By the Fiscal Responsibility Council and Representatives Rubio and McGriff

A bill to be entitled 1 2 An act relating to the Florida Retirement 3 System; amending s. 121.4501, F.S., relating to 4 the Public Employee Optional Retirement Program; amending the definition of "eligible 5 employee"; providing for an extension of time 6 7 to transfer assets from the defined benefit plan in the event of market disruption; 8 9 providing for acceptance of rollovers; requiring the election be filed with the 10 third-party administrator; amending the 11 earnings rate for funds in the suspense account 12 to be invested by the board; providing for 13 14 spousal notification of designation of beneficiary; providing for spousal rollovers to 15 an eligible retirement plan; providing 16 authorization for statements under oath; 17 amending s. 121.571, F.S., relating to 18 19 contributions to participant accounts; 20 providing for a penalty for late contributions; providing for an assessment equal to certain 21 market losses and the calculation thereof; 2.2 23 providing an effective date. 24 25 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 26 Section 1. Paragraph (d) of subsection (2), paragraph 27 28 (c) of subsection (3), paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of 29 subsection (4), subsection (6), paragraphs (c) and (e) of 30 subsection (7), and paragraph (a) of subsection (8) of section 31

121.4501, Florida Statutes, are amended, and paragraph (c) is added to subsection (5) of said section, to read:

121.4501 Public Employee Optional Retirement Program. --

- (2) DEFINITIONS.--As used in this section, the term:
- (d) "Eligible employee" means an officer or employee, as defined in s. 121.021(11), who:
- 1. Is a member of, or is eligible for membership in, the Florida Retirement System, including any renewed member of the Florida Retirement System;
- Participates in, or is eligible to participate in, the Senior Management Service Optional Annuity Program as established under s. 121.055(6); or
- Is eligible to participate in, but does not participate in, the State University System Optional Retirement Program established under s. 121.35 or the State Community College System Optional Retirement Program established under s. 121.051(2)(c).

18 19 20

21

22

23 24

25

26

27

28

29

30

1 2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15 16

17

The term does not include any renewed member of the Florida Retirement System, any member participating in the Deferred Retirement Option Program established under s. 121.091(13), or any employee participating in an optional retirement program established under s. 121.051(2)(c) or s. 121.35.

- (3) ELIGIBILITY; RETIREMENT SERVICE CREDIT. --
- (c)1. Notwithstanding paragraph (b), each eligible employee who elects to participate in the Public Employee Optional Retirement Program and establishes one or more individual participant accounts under the optional program may elect to transfer to the optional program a sum representing 31 the present value of the employee's accumulated benefit

 obligation under the defined benefit retirement program of the Florida Retirement System. Upon such transfer, all service credit previously earned under the defined benefit program of the Florida Retirement System shall be nullified for purposes of entitlement to a future benefit under the defined benefit program of the Florida Retirement System. A participant is precluded from transferring the accumulated benefit obligation balance from the defined benefit program upon the expiration of the period afforded to enroll in the optional program.

- 2. For purposes of this subsection, the present value of the member's accumulated benefit obligation is based upon the member's estimated creditable service and estimated average final compensation as of midnight of the day prior to the opening of the election window for the employee. The actuarial present value of the employee's accumulated benefit obligation shall be based on the following:
- a. The discount rate and other relevant actuarial assumptions used to value the Florida Retirement System Trust Fund at the time the amount to be transferred is determined, consistent with the factors provided in sub-subparagraphs b. and c.
- b. A benefit commencement age, based on the member's estimated creditable service as of midnight on May 31, 2002. The benefit commencement age shall be the younger of the following, but shall not be younger than the member's age as of midnight on May 31, 2002:
 - (I) Age 62; or
- (II) The age the member would attain if the member completed 30 years of service with an employer, assuming the member worked continuously from May 31, 2002, and disregarding

any vesting requirement that would otherwise apply under the defined benefit program of the Florida Retirement System.

- For members of the Special Risk Class and for members of the Special Risk Administrative Support Class entitled to retain special risk normal retirement date, the benefit commencement age shall be the younger of the following, but shall not be younger than the member's age as of midnight on May 31, 2002:
 - (I) Age 55; or

1 2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18 19

20

21

22

23

24

25 26

27

28

29

30

- (II) The age the member would attain if the member completed 25 years of service with an employer, assuming the member worked continuously from May 31, 2002, and disregarding any vesting requirement that would otherwise apply under the defined benefit program of the Florida Retirement System.
- The calculation shall disregard vesting requirements and early retirement reduction factors that would otherwise apply under the defined benefit retirement program.
- For each participant who elects to transfer moneys from the defined benefit program to his or her account in the optional program, the division shall recompute the amount transferred under subparagraph 2. not later than 60 days after the actual transfer of funds based upon the participant's actual creditable service and actual final average compensation as of the initial date of participation in the optional program. If the recomputed amount differs from the amount transferred under subparagraph 2. by \$10 or more, the division shall:
- a. Transfer, or cause to be transferred, from the Florida Retirement System Trust Fund to the participant's account in the optional program the excess, if any, of the 31 recomputed amount over the previously transferred amount

3

4

5

6 7

8

9

10 11

12

13

14

15 16

17

18 19

20

21 22

23

24

25 26

27

28

29

30

together with interest from the initial date of transfer to the date of transfer under this subparagraph, based upon 8 percent effective annual interest, compounded annually.

- Transfer, or cause to be transferred, from the participant's account to the Florida Retirement System Trust Fund the excess, if any, of the previously transferred amount over the recomputed amount, together with interest from the initial date of transfer to the date of transfer under this subparagraph, based upon 6 percent effective annual interest, compounded annually, pro rata based on the participant's allocation plan.
- 4. As directed by the participant, the board shall transfer or cause to be transferred the appropriate amounts to the designated accounts. The board shall establish transfer procedures by rule, but the actual transfer shall not be later than 30 days after the effective date of the member's participation in the optional program unless the major financial markets for securities available for a transfer are seriously disrupted by an unforeseen event which also causes the suspension of trading on any national securities exchange in the country where the securities were issued. In that event, such 30-day period of time may be extended by a resolution of the trustees. Transfers are not commissionable or subject to other fees and may be in the form of securities or cash as determined by the state board. Such securities shall be valued as of the date of receipt in the participant's account.
- 5. If the board or the division receives notification from the United States Internal Revenue Service that this paragraph or any portion of this paragraph will cause the 31 retirement system, or a portion thereof, to be disqualified

3

4 5

6

7

8

9

10 11

12

13

14

15 16

17

18 19

20

21

22

23

2425

26

27

28

29

30

for tax purposes under the Internal Revenue Code, then the portion that will cause the disqualification does not apply. Upon such notice, the state board and the division shall notify the presiding officers of the Legislature.

- (4) PARTICIPATION; ENROLLMENT. --
- (a)1. With respect to an eligible employee who is employed in a regularly established position on June 1, 2002, by a state employer:
- Any such employee may elect to participate in the Public Employee Optional Retirement Program in lieu of retaining his or her membership in the defined benefit program of the Florida Retirement System. The election must be made in writing or by electronic means and must be filed with the third-party administrator by August 31, department and the personnel officer of the employer within 90 days after June 1, 2002, or, in the case of an active employee who is on a leave of absence on April June 1, 2002, by August 31, 2002, or, within 90 days after the conclusion of the leave of absence, whichever is later. This election is irrevocable, except as provided in paragraph (e). Upon making such election, the employee shall be enrolled as a participant of the Public Employee Optional Retirement Program, the employee's membership in the Florida Retirement System shall be governed by the provisions of this part, and the employee's membership in the defined benefit program of the Florida Retirement System shall terminate. The employee's enrollment in the Public Employee Optional Retirement Program shall be effective the first day of the month for which a full month's employer contribution is made to the optional program.
- b. Any such employee who fails to elect to participate in the Public Employee Optional Retirement Program within the

prescribed <u>time period</u> 90 days is deemed to have elected to retain membership in the defined benefit program of the Florida Retirement System, and the employee's option to elect to participate in the optional program is forfeited.

- 2. With respect to employees who become eligible to participate in the Public Employee Optional Retirement Program by reason of employment in a regularly established position with a state employer commencing after April June 1, 2002:
- a. Any such employee shall, by default, be enrolled in the defined benefit retirement program of the Florida Retirement System at the commencement of employment, and may, by the end of the 5th month following the employee's month of hire within 180 days after employment commences, elect to participate in the Public Employee Optional Retirement Program. The employee's election must be made in writing or by electronic means and must be filed with the third-party administrator personnel officer of the employer. The election to participate in the optional program is irrevocable, except as provided in paragraph (e).
- b. If the employee files such election before the initial payroll is submitted for the employee, enrollment in the Public Employee Optional Retirement Program shall be effective on the first day of employment.
- c. If the employee files such election within the prescribed time period 180 days after employment commences, but after the initial payroll is submitted for the employee, enrollment in the optional program shall be effective on the first day of the month for which a full month's employer contribution is made to the optional program.
- d. Any such employee who fails to elect to participate in the Public Employee Optional Retirement Program within the

3

4 5

6

7

8

10

11

12

13

14

15 16

17

18 19

20

21

22

23 24

25

26

27

28

29

30

prescribed time period 180 days is deemed to have elected to retain membership in the defined benefit program of the Florida Retirement System, and the employee's option to elect to participate in the optional program is forfeited.

- For purposes of this paragraph, "state employer" means any agency, board, branch, commission, community college, department, institution, institution of higher education, or water management district of the state, which participates in the Florida Retirement System for the benefit of certain employees.
- (b)1. With respect to an eligible employee who is employed in a regularly established position on September 1, 2002, by a district school board employer:
- Any such employee may elect to participate in the Public Employee Optional Retirement Program in lieu of retaining his or her membership in the defined benefit program of the Florida Retirement System. The election must be made in writing or by electronic means and must be filed with the third-party administrator by November 30, department and the personnel officer of the employer within 90 days after September 1,2002, or, in the case of an active employee who is on a leave of absence on July September 1, 2002, by November 30, 2002, or, within 90 days after the conclusion of the leave of absence, whichever is later. This election is irrevocable, except as provided in paragraph (e). Upon making such election, the employee shall be enrolled as a participant of the Public Employee Optional Retirement Program, the employee's membership in the Florida Retirement System shall be governed by the provisions of this part, and the employee's membership in the defined benefit program of the Florida 31 Retirement System shall terminate. The employee's enrollment

in the Public Employee Optional Retirement Program shall be effective the first day of the month for which a full month's employer contribution is made to the optional program.

- b. Any such employee who fails to elect to participate in the Public Employee Optional Retirement Program within the prescribed time period 90 days is deemed to have elected to retain membership in the defined benefit program of the Florida Retirement System, and the employee's option to elect to participate in the optional program is forfeited.
- 2. With respect to employees who become eligible to participate in the Public Employee Optional Retirement Program by reason of employment in a regularly established position with a district school board employer commencing after <u>July September</u> 1, 2002:
- a. Any such employee shall, by default, be enrolled in the defined benefit retirement program of the Florida Retirement System at the commencement of employment, and may, by the end of the 5th month following the employee's month of hire within 180 days after employment commences, elect to participate in the Public Employee Optional Retirement Program. The employee's election must be made in writing or by electronic means and must be filed with the https://doi.org/10.1001/hire-party administrator personnel officer of the employer. The election to participate in the optional program is irrevocable, except as provided in paragraph (e).
- b. If the employee files such election before the initial payroll is submitted for the employee, enrollment in the Public Employee Optional Retirement Program shall be effective on the first day of employment.
- c. If the employee files such election within the prescribed time period 180 days after employment commences,

3

4 5

6

7

8

9

10 11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18 19

20

21

22

23

24 25

26

27

28

29

30

but after the initial payroll is submitted for the employee, enrollment in the optional program shall be effective on the first day of the month for which a full month's employer contribution is made to the optional program.

- Any such employee who fails to elect to participate in the Public Employee Optional Retirement Program within the prescribed time period 180 days is deemed to have elected to retain membership in the defined benefit program of the Florida Retirement System, and the employee's option to elect to participate in the optional program is forfeited.
- 3. For purposes of this paragraph, "district school board employer" means any district school board that participates in the Florida Retirement System for the benefit of certain employees, or a charter school or charter technical career center that participates in the Florida Retirement System as provided in s. 121.051(2)(d).
- (c)1. With respect to an eligible employee who is employed in a regularly established position on December 1, 2002, by a local employer:
- a. Any such employee may elect to participate in the Public Employee Optional Retirement Program in lieu of retaining his or her membership in the defined benefit program of the Florida Retirement System. The election must be made in writing or by electronic means and must be filed with the third-party administrator by February 28, 2003 department and the personnel officer of the employer within 90 days after December 1, 2002, or, in the case of an active employee who is on a leave of absence on October December 1, 2002, by February 28, 2003, or, within 90 days after the conclusion of the leave of absence, whichever is later. This election is irrevocable. 31 | Upon making such election, the employee shall be enrolled as a

participant of the Public Employee Optional Retirement Program, the employee's membership in the Florida Retirement System shall be governed by the provisions of this part, and the employee's membership in the defined benefit program of the Florida Retirement System shall terminate. The employee's enrollment in the Public Employee Optional Retirement Program shall be effective the first day of the month for which a full month's employer contribution is made to the optional program.

- b. Any such employee who fails to elect to participate in the Public Employee Optional Retirement Program within the prescribed time period 90 days is deemed to have elected to retain membership in the defined benefit program of the Florida Retirement System, and the employee's option to elect to participate in the optional program is forfeited.
- 2. With respect to employees who become eligible to participate in the Public Employee Optional Retirement Program by reason of employment in a regularly established position with a local employer commencing after October December 1, 2002:
- a. Any such employee shall, by default, be enrolled in the defined benefit retirement program of the Florida Retirement System at the commencement of employment, and may, by the end of the 5th month following the employee's month of hire within 180 days after employment commences, elect to participate in the Public Employee Optional Retirement Program. The employee's election must be made in writing or by electronic means and must be filed with the hird-party administrator personnel officer of the employer. The election to participate in the optional program is irrevocable, except as provided in paragraph (e).

- b. If the employee files such election before the initial payroll is submitted for the employee, enrollment in the Public Employee Optional Retirement Program shall be effective on the first day of employment.
- c. If the employee files such election within the prescribed time period 180 days after employment commences, but after the initial payroll is submitted for the employee, enrollment in the optional program shall be effective on the first day of the month for which a full month's employer contribution is made to the optional program.
- d. Any such employee who fails to elect to participate in the Public Employee Optional Retirement Program within the prescribed <u>time period</u> 180 days is deemed to have elected to retain membership in the defined benefit program of the Florida Retirement System, and the employee's option to elect to participate in the optional program is forfeited.
- 3. For purposes of this paragraph, "local employer"
 means any employer not included in paragraph (a) or paragraph
 (b).
 - (5) CONTRIBUTIONS. --
- may accept for deposit into participant accounts contributions in the form of rollovers or direct trustee-to-trustee transfers by or on behalf of participants, reasonably determined by the board to be eligible for rollover or transfer to the optional retirement program pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code, if such contributions are made in accordance with rules as may be adopted by the board. Such contributions shall be accounted for in accordance with any applicable Internal Revenue Code requirements and rules of the board.

(6) VESTING REQUIREMENTS. --

- (a)1. With respect to employer contributions paid on behalf of the participant to the Public Employee Optional Retirement Program, plus interest and earnings thereon and less investment fees and administrative charges, a participant shall be vested after completing 1 work year, as defined in s. 121.021(54), with an employer, including any service while the participant was a member of the defined benefit retirement program or an optional retirement program authorized under s. 121.051(2)(c) or s. 121.055(6).
- 2. If the participant terminates employment prior to satisfying the vesting requirements, the nonvested accumulation shall be transferred from the participant's accounts to the state board for deposit and investment by the board in the suspense account of the Public Employee Optional Retirement Program Trust Fund of the board. If the terminated participant is reemployed as an eligible employee within 5 years, the state board shall transfer to the participant's account any amount of the moneys previously transferred from the participant's accounts to the suspense account of the Public Employee Optional Retirement Program Trust Fund, plus the actual earnings on such amount while in the suspense account interest calculated at 3.0 percent per annum, calculated from the date of transfer to the date of reemployment.
- (b)1. A participant shall be vested in the amount transferred from the defined benefit program, plus interest and earnings thereon and less administrative charges and investment fees, upon meeting the service requirements for the participant's membership class as set forth in s. 121.021(29). The third-party administrator shall account for such amounts

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10 11

12

13

14

15 16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24 25

26

27

28

29

30

for each participant. The division shall notify the participant and the third-party administrator when the participant has satisfied the vesting period for Florida Retirement System purposes.

- 2. If the participant terminates employment prior to satisfying the vesting requirements, the nonvested accumulation shall be transferred from the participant's accounts to the state board for deposit and investment by the board in the suspense account of the Public Employee Optional Retirement Program Trust Fund of the board. If the terminated participant is reemployed as an eligible employee within 5 years, the state board shall transfer to the participant's account any amount of the moneys previously transferred from the participant's accounts to the suspense account of the Public Employee Optional Retirement Program Trust Fund, plus the actual earnings on such amount while in the suspense account interest calculated at 6.0 percent per annum, calculated from the date of transfer to the date of reemployment.
- (c) Any nonvested accumulations transferred from a participant's account to the suspense account shall be forfeited by the participant if the participant is not reemployed as an eligible employee within 5 years after termination.
- (7) BENEFITS. -- Under the Public Employee Optional Retirement Program:
- (c) Benefits shall be payable in accordance with the following terms and conditions:
- To the extent vested, benefits shall be payable only to a participant, or to his or her beneficiaries as 31 designated by the participant. If a participant designates a

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12 13

14

15 16

17

18 19

20

21

22

23 24

25 26

27

28

29

30

beneficiary who is not the participant's spouse, the participant's spouse shall be notified. This requirement shall not apply to the designation of a contingent beneficiary designated to receive benefits hereunder in the event the participant's spouse dies before such contingent beneficiary.

- 2. Benefits shall be paid by the third-party administrator or designated approved providers in accordance with the law, the contracts, and any applicable board rule or policy.
- To begin receiving the benefits, the participant must be terminated from all employment with all Florida Retirement System employers, as provided in s. 121.021(39), or the participant must be deceased. If a participant elects to receive his or her benefits upon termination of employment, the participant must submit a written application to the third-party administrator indicating his or her preferred distribution date and selecting an authorized method of distribution as provided in paragraph (d). The participant may defer receipt of benefits until he or she chooses to make such application, subject to federal requirements.
- In the event of a participant's death, moneys accumulated by, or on behalf of, the participant, less withholding taxes remitted to the Internal Revenue Service, shall be distributed to the participant's designated beneficiary or beneficiaries, or to the participant's estate, as if the participant retired on the date of death, as provided in paragraph (e). No other death benefits shall be available for survivors of participants under the Public Employee Optional Retirement Program, except for such benefits, or coverage for such benefits, as are separately 31 afforded by the employer, at the employer's discretion.

- (e) Survivor benefits shall be payable as:
- 1. A lump-sum distribution payable to the beneficiaries, or to the deceased participant's estate;
- 2. An eligible rollover distribution on behalf of the surviving spouse of a deceased participant, whereby all accrued benefits, plus interest and investment earnings, are paid from the deceased participant's account directly to the custodian of an eligible retirement plan individual retirement account or an individual retirement annuity, as described in s. 402(c)(8)(8)(9) of the Internal Revenue Code, on behalf of the surviving spouse; or
- 3. A partial lump-sum payment whereby a portion of the accrued benefit is paid to the deceased participant's surviving spouse or other designated beneficiaries, less withholding taxes remitted to the Internal Revenue Service, and the remaining amount is transferred directly to the custodian of an individual retirement account or an individual retirement annuity, as described in s. 402(c)(9) of the Internal Revenue Code, on behalf of the surviving spouse. The proportions must be specified by the participant or the surviving beneficiary.

This paragraph does not abrogate other applicable provisions of state or federal law providing for payment of death benefits.

(8) ADMINISTRATION OF PROGRAM. --

(a) The Public Employee Optional Retirement Program shall be administered by the state board and affected employers. The board is authorized to require oaths, by affidavit or otherwise, and acknowledgments from persons in connection with the administration of its duties and

responsibilities under this chapter. No oaths, by affidavit or otherwise, shall be required of an employee participant at the time of election. Acknowledgment of an employee's election to participate in the program shall be no greater than necessary to confirm the employee's election. The board shall adopt rules establishing the role and responsibilities of affected state, local government, and education-related employers, the state board, the department, and third-party contractors in administering the Public Employee Optional Retirement Program. The department shall adopt rules necessary to implement the optional program in coordination with the defined benefit retirement program and the disability benefits available under the optional program.

Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 121.571, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

121.571 Contributions.--Contributions to the Public Employee Optional Retirement Program shall be made as follows:

- (2) CONTRIBUTIONS TO PARTICIPANT ACCOUNTS.--Employer and participant contributions to participant accounts shall be accounted for separately. Interest and investment earnings on employer contributions shall accrue on a tax-deferred basis until proceeds are distributed. Pursuant thereto:
- (a) All contributions made on behalf of a participant pursuant to this subsection shall be transferred by the employer to the third-party administrator for deposit in the participant's account. All contributions made on behalf of a participant shall be made timely. Employer contributions received after the 5th working day of each month shall be considered late. The employer shall be assessed a penalty of 1 percent of the contributions due for each calendar month or part thereof that the contributions are late. If contributions

```
made by an employer are not received within the calendar month
1
2
    they are due and if that lateness results in market losses to
3
   participants, the employer shall make each participant whole
    for market losses resulting from the late contributions.
4
5
    Proceeds from the 1-percent assessment and any market loss
    shall be deposited into participant accounts by the
6
7
    third-party administrator. The third-party administrator,
8
   hired by the board pursuant to s. 121.4501(8), shall calculate
9
    the market losses for each affected participant. When
    contributions are more than 1 calendar month late, the
10
11
    employer shall also pay the cost of the third-party
12
    administrator calculation and reconciliation adjustments
13
    resulting from the late contributions. The third-party
14
    administrator shall notify the employer of the results of the
    calculations and the total amount due from the employer. The
15
16
    employer shall remit to the third-party administrator the
17
    amount due within 10 working days after the date of the
   penalty notice sent by the third-party administrator. The
18
19
    board is authorized to adopt rules to implement the provisions
20
   regarding late contributions, the process for making
    participants whole for resultant market losses, and the
21
22
    penalties charged to the employers.
           Section 3. This act shall take effect June 1, 2002.
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
```