

1 SB16  
2 215834-1  
3 By Senator Singleton  
4 RFD: Finance and Taxation General Fund  
5 First Read: 11-JAN-22  
6 PFD: 12/07/2021

SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, there is no provision for retirees and beneficiaries receiving monthly benefits from the Employees' Retirement System to receive a funded longevity bonus addition to their retirement allowances.

This bill would provide a longevity bonus to certain retirees and beneficiaries under the Employees' Retirement System.

A BILL  
TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

Relating to state retirement; to provide for a funded longevity bonus addition to the retirement benefits of certain retirees and beneficiaries of the Employees' Retirement System.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. (a) There is provided a funded one-time lump-sum payment, hereinafter referred to as longevity bonus,

1 to each person except those whose employer participated in the  
2 Employees' Retirement System pursuant to Sections 36-27-6,  
3 36-27-7, and 36-27-7.1, Code of Alabama 1975, whose effective  
4 date of retirement for purposes of receiving benefits from the  
5 Employees' Retirement System is prior to March 1, 2022, and  
6 who is receiving or is entitled to receive a monthly allowance  
7 from the Employees' Retirement System on March 30, 2022.

8 (b) The formula for calculating the longevity bonus  
9 shall be two dollars (\$2) per month for each year of service  
10 attained by the retiree or three hundred dollars (\$300),  
11 whichever is greater.

12 (c) Beneficiaries of deceased members or deceased  
13 retirees, except where the deceased member or deceased retiree  
14 retired from an employer participating in the Employees'  
15 Retirement System pursuant to Sections 36-27-6, 36-27-7, and  
16 36-27-7.1, Code of Alabama 1975, if the beneficiary is  
17 receiving or is entitled to receive a monthly allowance from  
18 the Employees' Retirement System on March 30, 2022, shall  
19 receive a bonus payment of three hundred dollars (\$300).

20 (d) For purposes of this act, service includes the  
21 service under Section 36-27-1 and Article 9, commencing with  
22 Section 36-27-170, of Chapter 27, Title 36, Code of Alabama  
23 1975, as well as state police bonus credit or hazardous duty  
24 (FLC bonus) credit.

25 Section 2. (a) Each person whose employer  
26 participated in the Employees' Retirement System pursuant to  
27 Sections 36-27-6, 36-27-7, and 36-27-7.1, Code of Alabama

1 1975, whose effective date of retirement for purposes of  
2 receiving benefits from the Employees' Retirement System is  
3 prior to March 1, 2022, and who is receiving or is entitled to  
4 receive a monthly allowance from the Employees' Retirement  
5 System on September 30, 2022, shall receive the longevity  
6 bonus specified in subsections (a) and (b) of Section 1, if  
7 the employer elects to come under this act by official  
8 resolution on or before August 31, 2022. Any employer making  
9 the election to come under this act shall bear the cost of the  
10 longevity bonus paid to its retirees pursuant to this section.

11 (b) If the employer elects to come under this act,  
12 beneficiaries of deceased members or deceased retirees retired  
13 from an employer participating in the Employees' Retirement  
14 System pursuant to Sections 36-27-6, 36-27-7, and 36-27-7.1,  
15 Code of Alabama 1975, if the beneficiary is receiving or is  
16 eligible to receive a monthly allowance from the Employees'  
17 Retirement System on September 30, 2022, shall receive a bonus  
18 payment of three hundred dollars (\$300).

19 Section 3. (a) Any retired pensioner or annuitant  
20 who retired from a city, town, county, or public or  
21 quasi-public organization of the state before the city, town,  
22 county, or public or quasi-public organization of the state  
23 became a member of the Employees' Retirement System, and who  
24 is receiving or is entitled to receive a monthly allowance  
25 from the Employees' Retirement System on September 30, 2022,  
26 shall receive the longevity bonus stipulated in subsections  
27 (a) and (b) of Section 1, provided the employer elects to come

1 under this act. Any employer making the election to come under  
2 this act shall bear the cost of the longevity bonus paid to  
3 its retirees pursuant to this section and provide the  
4 Employees' Retirement System with the number of years of  
5 creditable service earned by each of its eligible annuitants  
6 and pensioners.

7 (b) Beneficiaries of Employees' Retirement System  
8 pensioners or annuitants described in subsection (a) shall  
9 receive a longevity bonus of three hundred dollars (\$300),  
10 provided the date of death for the deceased pensioner or  
11 annuitant, or the effective date of retirement for the  
12 deceased pensioner or annuitant, was prior to March 1, 2022,  
13 and the beneficiary is receiving or is entitled to receive a  
14 monthly allowance from the Employees' Retirement System on  
15 September 30, 2022, and the local unit elects to fund the  
16 longevity bonus of three hundred dollars (\$300) and provides  
17 the Employees' Retirement System with the number of years of  
18 creditable service earned by each of its eligible annuitants  
19 and pensioners.

20 Section 4. Any person who received benefits under  
21 the Medicaid program and whose eligibility for Medicaid  
22 benefits would be impaired by the longevity bonus provided by  
23 this act shall not be entitled to receive the aforementioned  
24 increase. Any person who subsequently applies for benefits  
25 under the Medicaid program, and that person's eligibility to  
26 receive benefits is impaired by the longevity bonus provided  
27 by this act, shall not be entitled to receive the increase

1 subsequent to the date that the member files application for  
2 benefits under the Medicaid program.

3 Section 5. The Board of Control of the Employees'  
4 Retirement System shall determine the amount required to pay  
5 the cost of the longevity bonus provided under this act and  
6 shall notify the chief fiscal officer of each employer of that  
7 cost. The employer shall either pay the full cost in a lump  
8 sum or, for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2023, only,  
9 pay the increase in the employer rate in the same manner and  
10 from the same source of funds as salaries of active members  
11 are paid.

12 Section 6. (a) Unless otherwise provided in  
13 subsection (b), the longevity bonuses provided under this act  
14 shall be paid to all eligible recipients by the Employees'  
15 Retirement System in April 2022.

16 (b) For all eligible recipients whose employer  
17 participated in the Employees' Retirement System pursuant to  
18 Sections 36-27-6, 36-27-7, and 36-27-7.1, Code of Alabama  
19 1975, the longevity bonuses provided under this act shall be  
20 paid by the Employees' Retirement System in October 2022.

21 Section 7. This act shall become effective  
22 immediately following its passage and approval by the  
23 Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.