STATE OF NEW YORK

8844

IN SENATE

May 24, 2018

Introduced by Sen. SAVINO -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Civil Service and Pensions

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to providing for the automatic enrollment of members of the New York city board of education in the New York city employees' retirement system

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subdivision 18 of section 2575 of the education law, as added by chapter 536 of the laws of 1986, is amended to read as follows:

(b) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (a) of subdivision one of this section or any provision of the rules and regulations or any other provision of law to the contrary, membership in the board of education retirement system shall include any provisional employee in education service who elects to become a member in the manner prescribed by the applicable provisions of subparagraph two [~~or~~], subparagraph three **or subparagraph four** of this paragraph.

(2) Any such provisional employee who is not a member of the New York city employees' retirement system at the time he or she elects to become a member of the board of education retirement system may make such an election of membership by filing with the board of education retirement system a duly executed and acknowledged application for membership.

(3) Any such provisional employee who is a member of the New York city employees' retirement system at the time he or she elects to become a member of the board of education retirement system may make such an election of membership by filing simultaneously with the board of education retirement system a duly executed and acknowledged application for membership and a duly executed and acknowledged request that his or her membership and service credit in the New York city employees' retirement system be transferred to the board of education retirement system.

(4)(i) Beginning July first, two thousand nineteen, upon the entry into employment of any employee eligible to elect membership in the retirement system pursuant to subparagraphs one, two and three of this paragraph or any other applicable provision of law, and provided such

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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employee is not a member in the retirement system or any other public retirement system of the city or state of New York as of such entry date in covered employment, such employee shall be enrolled in the retirement system effective ninety-one days after the commencement of employment. Notwithstanding the preceding, if such employee files with the retirement system an application to opt out of membership within ninety days after commencement of employment, the retirement system shall refrain from enrolling such employee unless and until such employee subsequently files an application for membership with the retirement system, or is otherwise subsequently mandated to enroll by the rules and regulations of the retirement system or any applicable law. The automatic enrollment of eligible employees as provided for in this subparagraph shall not be construed to modify the right of eligible employees to join the retirement system as of the first date of covered employment by filing an application for membership with the retirement system. The employer shall inform the employee in writing of the right to join the system as well as the fact that the employee shall be enrolled in the retirement system on the ninety-first day after commencement of employment, unless such employee files with the retirement system an application to opt out of membership prior to such date. Any eligible employee who elects to opt out of membership in the retirement system within the ninety day period shall retain the right to join such system by subsequently filing an application for membership so long as such employee remains in covered employment.

(ii) Every current employee who is eligible for membership in the retirement system on July first, two thousand nineteen, and who is not a member in the retirement system or any other public retirement system of the city or state of New York, shall be enrolled in the retirement system effective October first, two thousand nineteen, unless such employee files with the retirement system an application to opt out of membership before October first, two thousand nineteen. Such automatic enrollment in the retirement system shall not be construed to waive any of the eligibility requirements for previous service credit.

(iii) The automatic enrollment of eligible employees as provided for in this subparagraph shall not be construed to modify the rights and obligations of any employee whose participation in the retirement system is mandated by the rules and regulations of the retirement system or any applicable law, and such mandated members may not opt out of membership.

(iv) If an employee who is automatically enrolled in the retirement system pursuant to the provisions of this paragraph is a member of a union, the retirement system shall provide written notice to the union of the employee's enrollment within thirty days of the employee's enrollment in the retirement system.

§ 2. Paragraph (f) of subdivision 18 of section 2575 of the education law, as added by chapter 749 of the laws of 1992, is amended to read as follows:

(f) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (a) of subdivision one of this section or any provision of the rules and regulations or any other provision of law to the contrary, membership in the board of education retirement system shall include any person employed by the New York city police department in the title of school crossing guard who becomes a member in the manner prescribed by the provisions of subdivision g of section 13-638.4 of the administrative code of the city of New York or by the provisions of subparagraph four of paragraph (b) of this subdivision.

§ 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2019.

FISCAL NOTE.-- Pursuant to Legislative Law, Section 50:

SUMMARY OF BILL: This proposed legislation would amend Section 2575 of the Education Law to require new and existing New York City Board of Education Retirement System (BERS) eligible employees, who are not mandated to join BERS and who are not otherwise already a member in a public retirement system within the State, to be enrolled into BERS membership within stated time periods unless the employees timely opt out of such membership.

Under current law, certain BERS eligible employees have the option of joining BERS by filing an application for membership at any time during employment with a BERS participating employer. Permanent employees in the competitive or labor class, who are employed in BERS eligible positions, are currently mandated into BERS membership.

The proposed legislation would require BERS to enroll new eligible employees into BERS membership, within 90 days of employment, unless the employee files an application with BERS to opt out of membership within the 90-day period. An existing eligible employee who is not already a BERS member will be enrolled a a BERS member on October 1, 2019, unless such employee files an application with BERS to opt out of membership by September 30, 2019.

A BERS eligible employee who timely opts out of BERS automatic enrollment may still join BERS at any time during employment with anticipating employer upon the filing of an application. A BERS eligible employee who would be subject to automatic enrollment may voluntarily join BERS prior to the automatic enrollment date. The proposed legislation would have no effect on employees who are, under existing provisions of law, required to become BERS members.

The proposed legislation also requires BERS participating employers to provide written notice of the applicable provisions to new employees, and requires BERS to provide written notice to the employee's union within 30 days of the employee's enrollment into BERS.

Effective Date: July 1, 2019.

FINANCIAL IMPACT - ADDITIONAL ANNUAL EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS: If enacted into law, the ultimate employer cost for this proposed legislation would be based on the number, ages, years of service, and salary of those employees that would otherwise not have elected to become members of BERS.

To prepare this Fiscal Note, the Office of the Actuary (OA) was supplied a file of 28,289 individuals who are not currently members of BERS but could voluntarily elect to participate. This group consist of 26,179 part-time and 2,110 full-time employees, is 64% female, and has an average age of 30.8, average annual salary of approximately $22,410, and average service since date of hire of 2.5 years. The OA was advised that employees in Payroll Codes 056, 744, 745, 746, and 747 work part-time and earned 0.72 years, 0.44 years, 0.80 years, 0.60 years, and 0.06 years of service per year on average, respectively. Employees in Payroll Codes 740 and 742 are generally full-time employees. Finally, the OA was advised that approximately 73% of eligible employees eventually join BERS. These assumptions are reflected in the OA's calculations.

Based on this data and these statistics, and assuming no BERS eligible employee opts out of participation, the OA has estimated the following costs for this legislation:

* The additional annual employer contribution will be $19.1 million if no prior years of service are purchased by these individuals.

* The additional annual employer contribution will be $28.4 million if all years of prior service eligible for buyback are purchased by these individuals.

Note that the fiscal year's additional annual employer contribution will likely be significantly larger than those amounts due to the acceleration of membership for certain individuals. The present value of future liabilities for both contribution streams, however, will be the same.

These estimates assume that the fractional years of service as described above remains unchanged in the future. These estimates also assume a level workforce (i.e. the number, salary, age, and service characteristics of the added group remain approximately the same in future years). Finally, for purposes of determining the portion of annual employer contribution attributable to the buyback of prior service, we have assumed an amortization period of 15 years (14 payments under the Lag methodology used in the actuarial valuation).

CONTRIBUTION TIMING: Since the proposed legislation required BERS to enroll all existing eligible employees (who are not already members and who do not opt out) into BERS on October 1, 2019, the increase in employer contributions for BERS would likely first be reflected in Fiscal Year 2020.

OTHER COSTS: Not measured in this Fiscal Note are the following potential costs:

* The additional administrative costs to BERS and its participating employers to implement the proposed legislation.

* The impact of this proposed legislation on Other Postemployment Benefit (OPEB) costs. Since a retiree who receives a pension from one of the New York City Retirement Systems is eligible for OPEB, there is potential for additional OPEB costs if this proposed legislation is enacted.

ACTUARIAL ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODS: In addition to the assumptions above, the additional employer contributions presented herein have been calculated based on the same actuarial assumptions and methods in effect for the June, 30 2017 (Lag) actuarial valuation used to determine the Preliminary Fiscal Year 2019 employer contributions of BERS. Please note these assumptions and methods are subject to change as this valuation is not considered final until end of the Fiscal Year 2019.

STATEMENT OF ACTUARIAL OPINION: I, Sherry S. Chan, am the Chief Actuary for, and independent of, the New York City Retirement Systems and Pension Funds. I am a Fellow of the Society of Actuaries, an Enrolled Actuary under the Employee Retirement Income and Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), a Member of the American Academy of Actuaries, and a Fellow of the Conference of Consulting Actuaries. I meet the Qualification Standards of the American Academy of Actuaries to render the actuarial opinion contained herein. To the best of my knowledge, the results contained herein have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted actuarial principles and procedures and with the Actuarial Standards of Practice issued by the Actuarial Standards Board.

FISCAL NOTE IDENTIFICATION: This Fiscal Note 2018-28 dated May 18, 2018, was prepared by the Chief Actuary for the New York City Board of Education Retirement System. This estimate is intended for use only during the 2018 Legislative Session.