

Chapter 197

(House Bill 527)

AN ACT concerning

**Correctional Officers' Retirement System – Transfer of Membership –
Modifications**

FOR the purpose of making certain members of the Correctional Officers' Retirement System eligible to receive creditable service at retirement for unused sick leave accrued by the member in the State Employees' Retirement System or the State Employees' Pension System; requiring the Board of Trustees for the State Retirement and Pension System to transfer certain individuals' Employees' Retirement System or Employees' Pension System service to the Correctional Officers' Retirement System on or before a certain date; authorizing individuals to elect not to transfer service to the Correctional Officers' Retirement System on or before a certain date; and generally relating to the transfer of membership from the Employees' Retirement System and the Employees' Pension System to the Correctional Officers' Retirement System.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
 Article – State Personnel and Pensions
 Section 20–206(a)
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 Article – State Personnel and Pensions
 Section 20–206(g)
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – State Personnel and Pensions

20–206.

- (a) In this section, “unused sick leave” means sick leave credit that:
- (1) has not been used before retirement; and
 - (2) was available to the member to be used as sick leave during employment.

(g) (1) This subsection applies to a member of the Correctional Officers' Retirement System who:

(i) was a member of the Employees' Pension System or Employees' Retirement System and was transferred from the Employees' Pension System or Employees' Retirement System to the Correctional Officers' Retirement System as a result of a change in membership within the several systems that rendered the individual ineligible for membership in the Employees' Pension System or the Employees' Retirement System;

(ii) did not transfer service credit from the Employees' Pension System or the Employees' Retirement System to the Correctional Officers' Retirement System; and

(iii) 1. retires under § 25–401 of this article, and receives a vested benefit from the Employees' Pension System or the Employees' Retirement System;

2. retires under §§ 22–401, 22–402, 23–401, or 23–402 of this article, and receives a vested benefit from the Correctional Officers' Retirement System for service earned on or after July 1, 2016; or

3. retires with a vested benefit from the Employees' Pension System or Employees' Retirement System, and earned service in the Correctional Officers' Retirement System on or after July 1, 2016, for which the individual is not eligible for a benefit.

(2) Subject to paragraphs (3) and (4) of this subsection, a member is entitled to receive creditable service for the total amount of unused sick leave accrued by the member at the time of retirement.

(3) (i) This paragraph applies to an individual described under item (1)(iii)1 or 2 of this subsection.

(ii) The creditable service for unused sick leave shall be calculated for each of the two State systems by multiplying the total amount of unused sick leave, calculated in accordance with subsection (e) of this section, by a fraction:

1. the numerator of which is the creditable service earned in the State system, not including the creditable service for unused sick leave; and

2. the denominator of which is the total creditable service earned in both State systems, not including the creditable service for unused sick leave.

(4) (i) This paragraph applies to an individual described under item (1)(iii)3 of this subsection.

(ii) An individual's retirement benefit from the Employees' Pension System or Employees' Retirement System shall be adjusted to include any credit for unused sick leave that the individual accrued in the Employees' Pension System or Employees' Retirement System prior to becoming a member of the Correctional Officers' Retirement System:

1. on or after July 1, 2016, in a position included under § 25–201(a)(7) of this article;
2. on or after July 1, 2017, in a position included under § 25–201(a)(8) or (9) of this article; [or]
3. on or after July 1, 2018, in a position included under § 25–201(a)(10) or (11) of this article; **OR**
4. **ON OR AFTER JULY 1, 2022, IN A POSITION INCLUDED UNDER § 25–201(A)(12) OF THIS ARTICLE.**

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) This section applies only to individuals who were transferred into the Correctional Officers' Retirement System under:

- (1) Chapters 218 and 219 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2016;
- (2) Chapters 688, 689, and 690 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2017;
- (3) Chapters 579 and 580 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2018; or
- (4) Chapter 147 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2022.

(b) Except as provided in subsections (c) and (d) of this section, on June 30, 2024, the Board of Trustees for the State Retirement and Pension System shall transfer the service of an individual identified under subsection (a) of this section from the Employees' Retirement System or Employees' Pension System to the Correctional Officers' Retirement System.

(c) On or before June 1, 2024, an individual identified under subsection (a) of this section may elect not to transfer the individual's Employees' Retirement System or Employees' Pension System service to the Correctional Officers' Retirement System by submitting to the Board of Trustees for the State Retirement and Pension System a form provided by the State Retirement Agency for the purpose of electing not to transfer service under this Act.

(d) If an individual identified under subsection (a) of this section submits an application for retirement to retire before June 30, 2024, the Board of Trustees for the State

Retirement and Pension System shall transfer the individual's service from the Employees' Retirement System or the Employees' Pension System to the Correctional Officers' Retirement System prior to the effective date of retirement, unless the individual elects not to transfer the individual's service in accordance with subsection (c) of this section.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2023. Section 2 of this Act shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30, 2024, Section 2 of this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved by the Governor, April 24, 2023.