WEST VIRGINIA CODE: §7-14D-24

§7-14D-24. Service as sheriff.

(a) Any member who, after the effective date of this article, is elected sheriff of a county in West Virginia may elect to continue as a member in this plan by paying the amounts required by §7-14D-7 of this code. Upon the election, service as a sheriff shall be treated as covered employment and the sheriff is not entitled to any credit for that service under any other retirement system of the state.

(b) Any member retired as a deputy sheriff under this plan who, after the effective date of this article, is elected or appointed sheriff of a county in West Virginia, may elect to suspend the payment of his or her annuity from this system and again become a contributing member of this plan by paying the amounts required by §7-14D-7 of this code. Upon such election, service as a sheriff shall be treated as covered employment, and the sheriff is not entitled to any credit for that period of elected service under any other retirement system of the state. At the end of his or her term as sheriff, the member making such election shall have his or her annuity recalculated and shall be granted an adjustment to his or her previous annuity to include the period of elected service.

(c) Any person who, before the effective date of this article, was elected sheriff of a county in West Virginia, and who, immediately prior to being so elected sheriff, was a deputy sheriff with at least 20 years of credited service under the Public Employees Retirement System, with at least 16 of those 20 years having been earned as a deputy sheriff, may elect to become a member of this plan by paying the amounts required by §7-14D-7 of this code. Upon such election, service shall be transferred from the Public Employees Retirement System pursuant to §7-14D-8 of this code: *Provided*, That any service as a sheriff shall be treated as covered employment under this article and the sheriff is not entitled to any credit for that service as a sheriff or the prior service as a deputy sheriff under any other retirement system of the state. Persons making the election provided for in this subsection shall do so within 10 days of taking office as sheriff or within 10 days of the effective date of this provision.

(d) Any person who, before the effective date of this article, was elected sheriff of a county of West Virginia, and who, prior to being elected sheriff, was a deputy sheriff and also a previously elected sheriff, with credited service under the Public Employees Retirement System, with at least 16 of those years having been earned as combined service as a deputy sheriff and a previously elected sheriff, may elect to become a member of this plan by paying the amounts required by §7-14D-7 of this code. Upon such election, service shall be transferred from the Public Employees Retirement System pursuant to §7-14D-8 of this code: *Provided*, That a person’s service as a sheriff shall be treated as covered employment under this article, and that person is not entitled to any credit for that service as a sheriff or deputy sheriff under any other retirement system of this state. A person making the election provided in this subsection shall do so within 30 days of taking office as a sheriff or within 30

WV Legislature

days of the effective date of this provision.

(e) Notwithstanding any other provision of the code to the contrary, any member who was elected sheriff of a county of West Virginia to serve on or after January 1, 2013, and who has not commenced retirement in the Deputy Sheriff Retirement System or the Public Employees Retirement System, must notify the board in writing by July 31, 2020, of his or her intent to pay the difference in the employee contribution between the Public Employees Retirement System and the Deputy Sheriff Retirement System in order to transfer all service credit earned as a sheriff or purchased in accordance with Section 414(u) of the Internal Revenue Code and the federal Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act from the Public Employees Retirement System to the Deputy Sheriff Retirement System. The board shall compute the difference in employee contributions owed up through September 30, 2020, on the total compensation for which assets are being transferred and notify the sheriff of the amount owed in writing by letter mailed no later than August 21, 2020. This difference in employee contributions must be paid in full by the sheriff to the Deputy Sheriff Retirement System no later than September 30, 2020. If timely paid, employee and employer contributions to the Deputy Sheriff Retirement System shall commence October 1, 2020.

(1) The board shall transfer assets from the Public Employees Retirement System into the Deputy Sheriff Retirement System no later than November 30, 2020.

(2) The amount of assets to be transferred for each transferring sheriff shall be computed as of July 1, 2019, using the actuarial valuation assumptions in effect for the July 1, 2019, actuarial valuation of the Public Employees Retirement System, and updated with seven and one-half percent annual interest to the date of the actual asset transfer. The market value of the assets of the transferring sheriff in the Public Employees Retirement System shall be determined as of the end of the month preceding the actual transfer. To determine the computation of the asset share to be transferred the board shall:

(A) Compute the market value of the Public Employees Retirement System assets;

(B) Compute the accrued liability for all Public Employees Retirement System retirees, beneficiaries, disabled retirees, and terminated inactive members;

(C) Reduce the market value of Public Employees Retirement System assets by the accrued liability determined in paragraph (B) of this subdivision;

(D) Compute the entry age method accrued liability for all active Public Employees Retirement System members;

(E) Compute the share of accrued liability as determined pursuant to paragraph (D) of this subdivision, that is attributable to those sheriffs in the Public Employees Retirement System who have elected to transfer to the plan;

(F) Compute the percentage of active member’s accrued liability computed to the sheriffs by

dividing paragraph (E) by paragraph (D) of this subdivision; and

(G) Determine the asset share to be transferred from Public Employees Retirement System to the plan by multiplying paragraph (C) times paragraph (F) of this subdivision.

(f) Any member who was appointed sheriff of a county in West Virginia in which retirement contributions were not made to the Deputy Sheriff Retirement System or the Public Employees Retirement System may purchase service credit for the period he or she served as appointed sheriff by the member remitting the required employee contribution and any interest thereon, and the participating public employer remitting the required employer contribution and any interest thereon. Interest shall accumulate at a rate of 7.5 percent per annum. Payments for the purchase of service credit authorized by this section must be made in full on or before September 30, 2021.

WV Legislature