



HOUSE BILL 428: Probation/Parole Officers Retirement.

2017-2018 General Assembly

Committee:	House State Personnel. If favorable, re-refer to Pensions and Retirement	Date:	April 19, 2017
Introduced by:	Reps. McNeill, Faircloth, Hurley, Goodman	Prepared by:	Jeremy Ray
Analysis of:	PCS to First Edition H428-CSBH-2		Committee Counsel

SUMMARY: *The proposed committee substitute for House Bill 428 (PCS) amends the Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System (TSERS) definition of "Law Enforcement Officer" to also mean a "probation/parole officer" which increases or enhances the benefits for probation/parole officers.*

BILL ANALYSIS: The PCS amends the definition section of the Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System (TSERS) statutes to provide a definition of "Probation/Parole Officer."

A "probation/parole officer" is defined as a full-time paid employee of the Division of Adult Correction of the Department of Public Safety whose duties include supervising, evaluating, or otherwise instructing offenders who have been placed on probation, parole, post-release supervision, or have been assigned to any other community-based program operated by the Division of Adult Correction.

The PCS amends the definition of "law enforcement officer" to include probation/parole officers as defined in G.S. 135-1 with respect to service rendered on or after July 1, 2017.

By defining probation/parole officers as "law enforcement officers," the PCS provides or enhances the following benefits:

- Service Retirement (Unreduced Benefits) at age 55 with 5 years creditable service versus age 65 with 5 years creditable service or age 60 with 25 years creditable service.
- Early Retirement (Reduced Benefits) at age 50 with 15 years creditable service versus age 50 with 20 years creditable service or age 60 with 5 years creditable service.
- Provides a Separation Allowance
- Provides a Separate Insurance Benefits Plan
- Survivor's Alternate Benefit with 20 years, regardless of age, or age 50 with 15 years, or age 55 with 5 years, or 15 years of creditable service if killed in line of duty versus 20 years regardless of age, or age 60 with 5 years

The PCS also expands "creditable service" to include service for which credit is allowed under the retirement system earned as a probation/parole officer; which would allow probation/parole officer service prior to July 1, 2017 to count toward the requirement that fifty percent (50%) of an employee's career be as a law enforcement officer.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This PCS would become effective July 1, 2017, and apply to persons retiring on or after that date.

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