligible rollover

-11-

distribution from the retirement system may, in accordance with such
rules, regulations, and limitations as may be established by the board,
elect to have such distribution made in the form of a direct transfer to
a retirement plan eligible to receive such transfer under the provisions
of the Internal Revenue Code.

(4) An eligible rollover distribution on behalf of a designated 6 beneficiary of a member who is not a surviving spouse or former spouse of 7 the member may be transferred to an individual retirement account or 8 9 annuity described in section 408(a) or section 408(b) of the Internal Revenue Code that is established for the purpose of receiving the 10 distribution on behalf of the designated beneficiary and that will be 11 treated as an inherited individual retirement account or individual 12 13 retirement annuity described in section 408(d)(3)(C) of the Internal 14 Revenue Code.

(5) The board <u>may shall</u> adopt and promulgate rules and regulations
for direct rollover procedures which are consistent with section 401(a)
(31) of the Internal Revenue Code and which include, but are not limited
to, the form and time of direct rollover distributions.

Sec. 9. Section 23-2323.03, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, isamended to read:

23-2323.03 (1) The retirement system may accept cash rollover 21 contributions from a member who is making payment pursuant to section 22 23-2306.02, 23-2306.03, 23-2320, or 23-2323.01 if the contributions do 23 24 not exceed the amount authorized to be paid by the member pursuant to 25 section 23-2306.02, 23-2306.03, 23-2320, or 23-2323.01, and the contributions represent (a) all or any portion of the balance of the 26 member's interest in a qualified plan under section 401(a) of the 27 Internal Revenue Code or (b) the interest of the member from an 28 individual retirement account or an individual retirement annuity, the 29 entire amount of which is attributable to a qualified total distribution, 30 as defined in the Internal Revenue Code, from a qualified plan under 31

-12-

section 401(a) of the code and qualified as a tax-free rollover amount.
The member's interest under subdivision (a) or (b) of this subsection
must be transferred to the retirement system within sixty days from the
date of the distribution from the qualified plan, individual retirement
account, or individual retirement annuity.

6 (2) Cash transferred to the retirement system as a rollover 7 contribution shall be deposited as other payments made under section 8 23-2306.02, 23-2306.03, 23-2320, or 23-2323.01.

9 (3) Under the same conditions as provided in subsection (1) of this 10 section, the retirement system may accept eligible rollover distributions from (a) an annuity contract described in section 403(b) of the Internal 11 Revenue Code, (b) a plan described in section 457(b) of the code which is 12 13 maintained by a state, a political subdivision of a state, or any agency or instrumentality of a state or political subdivision of a state, or (c) 14 the portion of a distribution from an individual retirement account or 15 annuity described in section 408(a) or 408(b) of the code that is 16 17 eligible to be rolled over and would otherwise be includible in gross income. Amounts accepted pursuant to this subsection shall be deposited 18 as all other payments under this section. 19

(4) The retirement system may accept direct rollover distributions
made from a qualified plan pursuant to section 401(a)(31) of the Internal
Revenue Code. The direct rollover distribution shall be deposited as all
other payments under this section.

(5) The board <u>may</u> shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations
defining procedures for acceptance of rollovers which are consistent with
sections 401(a)(31) and 402 of the Internal Revenue Code.

27 Sec. 10. Section 24-704, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is 28 amended to read:

29 24-704 (1) The general administration of the retirement system for
30 judges provided for in the Judges Retirement Act, except the investment
31 of funds, is hereby vested in the board. The Auditor of Public Accounts

-13-

1 shall make an annual audit of the retirement system and electronically 2 file an annual report of its condition with the Clerk of the Legislature. 3 Each member of the Legislature shall receive an electronic copy of the 4 annual report by making a request for such report to the Auditor of 5 Public Accounts. The board <u>may shall</u> adopt and promulgate rules and 6 regulations as may be necessary to carry out the Judges Retirement Act.

7 (2)(a) The board shall employ a director and such assistants and
8 employees as may be necessary to efficiently discharge the duties imposed
9 by the act. The director shall keep a record of all acts and proceedings
10 taken by the board.

(b) The director shall keep a complete record of all members with 11 respect to name, current address, age, contributions, length of service, 12 13 compensation, and any other facts as may be necessary in the 14 administration of the act. The information in the records shall be provided by the State Court Administrator in an accurate and verifiable 15 16 form, as specified by the director. The director shall, from time to time, carry out testing procedures pursuant to section 84-1512 to verify 17 the accuracy of such information. For the purpose of obtaining such facts 18 and information, the director shall have access to the records of the 19 various state departments and agencies and the holder of the records 20 shall comply with a request by the director for access by providing such 21 facts and information to the director in a timely manner. A certified 22 23 copy of a birth certificate or delayed birth certificate shall be prima 24 facie evidence of the age of the person named in the certificate.

(c) The director shall develop and implement an employer education program using principles generally accepted by public employee retirement systems so that all employers have the knowledge and information necessary to prepare and file reports as the board requires.

(3) Information necessary to determine membership in the retirementsystem shall be provided by the State Court Administrator.

31 (4) Any funds of the retirement system available for investment

-14-

shall be invested by the Nebraska Investment Council pursuant to the 1 2 Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act. Payment for investment services by the council shall be charged 3 4 directly against the gross investment returns of the funds. Charges so incurred shall not be a part of the board's annual budget request. The 5 amounts of payment for such services, as of December 31 of each year, 6 7 shall be reported not later than March 31 of the following year to the council, the board, and the Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee of the 8 9 Legislature. The report submitted to the committee shall be submitted 10 electronically. The state investment officer shall sell any such securities upon request from the director so as to provide money for the 11 payment of benefits or annuities. 12

Sec. 11. Section 24-704.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

24-704.01 (1)(a) If the board determines that the retirement system 15 has previously received contributions or distributed benefits which for 16 17 any reason are not in accordance with the Judges Retirement Act, the board shall refund contributions, require additional contributions, 18 adjust benefits, or require repayment of benefits paid. In the event of 19 an overpayment of a benefit, the board may, in addition to other 20 remedies, offset future benefit payments by the amount of the prior 21 overpayment, together with regular interest thereon. In the event of an 22 23 underpayment of a benefit, the board shall immediately make payment equal 24 to the deficit amount plus regular interest.

(b) The board shall have the power, through the director of the Nebraska Public Employees Retirement Systems or the director's designee, to make a thorough investigation of any overpayment of a benefit, when in the judgment of the retirement system such investigation is necessary, including, but not limited to, circumstances in which benefit payments are made after the death of a member or beneficiary and the retirement system is not made aware of such member's or beneficiary's death. In

-15-

1 connection with any such investigation, the board, through the director
2 or the director's designee, shall have the power to compel the attendance
3 of witnesses and the production of books, papers, records, and documents,
4 whether in hardcopy, electronic form, or otherwise, and issue subpoenas
5 for such purposes. Such subpoenas shall be served in the same manner and
6 have the same effect as subpoenas from district courts.

7 (2) The board may shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations implementing this section, which shall include, but not be limited to, 8 9 the following: (a) The procedures for refunding contributions, adjusting 10 future contributions or benefit payments, and requiring additional contributions or repayment of benefits; (b) the process for a member, 11 member's beneficiary, employee, or employer to dispute an adjustment of 12 13 contributions or benefits; and (c) notice provided to all affected persons. All notices shall be sent prior to an adjustment and shall 14 describe the process for disputing an adjustment of contributions or 15 benefits. 16

17 Sec. 12. Section 24-710, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is 18 amended to read:

19 24-710 (1) The retirement annuity of a judge who is an original member, who has not made the election provided for in subsection (8) of 20 section 24-703 or section 24-710.01, and who retires under section 24-708 21 22 or 24-709 shall be computed as follows: Each such judge shall be entitled to receive an annuity, each monthly payment of which shall be in an 23 24 amount equal to three and one-third percent of his or her final average 25 compensation as such judge, multiplied by the number of his or her years of creditable service. The amount stated in this section shall be 26 27 supplemental to any benefits received by such judge under the Nebraska 28 and federal old age and survivors' insurance acts at the date of retirement, but the monthly combined benefits received thereunder and by 29 the Judges Retirement Act shall not exceed sixty-five percent of the 30 final average compensation such judge was receiving when he or she last 31

-16-

served as such judge. The amount of retirement annuity of a judge who
 retires under section 24-708 or 24-709 shall not be less than twenty-five
 dollars per month if he or she has four years or more of service credit.

4 (2) The retirement annuity of a judge who is a future member and who retires after July 1, 1986, under section 24-708 or 24-709 shall be 5 computed as follows: Each such judge shall be entitled to receive an 6 annuity, each monthly payment of which shall be in an amount equal to 7 three and one-half percent of his or her final average compensation as 8 9 such judge, multiplied by the number of his or her years of creditable service, except that prior to an actuarial factor adjustment for purposes 10 of calculating an optional form of annuity benefits under subsection (3) 11 of this section, the monthly benefits received under this subsection 12 13 shall not exceed seventy percent of the final average compensation such judge was receiving when he or she last served as such judge. 14

(3) Except as provided in section 42-1107, any member may, when 15 16 filing an application as provided by the retirement system, elect to 17 receive, in lieu of the normal form annuity benefits to which the member or his or her beneficiary may otherwise be entitled under the Judges 18 Retirement Act, an optional form of annuity benefits which the board may 19 by rules and regulations provide, the value of which, determined by 20 accepted actuarial methods and on the basis of actuarial assumptions 21 recommended by the actuary, approved by the board, and kept on file in 22 the office of the director, is equal to the value of the benefit 23 24 replaced. The board may shall (a) adopt and promulgate appropriate rules and regulations <u>to establish</u> establishing joint and survivorship 25 annuities, with and without reduction on the death of the first 26 annuitant, and such other forms of annuities as may in its judgment be 27 appropriate and establishing benefits as provided in sections 24-707 and 28 24-707.01, (b) prescribe appropriate forms for making the election by the 29 members, and (c) provide for the necessary actuarial services to make the 30 31 required valuations.

-17-

1 (4) A one-time cost-of-living adjustment shall be made for each 2 retired judge and each surviving beneficiary who is receiving a 3 retirement annuity as provided for in this section. The annuity shall be 4 adjusted by the increase in the cost of living or wage levels between the 5 effective date of retirement and June 30, 1992, except that such 6 increases shall not exceed three percent per year of retirement and the 7 total increase shall not exceed two hundred fifty dollars per month.

8 Sec. 13. Section 24-710.05, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
9 amended to read:

10 24-710.05 (1) For purposes of this section and section 24-710.06:

(a) <u>Direct rollover means a payment by the retirement system to the</u> eligible retirement plan or plans specified by the distributee Distributee means the member, the member's surviving spouse, or the member's former spouse who is an alternate payee under a qualified domestic relations order as defined in section 414(p) of the Internal Revenue Code;

(b) <u>Distributee means the member, the member's surviving spouse, or</u> <u>the member's former spouse who is an alternate payee under a qualified</u> <u>domestic relations order as defined in section 414(p) of the Internal</u> <u>Revenue Code</u> <u>Direct rollover means a payment by the retirement system to</u> <u>the eligible retirement plan or plans specified by the distributee;</u>

22 (c) Eligible retirement plan means (i) an individual retirement account described in section 408(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, (ii) an 23 24 individual retirement annuity described in section 408(b) of the code, except for an endowment contract, (iii) a qualified plan described in 25 section 401(a) of the code, (iv) an annuity plan described in section 26 403(a) or 403(b) of the code, (v) except for purposes of section 27 24-710.06, an individual retirement plan described in section 408A of the 28 code, and (vi) a plan described in section 457(b) of the code and 29 30 maintained governmental employer. For eligible rollover by а distributions to a surviving spouse, an eligible retirement plan means 31

-18-

1 subdivisions (1)(c)(i) through (vi) of this section; and

2 (d) Eligible rollover distribution means any distribution to a distributee of all or any portion of the balance to the credit of the 3 4 distributee in the plan, except such term shall not include any distribution which is one of a series of substantially equal periodic 5 payments, not less frequently than annually, made for the life of the 6 distributee or joint lives of the distributee and the distributee's 7 beneficiary or for the specified period of ten years or more and shall 8 9 not include any distribution to the extent such distribution is required under section 401(a)(9) of the Internal Revenue Code. 10

11 (2) For distributions made to a distributee on or after January 1, 12 1993, a distributee may elect to have any portion of an eligible rollover 13 distribution paid directly to an eligible retirement plan specified by 14 the distributee.

(3) A member's surviving spouse or former spouse who is an alternate 15 16 payee under a qualified domestic relations order and, on or after July 1, 2010, any designated beneficiary of a member who is not a surviving 17 spouse or former spouse who is entitled to receive an eligible rollover 18 distribution from the retirement system may, in accordance with such 19 rules, regulations, and limitations as may be established by the board, 20 elect to have such distribution made in the form of a direct transfer to 21 a retirement plan eligible to receive such transfer under the provisions 22 of the Internal Revenue Code. 23

(4) An eligible rollover distribution on behalf of a designated 24 beneficiary of a member who is not a surviving spouse or former spouse of 25 the member may be transferred to an individual retirement account or 26 annuity described in section 408(a) or section 408(b) of the Internal 27 28 Revenue Code that is established for the purpose of receiving the distribution on behalf of the designated beneficiary and that will be 29 treated as an inherited individual retirement account or individual 30 retirement annuity described in section 408(d)(3)(C) of the Internal 31

-19-

2 (5) The board <u>may shall</u> adopt and promulgate rules and regulations 3 for direct rollover procedures which are consistent with section 401(a) 4 (31) of the Internal Revenue Code and which include, but are not limited 5 to, the form and time of direct rollover distributions.

6 Sec. 14. Section 24-710.06, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is7 amended to read:

24-710.06 (1) The retirement system may accept cash rollover 8 9 contributions from a member who is making payment pursuant to section 24-706 if the contributions do not exceed the amount of payment required 10 for the service credits purchased by the member pursuant to such section 11 and the contributions represent (a) all or any portion of the balance of 12 the member's interest in a qualified plan under section 401(a) of the 13 Internal Revenue Code or (b) the interest of the member from an 14 individual retirement account or an individual retirement annuity, the 15 16 entire amount of which is attributable to a qualified total distribution, 17 as defined in the Internal Revenue Code, from a qualified plan under section 401(a) of the code and qualified as a tax-free rollover amount. 18 The member's interest under subdivision (a) or (b) of this subsection 19 must be transferred to the retirement system within sixty days from the 20 date of the distribution from the qualified plan, individual retirement 21 22 account, or individual retirement annuity.

(2) Cash transferred to the retirement system as a rollover
 contribution shall be deposited as other payments for service credits.

(3) Under the same conditions as provided in subsection (1) of this section, the retirement system may accept eligible rollover distributions from (a) an annuity contract described in section 403(b) of the Internal Revenue Code, (b) a plan described in section 457(b) of the code which is maintained by a state, a political subdivision of a state, or any agency or instrumentality of a state or political subdivision of a state, or (c) the portion of a distribution from an individual retirement account or

-20-

annuity described in section 408(a) or 408(b) of the code that is
 eligible to be rolled over and would otherwise be includible in gross
 income. Amounts accepted pursuant to this subsection shall be deposited
 as all other payments under this section.

5 (4) The retirement system may accept direct rollover distributions 6 made from a qualified plan pursuant to section 401(a)(31) of the Internal 7 Revenue Code. The direct rollover distribution shall be deposited as all 8 other payments under this section.

9 (5) The board <u>may</u> <del>shall</del> adopt and promulgate rules and regulations 10 defining procedures for acceptance of rollovers which are consistent with 11 sections 401(a)(31) and 402 of the Internal Revenue Code.

12 Sec. 15. Section 79-904, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is 13 amended to read:

14 79-904 The general administration of the retirement system, except 15 the investment of funds, is hereby vested in the retirement board. The 16 board <u>may shall</u>, by a majority vote of its members, adopt bylaws and 17 adopt and promulgate rules and regulations, from time to time, to carry 18 out the School Employees Retirement Act. The board shall perform such 19 other duties as may be required to execute the act.

20 Sec. 16. Section 79-904.01, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2017, is 21 amended to read:

22 79-904.01 (1)(a) If the board determines that the retirement system has previously received contributions or distributed benefits which for 23 24 any reason are not in accordance with the statutory provisions of the School Employees Retirement Act, the board may refund contributions, 25 require additional contributions, adjust benefits, or require repayment 26 of benefits paid. In the event of an overpayment of a benefit, the board 27 28 may, in addition to other remedies, offset future benefit payments by the amount of the prior overpayment, together with regular interest thereon. 29 In the event of a material underpayment of a benefit, the board shall 30 immediately make payment equal to the deficit amount plus regular 31

-21-

1 interest.

2 (b) The board shall have the power, through the director of the Nebraska Public Employees Retirement Systems or the director's designee, 3 to make a thorough investigation of any overpayment of a benefit, when in 4 5 the judgment of the retirement system such investigation is necessary, including, but not limited to, circumstances in which benefit payments 6 7 are made after the death of a member or beneficiary and the retirement system is not made aware of such member's or beneficiary's death. In 8 9 connection with any such investigation, the board, through the director or the director's designee, shall have the power to compel the attendance 10 of witnesses and the production of books, papers, records, and documents, 11 whether in hardcopy, electronic form, or otherwise, and issue subpoenas 12 13 for such purposes. Such subpoenas shall be served in the same manner and have the same effect as subpoenas from district courts. 14

(2) If the board determines that termination of employment has not occurred and a retirement benefit has been paid to a member of the retirement system pursuant to section 79-933, such member shall repay the benefit to the retirement system.

(3) The board may shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations 19 implementing this section, which shall include, but not be limited to, 20 the following: (a) The procedures for refunding contributions, adjusting 21 future contributions or benefit payments, and requiring additional 22 contributions or repayment of benefits; (b) the process for a member, 23 member's beneficiary, employee, or employer to dispute an adjustment of 24 contributions or benefits; and (c) notice provided to all affected 25 persons. All notices shall be sent at the time of or prior to an 26 adjustment and shall describe the process for disputing an adjustment of 27 contributions or benefits. 28

(4) The board shall not refund contributions made on compensation in
excess of the limitations imposed by subdivision (4) of section 79-902 or
subsection (9) of section 79-934.

-22-

Sec. 17. Section 79-905, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
 amended to read:

3 79-905 <u>It shall be the duty of the</u> The retirement board <u>to shall</u>:
4 (1) Determine the eligibility of an individual to be a member of the
5 retirement system and other questions of fact in the event of dispute
6 between an individual and a department;

7 (2) Adopt rules and regulations, as the board may deem necessary,
8 for the management of the board;

9 (3) Prescribe the form in which employers report contributions, 10 hours worked by school employees, payroll information, and other 11 information necessary to carry out the board's duties;

12 (4) Keep a complete record of all proceedings taken at any meeting13 of the board;

14 (5) Employ a director and <u>such assistants and employees</u> other
 15 assistance as may be necessary in the performance of its duties; and

16 (6) Obtain actuarial services pursuant to subdivision (2)(e) of17 section 84-1503.

18 Sec. 18. Section 79-907, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is 19 amended to read:

79-907 (1)(a) On or before October 1, 2001, and at least every two years thereafter, the retirement board shall send to each contributing member of the retirement system by first-class mail, a statement of creditable service, reported salary, and other such information as is determined by the director of the Nebraska Public Employees Retirement Systems to be necessary in calculating the member's retirement benefit.

(b) If the member requests a modification or correction of his or her statement of information, the member shall provide documentation to the board supporting such modification or correction and provide clear and convincing evidence that the statement is in error. The board shall, within sixty days after receipt of the documentation supporting the modification or correction, determine whether the member has proven by

-23-

1 clear and convincing evidence that the statement shall be modified or 2 corrected. If the board determines that the member has provided clear and 3 convincing evidence, the board shall modify or correct the statement. If 4 the board determines that the member has not provided clear and 5 convincing evidence, the board shall deny the modification or correction. 6 In either case, the board shall notify the member. The member may appeal 7 the decision of the board pursuant to section 79-950.

8 (c) The board has an ongoing fiduciary duty to modify or correct a 9 member's statement if the board discovers an error in the information it 10 has on record. A modification or correction shall be made within sixty 11 days after the error is brought to the attention of the board.

12 (2) The board <u>may</u> shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations
13 and prescribe the necessary forms to carry out this section.

14 Sec. 19. Section 79-924, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is 15 amended to read:

16 79-924 The retirement board may shall adopt and promulgate rules and 17 regulations to allow for lump-sum or installment payments for school employees who elect to repurchase relinguished creditable service under 18 section 79-921 or buy credit for prior years of service under sections 19 79-933.03 to 79-933.06 and 79-933.08. Any person who elects to repurchase 20 relinquished creditable service or buy credit for prior years of service 21 22 on an installment basis may be charged reasonable service costs, shall be credited with those prior years of service only as the money is actually 23 received by the retirement system, and shall have paid to the retirement 24 25 system all installments prior to the commencement of a retirement annuity. 26

27 Sec. 20. Section 79-926, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2017, is 28 amended to read:

79-926 (1) Under such rules and regulations as the retirement board
 <u>may adopt and promulgate</u> adopts and promulgates, each person who was a
 school employee at any time prior to the establishment of the retirement

-24-

1 system and who becomes a member of the retirement system shall, within 2 two years after becoming a member, file a detailed statement of all service as a school employee rendered by him or her prior to the date of 3 establishment of the retirement system. In order to qualify for prior 4 5 service credit toward a service annuity, a school employee, unless temporarily out of service for further professional education, for 6 service in the armed forces, or for temporary disability, must have 7 completed four years of service on a part-time or full-time basis during 8 9 the five calendar years immediately preceding July 1, 1945, or have completed eighteen years out of the last twenty-five years prior to July 10 1, 1945, full time or part time, and two years out of the five years 11 immediately preceding July 1, 1945, full time or part time, or such 12 school employee must complete, unless temporarily out of service for 13 14 further professional education, for service in the armed forces, or for temporary disability, four years of service within the five calendar 15 16 years immediately following July 1, 1945. In order to qualify for prior 17 service credit toward a service annuity, a school employee who becomes a member of the retirement system on or before September 30, 1951, or from 18 19 July 1, 1945, to the date of becoming a member shall have been continuously employed in a public school in Nebraska operating under any 20 other regularly established retirement or pension system. 21

(2)(a) Any school employee who is reemployed pursuant to 38 U.S.C.
4301 et seq., shall be treated as not having incurred a break in service
by reason of his or her period of military service. Such military service
shall be credited for purposes of determining the nonforfeitability of
the member's accrued benefits and the accrual of benefits under the plan.

(b) The employer shall be liable for funding any obligation of the plan to provide benefits based upon such period of military service. To satisfy the liability, the employer shall pay to the retirement system an amount equal to:

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(i) The sum of the member and employer contributions that would have

-25-

1 been paid during such period of military service; and

2 (ii) Any actuarial costs necessary to fund the obligation of the 3 plan to provide benefits based upon such period of military service. For 4 the purposes of determining the amount of such liability and obligation 5 of the plan, earnings and forfeitures, gains and losses, regular 6 interest, or interest credits that would have accrued on the member and 7 employer contributions that are paid by the employer pursuant to this 8 section shall not be included.

9 (c) The amount required in subdivision (b) of this subsection shall be paid to the retirement system as soon as reasonably practicable 10 following the date of reemployment, but must be paid within eighteen 11 months of the date the board notifies the employer of the amount due. If 12 13 the employer fails to pay the required amount within such eighteen-month period, then the employer is also responsible for any actuarial costs and 14 interest on actuarial costs that accrue from eighteen months after the 15 date the employer is notified by the board until the date the amount is 16 17 paid.

(d) The retirement board may adopt and promulgate rules and
regulations to carry out this subsection, including, but not limited to,
rules and regulations on:

(i) How and when the member and employer must notify the retirement
 system of a period of military service;

23 (ii) The acceptable methods of payment;

(iii) Determining the service and compensation upon which thecontributions must be made;

(iv) Accelerating the payment from the employer due to unforeseen
circumstances that occur before payment is made pursuant to this section,
including, but not limited to, the member's termination or retirement or
the employer's reorganization, consolidation, merger, or closing; and

30 (v) The documentation required to substantiate that the member was
31 reemployed pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 4301 et seq.

-26-

1 (3) This section only applies to military service that falls within 2 the definition of uniformed service under 38 U.S.C. 4301 et seq. Military 3 service does not include service provided pursuant to sections 55-101 to 4 55-181.

5 Sec. 21. Section 79-933.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is6 amended to read:

7 79-933.01 (1) For purposes of this section and section 79-933.02:

8 (a) <u>Direct rollover means a payment by the retirement system to the</u> 9 <u>eligible retirement plan or plans specified by the distributee</u> 10 <u>Distributee means the member, the member's surviving spouse, or the</u> 11 <u>member's former spouse who is an alternate payee under a qualified</u> 12 <u>domestic relations order as defined in section 414(p) of the Internal</u> 13 <u>Revenue Code</u>;

(b) <u>Distributee means the member, the member's surviving spouse, or</u>
<u>the member's former spouse who is an alternate payee under a qualified</u>
<u>domestic relations order as defined in section 414(p) of the Internal</u>
<u>Revenue Code</u> <u>Direct rollover means a payment by the retirement system to</u>
the eligible retirement plan or plans specified by the distributee;

19 (c) Eligible retirement plan means (i) an individual retirement account described in section 408(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, (ii) an 20 individual retirement annuity described in section 408(b) of the code, 21 except for an endowment contract, (iii) a qualified plan described in 22 section 401(a) of the code, (iv) an annuity plan described in section 23 24 403(a) or 403(b) of the code, (v) except for purposes of section 25 79-933.02, an individual retirement plan described in section 408A of the code, and (vi) a plan described in section 457(b) of the code and 26 27 maintained by governmental employer. For eligible rollover а 28 distributions to a surviving spouse, an eligible retirement plan means subdivisions (1)(c)(i) through (vi) of this section; and 29

30 (d) Eligible rollover distribution means any distribution to a31 distributee of all or any portion of the balance to the credit of the

-27-

distributee in the plan, except such term shall not include any distribution which is one of a series of substantially equal periodic payments, not less frequently than annually, made for the life of the distributee or joint lives of the distributee and the distributee's beneficiary or for the specified period of ten years or more and shall not include any distribution to the extent such distribution is required under section 401(a)(9) of the Internal Revenue Code.

8 (2) For distributions made to a distributee on or after January 1, 9 1993, a distributee may elect to have any portion of an eligible rollover 10 distribution paid directly to an eligible retirement plan specified by 11 the distributee.

(3) A member's surviving spouse or former spouse who is an alternate 12 13 payee under a qualified domestic relations order and, on or after July 1, 2010, any designated beneficiary of a member who is not a surviving 14 spouse or former spouse who is entitled to receive an eligible rollover 15 16 distribution from the retirement system may, in accordance with such 17 rules, regulations, and limitations as may be established by the board, elect to have such distribution made in the form of a direct transfer to 18 a retirement plan eligible to receive such transfer under the provisions 19 of the Internal Revenue Code. 20

(4) An eligible rollover distribution on behalf of a designated 21 beneficiary of a member who is not a surviving spouse or former spouse of 22 the member may be transferred to an individual retirement account or 23 24 annuity described in section 408(a) or section 408(b) of the Internal 25 Revenue Code that is established for the purpose of receiving the distribution on behalf of the designated beneficiary and that will be 26 treated as an inherited individual retirement account or individual 27 28 retirement annuity described in section 408(d)(3)(C) of the Internal Revenue Code. 29

30 (5) The board <u>may shall</u> adopt and promulgate rules and regulations
 31 for direct rollover procedures which are consistent with section 401(a)

-28-

(31) of the Internal Revenue Code and which include, but are not limited
 to, the form and time of direct rollover distributions.

3 Sec. 22. Section 79-933.02, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
4 amended to read:

5 79-933.02 (1) The retirement system may accept cash rollover contributions from a member who is making payment pursuant to sections 6 79-921, 79-933.03 to 79-933.06, and 79-933.08 if the contributions do not 7 exceed the amount of payment required for the relinquished creditable 8 9 service repurchased or service credits purchased by the member pursuant 10 to such sections and the contributions represent (a) all or any portion of the balance of the member's interest in a qualified plan under section 11 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code or (b) the interest of the member 12 13 from an individual retirement account or an individual retirement annuity, the entire amount of which is attributable to a qualified total 14 distribution, as defined in the Internal Revenue Code, from a qualified 15 plan under section 401(a) of the code and qualified as a tax-free 16 rollover amount. The member's interest under subdivision (a) or (b) of 17 this subsection must be transferred to the retirement system within sixty 18 19 days from the date of the distribution from the qualified plan, individual retirement account, or individual retirement annuity. 20

(2) Cash transferred to the retirement system as a rollover
contribution shall be deposited as other payments for purchase of service
credits or repurchase of relinquished creditable service pursuant to
section 79-921.

(3) Under the same conditions as provided in subsection (1) of this section, the retirement system may accept eligible rollover distributions from (a) an annuity contract described in section 403(b) of the Internal Revenue Code, (b) a plan described in section 457(b) of the code which is maintained by a state, a political subdivision of a state, or any agency or instrumentality of a state or political subdivision of a state, or (c) the portion of a distribution from an individual retirement account or

-29-

annuity described in section 408(a) or 408(b) of the code that is
 eligible to be rolled over and would otherwise be includible in gross
 income. Amounts accepted pursuant to this subsection shall be deposited
 as all other payments under this section.

5 (4) The retirement system may accept direct rollover distributions 6 made from a qualified plan pursuant to section 401(a)(31) of the Internal 7 Revenue Code. The direct rollover distribution shall be deposited as all 8 other payments under this section.

9 (5) The board <u>may</u> <del>shall</del> adopt and promulgate rules and regulations 10 defining procedures for acceptance of rollovers which are consistent with 11 sections 401(a)(31) and 402 of the Internal Revenue Code.

12 Sec. 23. Section 79-933.03, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is 13 amended to read:

79-933.03 (1) Under such rules and regulations as the board may 14 shall adopt and promulgate, a contributing member under contract or 15 16 employed on July 19, 1996, may receive credit for not to exceed ten years 17 of creditable teaching service rendered in public schools in another state or schools in this state covered by a school retirement system 18 19 established pursuant to section 79-979, if such member files an application for service credit within three years of membership or 20 reinstatement in the School Employees Retirement System of the State of 21 22 Nebraska and makes payment into the retirement system of an amount equal to the required deposits he or she would have paid had he or she been 23 24 employed in this state by a school covered by the retirement system, plus the interest which would have accrued on such amount. Payment must be 25 completed within five years of membership or reinstatement in the 26 retirement system, or prior to termination of employment, whichever 27 28 occurs first, and may be made through direct payment, installment payments, or an irrevocable payroll deduction authorization. 29

30 (2) A member who retires as a school employee of this state shall31 not receive credit for time in service outside of this state or in a

-30-

school in this state covered by the school retirement system established pursuant to section 79-979 in excess of the time he or she has been in service as a school employee in this state of a school covered by the School Employees Retirement System of the State of Nebraska. The board shall refund to the member the payments made pursuant to subsection (1) of this section to the extent that the member does not receive credit for such service.

8 (3) A member who purchases service credit pursuant to this section 9 shall provide such documentation as the board may require to prove that 10 the member has forfeited the receipt of any benefits from the retirement 11 system of the public school in another state or a school in this state 12 covered by a retirement system established pursuant to section 79-979 for 13 the creditable service rendered in such school.

Sec. 24. Section 79-933.04, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

79-933.04 (1) For contributing members under contract or employed on 16 17 July 19, 1996, and under such rules and regulations as the board may shall adopt and promulgate, any member who was away from his or her 18 position while on a leave of absence from such position authorized by the 19 school board or board of education of the school district by which he or 20 she was employed at the time of such leave of absence or pursuant to any 21 contractual agreement entered into by such school district may receive 22 credit for such time as he or she was on such leave of absence. Such 23 24 credit shall increase the benefits provided by the retirement system and 25 shall be included in creditable service when determining eligibility for death, disability, termination, and retirement benefits. The member who 26 receives the credit shall earn benefits during the leave based on 27 28 compensation at the level received immediately prior to the leave of absence. Such credit shall be allowed if such member has paid into the 29 retirement system an amount equal to the sum of the deductions from his 30 or her compensation and any contribution which the school district would 31

-31-

been required to make had he or she continued to receive 1 have 2 compensation at the level received immediately prior to the leave of absence with such deposits plus interest which would have accrued on such 3 4 deposits to be paid as the retirement board may direct within five years 5 of his or her return to membership in the retirement system, or prior to termination of employment, whichever occurs first, and may be made 6 7 through direct payment, installment payments, or an irrevocable payroll deduction authorization. 8

9 (2) Leave of absence shall be construed to include, but is not be limited to, sabbaticals, maternity leave, exchange teaching programs, 10 full-time leave as an elected official of a professional association or 11 collective-bargaining unit, or leave of absence to pursue further 12 13 education or study. A leave of absence granted pursuant to this section shall not exceed four years in length, and in order to receive credit for 14 the leave of absence the member must return to employment with a school 15 16 district, other than a Class V school district, in the state within one 17 year after termination of the leave of absence and must apply for such credit within three years of the return to membership in the retirement 18 system. 19

20 Sec. 25. Section 79-933.07, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is 21 amended to read:

22 79-933.07 The board <u>may shall</u> adopt and promulgate rules and 23 regulations for the purchase of service credit or the repurchase of 24 relinquished creditable service, which shall include, but not be limited 25 to, the method for determining actuarial cost and interest requirements 26 for payments other than one lump-sum payment.

27 Sec. 26. Section 81-2019, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is 28 amended to read:

81-2019 The general administration of the Nebraska State Patrol
Retirement System, except the investment of funds, is hereby vested in
the board. The board <u>may shall</u> adopt and promulgate rules and regulations

-32-

as may be necessary to carry out the Nebraska State Patrol Retirement
 Act. The board shall employ a director and such assistants and employees
 as may be necessary to efficiently discharge the duties imposed by the
 act.

5 Sec. 27. Section 81-2019.01, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
6 2016, is amended to read:

7 81-2019.01 (1)(a) If the board determines that the retirement system has previously received contributions or distributed benefits which for 8 9 any reason are not in accordance with the statutory provisions of sections 81-2014 to 81-2036, the board shall refund contributions, 10 require additional contributions, adjust benefits, or require repayment 11 of benefits paid. In the event of an overpayment of a benefit, the board 12 may, in addition to other remedies, offset future benefit payments by the 13 amount of the prior overpayment, together with regular interest thereon. 14 In the event of an underpayment of a benefit, the board shall immediately 15 make payment equal to the deficit amount plus regular interest. 16

17 (b) The board shall have the power, through the director of the Nebraska Public Employees Retirement Systems or the director's designee, 18 19 to make a thorough investigation of any overpayment of a benefit, when in the judgment of the retirement system such investigation is necessary, 20 including, but not limited to, circumstances in which benefit payments 21 are made after the death of a member or beneficiary and the retirement 22 system is not made aware of such member's or beneficiary's death. In 23 24 connection with any such investigation, the board, through the director 25 or the director's designee, shall have the power to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of books, papers, records, and documents, 26 whether in hardcopy, electronic form, or otherwise, and issue subpoenas 27 for such purposes. Such subpoenas shall be served in the same manner and 28 have the same effect as subpoenas from district courts. 29

30 (2) The board <u>may</u> <del>shall</del> adopt and promulgate rules and regulations 31 implementing this section, which shall include, but not be limited to,

-33-

1 the following: (a) The procedures for refunding contributions, adjusting 2 future contributions or benefit payments, and requiring additional contributions or repayment of benefits; (b) the process for a member, 3 member's beneficiary, employee, or employer to dispute an adjustment of 4 contributions or benefits; and (c) notice provided to all affected 5 persons. All notices shall be sent prior to an adjustment and shall 6 describe the process for disputing an adjustment of contributions or 7 benefits. 8

9 Sec. 28. Section 81-2026, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
10 2016, is amended to read:

81-2026 (1)(a) Any officer qualified for an annuity as provided in 11 section 81-2025 for reasons other than disability shall be entitled to 12 receive a monthly annuity for the remainder of the officer's life. The 13 annuity payments shall continue until the end of the calendar month in 14 which the officer dies. The amount of the annuity shall be a percentage 15 16 of the officer's final average monthly compensation. For retirement on or after the fifty-fifth birthday of the member or on or after the fiftieth 17 birthday of a member who has been in the employ of the state for twenty-18 five years, as calculated in section 81-2033, the percentage shall be 19 three percent multiplied by the number of years of creditable service, as 20 calculated in section 81-2033, except that the percentage shall never be 21 22 greater than seventy-five percent.

23 (b) For retirement pursuant to subsection (2) of section 81-2025 on 24 or after the fiftieth birthday of the member but prior to the fifty-fifth birthday of the member who has been in the employ of the state for less 25 than twenty-five years, as calculated in section 81-2033, the annuity 26 which would apply if the member were age fifty-five at the date of 27 retirement shall be reduced by five-ninths of one percent for each month 28 by which the early retirement date precedes age fifty-five or for each 29 month by which the early retirement date precedes the date upon which the 30 member has served for twenty-five years, whichever is earlier. Any 31

-34-

officer who has completed thirty years of creditable service with the
 Nebraska State Patrol shall have retirement benefits computed as if the
 officer had reached age fifty-five.

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(c) For purposes of this computation:

(i) For an officer who became a member prior to July 1, 2016, final 5 average monthly compensation means the sum of the officer's total 6 compensation during the three twelve-month periods of service as an 7 officer in which compensation was the greatest divided by thirty-six and: 8 9 (A) For any officer employed on or before January 4, 1979, the 10 officer's total compensation includes payments received for unused vacation and sick leave accumulated during the final three years of 11 service; or 12

(B) For any officer employed after January 4, 1979, and prior to
July 1, 2016, the officer's total compensation includes payments received
for unused holiday compensatory time and unused compensatory time; and

(ii) For an officer who became a member on or after July 1, 2016, 16 final average monthly compensation means the sum of the officer's total 17 compensation during the five twelve-month periods of service as an 18 19 officer in which compensation was the greatest divided by sixty and does not include payments received for unused sick leave, unused vacation 20 leave, unused holiday compensatory time, unused compensatory time, or any 21 other type of unused leave, compensatory time, or similar benefits, 22 23 converted to cash payments. The five twelve-month periods used for 24 calculating an officer's final average monthly compensation ends with the month during which the officer's final compensation is paid. In the 25 determination of compensation, that part of an officer's compensation for 26 the plan year which exceeds the officer's compensation for the preceding 27 28 plan year by more than eight percent during the capping period shall be excluded. Such officer's compensation for the first plan year of the 29 capping period shall be compared to the officer's compensation received 30 for the plan year immediately preceding the capping period. For purposes 31

-35-

of this subdivision, capping period means the five plan years preceding the officer's retirement date. The board <u>may shall</u> adopt and promulgate rules and regulations for the implementation of this section, including rules and regulations related to prorating, annualizing, or recalculating an officer's final average monthly compensation for each plan year in the capping period.

7 (2) Any officer qualified for an annuity as provided in section 81-2025 for reasons of disability shall be entitled to receive a monthly 8 9 annuity for the remainder of the period of disablement as provided in sections 81-2028 to 81-2030. The amount of the annuity shall be fifty 10 percent of the officer's monthly compensation at the date of disablement 11 if the officer has completed seventeen or fewer years of creditable 12 13 service. If the officer has completed more than seventeen years of creditable service, the amount of the annuity shall be three percent of 14 the final monthly compensation at the date of disablement multiplied by 15 16 the total years of creditable service but not to exceed seventy-five 17 percent of the final average monthly compensation as defined in subsection (1) of this section. The date of disablement shall be the date 18 on which the benefits as provided in section 81-2028 have been exhausted. 19

(3) Upon the death of an officer after retirement for reasons other
than disability, benefits shall be provided as a percentage of the amount
of the officer's annuity, calculated as follows:

(a) If there is a surviving spouse but no dependent child or
children of the officer under nineteen years of age, the surviving spouse
shall receive a benefit equal to seventy-five percent of the amount of
the officer's annuity for the remainder of the surviving spouse's life;

(b) If there is a surviving spouse and the surviving spouse has in his or her care a dependent child or children of the officer under nineteen years of age and there is no other dependent child or children of the officer not in the care of the surviving spouse under nineteen years of age, the benefit shall be equal to one hundred percent of the

-36-

officer's annuity. When there is no remaining dependent child of the officer under nineteen years of age, the benefit shall be seventy-five percent of the amount of the officer's annuity to the surviving spouse for the remainder of the surviving spouse's life;

5 (c) If there is a surviving spouse and the surviving spouse has in his or her care a dependent child or children of the officer under 6 7 nineteen years of age or there is another dependent child or children of the officer under nineteen years of age not in the care of the surviving 8 9 spouse, the benefit shall be twenty-five percent of the amount of the officer's annuity to the surviving spouse and seventy-five percent of the 10 amount of the officer's annuity to the dependent children of the officer 11 under nineteen years of age to be divided equally among such dependent 12 13 children but in no case shall the benefit received by a surviving spouse 14 and dependent children residing with such spouse be less than fifty percent of the amount of the officer's annuity. At such time as any 15 16 dependent child of the officer attains nineteen years of age, the benefit 17 shall be divided equally among the remaining dependent children of the officer who have not yet attained nineteen years of age. When there is no 18 19 remaining dependent child of the officer under nineteen years of age, the benefit shall be seventy-five percent of the amount of the officer's 20 annuity to the surviving spouse for the remainder of the surviving 21 22 spouse's life;

23 (d) If there is no surviving spouse and a dependent child or 24 children of the officer under nineteen years of age, the benefit shall be 25 equal to seventy-five percent of the officer's annuity to the dependent children of the officer under nineteen years of age to be divided equally 26 among such dependent children. At such time as any dependent child of the 27 officer attains nineteen years of age, the benefit shall be divided 28 equally among the remaining dependent children of the officer who have 29 not yet attained nineteen years of age; and 30

31 (e) If there is no surviving spouse or no dependent child or

-37-

children of the officer under nineteen years of age, the amount of
 benefit such officer has received under the Nebraska State Patrol
 Retirement Act shall be computed. If such amount is less than the
 contributions to the State Patrol Retirement Fund made by such officer,
 plus regular interest, the difference shall be paid to the officer's
 designated beneficiary or estate.

7 (4) Upon the death of an officer after retirement for reasons of
8 disability, benefits shall be provided as if the officer had retired for
9 reasons other than disability.

10 (5) Upon the death of an officer before retirement, benefits shall
11 be provided as if the officer had retired for reasons of disability on
12 the date of such officer's death, calculated as follows:

(a) If there is a surviving spouse but no dependent child or
children of the officer under nineteen years of age, the surviving spouse
shall receive a benefit equal to seventy-five percent of the amount of
the officer's annuity for the remainder of the surviving spouse's life;

(b) If there is a surviving spouse and the surviving spouse has in 17 his or her care a dependent child or children of the officer under 18 nineteen years of age and there is no other dependent child or children 19 of the officer not in the care of the surviving spouse under nineteen 20 years of age, the benefit shall be equal to one hundred percent of the 21 officer's annuity. When there is no remaining dependent child of the 22 officer under nineteen years of age, the benefit shall be seventy-five 23 24 percent of the amount of the officer's annuity to the surviving spouse for the remainder of the surviving spouse's life; 25

(c) If there is a surviving spouse and the surviving spouse has in his or her care a dependent child or children of the officer under nineteen years of age or there is another dependent child or children of the officer under nineteen years of age not in the care of the surviving spouse, the benefit shall be twenty-five percent of the amount of the officer's annuity to the surviving spouse and seventy-five percent of the

-38-

amount of the officer's annuity to the dependent children of the officer 1 2 under nineteen years of age to be divided equally among such dependent children but in no case shall the benefit received by a surviving spouse 3 4 and dependent children residing with such spouse be less than fifty percent of the amount of the officer's annuity. At such time as any 5 dependent child of the officer attains nineteen years of age, the benefit 6 7 shall be divided equally among the remaining dependent children of the officer who have not yet attained nineteen years of age. When there is no 8 9 remaining dependent child of the officer under nineteen years of age, the benefit shall be seventy-five percent of the amount of the officer's 10 annuity to the surviving spouse for the remainder of the surviving 11 spouse's life; 12

13 (d) If there is no surviving spouse and a dependent child or children of the officer under nineteen years of age, the benefit shall be 14 equal to seventy-five percent of the officer's annuity to the dependent 15 16 children of the officer under nineteen years of age to be divided equally among such dependent children. At such time as any dependent child of the 17 officer attains nineteen years of age, the benefit shall be divided 18 19 equally among the remaining dependent children of the officer who have not yet attained nineteen years of age; and 20

(e) If no benefits are paid to a surviving spouse or dependent child
or children of the officer, benefits will be paid as described in
subsection (1) of section 81-2031.

(6) A lump-sum death benefit paid to the member's beneficiary, other
than the member's estate, that is an eligible distribution may be
distributed in the form of a direct transfer to a retirement plan
eligible to receive such transfer under the provisions of the Internal
Revenue Code.

(7) For any member whose death occurs on or after January 1, 2007,
while performing qualified military service as defined in section 414(u)
of the Internal Revenue Code, the member's beneficiary shall be entitled

-39-

to any additional death benefit that would have been provided, other than the accrual of any benefit relating to the period of qualified military service. The additional death benefit shall be determined as if the member had returned to employment with the Nebraska State Patrol and such employment had terminated on the date of the member's death.

6 (8) Any changes made to this section by Laws 2004, LB 1097, shall
7 apply only to retirements, disabilities, and deaths occurring on or after
8 July 16, 2004.

9 Sec. 29. Section 81-2031.03, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska,
10 is amended to read:

11 81-2031.03 (1) For purposes of this section and section 81-2031.04: 12 (a) <u>Direct rollover means a payment by the retirement system to the</u> 13 <u>eligible retirement plan or plans specified by the distributee</u> 14 <u>Distributee means the member, the member's surviving spouse, or the</u> 15 <u>member's former spouse who is an alternate payee under a qualified</u> 16 <u>domestic relations order as defined in section 414(p) of the Internal</u> 17 <u>Revenue Code</u>;

(b) <u>Distributee means the member, the member's surviving spouse, or</u>
<u>the member's former spouse who is an alternate payee under a qualified</u>
<u>domestic relations order as defined in section 414(p) of the Internal</u>
<u>Revenue Code</u> <u>Direct rollover means a payment by the retirement system to</u>
<u>the eligible retirement plan or plans specified by the distributee;</u>

23 (c) Eligible retirement plan means (i) an individual retirement 24 account described in section 408(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, (ii) an 25 individual retirement annuity described in section 408(b) of the code, except for an endowment contract, (iii) a qualified plan described in 26 section 401(a) of the code, (iv) an annuity plan described in section 27 28 403(a) or 403(b) of the code, (v) except for purposes of section 81-2031.04, an individual retirement plan described in section 408A of 29 the code, and (vi) a plan described in section 457(b) of the code and 30 maintained governmental employer. rollover 31 by а For eligible

-40-

distributions to a surviving spouse, an eligible retirement plan means
 subdivisions (1)(c)(i) through (vi) of this section; and

3 (d) Eligible rollover distribution means any distribution to a distributee of all or any portion of the balance to the credit of the 4 5 distributee in the plan, except such term shall not include any distribution which is one of a series of substantially equal periodic 6 payments, not less frequently than annually, made for the life of the 7 distributee or joint lives of the distributee and the distributee's 8 9 beneficiary or for the specified period of ten years or more and shall not include any distribution to the extent such distribution is required 10 under section 401(a)(9) of the Internal Revenue Code. 11

12 (2) For distributions made to a distributee on or after January 1,
13 1993, a distributee may elect to have any portion of an eligible rollover
14 distribution paid directly to an eligible retirement plan specified by
15 the distributee.

16 (3) A member's surviving spouse or former spouse who is an alternate 17 payee under a qualified domestic relations order and, on or after July 1, 2010, any designated beneficiary of a member who is not a surviving 18 spouse or former spouse who is entitled to receive an eligible rollover 19 distribution from the retirement system may, in accordance with such 20 rules, regulations, and limitations as may be established by the board, 21 elect to have such distribution made in the form of a direct transfer to 22 a retirement plan eligible to receive such transfer under the provisions 23 24 of the Internal Revenue Code.

(4) An eligible rollover distribution on behalf of a designated beneficiary of a member who is not a surviving spouse or former spouse of the member may be transferred to an individual retirement account or annuity described in section 408(a) or section 408(b) of the Internal Revenue Code that is established for the purpose of receiving the distribution on behalf of the designated beneficiary and that will be treated as an inherited individual retirement account or individual

-41-

retirement annuity described in section 408(d)(3)(C) of the Internal
 Revenue Code.

3 (5) The board <u>may shall</u> adopt and promulgate rules and regulations 4 for direct rollover procedures which are consistent with section 401(a) 5 (31) of the Internal Revenue Code and which include, but are not limited 6 to, the form and time of direct rollover distributions.

Sec. 30. Section 81-2031.04, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska,
is amended to read:

9 81-2031.04 (1) The retirement system may accept cash rollover contributions from a member who is making payment pursuant to section 10 81-2031 if the contributions do not exceed the amount of payment required 11 for the service credits purchased by the member pursuant to such section 12 13 and the contributions represent (a) all or any portion of the balance of the member's interest in a qualified plan under section 401(a) of the 14 Internal Revenue Code or (b) the interest of the member from an 15 16 individual retirement account or an individual retirement annuity, the entire amount of which is attributable to a qualified total distribution, 17 as defined in the Internal Revenue Code, from a qualified plan under 18 19 section 401(a) of the code and qualified as a tax-free rollover amount. The member's interest under subdivision (a) or (b) of this subsection 20 must be transferred to the retirement system within sixty days from the 21 22 date of the distribution from the qualified plan, individual retirement account, or individual retirement annuity. 23

(2) Cash transferred to the retirement system as a rollovercontribution shall be deposited as other payments for service credits.

(3) Under the same conditions as provided in subsection (1) of this section, the retirement system may accept eligible rollover distributions from (a) an annuity contract described in section 403(b) of the Internal Revenue Code, (b) a plan described in section 457(b) of the code which is maintained by a state, a political subdivision of a state, or any agency or instrumentality of a state or political subdivision of a state, or (c)

-42-

the portion of a distribution from an individual retirement account or annuity described in section 408(a) or 408(b) of the code that is eligible to be rolled over and would otherwise be includible in gross income. Amounts accepted pursuant to this subsection shall be deposited as all other payments under this section.

6 (4) The retirement system may accept direct rollover distributions
7 made from a qualified plan pursuant to section 401(a)(31) of the Internal
8 Revenue Code. The direct rollover distribution shall be deposited as all
9 other payments under this section.

(5) The board <u>may shall</u> adopt and promulgate rules and regulations
 defining procedures for acceptance of rollovers which are consistent with
 sections 401(a)(31) and 402 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Sec. 31. Section 84-1305, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

15 84-1305 The general administration of the retirement system shall be 16 vested in the retirement board. The board <u>may shall</u> adopt and promulgate 17 rules and regulations to carry out the State Employees Retirement Act. 18 The board shall maintain records and may employ <u>such assistants and</u> 19 <u>employees</u> any assistance as may be necessary to carry out the act.

20 Sec. 32. Section 84-1305.02, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 21 2016, is amended to read:

22 84-1305.02 (1)(a) If the board determines that the retirement system has previously received contributions or distributed benefits which for 23 24 any reason are not in accordance with the statutory provisions of the State Employees Retirement Act, the board shall refund contributions, 25 require additional contributions, adjust benefits, credit dividend 26 amounts, or require repayment of benefits paid. In the event of an 27 28 overpayment of a benefit, the board may, in addition to other remedies, offset future benefit payments by the amount of the prior overpayment, 29 together with regular interest or interest credits, whichever 30 is appropriate, thereon. In the event of an underpayment of a benefit, the 31

-43-

board shall immediately make payment equal to the deficit amount plus
 regular interest or interest credits, whichever is appropriate.

3 (b) The board shall have the power, through the director of the 4 Nebraska Public Employees Retirement Systems or the director's designee, 5 to make a thorough investigation of any overpayment of a benefit, when in the judgment of the retirement system such investigation is necessary, 6 including, but not limited to, circumstances in which benefit payments 7 are made after the death of a member or beneficiary and the retirement 8 9 system is not made aware of such member's or beneficiary's death. In connection with any such investigation, the board, through the director 10 or the director's designee, shall have the power to compel the attendance 11 of witnesses and the production of books, papers, records, and documents, 12 whether in hardcopy, electronic form, or otherwise, and issue subpoenas 13 for such purposes. Such subpoenas shall be served in the same manner and 14 have the same effect as subpoenas from district courts. 15

16 (2) The board may shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations 17 implementing this section, which shall include, but not be limited to, the following: (a) The procedures for refunding contributions, adjusting 18 19 future contributions or benefit payments, and requiring additional contributions or repayment of benefits; (b) the process for a member, 20 member's beneficiary, employee, or employer to dispute an adjustment of 21 contributions or benefits; and (c) notice provided to all affected 22 persons. All notices shall be sent prior to an adjustment and shall 23 24 describe the process for disputing an adjustment of contributions or 25 benefits.

26 Sec. 33. Section 84-1310.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, 27 is amended to read:

84-1310.01 (1) Each member employed and participating in the retirement system prior to January 1, 2003, who has elected not to participate in the cash balance benefit, shall be allowed to allocate all contributions to his or her employee account to various investment

-44-

options. Such investment options shall include, but not be limited to,
 the following:

(a) An investor select account which shall be invested under the 3 direction of the state investment officer with an asset allocation and 4 investment strategy substantially similar to the investment allocations 5 made by the state investment officer for the defined benefit plans under 6 7 the retirement systems described in subdivision (1)(a) of section 84-1503. Investments shall most likely include domestic and international 8 9 equities, fixed income investments, and real estate, as well as 10 potentially additional asset classes;

(b) A stable return account which shall be invested by or under the
direction of the state investment officer in a stable value strategy that
provides capital preservation and consistent, steady returns;

(c) An equities account which shall be invested by or under the
direction of the state investment officer in equities;

16 (d) A balanced account which shall be invested by or under the 17 direction of the state investment officer in equities and fixed income 18 instruments;

(e) An index fund account which shall be invested by or under the
direction of the state investment officer in a portfolio of common stocks
designed to closely duplicate the total return of the Standard and Poor's
division of The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc., 500 Index;

(f) A fixed income account which shall be invested by or under the
direction of the state investment officer in fixed income instruments;

(g) A money market account which shall be invested by or under the direction of the state investment officer in short-term fixed income securities; and

(h) Beginning on July 1, 2006, an age-based account which shall be
invested under the direction of the state investment officer with an
asset allocation and investment strategy that changes based upon the age
of the member. The board shall develop an account mechanism that changes

-45-

1 the investments as the employee nears retirement age. The asset 2 allocation and asset classes utilized in the investments shall move from 3 aggressive, to moderate, and then to conservative as retirement age 4 approaches.

5 If a member fails to select an option or combination of options, all 6 of his or her funds shall be placed in the option described in 7 subdivision (b) of this subsection. Each member shall be given a detailed 8 current description of each investment option prior to making or revising 9 his or her allocation.

system 10 (2) Members of the retirement may allocate their contributions to the investment options in percentage increments as set 11 by the board in any proportion, including full allocation to any one 12 option. A member under subdivision (1)(a) of section 84-1323 or his or 13 her beneficiary may transfer any portion of his or her funds among the 14 15 options, except for restrictions on transfers to or from the stable 16 return account pursuant to rule or regulation. The board may shall adopt 17 and promulgate rules and regulations for changes of a member's allocation of contributions to his or her accounts after his or her most recent 18 allocation and for transfers from one investment account to another. 19

20 (3) The board shall develop a schedule for the allocation of 21 administrative costs of maintaining the various investment options and 22 shall assess the costs so that each member pays a reasonable fee as 23 determined by the board.

(4) In order to carry out the provisions of this section, the board
may enter into administrative services agreements for accounting or
record-keeping services. No agreement shall be entered into unless the
board determines that it will result in administrative economy and will
be in the best interests of the state and its participating employees.

(5) The state, the board, the state investment officer, the members
of the Nebraska Investment Council, or the agency shall not be liable for
any investment results resulting from the member's exercise of control

-46-

1 over the assets in the employee account.

Sec. 34. Section 84-1311.03, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska,
is amended to read:

4 84-1311.03 (1) Each member employed and participating in the 5 retirement system prior to January 1, 2003, who has elected not to participate in the cash balance benefit, shall be allowed to allocate all 6 contributions to his or her employer account to various investment 7 options. Such investment options shall be the same as the investment 8 9 options of the employee account as provided in subsection (1) of section 84-1310.01. If a member fails to select an option or combination of 10 options, all of his or her funds in the employer account shall be placed 11 in the balanced account option described in subdivision (1)(d) of section 12 13 84-1310.01. Each member shall be given a detailed current description of each investment option prior to making or revising his or her allocation. 14

(2) Each member of the retirement system may allocate contributions 15 16 to his or her employer account to the investment options in percentage 17 increments as set by the board in any proportion, including full allocation to any one option. A member under subdivision (1)(a) of 18 section 84-1323 or his or her beneficiary may transfer any portion of his 19 or her funds among the options. The board may shall adopt and promulgate 20 rules and regulations for changes of a member's allocation of 21 contributions to his or her accounts after his or her most recent 22 allocation and for transfers from one investment account to another. 23

(3) The board shall develop a schedule for the allocation of administrative costs of maintaining the various investment options and shall assess the costs so that each member pays a reasonable fee as determined by the board.

(4) In order to carry out the provisions of this section, the board
 may enter into administrative services agreements for accounting or
 record-keeping services. No agreement shall be entered into unless the
 board determines that it will result in administrative economy and will

-47-

1 be in the best interests of the state and its participating employees.

2 (5) The state, the board, the state investment officer, the members 3 of the Nebraska Investment Council, or the agency shall not be liable for 4 any investment results resulting from the member's exercise of control 5 over the assets in the employer account.

6 Sec. 35. Section 84-1312, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is7 amended to read:

8

84-1312 (1) For purposes of this section and section 84-1313:

9 (a) <u>Direct rollover means a payment by the retirement system to the</u> 10 <u>eligible retirement plan or plans specified by the distributee</u> 11 <u>Distributee means the member, the member's surviving spouse, or the</u> 12 <u>member's former spouse who is an alternate payee under a qualified</u> 13 <u>domestic relations order as defined in section 414(p) of the Internal</u> 14 <u>Revenue Code</u>;

(b) <u>Distributee means the member, the member's surviving spouse, or</u> the member's former spouse who is an alternate payee under a qualified domestic relations order as defined in section 414(p) of the Internal <u>Revenue Code</u> <u>Direct rollover means a payment by the retirement system to</u> the eligible retirement plan or plans specified by the distributee;

(c) Eligible retirement plan means (i) an individual retirement 20 account described in section 408(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, (ii) an 21 22 individual retirement annuity described in section 408(b) of the code, except for an endowment contract, (iii) a qualified plan described in 23 24 section 401(a) of the code, (iv) an annuity plan described in section 25 403(a) or 403(b) of the code, (v) except for purposes of section 84-1313, an individual retirement plan described in section 408A of the code, and 26 27 (vi) a plan described in section 457(b) of the code and maintained by a governmental employer. For eligible rollover distributions to a surviving 28 spouse, an eligible retirement plan means subdivisions (1)(c)(i) through 29 (vi) of this section; and 30

31 (d) Eligible rollover distribution means any distribution to a

-48-

1 distributee of all or any portion of the balance to the credit of the 2 distributee in the plan, except such term shall not include any distribution which is one of a series of substantially equal periodic 3 4 payments, not less frequently than annually, made for the life of the distributee or joint lives of the distributee and the distributee's 5 beneficiary or for the specified period of ten years or more and shall 6 7 not include any distribution to the extent such distribution is required under section 401(a)(9) of the Internal Revenue Code. 8

9 (2) For distributions made to a distributee on or after January 1, 10 1993, a distributee may elect to have any portion of an eligible rollover 11 distribution paid directly to an eligible retirement plan specified by 12 the distributee.

13 (3) A member's surviving spouse or former spouse who is an alternate payee under a qualified domestic relations order and, on or after January 14 1, 2010, any designated beneficiary of a member who is not a surviving 15 spouse or former spouse who is entitled to receive an eligible rollover 16 17 distribution from the retirement system may, in accordance with such rules, regulations, and limitations as may be established by the board, 18 19 elect to have such distribution made in the form of a direct transfer to a retirement plan eligible to receive such transfer under the provisions 20 of the Internal Revenue Code. 21

(4) An eligible rollover distribution on behalf of a designated 22 beneficiary of a member who is not a surviving spouse or former spouse of 23 24 the member may be transferred to an individual retirement account or annuity described in section 408(a) or section 408(b) of the Internal 25 Revenue Code that is established for the purpose of receiving the 26 distribution on behalf of the designated beneficiary and that will be 27 treated as an inherited individual retirement account or individual 28 retirement annuity described in section 408(d)(3)(C) of the Internal 29 Revenue Code. 30

31

(5) The board <u>may</u> shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations

-49-

for direct rollover procedures which are consistent with section 401(a)
 (31) of the Internal Revenue Code and which include, but are not limited
 to, the form and time of direct rollover distributions.

Sec. 36. Section 84-1313, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
amended to read:

6 84-1313 (1) The retirement system may accept cash rollover contributions from a member who is making payment pursuant to section 7 84-1322 or 84-1325 if the contributions do not exceed the amount of 8 9 payment authorized to be paid by the member pursuant to section 84-1322 10 or 84-1325 and the contributions represent (a) all or any portion of the balance of the member's interest in a qualified plan under section 401(a) 11 of the Internal Revenue Code or (b) the interest of the member from an 12 individual retirement account or an individual retirement annuity, the 13 entire amount of which is attributable to a qualified total distribution, 14 as defined in the Internal Revenue Code, from a qualified plan under 15 section 401(a) of the code and qualified as a tax-free rollover amount. 16 17 The member's interest under subdivision (a) or (b) of this subsection must be transferred to the retirement system within sixty days from the 18 19 date of the distribution from the qualified plan, individual retirement account, or individual retirement annuity. 20

(2) Cash transferred to the retirement system as a rollover
contribution shall be deposited as other payments made under section
84-1322 or 84-1325.

24 (3) Under the same conditions as provided in subsection (1) of this 25 section, the retirement system may accept eligible rollover distributions from (a) an annuity contract described in section 403(b) of the Internal 26 Revenue Code, (b) a plan described in section 457(b) of the code which is 27 28 maintained by a state, a political subdivision of a state, or any agency or instrumentality of a state or political subdivision of a state, or (c) 29 the portion of a distribution from an individual retirement account or 30 annuity described in section 408(a) or 408(b) of the code that is 31

-50-

eligible to be rolled over and would otherwise be includible in gross
 income. Amounts accepted pursuant to this subsection shall be deposited
 as all other payments under this section.

4 (4) The retirement system may accept direct rollover distributions
5 made from a qualified plan pursuant to section 401(a)(31) of the Internal
6 Revenue Code. The direct rollover distribution shall be deposited as all
7 other payments under this section.

8 (5) The board <u>may shall</u> adopt and promulgate rules and regulations 9 defining procedures for acceptance of rollovers which are consistent with 10 sections 401(a)(31) and 402 of the Internal Revenue Code.

11 Sec. 37. Section 84-1325, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2017, is 12 amended to read:

84-1325 (1)(a) For military service beginning on or after December 13 1994, but before January 1, 2018, any employee who, while an 14 12, employee, entered into and served in the armed forces of the United 15 16 States and who within ninety days after honorable discharge or honorable 17 separation from active duty again became an employee shall be credited, for the purposes of the provisions of section 84-1317, with all the time 18 19 actually served in the armed forces as if such person had been an employee throughout such service in the armed forces pursuant to the 20 terms and conditions of subdivision (b) of this subsection. 21

(b) Under such rules and regulations as the retirement board may 22 adopt and promulgate adopts and promulgates, any employee who is 23 reemployed pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 4301 et seq., may pay to the retirement 24 system an amount equal to the sum of all deductions which would have been 25 made from the employee's compensation during such period of military 26 service. Payment shall be made within the period required by law, not to 27 28 exceed five years. To the extent that payment is made, (i) the employee shall be treated as not having incurred a break in service by reason of 29 the employee's period of military service, (ii) the period of military 30 31 service shall be credited for the purposes of determining the

-51-

1 nonforfeitability of the employee's accrued benefits and the accrual of 2 benefits under the plan, and (iii) the employer shall allocate the amount 3 of employer contributions to the employee's employer account in the same manner and to the same extent the allocation occurs for other employees 4 during the period of service. For purposes of employee and employer 5 contributions under this subsection, the employee's compensation during 6 7 the period of military service shall be the rate the employee would have received but for the military service or, if not reasonably determinable, 8 9 the average rate the employee received during the twelve-month period immediately preceding military service. 10

11 (c) The employer shall pick up the employee contributions made 12 through irrevocable payroll deduction authorizations pursuant to this 13 subsection, and the contributions so picked up shall be treated as 14 employer contributions in the same manner as contributions picked up 15 under subsection (1) of section 84-1308.

16 (2)(a) For military service beginning on or after January 1, 2018, 17 any employee who is reemployed pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 4301 et seq., shall 18 be treated as not having incurred a break in service by reason of the 19 employee's period of military service. Such military service shall be 20 credited for purposes of determining the nonforfeitability of the 21 employee's accrued benefits and the accrual of benefits under the plan.

(b) The agency employing the employee shall be liable for funding any obligation of the plan to provide benefits based upon such period of military service. To satisfy the liability, the agency employing the employee shall pay to the retirement system an amount equal to:

(i) The sum of the employee and employer contributions that wouldhave been paid during such period of military service; and

(ii) Any actuarial costs necessary to fund the obligation of the
plan to provide benefits based upon such period of military service. For
the purposes of determining the amount of such liability and obligation
of the plan, earnings and forfeitures, gains and losses, regular

-52-

interest, interest credits, or dividends that would have accrued on the
 employee and employer contributions that are paid by the employer
 pursuant to this section shall not be included.

4 (c) The amount required pursuant to subdivision (b) of this subsection shall be paid to the retirement system as soon as reasonably 5 practicable following the date of reemployment, but must be paid within 6 eighteen months of the date the board notifies the employer of the amount 7 due. If the employer fails to pay the required amount within such 8 9 eighteen-month period, then the employer is also responsible for any actuarial costs and interest on actuarial costs that accrue from eighteen 10 months after the date the employer is notified by the board until the 11 date the amount is paid. 12

(d) The retirement board may adopt and promulgate rules and
regulations to carry out this subsection, including, but not limited to,
rules and regulations on:

16 (i) How and when the employee and employer must notify the 17 retirement system of a period of military service;

18

(ii) The acceptable methods of payment;

19 (iii) Determining the service and compensation upon which the20 contributions must be made;

(iv) Accelerating the payment from the employer due to unforeseen circumstances that occur before payment is made pursuant to this section, including, but not limited to, the employee's termination or retirement or the employer's reorganization, consolidation, merger, or closing; and

(v) The documentation required to substantiate that the individual
was reemployed pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 4301 et seq.

(3) This section only applies to military service that falls within
the definition of uniformed service under 38 U.S.C. 4301 et seq. Military
service does not include service provided pursuant to sections 55-101 to
55-181.

31 Sec. 38. Section 84-1503, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2017, is

-53-

84-1503 (1) It shall be the duty of the Public Employees Retirement
Board:

4 (a) To administer the retirement systems provided for in the County 5 Employees Retirement Act, the Judges Retirement Act, the Nebraska State 6 Patrol Retirement Act, the School Employees Retirement Act, and the State 7 Employees Retirement Act. The agency for the administration of the 8 retirement systems and under the direction of the board shall be known 9 and may be cited as the Nebraska Public Employees Retirement Systems;

(b) To appoint a director to administer the systems under the 10 direction of the board. The appointment shall be subject to the approval 11 of the Governor and a majority of the Legislature. The director shall be 12 13 qualified by training and have at least five years of experience in the administration of a qualified public or private employee retirement plan. 14 The director shall not be a member of the board. The salary of the 15 director shall be set by the board. The director shall serve without term 16 17 and may be removed by the board;

(c) To provide for an equitable allocation of expenses among the retirement systems administered by the board, and all expenses shall be provided from the investment income earned by the various retirement funds unless alternative sources of funds to pay expenses are specified by law;

(d) To administer the deferred compensation program authorized in
 section 84-1504;

(e) To hire an attorney, admitted to the Nebraska State Bar
Association, to advise the board in the administration of the retirement
systems listed in subdivision (a) of this subsection;

(f) To hire an internal auditor to perform the duties described in section 84-1503.04 who meets the minimum standards as described in section 84-304.03;

31 (g) To adopt and implement procedures for reporting information by

LB698 2018

-54-

1 employers, as well as testing and monitoring procedures in order to verify the accuracy of such information. The information necessary to 2 determine membership shall be provided by the employer. The board may 3 shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations and prescribe such forms 4 necessary to carry out this subdivision. Nothing in this subdivision 5 shall be construed to require the board to conduct onsite audits of 6 7 political subdivisions for compliance with statutes, rules, and regulations governing the retirement systems listed in subdivision (1)(a) 8 9 of this section regarding membership and contributions; and

(h) To prescribe and furnish forms for the public retirement system
plan reports required to be filed pursuant to sections 2-3228, 12-101,
14-567, 14-1805.01, 14-2111, 15-1017, 16-1017, 16-1037, 19-3501, 23-1118,
23-3526, 71-1631.02, and 79-987 through December 31, 2017.

14 (2) In administering the retirement systems listed in subdivision15 (1)(a) of this section, it shall be the duty of the board:

(a) To determine, based on information provided by the employer, the
prior service annuity, if any, for each person who is an employee of the
county on the date of adoption of the retirement system;

(b) To determine the eligibility of an individual to be a member of
the retirement system and other questions of fact in the event of a
dispute between an individual and the individual's employer;

(c) To adopt and promulgate rules and regulations, as the board may
 <u>deem necessary</u>, for the management of the board;

24 (d) To keep a complete record of all proceedings taken at any25 meeting of the board;

(e) To obtain, by a competitive, formal, and sealed bidding process
through the materiel division of the Department of Administrative
Services, actuarial services on behalf of the State of Nebraska as may be
necessary in the administration and development of the retirement
systems, including, but not limited to, preparation of an annual
actuarial valuation report of each of the defined benefit and cash

-55-

1 balance plans administered by the board. Such annual valuation reports 2 shall be presented by the actuary to the Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee of the Legislature at a public hearing or hearings. Any 3 4 contract for actuarial services shall contain a provision allowing the 5 actuary, without prior approval of the board, to perform actuarial studies of the systems as requested by entities other than the board, if 6 7 notice, which does not identify the entity or substance of the request, is given to the board, all costs are paid by the requesting entity, 8 9 results are provided to the board, the Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee of the Legislature, and the Legislative Fiscal Analyst upon 10 being made public, and such actuarial studies do not interfere with the 11 actuary's ongoing responsibility to the board. The term of the contract 12 shall be for up to three years. A competitive, formal, and sealed bidding 13 14 process shall be completed at least once every three years, unless the board determines that such a process would not be cost effective under 15 16 the circumstances and that the actuarial services performed have been 17 satisfactory, in which case the contract may also contain an option for renewal without a competitive, formal, and sealed bidding process for up 18 19 to three additional years. An actuary under contract for the State of Nebraska shall be a member of the American Academy of Actuaries and meet 20 the academy's qualification standards to render a statement of actuarial 21 22 opinion;

(f) To direct the State Treasurer to transfer funds, as an expense
of the retirement systems, to the Legislative Council Retirement Study
Fund. Such transfer shall occur beginning on or after July 1, 2005, and
at intervals of not less than five years and not more than fifteen years
and shall be in such amounts as the Legislature shall direct;

(g) To adopt and promulgate rules and regulations, as the board may
 <u>deem necessary</u>, to carry out the provisions of each retirement system
 described in subdivision (1)(a) of this section, which includes, but is
 not limited to, the crediting of military service, direct rollover

-56-

1 distributions, and the acceptance of rollovers;

2 (h) To obtain, by a competitive, formal, and sealed bidding process through the materiel division of the Department of Administrative 3 4 Services, auditing services for a separate compliance audit of the retirement systems to be completed by December 31, 2020, and from time to 5 time thereafter at the request of the Nebraska Retirement Systems 6 7 Committee of the Legislature, to be completed not more than every four years but not less than every ten years. The compliance audit shall be in 8 9 addition to the annual audit conducted by the Auditor of Public Accounts. The compliance audit shall include, but not be limited to, an examination 10 of records, files, and other documents and an evaluation of all policies 11 and procedures to determine compliance with all state and federal laws. A 12 13 copy of the compliance audit shall be given to the Governor, the board, 14 and the Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee of the Legislature and shall be presented to the committee at a public hearing; 15

16 (i) To adopt and promulgate rules and regulations, as the board may deem necessary, for the adjustment of contributions or benefits, which 17 includes, but is not limited to: (i) The procedures for refunding 18 contributions, adjusting future contributions or benefit payments, and 19 requiring additional contributions or repayment of benefits; (ii) the 20 process for a member, member's beneficiary, employee, or employer to 21 dispute an adjustment to contributions or benefits; (iii) establishing 22 materiality and de minimus amounts for agency transactions, adjustments, 23 24 and inactive account closures; and (iv) notice provided to all affected persons. Following an adjustment, a timely notice shall be sent that 25 describes the adjustment and the process for disputing an adjustment to 26 contributions or benefits; 27

(j) To make a thorough investigation through the director or the director's designee, of any overpayment of a benefit, when in the judgment of the director such investigation is necessary, including, but not limited to, circumstances in which benefit payments are made after

-57-

1 the death of a member or beneficiary and the retirement system is not made aware of such member's or beneficiary's death. In connection with 2 any such investigation, the board, through the director or the director's 3 4 designee, shall have the power to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of books, papers, records, and documents, whether in 5 hardcopy, electronic form, or otherwise, and issue subpoenas for such 6 7 purposes. Such subpoenas shall be served in the same manner and have the 8 same effect as subpoenas from district courts; and

9 (k) To administer all retirement system plans in a manner which will maintain each plan's status as a qualified plan pursuant to the Internal 10 Revenue Code, as defined in section 49-801.01, including: Section 401(a) 11 (9) of the Internal Revenue Code relating to the time and manner in which 12 benefits are required to be distributed, including the incidental death 13 benefit distribution requirement of section 401(a)(9)(G) of the Internal 14 Revenue Code; section 401(a)(25) of the Internal Revenue Code relating to 15 16 the specification of actuarial assumptions; section 401(a)(31) of the Internal Revenue Code relating to direct rollover distributions from 17 eligible retirement plans; section 401(a)(37) of the Internal Revenue 18 19 Code relating to the death benefit of a member whose death occurs while performing qualified military service; and section 401(a) of the Internal 20 Revenue Code by meeting the requirements of section 414(d) of the 21 Internal Revenue Code relating to the establishment of retirement plans 22 for governmental employees of a state or political subdivision thereof. 23 24 The board <u>may</u> shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations necessary 25 or appropriate to maintain such status including, but not limited to, regulations which restrict discretionary 26 rules or or optional contributions to a plan or which limit distributions from a plan. 27

(3) By March 31 of each year, the board shall prepare a written plan
of action and shall present such plan to the Nebraska Retirement Systems
Committee of the Legislature at a public hearing. The plan shall include,
but not be limited to, the board's funding policy, the administrative

-58-

1 costs and other fees associated with each fund and plan overseen by the 2 board, member education and informational programs, the director's duties 3 and limitations, an organizational structure of the office of the 4 Nebraska Public Employees Retirement Systems, and the internal control 5 structure of such office to ensure compliance with state and federal 6 laws.

(4)(a) Beginning in 2016, and at least every four years thereafter 7 in even-numbered years or at the request of the Nebraska Retirement 8 9 Systems Committee of the Legislature, the board shall obtain an 10 experience study. Within thirty business days after presentation of the experience study to the board, the actuary shall present the study to the 11 Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee at a public hearing. If the board 12 13 does not adopt all of the recommendations in the experience study, the 14 board shall provide a written explanation of its decision to the Nebraska 15 Retirement Systems Committee and the Governor. The explanation shall be 16 delivered within ten business days after formal action by the board to 17 not adopt one or more of the recommendations.

(b) The director shall provide an electronic copy of the first draft 18 19 and a final draft of the experience study and annual valuation reports to the Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee and the Governor when the 20 director receives the drafts from the actuary. The drafts shall be deemed 21 22 confidential information. The draft copies obtained by the Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee and the Governor pursuant to this section 23 24 shall not be considered public records subject to sections 84-712 to 25 84-712.09.

(c) For purposes of this subsection, business days shall be computed by excluding the day the request is received, after which the designated period of time begins to run. A business day shall not include a Saturday or a Sunday or a day during which the Nebraska Public Employees Retirement Systems office is closed.

31 (5) It shall be the duty of the board to direct the State Treasurer

-59-

1 to transfer funds, as an expense of the retirement system provided for 2 under the Class V School Employees Retirement Act, to and from the Class 3 V Retirement System Payment Processing Fund and the Class V School Employees Retirement Fund for the benefit of a retirement system provided 4 5 for under the Class V School Employees Retirement Act to implement the provisions of section 79-986. The agency for the administration of this 6 7 provision and under the direction of the board shall be known and may be cited as the Nebraska Public Employees Retirement Systems. 8

9 Sec. 39. Original sections 23-2305, 23-2306.02, 23-2306.03, 10 23-2310.05, 23-2323.02, 23-2323.03, 24-704, 24-704.01, 24-710, 24-710.05, 24-710.06, 79-904, 79-905, 79-907, 79-924, 79-933.01, 11 79-933.02, 12 79-933.03, 79-933.04, 79-933.07, 81-2019, 81-2031.03, 81-2031.04, 13 84-1305, 84-1310.01, 84-1311.03, 84-1312, and 84-1313, Reissue Revised 14 Statutes of Nebraska, sections 23-2305.01, 23-2309.01, 81-2019.01, 81-2026, and 84-1305.02, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2016, 15 16 and sections 23-2323.01, 79-904.01, 79-926, 84-1325, and 84-1503, Revised 17 Statutes Supplement, 2017, are repealed.