

By Representatives Detert and Bilirakis

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to benefits for district school
3 instructional personnel; amending s. 110.1099,
4 F.S.; providing educational and training
5 opportunities for instructional personnel
6 employed by district school boards in the same
7 manner and to the same extent as currently
8 provided for state employees; amending s.
9 121.021, F.S.; providing for a separate normal
10 retirement date for such instructional
11 personnel under the Florida Retirement System;
12 providing an effective date.

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14 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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16 Section 1. Section 110.1099, Florida Statutes, is
17 amended to read:

18 110.1099 Education and training opportunities for
19 state employees and certain employees of district school
20 boards.--

21 (1) Education and training are an integral component
22 in improving the delivery of services to the public.
23 Recognizing that the application of productivity-enhancing
24 technology and practice demand continuous educational and
25 training opportunities, state employees and instructional
26 personnel of the district school boards may be authorized to
27 receive fundable tuition waivers on a space-available basis or
28 vouchers to attend work-related courses at public
29 universities. Student credit hours generated by state employee
30 and instructional personnel of the district school boards fee
31 waivers shall be fundable credit hours.

1 (2) The department, in conjunction with the agencies
2 and the district school boards, shall request that such
3 institutions provide evening and weekend programs for state
4 employees and instructional personnel of the district school
5 boards. When evening and weekend training and educational
6 programs are not available, employees may be authorized to
7 take paid time off during their regular working hours for
8 training and career development, as provided in s. 110.105(1),
9 if such training benefits the employer.

10 (3) Employees who exhibit superior aptitude and
11 performance may be authorized to take paid educational leaves
12 of absence for up to 1 academic year at a time, for specific
13 approved work-related education and training.

14 (4) Such employees must enter into contracts to return
15 to state employment for a period of time equal to the length
16 of the leave of absence or refund salary and benefits paid
17 during their educational leaves of absence.

18 (5) The Department of Management Services, in
19 consultation with the agencies, the district school boards,
20 and, to the extent applicable, Florida's public postsecondary
21 educational institutions, shall adopt rules to implement and
22 administer this section.

23 (6) As a precondition to approving an employee's
24 training request, an agency or the judicial branch may require
25 an employee to enter into an agreement that requires the
26 employee to reimburse the agency or judicial branch for the
27 registration fee or similar expense for any training or
28 training series when the cost of the fee or similar expense
29 exceeds \$1,000 if the employee voluntarily terminates
30 employment or is discharged for cause from the agency or
31 judicial branch within a specified period of time not

1 exceeding 4 years after the conclusion of the training. This
2 subsection does not apply to any training program that an
3 agency or the judicial branch requires the employee to attend.
4 An agency or the judicial branch may pay the outstanding
5 balance then due and owing on behalf of a state employee under
6 this subsection in connection with recruitment and hiring of
7 such state employee.

8 Section 2. Subsection (29) of section 121.021, Florida
9 Statutes, is amended to read:

10 121.021 Definitions.--The following words and phrases
11 as used in this chapter have the respective meanings set forth
12 unless a different meaning is plainly required by the context:

13 (29) "Normal retirement date" means the first day of
14 any month following the date a member attains one of the
15 following statuses:

16 (a) 1. If a Regular Class member, the member:

17 ~~a.1.~~ Completes 10 or more years of creditable service
18 and attains age 62; or

19 ~~b.2.~~ Completes 30 years of creditable service,
20 regardless of age, which may include a maximum of 4 years of
21 military service credit as long as such credit is not claimed
22 under any other system.

23 2. If a Regular Class member, and the member is
24 employed by a district school board as a member of the
25 instructional personnel, the member completes 25 years of
26 creditable service regardless of age, which may include a
27 maximum of 4 years of military service credit as long as such
28 credit is not claimed under any other system.

29 (b) If a Special Risk Class member, the member:

30 1. Completes 10 or more years of creditable service in
31 the Special Risk Class and attains age 55;

1 2. Completes 25 years of creditable service in the
2 Special Risk Class, regardless of age; or

3 3. Completes 25 years of creditable service and
4 attains age 52, which service may include a maximum of 4 years
5 of military service credit as long as such credit is not
6 claimed under any other system and the remaining years are in
7 the Special Risk Class.

8 (c) If a Senior Management Service Class member, the
9 member:

10 1. Completes 7 years of creditable service in the
11 Senior Management Service Class and attains age 62; or

12 2. Completes 30 years of any creditable service,
13 regardless of age, which may include a maximum of 4 years of
14 military service credit as long as such credit is not claimed
15 under any other system.

16 (d) If an Elected Officers' Class member, the member:

17 1. Completes 8 years of creditable service in the
18 Elected Officers' Class and attains age 62; or

19 2. Completes 30 years of any creditable service,
20 regardless of age, which may include a maximum of 4 years of
21 military service credit as long as such credit is not claimed
22 under any other system.

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24 "Normal retirement age" is attained on the "normal retirement
25 date."

26 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2000.
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HOUSE SUMMARY

Provides for educational and training opportunities for instructional personnel employed by district school boards in the same manner and to the same extent as is currently provided for state employees.

Revises the definition of the term "normal retirement date" for the purposes of the Florida Retirement System to provide that a regular member of the system who is an employee of a district school board employed as a member of the instructional personnel reaches normal retirement date after completing 25 years of creditable service regardless of age.