§ 550. Definitions. For purposes of this article the terms:

a. 1. "Member" shall mean a person who is employed as a sheriff, undersheriff or deputy sheriff who is engaged directly in criminal law enforcement activities that aggregate fifty per centum of his or her service and is a police officer under the criminal procedure law, as certified by the county sheriff, by any county which elects by resolution duly adopted, to provide the benefits as authorized by this article.

2. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph one of this subdivision, member shall also include a deputy sheriff who is a police officer pursuant to subdivision thirty-four of section 1.20 of the criminal procedure law as certified by the municipal police council or as certified by the police department of the city of New York upon satisfactory completion of the basic training program and graduation from the New York city police academy, provided that the employer has filed an election to that effect pursuant to paragraph two of subdivision j of section five hundred fifty-two of this article.

b. "Retirement system" shall mean the New York state and local employees' retirement system.