

General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 396

February Session, 2022



AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO THE TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM STATUTES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. Section 10-183b of the 2022 supplement to the general
- 2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
- 3 (Effective July 1, 2022):
- 4 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:
- 5 (1) "Actuarial reserve basis" means a basis under which the liabilities
- 6 of the retirement system are determined under acceptable actuarial
- 7 methods and under which assets are accumulated under a program
- 8 designed to achieve a proper balance between the accumulated assets
- 9 and the liabilities of the system.
- 10 (2) "Amortization of unfunded liabilities" means: (A) For fiscal years
- 11 ending on or before June 30, 2019, a systematic program of annual
- 12 payments determined as a level per cent of expected member annual
- salaries in lieu of a lump sum payment; and (B) for fiscal years ending
- on or after June 30, 2020, a systematic program of annual payments,
- 15 transitioning equally over five consecutive fiscal years from a level per
- 16 cent of expected annual member salaries to a level payment, in lieu of a
- 17 lump sum payment.

(3) "Annual salary" means the annual salary rate for service as a Connecticut teacher during a school year but not including unused sick leave, unused vacation, terminal pay, coaching or extra duty assignments, unless compensation for coaching or extra duty assignment was included in salary for which contributions were made prior to July 1, 1971. In no event shall annual salary include amounts determined by the board to be included for the purpose of inflating the member's average annual salary. The inclusion in annual salary of amounts paid to the member, in lieu of payment by the employer for the cost of benefits, insurance, or individual retirement arrangements which in prior years had been paid by the employer and not included in the member's annual salary, shall be prima facie evidence that such amounts are included for the purpose of inflating the member's average annual salary. Annual salary shall not (A) include payments the timing of which may be directed by the member, (B) include payments to a superintendent pursuant to an individual contract between such superintendent and a board of education, of amounts which are not included in base salary, or (C) exceed the maximum amount allowed under Section 401(a)(17) of the Internal Revenue Code for the applicable limitation year, provided in no event shall the limitation under Section 401(a)(17) of the Internal Revenue Code apply to the annual salary of a member whose membership began prior to January 1, 1996, if such limitation would reduce the amount of the member's annual salary below the amount permitted for calculation of the member's retirement benefit under chapter 167a, without regard to the limitation under Section 401(a)(17) of the Internal Revenue Code. Annual salary shall include amounts paid to the member during a sabbatical leave during which mandatory contributions were remitted, provided such member returned to full-time teaching for at least five full years following the completion of such leave.

(4) "Average annual salary" means the average [annual salary received during the three years of highest salary] of the three highest annual salaries received as an active member.

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- (5) "Board" means the Teachers' Retirement Board.
- (6) "Child" means a natural child, an adopted child, or a stepchild of a deceased member who has been a stepchild for at least one year immediately prior to the date on which the member died. A child is a "dependent child" of a deceased member if at the time of the member's death (A) the member was living with the child or providing or obligated to provide, by agreement or court order, a reasonable portion of the support of the child, and (B) the child (i) is unmarried and has not attained age eighteen, or (ii) is disabled and such disability began prior to the child's attaining age eighteen.
- (7) "Contributions" means amounts withheld pursuant to this chapter and paid to the board by an employer from compensation payable to a member. Prior to July 1, 1989, "mandatory contributions" are contributions required to be withheld under this chapter and consist of five per cent regular contributions and "one per cent contributions". From July 1, 1989, to June 30, 1992, "mandatory contributions" are contributions required to be withheld under this chapter and consist of five per cent regular contributions and one per cent health contributions. From July 1, 1992, to June 30, 2004, "mandatory contributions" are contributions required to be withheld under this chapter and consist of six per cent "regular contributions" and one per cent health contributions. From July 1, 2004, to December 31, 2017, "mandatory contributions" are contributions required to be withheld under this chapter and consist of six per cent regular contributions and one and one-fourth per cent health contributions. From January 1, 2018, to December 31, 2019, inclusive, "mandatory contributions" are contributions required to be withheld under this chapter and consist of seven per cent "regular contributions" and one and one-fourth per cent health contributions. On and after January 1, 2020, "mandatory contributions" are contributions required to be withheld under this chapter and consist of seven per cent "regular contributions" and one and one-fourth per cent health contributions, except that no health contributions shall be required for an employee of the state that (A) has

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- completed the vesting service necessary to receive health benefits provided to retired state employees, and (B) does not participate in any group health insurance plans maintained for retired teachers. Nothing in this subdivision shall affect any other obligation of such a state employee to contribute to the state's retiree health care trust fund. "Voluntary contributions" are contributions by a member authorized to be withheld under section 10-183i.
- 91 (8) "Coparticipant" means a person who the member elects at the time 92 of retirement to receive guaranteed lifetime benefits upon the death of 93 the member.
- [(8)] (9) "Credited interest" means interest at the rate from time to time fixed by the board consistent with industry standards and practices. Such interest shall be applied to a member's account based on the balance as of the previous June thirtieth. Credited interest shall [be assessed] accrue on any mandatory contributions which were due but not remitted prior to the close of the school year for which salary was paid.
- [(9)] (10) "Current service" means service rendered in the current fiscal year.
 - [(10)] (11) "Dependent former spouse" means a former spouse of a deceased member who (A) has in his or her care a dependent child of the deceased member; and (B) was receiving, or was entitled to receive, from the deceased member at the time of the death of the deceased member, at least one-half of his or her support; and (C) has not remarried; and (D) is the parent of the child or adopted the child while married to the member and before the child attained age eighteen or, while married to the member, both of them adopted the child before the child attained age eighteen.
 - [(11)] (12) "Dependent parent" means a parent of a deceased member who (A) has reached the age of sixty-five; and (B) has not married after the death of the member; and (C) was receiving at least one-half of his

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or her support from the member at the time of the member's death and files proof of such support within two years of the date of the member's death; and (D) is not receiving, or entitled to a federal or state old age benefit based on the parent's own earnings, equal to or greater than the amount the parent would be entitled to as a dependent parent under this chapter. A "parent of a deceased member" is (i) the mother or father of a deceased member, [; or] (ii) a stepparent of a deceased member by a marriage entered into before the member attained age sixteen, [;] or (iii) an adopting parent of a deceased member who adopted the deceased member before the member attained age sixteen.

[(12)] (13) "Designated beneficiary" means a person designated on a form prescribed by the board by a member to receive amounts [which] that may become payable under this chapter as the result of the member's death. [whether before or after retirement.] If a designated beneficiary is not living at the time of the death of a member, the amounts that would have been payable to the designated beneficiary shall be paid to the member's estate.

[(13)] (14) "Disabled" means the inability to perform any teaching service, whether or not such service is performed full-time or part-time, in a public or nonpublic school or a nonschool setting, on a volunteer basis or for compensation, within or without the state, or engage in any substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment that (A) is permanent or can be expected to last continually for not less than twelve months from the onset of such impairment, or (B) can be expected to result in death or to be of long-continued and indefinite duration, except that during the first twenty-four months that a member is receiving a disability allowance, "disabled" means the inability to perform the usual duties of [his] the member's occupation by reason of any such impairment.

[(14)] (15) "Employer" means an elected school committee, a board of education, the State Board of Education, the Office of Early Childhood, the Technical Education and Career System, the Board of Regents for Higher Education or any of the constituent units, the governing body of

- the Children's Center and its successors, <u>The University of Connecticut</u>
- 149 <u>Board of Trustees</u>, the E. O. Smith School, [and] <u>or</u> any other activity,
- institution or school employing members, except "employer" shall not
- include the governing body of the Children's Center and its successors
- 152 <u>for members hired on or after July 1, 2022.</u>
- [(15)] (16) "Formal leave of absence" means any absence from active service in the public schools of Connecticut formally granted by a member's employer as evidenced by contemporary records of the employer, provided in the case of an absence due to illness, medical or other evidence of such illness may, at the discretion of the Teachers' Retirement Board, be accepted in lieu of evidence of the formal granting
- of a leave.
- 160 [(16)] (17) "Formal application of retirement" means: (A) the 161 member's application, birth certificate or notarized statement supported 162 by other evidence satisfactory to the board, in lieu thereof, (B) records 163 of service, if such records are required by the board to determine a salary 164 rate or years of creditable service, (C) a statement of payment plan, 165 including, if applicable, the fixed period of time selected by a member 166 under Plan C or the coparticipant's share designated under Plan D, (D) in the case of an application for a disability benefit, a physician's, a 167 physician assistant's or an advanced practice registered nurse's 168 169 statement of health, and (E) any other documentation required by the 170 board.
 - [(17)] (18) "Funding" means the accumulation of assets in advance of the payment of retirement allowances in accordance with a [definite actuarial program] board-approved actuarial methodology.
 - [(18)] (19) "Member" means any Connecticut teacher employed (A) on, and compensated for, the first school day, in accordance with the member's contractual schedule, and (B) for an average of at least one-half of each school day after the first school day, except that no teacher who under any provision of the general statutes elects not to participate in the system shall be a member unless and until the teacher elects to

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participate in the system. [Members] <u>A member</u> teaching in a nonpublic school classified as a public school by the board under the provisions of this section may continue as [members] <u>a member</u> as long as [they continue as teachers] <u>the member continues to be a teacher</u> in such school even if the school ceases to be so classified. A former teacher who has not withdrawn his or her accumulated contributions shall be an "inactive member". A member who, during the period of a formal leave of absence granted by his or her employer, but not exceeding an aggregate of ten school months, continues to make mandatory contributions to the board, retains his or her status as an active member.

[(19)] (20) "Normal cost" means the amount of contribution which the state is required to make into the retirement fund in order to meet the actuarial cost of current service.

[(20)] (21) "Public school" means any day school conducted within or without this state under the orders and superintendence of a duly elected school committee, a board of education, the State Board of Education, the Office of Early Childhood, the Board of Regents for Higher Education, or any of its constituent units, The University of Connecticut Board of Trustees, the board of governors or any of its constituent units, the Technical Education and Career System, the E. O. Smith School, the Children's Center and its successors, the State Education Resource Center established pursuant to section 10-4q of the 2014 supplement to the general statutes, revision of 1958, revised to January 1, 2013, the State Education Resource Center established pursuant to section 10-357a, joint activities of boards of education authorized by subsection (b) of section 10-158a and any institution supported by the state at which teachers are employed or any incorporated secondary school not under the orders superintendence of a duly elected school committee or board of education but located in a town not maintaining a high school and providing free tuition to pupils of the town in which it is located, and which has been approved by the State Board of Education under the provisions of part II of chapter 164, provided that such institution or

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- such secondary school is classified as a public school by the retirement
- board. With respect to members hired prior to July 1, 2022, "public"
- 215 <u>school" also means the Children's Center and its successors, the State</u>
- 216 Education Resource Center established pursuant to section 10-4q of the
- 217 <u>2014 supplement to the general statutes, revision of 1958, revised to</u>
- 218 January 1, 2013, and the State Education Resource Center established
- 219 pursuant to section 10-357a.
- [(21)] (22) "Retirement allowance" means payments for life derived
- 221 from member contributions, including credited interest, and
- 222 contributions from the state.
- 223 (23) "Retired member" means a member who receives a retirement
- benefit computed pursuant to section 10-183g, as amended by this act.
- [(22)] (24) "School year" means the twelve months ending on June
- thirtieth of each year.
- [(23)] (25) "Surviving spouse" means a widow or widower of a
- deceased member who (A) was living with the member at the time of
- 229 the member's death, or receiving, or entitled by court order or
- agreement to receive, regular support payments from the member, and
- 231 (B) has not remarried.
- 232 [(24) "Survivors"] (26) "Survivor" means a surviving spouse, a
- 233 dependent former spouse, a dependent child and a dependent parent.
- [(25)] (27) "System" means the Connecticut teachers' retirement
- 235 system.
- [(26)] (28) "Teacher" means any: (A) [any] Person, including, but not
- limited to, a teacher, permanent substitute teacher, principal, assistant
- 238 principal, supervisor, assistant superintendent or superintendent who
- is employed by [the] a public [schools] school in a professional capacity
- 240 while possessing a certificate or permit, except a school business
- 241 <u>administration endorsement</u>, issued by the State Board of Education,
- 242 provided on and after July 1, 1975, such certificate shall be for the

position in which the person is then employed, except as provided for in section 10-183qq; [,] (B) [certified personnel] person possessing a certificate or permit issued by the State Board of Education, who was hired before July 1, 2022, and who [provide] provides health and welfare services for children in a nonprofit [schools] school, as provided in section 10-217a, under an oral or written agreement; [,] (C) [any] person who is engaged in teaching or supervising [schools] in a program in the state that leads to a high school diploma at a school for adults if the annual salary paid for such service is equal to or greater than the minimum salary paid for a regular, full-time teaching position in the day schools in the town where such service is rendered; [,] (D) [a] member of the professional staff [of] employed in an educational role at the State Board of Education, the Office of Early Childhood, [or of] the Board of Regents for Higher Education or any of the constituent units, or the Technical Education and Career System; (E) faculty member employed by The University of Connecticut in an educational role; and [(E) a member of the staff of] (F) staff member employed in an educational role at the State Education Resource Center established pursuant to section 10-4q of the 2014 supplement to the general statutes, revision of 1958, revised to January 1, 2013, or the State Education Resource Center established pursuant to section 10-357a, employed in a professional capacity while possessing a certificate or permit issued by the State Board of Education, provided such staff member was hired prior to July 1, 2022. A "permanent substitute teacher" is [one] a person who serves as [such for at least ten months during any school year] a substitute teacher in the same assignment for an entire school year.

[(27)] (29) "Unfunded liability" means the actuarially determined value of the liability for service before the date of the actuarial valuation less the accumulated assets in the retirement fund.

[(28)] (30) "Internal Revenue Code" means the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the United States, as from time to time amended, and any regulations promulgated under or interpretations of said code that may affect this

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- 276 chapter.
- [(29)] (31) "Limitation year" means the twelve-month period beginning each July first and ending each June thirtieth.
- (32) "Educational role" or "educational capacity" means having duties
 and responsibilities that would require a certificate issued by the State
 Department of Education if performed in a public school.
- Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 10-183c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,* 2022):
- 285 (a) The Connecticut teachers' retirement system is established to 286 provide retirement and other benefits for teachers, their survivors and 287 beneficiaries. On or after a member vests in the system by becoming 288 eligible to receive a retirement benefit pursuant to section 10-183f, or 289 accumulates ten years of credited service in the system, as defined in 290 subsection (a) of section 10-183e, as amended by this act, whichever is 291 later, the member's benefit under sections 10-183e, as amended by this 292 act, 10-183f, 10-183g, as amended by this act, 10-183h, as amended by 293 this act, 10-183j, as amended by this act, and 10-183aa, as amended by 294 this act, is contractual in nature and no public or special act of the 295 General Assembly shall diminish such benefit, provided this section 296 shall apply only to an active member who is vested on October 1, 2003, 297 or to a member who vests or accumulates ten years of credited service 298 on or after October 1, 2003, and shall apply to the member's benefit in 299 existence on October 1, 2003, or to the member's benefit in existence on 300 the date the member vests or accumulates ten years of credited service, 301 respectively, whichever is later.
- Sec. 3. Section 10-183e of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2022*):
 - (a) (1) A member shall receive a month of credited service for each month of service, from September to June, inclusive, as a teacher, provided the [Teachers' Retirement Board may grant a member]

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- member makes the mandatory contribution for each month. Ten months of credited service shall be deemed to be one year of credited service. A member may not accumulate more than one year of credited service during any school year.
- (2) The board may grant a member a month of credited service for a month during which such member was employed after the first school day but not later than the fifth school day of such month if [(1)] (A) such month was the member's first month of service as a teacher, [and (2)] (B) such month of credited service is needed by the member in order to qualify for a normal retirement benefit, [. Ten months of credited service shall be equal to one year of credited service. A member may not accumulate more than one year of credited service during any school year] and (C) the mandatory contribution for such month is paid.
- (b) Any member may purchase, as provided in subsection (c) of this section, additional credited service, but not to exceed an aggregate of one year in the case of service described in subdivision (2) of this subsection for each two years of active full-time service as a Connecticut teacher; and not to exceed an aggregate of one year in the case of absence described in subdivision (8) of this subsection for each five years of active full-time service as a Connecticut teacher, provided if any such absence exceeds thirty consecutive school months, such additional credited service shall be limited to thirty school months; and not to exceed an aggregate of ten years for all service described in this subsection, except for service described in subdivision (2) of this subsection. In no event may any service described in this subsection be purchased if the member is receiving or is, or will become, entitled to receive a retirement benefit based upon such service from any governmental system other than the teachers' retirement system or the federal Social Security System. Additional credited service includes:
- (1) Service as a teacher in a school for military dependents established by the United States Department of Defense;
- 338 (2) Service as a teacher in <u>a public school of</u> another state of the United

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- 339 States, its territories or possessions;
 340 (3) Service in the armed forces of the United States in time of war, as
 341 defined in section 27-103, or service in said armed forces during the
 342 period beginning October 27, 1953, and ending January 31, 1955;
- 343 (4) Service in a permanent full-time position for the state;
- 344 (5) Service as a teacher at The University of Connecticut prior to July 345 1, 1965;
- 346 (6) Service as a teacher at the Wheeler School and Library, North Stonington, prior to September 1, 1949;
- 348 (7) Service as a teacher at the Gilbert Home, Winsted, prior to 349 September 1, 1948;
- 350 (8) Any formal leave of absence as provided in regulations adopted 351 by the board, if the member subsequently returns to service for at least 352 one school year;
- 353 (9) Service as a teacher at the American School [at Hartford] for the 354 Deaf, the Connecticut Institute for the Blind or the Newington 355 Children's Hospital;
- (10) Forty or more days of service as a substitute teacher, or the equivalent service rendered at less than half-time, in a single public school system within the state of Connecticut in any school year, provided (A) eighteen days of such service shall equal one month of credited service under subsection (a) of this section, and (B) on and after July 1, 2022, such days of service shall be rendered within one school year;
- 363 (11) Service in the armed forces of the United States, other than 364 service described in subdivision (3) of this subsection, not to exceed 365 thirty months;
- 366 (12) Service as a full-time, salaried, elected official of the state or any

367 368 369	political subdivision of the state during the 1978 calendar year or thereafter, if such member subsequently returns to service <u>as a teacher in a public school</u> for at least one school year;
370 371	(13) Service in the public schools of Connecticut as a member of the federal Teacher Corps, not to exceed two years;
372	(14) Service in the United States Peace Corps;
373	(15) Service in the United States VISTA (Volunteers in Service to
374	America) program;
375	(16) Service in the public schools of Connecticut as a social work
376	assistant, from January 1, 1969, to December 31, 1986, inclusive, if such
377	member became a certified school social worker and remained in service
378	in the public [school service] schools of Connecticut as a social worker
379	after certification; and
380	(17) Service prior to July 1, 2007, as a member of the staff of the State
381	Education Resource Center established pursuant to section 10-4q of the
382	general statutes, revision of 1958, revised to January 1, 2007, employed
383	in a professional capacity while possessing a certificate or permit issued
384	by the State Board of Education.
385	(c) Credited service described in subdivisions (3), (8) and (10) of
386	subsection (b) of this section shall be deemed to be service in the public
387	schools of Connecticut.
388	[(c)] (d) Additional credited service [must] shall be purchased by a
389	member (1) prior to the [time] effective date of such member's
390	retirement, or (2) at the time a surviving spouse elects benefits under the
391	provisions of subsection (d) of section 10-183h, as amended by this act.
392	[or (3) at the time benefits commence as provided under sections 10-
393	183g and 10-183jj.] Any purchase of such service shall be accomplished
394	by the member paying to the board an amount determined on the basis
395	of actuarial factors adopted by the board that reflect the present value
396	of one-half of the full actuarial cost of the benefit increase that will be

derived by the purchase of such service, except that in the case of purchase of service described in subdivision (17) of subsection (b) of this section, or in the case of purchase of service described in subdivision (2) of said subsection (b) in excess of ten years, the present value of the full actuarial cost. Such factors shall consider the member's age at the time of purchase, actual or projected salary, and the earliest date on which the member would be eligible for a normal retirement allowance. Payments for additional credited service may be made in a lump sum by transfer of funds from the member's accumulated one per cent contributions withheld prior to July 1, 1989, with credited interest and accumulated voluntary contributions with credited interest plus such other amounts as may be required to complete the purchase.

[(d) For the purpose of determining eligibility for benefits under section 10-183f, credited service purchased under subsection (b) of this section shall not be used except that (1) service in a school for military dependents described in subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this section and out-of-state public school service described in subdivision (2) of said subsection (b) shall be used to determine eligibility for a normal retirement benefit based upon thirty-five years of credited service and for an early retirement benefit; and (2) military service described in subdivision (3) of said subsection (b), any leave of absence described in subdivision (8) of said subsection (b) and substitute service described in subdivision (10) of said subsection (b) shall be used as if they were service in the public schools of Connecticut.

(e) For purposes of computing benefit amounts under section 10-183g, other than proratable benefits and deferred vested retirement benefits, credited service purchased under subsection (b) of this section shall be used in the same manner as credited service described in subsection (a) of this section. In computing proratable benefits, purchased service credits shall be used as set forth in subsection (b) of section 10-183g. In computing deferred vested retirement benefits, purchased service credits shall be used as set forth in subsection (d) of section 10-183g. In computing the lump sum death benefit under section

- 430 10-183h, military service described in subdivision (3) of subsection (b) 431 of this section and leaves of absence described in subdivision (8) of said 432 subsection (b) shall be used as if they were service in the public schools
- 433 of Connecticut.]
- [(f)] (e) For purposes of computing benefit amounts under section 10-183g, as amended by this act, whole months of credited service, including additional credited service, in excess of whole years shall be used in determining aggregate accumulations of credited service.
- 438 [(g)] (f) Any member who has been elected to a full-time or part-time 439 position in an organization which has been duly designated as the 440 teachers' representative or who has been elected to a full-time or part-441 time position in a state-wide, national or international bargaining 442 organization may, during the time such member so serves, continue 443 membership and may make, or have made for such member, payments 444 of contributions for such time, provided the organization which such 445 member represents shall pay the full actuarial cost that would otherwise 446 be incurred by the state for the time such member serves in excess of one 447 year. If payment is made during such periods or at any time before 448 retirement, such member shall receive credit for such service and shall 449 be considered as serving as a [public school] teacher in the [state] the 450 public schools of Connecticut for the purpose of computing length of 451 service, and for the purpose of computing average annual salary, and 452 shall be considered by the retirement board as though such member 453 were remaining in such member's latest teaching position.
 - Sec. 4. Section 10-183g of the 2022 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July* 1, 2022):
 - (a) The normal retirement benefit shall be two per cent times the number of years of full-time credited service and a proportional fraction of two per cent times the number of years of credited service at less than full-time multiplied by average annual salary. In no event, however, shall such benefit exceed seventy-five per cent of such salary or be less

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than three thousand six hundred dollars.

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(b) The proratable retirement benefit shall be computed as follows: Average annual salary multiplied by (1) number of years of credited service [, excluding all additional credited service, except service described in subdivisions (3), (8) and (10) of subsection (b) of section 10-183e,] in the public schools of Connecticut multiplied by the applicable percentage based on age and service as determined from the table below, and (2) number of years of all additional credited service not used in subdivision (1) of this subsection multiplied by one per cent.

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T5	Service	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
T6	10	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
T7	11	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
T8	12	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2
T9	13	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3
T10	14	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4
T11	15	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
T12	16	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6
T13	17	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7
T14	18	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8
T15	19	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
T16	20	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0

(c) The early retirement benefit shall be computed in the same manner as the normal retirement benefit, then actuarially reduced, on the basis of early retirement tables adopted from time to time by the board, for each month early retirement precedes the minimum age at which the member could have retired with a normal retirement benefit

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pursuant to subsection (a) of section 10-183f. [Such minimum age shall be such member's actual age at retirement plus the lesser of (1) the difference between such age and age sixty, or (2) the difference between thirty-five years and the sum of such member's years of Connecticut public school service plus all purchased leaves of absence, military and out-of-state public school service.] On and after July 1, 1999, any revisions to the early retirement tables shall be submitted to the Office of Policy and Management and the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies within one month of their adoption by the board. Any such revisions shall be accompanied by an actuarial certification of the costs associated with such revisions.

- (d) The deferred vested retirement benefit shall be computed as follows: Average annual salary multiplied by (1) number of years of credited service [, excluding all additional credited service, except service described in subdivisions (3), (8) and (10) of subsection (b) of section 10-183e,] in the public schools of Connecticut multiplied by two per cent, then actuarially reduced in the same manner as the early retirement benefit if the years of service which could have been rendered were less than twenty years by age sixty or by the subsequent date of retirement, and (2) number of years of all additional credited service not used in subdivision (1) of this subsection multiplied by one per cent.
 - (e) Repealed by P.A. 79-541, S. 5, 6.
- (f) [In] (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, in addition to a retirement benefit computed under subsections (a) to (d), inclusive, of this section and a disability allowance under subsections (a) to (g), inclusive, of section 10-183aa, a member shall receive a lump sum payment equal to the member's accumulated one per cent contributions withheld prior to July 1, 1989, and any voluntary contributions, with credited interest. Such lump sum shall be paid not later than three months after (A) the effective date of retirement, or (B) the date the first payment of a disability allowance under section 10-

183aa, as amended by this act, is made, except the board may delay payment of such lump sum in extenuating circumstances. In the case of a delay in payment of the lump sum in extenuating circumstances, the board shall provide notice in writing to the member explaining the nature of the extenuating circumstances necessitating a delay in payment and an estimated time when the board expects to make the payment to the member.

(2) In lieu of such lump sum, the member may elect to receive an actuarially equivalent annuity for life. [Such lump sum or] <u>Payment of such annuity shall [be paid, or commenced to be paid,] commence when the first payment of the [other] retirement benefit computed under subsections (a) to (d), inclusive, of this section or a disability allowance under subsections (a) to (g), inclusive, of section 10-183aa whichever is earlier, is made.</u>

(g) A member's complete formal application for retirement, if sent by mail, shall be deemed to have been filed with the board on the date such application is postmarked. No benefit computed under subsections (a) to (d), inclusive, of this section and under subsections (a) to (g), inclusive, of section 10-183aa shall become effective until [the end of the calendar month of the filing by the a member eligible for retirement under section 10-183f files with the board [of] a complete formal application for retirement and terminates service with such member's employer. Such benefit shall accrue from the first day of the month following [such] the calendar month in which such application is filed and payment of such benefit in equal monthly installments shall commence on the last day of the month in which such benefit begins to accrue. The initial payment of such benefit may be made not later than three months following the effective date of retirement, provided such payment shall be retroactive to such effective date. Upon a finding that extenuating circumstances relating to the health of a member caused a delay in the filing of the member's complete formal application, and such application is filed on or after July 1, 1986, the board may deem such application to have been filed up to three months earlier than the

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- actual date of the filing. Upon a finding that extenuating circumstances related to the health of a member caused a delay in the filing of an election pursuant to subsection (g) of section 10-183aa, and such election is filed on or after July 1, 1986, the board may deem such election to have been filed as of the date such member's benefits would otherwise have been converted to a normal retirement [allowance, provided such member's disability allowance became effective on or before November 1, 1976, and such member attained the age of sixty on or after August 1, 1984] benefit under this section.
 - (h) (1) A benefit computed under subsections (a) to (d), inclusive, of this section and under subsections (a) to (g), inclusive, of section 10-183aa shall continue until the death of the member.
 - (2) For any member who accumulates ten years of credited service in the public schools of Connecticut prior to July 1, 2019, the member's designated beneficiary shall be paid on the death of the member a lump sum amount equal to the sum of such member's accumulated regular contributions, including any one per cent contributions withheld prior to July 1, 1989, and any voluntary contributions plus credited interest that had been accrued to the date benefits commenced, less an amount equal to twenty-five per cent of the aggregate benefits paid to such member [prior to] through the month of the member's death.
 - (3) For any member who accumulates ten years of credited service in the public schools of Connecticut on or after July 1, 2019, the member's designated beneficiary shall be paid on the death of the member a lump sum amount equal to the sum of such member's accumulated regular contributions, including any one per cent contributions withheld prior to July 1, 1989, and any voluntary contributions plus credited interest that had been accrued to the date benefits commenced, less an amount equal to fifty per cent of the aggregate benefits paid to such member [prior to] through the month of the member's death.
 - (i) [In lieu of a benefit computed under subsections (a) to (d), inclusive, of this section and under subsections (a) to (g), inclusive, of

section 10-183aa, a] A member [may] shall elect one of the benefit options described in section 10-183j, as amended by this act, or any other actuarially equivalent option which the board may offer from time to time.

- (j) Beginning the first day of January or July which follows nine months in retirement, a retired member who retired prior to September 1, 1992, or a member's successor beneficiary, except a person receiving survivor's benefits, shall be eligible for an annual five per cent cost of living allowance on any benefit except a benefit based upon such member's one per cent contributions or voluntary contributions. Such cost of living allowance shall be computed on the basis of the retirement benefits to which such retired member or successor beneficiary was entitled on the last day of the preceding December or June except benefits based upon one per cent or voluntary contributions. Such member's successor beneficiary means any person, other than such member, receiving benefits as the result of the election of a period certain option or a coparticipant option, including an election for such an option by a surviving spouse under subsection (d) of section 10-183h, as amended by this act. The right to such allowance, or any portion thereof, may be waived by the person entitled thereto at any time. Any waiver shall remain in effect until the first day of the month following such person's death or the filing with the board of a written notice of cancellation of the waiver. Any allowance waived shall be forever forfeited. If on any subsequent first day of January or July the Teacher's Retirement Board determines that the National Consumer Price Index for urban wage earners and clerical workers for the twelve-month period ending on the last day of the preceding November or May has increased less than the cost of living allowance provided under this subsection, the cost of living allowance provided by this subsection shall be adjusted to reflect the change in such index provided such cost of living allowance shall not be less than three per cent.
- (k) Beginning the first day of January or July which follows nine months in retirement, a retired member who retired on or after

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September 1, 1992, or a member's successor beneficiary, except a person receiving survivor's benefits, shall be eligible for an annual cost of living allowance calculated in accordance with the provisions of subsections (l) or (m) of this section on any benefit except a benefit based upon such member's one per cent contributions or voluntary contributions. Such cost of living allowance shall be computed on the basis of the retirement benefits to which such retired member or successor beneficiary was entitled on the last day of the preceding December or June except benefits based upon one per cent or voluntary contributions. [Such member's successor beneficiary means any person, other than such member, receiving benefits as the result of the election of a period certain option or a coparticipant option, including an election for such an option by a surviving spouse under subsection (d) of section 10-183h.] The right to such allowance, or any portion thereof, may be waived by the person entitled thereto at any time. Any waiver shall remain in effect until the first day of the month following such person's death or the filing with the board of a written notice of cancellation of the waiver. Any allowance waived shall be forever forfeited.

(l) (1) Beginning the first day of January or July which follows nine months in retirement, a retired member who retired on or after September 1, 1992, or a member's successor beneficiary, except a person receiving survivor's benefits, shall be eligible for an annual cost of living allowance. The cost of living allowance shall be calculated by using the percentage cost of living adjustment granted by the Social Security Administration for the applicable year, computed on the basis of the retirement benefits to which such retired member or successor beneficiary was entitled on the last day of the preceding December or June except benefits based upon one per cent or voluntary contributions, provided no cost of living allowance shall exceed six per cent and provided further, if the total return earned by the trustees on the market value of the pension assets for the preceding fiscal year is less than six and nine-tenths per cent, any cost of living allowance granted shall not exceed one and one-half per cent.

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- (2) A member entering the retirement system commencing on or after July 1, 2007, or such member's successor beneficiary, except a person receiving survivor's benefits, shall, beginning the first day of January or July that follows nine months in retirement, be eligible for an annual cost of living allowance as follows: The cost of living allowance shall be calculated by using the percentage cost of living adjustment granted by the Social Security Administration for the applicable year, computed on the basis of the retirement benefits to which such retired member or successor beneficiary was entitled on the last day of the preceding December or June, as applicable, except benefits based upon one per cent or voluntary contributions, provided (A) no cost of living allowance shall exceed five per cent, and (B) if the total return earned by the trustees on the market value of the pension assets for the preceding fiscal year is less than six and nine-tenths per cent, any cost of living allowance granted shall not exceed one per cent, if such total return for the preceding fiscal year is greater than six and nine-tenths per cent but less than nine and nine-tenths per cent, any cost of living allowance granted shall not exceed three per cent, and if such return exceeds nine and nine-tenths per cent, any cost of living allowance granted shall not exceed five per cent.
- 660 (m) Repealed by P.A. 07-186, S. 14.
- (n) Repealed by P.A. 07-186, S. 14.
 - (o) On January 1, 1988, each eligible retired member who had rendered at least twenty-five years of full-time service prior to normal retirement under the provisions of subsection (a) of section 10-183f, or such member's successor beneficiary, as defined in subsection (j) of this section, shall receive a single increase in retirement benefits provided under this chapter. Such increase shall be paid to such eligible members or successor beneficiaries whose monthly benefit as of December 31, 1987, before any reduction for an optional benefit payment plan, is less than eight hundred dollars, and shall be sufficient to increase such monthly benefit to eight hundred dollars.

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- (p) On January 1, 1991, each eligible retired member who had rendered at least twenty-five years of full-time service at least twenty years of which were service in the public schools of Connecticut prior to early retirement before January 1, 1976, under the provisions of subsection (c) of section 10-183f, or such member's successor beneficiary, as defined in subsection (j) of this section, shall receive a single increase in retirement benefits provided under this chapter. Such increase shall be paid to such eligible members or successor beneficiaries whose monthly benefit as of December 31, 1990, before any reduction for an optional benefit payment plan, is less than eight hundred dollars, and shall be sufficient to increase such monthly benefit to eight hundred dollars.
- (q) On January 1, 1999, each eligible retired member who had rendered at least twenty-five years of full-time service, or such member's successor beneficiary, as defined in subsection (j) of this section, shall receive a single increase in benefits provided under this chapter. Such increase shall be sufficient to increase the monthly benefit of such eligible members or successor beneficiaries, whose monthly benefit as of December 31, 1998, before any actuarial reduction for early retirement or for an optional benefit payment plan, is less than twelve hundred dollars and shall be sufficient to increase such monthly benefit to twelve hundred dollars.
- (r) No retirement benefit payable under this chapter, including any cost of living allowance, shall exceed the maximum dollar limit in effect under Section 415(b) of the Internal Revenue Code for the applicable limitation year, as increased in subsequent years pursuant to Section 415(d) of the Internal Revenue Code. [A subsequent annual increase shall apply to a member if the increase becomes effective after the member retires or, if such increase becomes effective before a member retires, after the date on which such benefit begins to accrue.]
- (s) For purposes of this section, "successor beneficiary" means any person, other than the member, who is receiving benefits as the result of the election of a period certain option or a coparticipant option,

- including an election for such an option by a surviving spouse under subsection (d) of section 10-183h, as amended by this act.
- Sec. 5. Section 10-183h of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2022*):
- 709 (a) The basic monthly survivor's [monthly] benefit, subject to a family 710 maximum of one thousand five hundred dollars, shall be (1) three 711 hundred dollars each for a surviving spouse, plus twenty-five dollars 712 for each year of service in excess of twelve years in the [Connecticut] 713 public schools of Connecticut completed by the member, subject to a 714 maximum monthly benefit of six hundred dollars, (2) three hundred 715 dollars each for a dependent former spouse; for a dependent parent if 716 there is no surviving spouse or dependent child; and for a legal guardian 717 of any dependent child if there is no surviving spouse, dependent 718 former spouse or dependent parent, and (3) three hundred dollars for 719 each dependent child. In applying the family maximum, the benefit 720 shall be first allocated to the child or children, with the excess allocated 721 to the surviving spouse and any dependent former spouse in proportion 722 to the amount each would receive according to the above formula. 723 Payment of the benefit shall commence on the last day of the month 724 following the month of the member's death. Such benefit shall continue 725 through the month preceding the month in which the survivor dies or 726 ceases to be eligible for such benefit. Such benefit to the legal guardian 727 of dependent children shall continue until all such children are no 728 longer dependent, as defined in section 10-183b, as amended by this act. 729 Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, any such surviving 730 spouse, dependent former spouse, dependent parent or legal guardian 731 may waive the right to payment of the benefit under this subsection in 732 order that a designated beneficiary who is the child of the deceased 733 member may receive such member's accumulated contributions plus 734 credited interest. Such waiver shall be made prior to the payment of the 735 benefit to any such surviving spouse, dependent former spouse, 736 dependent parent or legal guardian.
 - (b) [If no coparticipant option under 10-183j has become effective, a]

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738 A lump sum death benefit shall be payable to [the] a surviving spouse. 739 Such benefit shall be one thousand dollars for five years or less of 740 [Connecticut public school] service in the public schools of Connecticut, plus two hundred dollars for each year of credited service in the public 741 742 schools of Connecticut in excess of five years, to a maximum of two 743 thousand dollars. [For purposes of this subsection, purchased military 744 service and purchased leaves of absence under subdivisions (3) and (8) 745 of subsection (b) of section 10-183e shall be deemed to be Connecticut 746 public school service.] If there is no surviving spouse, such benefit shall 747 be equal to the member's burial expenses but not in excess of what 748 would have been payable to a surviving spouse and shall be payable to 749 the person who paid such expenses. No payment under this subsection 750 shall be made unless application for the payment is filed with the board 751 within two years of such member's death.

- (c) In lieu of [such] <u>a</u> basic survivor's benefit and [such] <u>a</u> lump sum <u>death</u> benefit, a sole survivor who has attained age eighteen, and is the member's designated beneficiary may elect to receive an amount equal to such member's accumulated contributions together with credited interest. [When a member has designated two or more beneficiaries, who have, at the time of such member's death, attained age eighteen, the one entitled to basic survivor's benefits, if any, shall be deemed the sole survivor within the meaning of this subsection, provided, that all other designated beneficiaries relinquish all claim to any amounts that may be due them from the system.]
- (d) The surviving spouse of any member who, at the time of death was eligible for a retirement benefit other than a disability benefit and had not filed a waiver of the coparticipant's option, may elect to receive (1) a monthly benefit for life equal to the benefit payable if a one hundred per cent coparticipant's option had been elected or (2) an amount equal to the member's accumulated contributions with credited interest.
- (e) If no coparticipant option has become effective and if the aggregate payments under this section are less than the accumulated

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- mandatory contributions of a deceased member plus credited interest, there shall be paid to such member's designated beneficiary an amount equal to the difference between such aggregate payments and such accumulated mandatory contributions plus credited interest.
- (f) Notwithstanding the provisions of subparagraph (B) of subdivision [(23)] (25) of section 10-183b, as amended by this act, benefits payable under this section to a surviving spouse shall not be terminated because of remarriage if such surviving spouse has attained the age of sixty.
 - (g) If a member who has filed an application for retirement dies prior to the effective date of retirement, such member's spouse, if such spouse is designated on such application as the sole beneficiary, may elect to receive either (1) the preretirement death benefits as set forth in this section, or (2) the benefit payment option selected by the deceased member on such retirement application.
- Sec. 6. Section 10-183j of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2022*):
 - (a) [In lieu of a normal, early, proratable or deferred vested benefit, a] A member [may] shall elect [either of the] one of the benefit options described in [subsections (b) and (c) of] this section. A member may amend or revoke such benefit option election by delivering written notice, signed by the member and notarized, to the board prior to the date of the member's retirement. A member's benefit option election may not be amended or revoked after the member's date of retirement.
 - (b) A member may elect the Plan N single life option. A member electing this option shall receive benefits as described in section 10-183g, as amended by this act.
 - [(b) A] (c) A member may elect the Plan C period certain option. [may be elected in which the member receives] A member electing this option shall receive an actuarially reduced benefit for a fixed period of time selected by such member. [and for the remainder of such member's life.]

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Such member may select a fixed period of twenty-five years or such shorter period as the board may offer. If such member dies before receiving the benefit for the selected period, such benefit shall be paid to the member's designated beneficiary for the remainder of such period. If such member's designated beneficiary dies before such member, or if such member has no designated beneficiary and such member dies before receiving the benefit for the selected period, any remaining benefit shall be paid to such member's estate as a commuted value. If there are multiple designated beneficiaries and a designated beneficiary dies before the end of the selected period, the deceased designated beneficiary's remaining benefit shall be allocated equally to the remaining living designated beneficiaries. If a sole designated beneficiary dies before the end of such period, any remaining benefit shall be paid to the designated beneficiary's estate as a commuted value.

[(c) A] (d) (1) A member may elect the Plan D coparticipant's option. [may be elected in which the member receives] A member electing this option shall receive an actuarially reduced benefit as [provided in] described in subdivision (2) of this subsection [(d) of this section] and, upon such member's death, one-third, one-half, two-thirds, threefourths or all of such [amount is] benefit shall be paid to such member's designated beneficiary for life. Any member who elects this option shall select one designated beneficiary, who shall be such member's coparticipant. The member's selection of a designated beneficiary shall be irrevocable and shall terminate only as provided in this subsection. With respect to any benefits which become effective on or after January 1, 2001, if twenty-five per cent of the aggregate benefits paid to the member or such member's designated beneficiary are, upon the death of such member or such designated beneficiary, less than such member's accumulated contributions plus credited interest, the estate of such member or such designated beneficiary, as appropriate, shall be paid a lump sum amount equal to the difference between such aggregate benefits paid and such accumulated contributions plus credited interest.

[(d)] (2) The benefits payable to [such] a member electing the Plan D

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<u>coparticipant's option</u> and such <u>member's</u> coparticipant shall be computed as follows:

[(1)] (A) The benefit payable to such member at retirement and to such coparticipant upon such member's death shall be the actuarial equivalent of the normal, early, [or] proratable or deferred vested benefit for which such member is eligible and based upon such member's age at retirement and the age of such coparticipant on such retirement date. In the event the member predeceases the coparticipant, upon the death of the coparticipant, any remaining value in the account shall be paid in a lump sum to the coparticipant's estate. In the event (i) the coparticipant predeceases the member, (ii) the member and the coparticipant divorce, or (iii) the member and the coparticipant legally separate on or after July 1, 2020, the member's actuarially reduced benefit shall revert to an unreduced benefit under Plan N and, upon the member's death, any remaining value in the member's account shall be paid to the member's designated beneficiary, if any, or, if there is no designated beneficiary, to the member's estate.

[(2) The benefit payable to such coparticipant of such member who dies after such option first becomes effective but before retirement shall be the actuarial equivalent of the normal, early or proratable benefit for which such member was eligible based on such member's age at death and the age of such coparticipant on such date of death.]

[(3) (A)] (B) (i) Except as provided in this subparagraph, [(B) of this subdivision,] a coparticipant option shall be terminated, for any member whose designated coparticipant dies or is divorced from the member after the member's retirement, on the date of such death or divorce. Such member shall thereupon be paid the normal, early or proratable retirement benefit for which the member is eligible. [(B)] (ii) On and after July 1, 2016, upon the divorce of a member and the member's designated coparticipant or upon the legal separation of a member and such member's designated coparticipant occurring on or after July 1, 2020, and subsequent to the member's retirement, the member may retain the coparticipant designation and the coparticipant

- option elected at the time of retirement by filing a [qualified] domestic relations order with the board.
- Sec. 7. Section 10-183k of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2022*):
 - (a) A member who <u>voluntarily</u> or <u>involuntarily</u> terminates [prior to] <u>service</u> with the <u>member's employer, including termination due to the member's death, before</u> retirement shall be entitled to have refunded his or her accumulated voluntary contributions with credited interest.
 - (b) A member who <u>voluntarily</u> or involuntarily terminates <u>service</u> with the member's employer, including termination due to the member's death, before retirement with less than five [years'] <u>years of</u> credited service in the <u>public schools of Connecticut</u> shall be entitled to have refunded his or her accumulated regular contributions with credited interest. A member who <u>voluntarily</u> or involuntarily terminates service with the member's employer, including termination due to the member's death, before the member's retirement with more than five years of credited service shall be entitled to have refunded his or her accumulated regular contributions with credited interest and his or her accumulated one per cent contributions withheld prior to July 1, 1989. A member who elects to receive a refund of contributions in accordance with this subsection, shall have all credited service canceled and any right to benefits under this chapter shall be extinguished, except as provided in subsection (d) of this section.
 - (c) A member who <u>voluntarily</u> or <u>involuntarily</u> terminates <u>service</u> with the <u>member's employer</u>, including termination due to the <u>member's death</u>, before retirement with more than ten years' credited service in the public schools of Connecticut [but prior to retirement] may elect to receive in lieu of the benefits provided by this chapter a refund of his or her accumulated contributions with credited interest as provided in subsection (b) of this section. If such member elects a refund, all credited service shall be cancelled and any rights to benefits provided by this chapter shall be extinguished, except as provided in

subsection (d) of this section. If such member does not elect a refund, but dies before age sixty or before receiving the deferred vested benefit, if later, such member's [accumulated voluntary contributions,] accumulated regular contributions with credited interest and accumulated one per cent contributions withheld prior to July 1, 1989, [together with credited interest] shall be paid to such member's designated beneficiary.

- (d) A member who receives a refund and returns to service shall be regarded as a new member unless such member repays, subject to the requirements established by the board, the amount refunded, other than voluntary contributions and the interest thereon, together with credited interest compounded from the date interest was last credited to such member's account to the date of repayment. The credited service accumulated before termination and any unrefunded one per cent contributions withheld prior to July 1, 1989, and credited interest shall be restored to a member who makes such repayment. Restored contributions and interest shall be credited with credited interest for the period between the last day for which interest was credited on such contributions and such member's [return to service] date of repayment.
- Sec. 8. Section 10-183n of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2022*):
- (a) Each employer shall: (1) Before employing a teacher, notify such teacher of the provisions of this chapter applicable to such teacher; (2) distribute, post or otherwise disseminate in a timely manner, to teachers in its employ, any notices, bulletins, newsletters, annual statements of account and other information supplied by the board for the purpose of properly notifying teachers of their rights and obligations under the system; (3) furnish to the board at times designated by [said] the board such reports and information as the board deems necessary or desirable for the proper administration of the system; and (4) deduct each month [seven] eight and one-fourth per cent of one-tenth of such teacher's annual salary rate as directed by [said] the board and any additional voluntary deductions as authorized by such teacher. [, except that no

deductions shall be made from any amounts received by regularly employed teachers for special teaching assignments rendered for the State Board of Education or the Board of Regents for Higher Education unless the salary for such special teaching assignment is equal to or greater than the minimum salary paid for such teacher's regular teaching assignment.] In the event an employer does not deduct the monthly amount for the member's mandatory contribution from the member's annual salary, as required and set forth in subdivision (4) of this subsection, the member shall remit such amount to the board. A member who fails to remit such amount to the board shall not receive annual salary rate credit for the amount to which the payment relates.

(b) (1) Each local treasurer or other person having custody of amounts deducted under this chapter by an employer shall transmit and report such amounts to the board so that they are received by [said] the board no later than the fifth business day of the following month. On and after July 1, 2001, all such amounts shall be transmitted via electronic transfer of funds. [Such amounts] If the employer deducted such amount from the member's salary but failed to remit the payment to the board, the employer shall be responsible for paying the amount deducted for the mandatory contribution plus the credited interest due from the date the payment of the mandatory contribution amount was required to be made by the employer to the date the payment was received by the board. In the event the mandatory contribution amount is not received by the board, the member shall be ineligible for the associated service credit. The board shall not be required to refund credited interest for payments made to the board before the required due date.

(2) All amounts transmitted to the board for member contributions shall at all times be the property of the system and while in the custody of such local treasurer or other person such person is a fiduciary with respect to such amounts and shall discharge a fiduciary's responsibilities solely for the benefit of the system. If such amounts are not accompanied by the reports and information deemed necessary or desirable by the board for the proper administration of the system, in

accordance with subsection (a) of this section, the board may deem such amounts not received by the fifth business day of the following month for purposes of this subsection until the date on which such reports and information are received. [Said] The board shall be entitled to receive from an employer interest at the rate of nine per cent per year from the due date on all amounts deducted by such employer and not received by [said] the board by the fifth business day of the following month. Interest at the rate of nine per cent per year shall be compounded annually on the interest assessed from the date payment is received to the date the interest assessment is paid. Such interest shall be treated as an amount earned by assets of the system.

- (c) All amounts received by the board under this section shall be forwarded to the State Treasurer.
 - (d) Each member shall file with the board [an enrollment and such other] <u>such</u> forms, documents and information as the board deems necessary or desirable for the proper administration of the system.
- Sec. 9. Section 10-1830 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2022*):

During any period when this country is at war, a board of education may [cause to be paid] <u>pay</u> to the retirement board the mandatory contributions of members who were in its employ at the time of entering into the armed forces, as defined in section 27-103, [. Such contributions as may be approved by the board of education shall be included in the annual itemized budget estimate of the costs of maintenance of public schools for the ensuing year] <u>on behalf of such members, in accordance with the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, 38 USC Chapter 43, as amended from time to time.</u>

- 993 Sec. 10. Section 10-183q of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2022*):
- 995 (a) The portion of each member's compensation deducted or to be 996 deducted under this chapter and all rights of each member and of each

survivor to receive benefits or other payments under this chapter: [shall] (1) Shall be exempt from the operation of any laws relating to bankruptcy or insolvency; and (2) shall not be subject to garnishment, attachment, execution, levy or any other similar legal process or order of any court, except such compensation shall be subject to a court-approved domestic relations order in favor of an alternate payee. No assignment of any right of a member or any other person to receive benefits or other payments from the system shall be valid. The funds of the system invested in personal property shall be exempt from taxation.

- (b) A person selected by the court as an alternate payee under an approved domestic relations order may elect, at the time and in the manner prescribed by the board, to have any portion of an eligible rollover distribution or trustee-to-trustee transfer paid directly to an eligible retirement plan by way of a direct rollover. Taxable funds may be distributed as a rollover if elected by such person. For purposes of this subsection, "eligible rollover distribution" and "eligible retirement plan" have the same meanings as provided in Section 402 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the United States, as amended from time to time, except (1) a qualified trust shall be deemed an eligible retirement plan only if it accepts such person's eligible rollover distribution; and (2) in the case of an eligible rollover distribution to a surviving spouse, an eligible retirement plan means an individual retirement account or an individual retirement annuity, as defined in said section of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.
- Sec. 11. Section 10-183t of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2022*):
 - (a) The [retirement] board shall offer one or more health benefit plans to: Any member receiving retirement benefits or a disability allowance from the system; the spouse or surviving spouse of such member, and a disabled dependent of such member if there is no spouse or surviving spouse, provided such member, spouse, surviving spouse, or disabled dependent is participating in Medicare Part A hospital insurance and

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Medicare Part B medical insurance. The board may offer one or more basic plans, the cost of which to any such member, spouse, surviving spouse or disabled dependent shall be one-third of the basic plan's premium equivalent, and one or more optional plans, provided such member, spouse, surviving spouse or disabled dependent shall pay onethird of the basic plan's premium equivalent plus the difference in cost between any such basic plans and any such optional plans. The board shall designate those plans which are basic and those plans which are optional for the purpose of determining such cost and the amount to be charged or withheld from benefit payments for such plans. The surviving spouse of a member, or a disabled dependent of a member if there is no surviving spouse, shall not be ineligible for participation in any such plan solely because such surviving spouse or disabled dependent is not receiving benefits from the system. With respect to any person participating in any such plan, the state shall appropriate to the board one-third of the cost of such basic plan or plans, or one-third of the cost of the rate in effect during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1998, whichever is greater. [On and after July 1, 2012, federal reimbursements received by the retirement board under the retiree drug subsidy provisions of Medicare Part D shall be used to offset amounts appropriated by the state to the board pursuant to this subsection.]

(b) (1) Any member who (A) is receiving retirement benefits or a disability allowance from the system, the spouse or surviving spouse of such member, or a disabled dependent of such member if there is no spouse or surviving spouse, and who is not participating in Medicare Part A hospital insurance and Medicare Part B medical insurance, and (B) meets the state's eligibility criteria for health insurance or is eligible to participate in the group health insurance plan offered by such member's last employing board of education, may fully participate in any or all group health insurance plans maintained for active teachers by such member's last employing board of education, or by the state in the case of a member who was employed by the state, upon payment to such board of education or to the state, as applicable, by such member, spouse, surviving spouse or disabled dependent, of the premium

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1064 charged for [his] the member's form of coverage. Such premium shall be no greater than that charged for the same form of coverage for active teachers.

- (2) The member's spouse, surviving spouse or disabled dependent shall not be ineligible for participation in any such plan solely because such spouse, surviving spouse or disabled dependent is not receiving benefits from the system. No person shall be ineligible for participation in such plans for failure to enroll in such plans at the time the member's retirement benefit or disability allowance became effective.
- (3) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to impair or alter the provisions of any collective bargaining agreement relating to the payment by a board of education of group health insurance premiums on behalf of any member receiving benefits from the system. Prior to the cancellation of coverage for any member, spouse, surviving spouse or disabled dependent for failure to pay the required premiums or cost due, the board of education or the state, if applicable, shall notify the Teachers' Retirement Board of its intention to cancel such coverage at least thirty days prior to the date of cancellation. Absent any contractual provisions to the contrary, the payments made pursuant to subsection (c) of this section shall be first applied to any cost borne by the member, spouse, surviving spouse or disabled dependent participating in any such plan.
- (4) As used in this subsection, "last employing board of education" means the board of education by which such member was employed when such member filed his or her initial application for retirement, and "health insurance plans" means hospital, medical, major medical, dental, prescription drug or auditory benefit plans that are available to active teachers.
- (c) (1) On and after July 1, 2000, the board shall pay a subsidy equal to the subsidy paid in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2000, to the board of education or to the state, if applicable, on behalf of any member who is receiving retirement benefits or a disability allowance from the

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system, the spouse of such member, the surviving spouse of such member, or a disabled dependent of such member if there is no spouse or surviving spouse, who is participating in a health insurance plan maintained by a board of education or by the state, if applicable. Such payment shall not exceed the actual cost of such insurance.

- (2) With respect to any person participating in any such plan pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, the state shall appropriate to the board one-third of the cost of the subsidy, except that, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013, the state shall appropriate twenty-five per cent of the cost of the subsidy. On and after July 1, 2018, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, and for each fiscal year thereafter, fifty per cent of the total amount appropriated by the state in each such fiscal year for the state's share of the cost of such subsidies shall be paid to the board on or before July first of such fiscal year, and the remaining fifty per cent of such total amount shall be paid to the board on or before December first of such fiscal year.
- (3) No payment to a board of education pursuant to this subsection may be used to reduce the amount of any premium payment on behalf of any such member, spouse, surviving spouse, or disabled dependent, made by such board of education pursuant to any agreement in effect on July 1, 1990. On and after July 1, 2012, the board shall pay a subsidy of two hundred twenty dollars per month on behalf of the member, spouse or the surviving spouse of such member who: (A) Has attained the normal retirement age to participate in Medicare; [,] (B) is not eligible for Medicare Part A without cost; [,] and (C) contributes at least two hundred twenty dollars per month towards his or her medical and prescription drug plan provided by the board of education.
- (d) The Treasurer shall establish a separate retired teachers' health insurance premium account within the Teachers' Retirement Fund. Commencing July 1, 1989, and annually thereafter all health benefit plan contributions withheld under this chapter in excess of five hundred thousand dollars shall, upon deposit in the Teachers' Retirement Fund, be credited to such account. Interest derived from the investment of

funds in the account shall be credited to the account. Funds in the account shall be used for (1) payments to boards of education pursuant to subsection (c) of this section and for payment of premiums on behalf of members, spouses of members, surviving spouses of members or disabled dependents of members participating in one or more health insurance plans pursuant to subsection (a) of this section in an amount equal to the difference between the amount paid pursuant to subsection (a) of this section and the amount paid pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, and (2) payments for professional fees associated with the administration of the health benefit plans offered pursuant to this section. If, during any fiscal year, there are insufficient funds in the account for the purposes of all such payments, the General Assembly shall appropriate sufficient funds to the account for such purpose.

(e) (1) Not later than the first business day of February, May, August and November of each year, each employer shall submit to the board, in a format required by the board, any information the board determines to be necessary concerning additions, deletions and premium changes for the health insurance subsidy program described in subsection (c) of this section. Any report received by the board after the due date shall be processed in the following quarterly cycle. An employer's failure to timely submit a quarterly report shall result in a delay of the subsidy for that quarter and the board shall pay the subsidy as a retroactive subsidy, as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection.

(2) Retroactive subsidy payments shall be limited to six months prior to the first day of the month in which the board receives an untimely report that includes newly eligible retired members or dependents. The board shall pay the subsidy retroactively to the effective date of the disability, provided any eligible members or dependents are added to the report not later than the first quarter following the board's approval of the disability and the member's disability allowance is initiated within four months of board approval. The employer shall hold any member or dependent harmless for any costs associated with, arising from or out of the loss of the benefit of the subsidy as a result of the

- employer's untimely or inaccurate filing of the quarterly report.
- Sec. 12. Subsection (b) of section 10-183v of the 2022 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1*, 2022):
- 1166 (b) A teacher receiving retirement benefits from the system may be 1167 reemployed for up to one full school year by a local board of education, 1168 the State Board of Education, the Technical Education and Career 1169 System or by any constituent unit of the state system of higher education (1) in a position designated by the Commissioner of Education as a 1170 1171 subject shortage area for the school year in which the teacher is being 1172 employed, (2) at a school located in a school district identified as a 1173 priority school district, pursuant to section 10-266p, for the school year 1174 in which the teacher is being employed, (3) if the teacher graduated from 1175 a public high school in an educational reform district, as defined in 1176 section 10-262u, or (4) if the teacher graduated from an historically black 1177 college or university or a Hispanic-serving institution, as those terms are 1178 defined in the Higher Education Act of 1965, P.L. 89-329, as amended 1179 from time to time, and reauthorized by the Higher Education 1180 Opportunity Act of 2008, P.L. 110-315, as amended from time to time. Notice of such reemployment shall be sent to the board by the employer 1181 1182 and by the retired teacher at the time of hire and at the end of the 1183 assignment. Such reemployment may be extended for one additional 1184 school year, not to exceed two school years over the lifetime of the 1185 retiree, provided the local board of education (A) submits a written 1186 request for approval to the Teachers' Retirement Board, (B) certifies that no qualified candidates are available prior to the reemployment of such 1187 1188 teacher, and (C) indicates the type of assignment to be performed, the 1189 anticipated date of rehire and the expected duration of the assignment.
- Sec. 13. Section 10-183aa of the 2022 supplement to the general statutes is amended by adding subsection (h) as follows (*Effective July 1*, 2022):
- 1193 (NEW) (h) For purposes of this section, "active member" means a

- member who (1) is actively employed as a teacher at the time the member submits an application for disability benefits, or (2) was actively employed as a teacher not more than ninety days before the date the member submitted his or her application for disability benefits.
- Sec. 14. Section 10-183ff of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2022*):
- 1200 (a) Should any change or error in records result in any member or 1201 beneficiary receiving from the teachers' retirement system more or less 1202 than [he] the member or beneficiary would have been entitled to receive 1203 had the records been correct, then upon discovery of any such error the 1204 Teachers' Retirement Board shall notify the member or beneficiary 1205 affected. [and correct the same, and as far as practicable] The board 1206 shall, to the extent feasible, adjust the member's or beneficiary's 1207 payments [in such manner] so that the member or beneficiary is paid the 1208 actuarial equivalent of the benefit [to which such member or 1209 beneficiary] he or she was correctly entitled [shall] to be paid. [, 1210 provided if If such [change or] error or adjustment results in any 1211 member or beneficiary receiving less than he [would have been] or she 1212 is eligible to receive, such member or beneficiary may elect to have such 1213 benefit paid in a single payment. The board may grant a request for a 1214 reimbursement of overdraft charges incurred by a member or 1215 beneficiary that resulted from an error in benefit payments, provided 1216 the member or beneficiary makes a request for such reimbursement in 1217 writing to the board not later than the last business day of the month 1218 after the error occurred.
 - (b) If a member or beneficiary has been overpaid through no fault of his <u>or her</u> own, and [he] <u>the member or beneficiary</u> could not reasonably have been expected to detect the error, the board may waive any repayment which it [believes] <u>determines</u> would cause hardship.
 - (c) Upon determination by the [Teachers' Retirement Board] <u>board</u> that any person has erroneously been included in membership in the teachers' retirement system, contributions and interest credited under

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the provisions of this chapter shall be refunded and records of related service voided.

- (d) Upon determination that the [Teachers' Retirement Board] <u>board</u> has invoiced a member for the purchase of additional credited service in an amount in excess of that permitted by law, and such member has paid the invoiced amount, the amount of the overpayment shall be refunded to such member with interest at a rate equal to the average of interest rates for the most recent ten-year period from the date of the member's retirement to the date such amount is refunded.
- [(e) Upon determination that a member has not purchased additional credited service which was invoiced to him in an amount in excess of that permitted by law, such member shall be given the opportunity at any time to make such purchase by the payment of the proper amount with interest to the date of payment. The additional benefit resulting from the credited service so purchased shall be made retroactive to the date of the member's retirement, and the aggregate amount of such additional benefit shall be paid to the member in a single payment together with interest calculated at a rate equal to the average of interest rates for the most recent ten-year period from the date each payment was due to the date such payment is made.]
- [(f)] (e) Upon determination by the [Teachers' Retirement Board] board that a member received, on or after November 1, 2008, an estimate of benefits statement from the board that contained a material error, the board shall pay the member the benefits set forth in such estimate if the board determines that (1) the member could not reasonably have been expected to detect such error, and (2) the member, in reliance upon such estimate, irrevocably submitted (A) his or her resignation to the employing board of education, and (B) a formal application of retirement to the [Teachers' Retirement Board] board. For purposes of this subsection, "material error" means an error that amounts to a difference of ten per cent or greater between the estimated retirement benefits and the actual retirement benefits to which such member would otherwise be entitled.

Sec. 15. Section 10-183gg of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2022*):

Part-time service averaging at least one-half of a school day but less than a full school day shall be treated as full-time service for purposes of determining eligibility for benefits under this chapter. For purposes of determining benefits under subsections (a) to (d), inclusive, of section 10-183g, as amended by this act, the percentages utilized in said sections shall be proportionally reduced for each year or portion of a year of service rendered or purchased after July 1, 1977, which is part-time service. Notwithstanding the provisions of [subdivision (4) of] section 10-183b, as amended by this act, the average annual salary of a member with part-time service shall be such member's full-time annualized salary [during his three highest years] for the three years in which the member's annual salary was highest. Any benefit awarded pursuant to this section shall be proportional in all respects to the benefit which would have been payable had such service been rendered on a full-time basis.

Sec. 16. Subsection (a) of section 10-183jj of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2022*):

(a) A local or regional board of education may establish a retirement incentive plan for teachers [, as defined in subparagraph (A) of subdivision (26) of section 10-183b,] in its employ who are members of the teachers' retirement system. The plan shall provide for purchase of additional credited service by a board of education and a member of the system who chooses to participate in the plan, of additional credited service for such member and for payment by the board of education of not less than fifty per cent of the entire cost of such additional credited service and payment by the member of the remaining percentage of such total cost. The member shall pay the remaining percentage of such total cost, if any, in one lump sum not later than thirty days after receipt of notification by the Teachers' Retirement Board of the amount owed. Any such plan shall specify a maximum number of years, not exceeding

- five years, of additional credited service which may be purchased under the plan. Any such plan shall have a two-month application period.
- Sec. 17. Section 10-183pp of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2022*):
- 1296 Any member who began receiving disability benefits October 1, 1977, 1297 under the provisions of subsection (d) of section 10-166 and who elected 1298 to receive benefits in accordance with the former provisions of 1299 subsection (c) of section 10-164-7 of the Regulations of Connecticut State 1300 Agencies in effect June 30, 1978, may elect to receive such benefits 1301 readjusted under the provisions of subsection [(b) or] (c) or (d) of section 1302 10-183j, as amended by this act, provided such member provides written 1303 notice of such election to the Teachers' Retirement Board not later than 1304 ninety days following January 1, 2001.
- Sec. 18. Subsection (a) of section 10-183ww of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1*, 2022):
- 1308 (a) Not later than fourteen business days after the last action 1309 necessary to make effective a state budget act for the biennium ending 1310 June 30, 2021, subject to the approval of the Teachers' Retirement Board, 1311 the credited interest percentage for member accounts, except voluntary 1312 accounts containing only those contributions made pursuant to section 1313 10-183i shall be not more than four per cent per annum and the return 1314 assumption shall be six and nine-tenths per cent per annum. 1315 Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 10-183vv, 12-801, 12-806 and 1316 12-812, if the board fails to revise such percentage and adopt such return 1317 assumption: (1) No moneys shall be deposited in the Connecticut 1318 Teachers' Retirement Fund Bonds Special Capital Reserve Fund, 1319 established in section 10-183vv; (2) the Treasurer's duties and 1320 obligations under section 10-183vv shall terminate; and (3) the pledges 1321 made in section 10-183vv shall not be in effect.
- Sec. 19. Subsection (d) of section 10-66dd of the general statutes is

- 1323 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 1324 2022):
- 1325 (d) (1) An otherwise qualified school professional hired by a charter 1326 school prior to July 1, 2010, and employed in a charter school may 1327 participate in the state teachers' retirement system under chapter 167a 1328 on the same basis as if such professional were employed by a local or 1329 regional board of education. The governing council of a charter school 1330 shall make the contributions, as defined in [subdivision (7) of] section 1331 10-183b, as amended by this act, for such professional.
 - (2) An otherwise qualified school professional hired by a charter school on or after July 1, 2010, and who has not previously been employed by a charter school in this state prior to July 1, 2010, shall participate in the state teachers' retirement system under chapter 167a on the same basis as if such professional were employed by a local or regional board of education. The governing council of a charter school shall make the contributions, as defined in [subdivision (7) of] section 10-183b, as amended by this act, for such professional.
 - (3) Any administrator or person providing instruction or pupil services in a charter school who holds a charter school educator permit issued by the State Board of Education pursuant to section 10-145q shall participate in the state teachers' retirement system under chapter 167a pursuant to subdivision (2) of this section when such administrator or person providing instruction or pupil services obtains professional certification pursuant to section 10-145b.
- 1347 Sec. 20. Subsection (a) of section 10a-55i of the 2022 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu 1349 thereof (Effective July 1, 2022):
 - (a) There is established a Higher Education Consolidation Committee which shall be convened by the chairpersons of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher education or such chairpersons' designee, who shall

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be a member of such joint standing committee. The membership of the 1354 1355 Higher Education Consolidation Committee shall consist of the higher 1356 education subcommittee on appropriations and the chairpersons, vice 1357 chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing committees of 1358 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher 1359 education and appropriations. The Higher Education Consolidation 1360 Committee shall establish a meeting and public hearing schedule for 1361 purposes of receiving updates from (1) the Board of Regents for Higher 1362 Education on the progress of the consolidation of the state system of 1363 higher education pursuant to this section, section 4-9c, subsection (g) of 1364 section 5-160, section 5-199d, subsection (a) of section 7-323k, subsection 1365 (a) of section 7-608, subsection (a) of section 10-9, section 10-155d, 1366 subdivision [(14)] (15) of section 10-183b, as amended by this act, 1367 sections 10a-1a to 10a-1d, inclusive, 10a-3 and 10a-3a, 10a-8, 10a-10a to 1368 10a-11a, inclusive, 10a-17d and 10a-22a, subsections (f) and (h) of section 1369 10a-22b, subsections (c) and (d) of section 10a-22d, sections 10a-22h and 1370 10a-22k, subsection (a) of section 10a-22n, sections 10a-22r, 10a-22s, 10a-1371 22u, 10a-22v, 10a-22x and 10a-34 to 10a-35a, inclusive, subsection (a) of 1372 section 10a-48a, sections 10a-71 and 10a-72, subsections (c) and (f) of 1373 section 10a-77, section 10a-88, subsection (a) of section 10a-89, 1374 subsection (c) of section 10a-99 and sections 10a-102, 10a-104, 10a-105, 1375 10a-109e, 10a-143 and 10a-168a, and (2) the Board of Regents for Higher 1376 Education and The University of Connecticut on the program approval 1377 process for the constituent units. The Higher Education Consolidation 1378 Committee shall convene its first meeting on or before September 15, 1379 2011, and meet not less than once every two months.

Sec. 21. Section 10-183rr of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2022*):

Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision [(26)] (28) of section 10-183b, as amended by this act, concerning the requirement that a teacher hold a certificate for the position in which the person is employed, any teacher who possesses a certificate or permit issued by the State Board of Education and is notified on or after December 1, 2003,

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by the Department of Education that such teacher is not properly certified for the position in which the teacher is employed or has been employed, such teacher shall receive no further credit in the teachers' retirement system for employment in such position until the teacher becomes properly certified for such position. The Teachers' Retirement Board shall not rescind any credited service to such teacher for such employment and shall restore any such credit to such teacher if rescinded prior to May 27, 2008.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following						
sections:						
Section 1	July 1, 2022	10-183b				
Sec. 2	July 1, 2022	10-183c(a)				
Sec. 3	July 1, 2022	10-183e				
Sec. 4	July 1, 2022	10-183g				
Sec. 5	July 1, 2022	10-183h				
Sec. 6	July 1, 2022	10-183j				
Sec. 7	July 1, 2022	10-183k				
Sec. 8	July 1, 2022	10-183n				
Sec. 9	July 1, 2022	10-183o				
Sec. 10	July 1, 2022	10-183q				
Sec. 11	July 1, 2022	10-183t				
Sec. 12	July 1, 2022	10-183v(b)				
Sec. 13	July 1, 2022	10-183aa				
Sec. 14	July 1, 2022	10-183ff				
Sec. 15	July 1, 2022	10-183gg				
Sec. 16	July 1, 2022	10-183jj(a)				
Sec. 17	July 1, 2022	10-183pp				
Sec. 18	July 1, 2022	10-183ww(a)				
Sec. 19	July 1, 2022	10-66dd(d)				
Sec. 20	July 1, 2022	10a-55i(a)				
Sec. 21	July 1, 2022	10-183rr				

APP Joint Favorable Subst.

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