



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

Raised Bill No. 1082

LCO No. 5568



Referred to Committee on APPROPRIATIONS

Introduced by:
(APP)

***AN ACT CONCERNING A RETIRED TEACHER ADVISORY COUNCIL,
THE MEMBERSHIP OF AND TERM LIMITS FOR THE TEACHERS'
RETIREMENT BOARD, A CAP ON CERTAIN PROFESSIONAL FEES
PAID BY THE BOARD, AND MEDICARE SUPPLEMENTAL PLANS
FOR RETIRED TEACHERS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) There is established a
2 Retired Teacher Advisory Council, which shall provide the Teachers'
3 Retirement Board with input on all matters under the purview of the
4 board that pertain to retired teachers. The advisory council shall include
5 the following members, each appointed by the organization such
6 member represents: (1) Two representing the Association of Retired
7 Teachers of Connecticut; (2) two representing the CEA-Retired; (3) two
8 representing the AFT-Retired; (4) two representing the Retired Teachers'
9 Healthcare Advocates; and (5) one nonvoting member representing the
10 Teachers' Retirement Board, who shall be a staff member of the board
11 and who shall serve as the advisory council's liaison to the board. Each
12 voting member shall be a retired teacher who is enrolled in a health
13 benefit plan offered by the board. The advisory council shall elect a
14 chairperson and secretary from among its members.

15 (b) The advisory council shall meet in advance of each meeting of the
16 board and provide written recommendations to the board through the
17 liaison to the board. A representative of such council shall be allowed to
18 speak during the public comment portion of any meeting of the board.

19 (c) The board shall provide the following to the advisory council: (1)
20 Materials related to health benefit plans offered by the board, including,
21 but not limited to, advance copies of open enrollment materials,
22 documents related to coverages and evaluations that are used for the
23 development of requests for proposals, evaluations of health benefit
24 plans and financial reports of the board; (2) materials related to
25 communication channels and practices between the board and retired
26 members; (3) copies of any legislative proposals submitted by the board
27 that might affect retired members or the retirement benefits of future
28 retired members; and (4) any other materials or information that the
29 board believes may benefit from review by the advisory council.

30 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 10-183*l* of the general statutes is
31 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
32 *passage*):

33 (a) (1) On and after July 1, 1991, the management of the system shall
34 continue to be vested in the Teachers' Retirement Board, whose
35 members shall include the Treasurer, the Secretary of the Office of Policy
36 and Management and the Commissioner of Education, or their
37 designees, who shall be voting members of the board, ex officio. (2) On
38 or before June 15, 1985, and quadrennially thereafter, the members of
39 the system shall elect from their number, in a manner prescribed by said
40 board, two persons to serve as members of said board for terms of four
41 years beginning July first following such election. Both of such persons
42 shall be active teachers who shall be nominated by the members of the
43 system who are not retired and elected by all the members of the system.
44 On or before July 1, 1991, and quadrennially thereafter, the members of
45 the system shall elect from their number, in a manner prescribed by said
46 board, three persons to serve as members of said board for terms of four
47 years beginning July first following such election. Two of such persons

48 shall be retired teachers who shall be nominated by the retired members
49 of the system and elected by all the members of the system and one shall
50 be an active teacher who shall be nominated by the members of the
51 system who are not retired and elected by all the members of the system.
52 (3) On or before July 1, 2011, and quadrennially thereafter, the members
53 of the system shall elect from their number, in a manner prescribed by
54 said board, one person to serve as a member of said board for a term of
55 four years beginning July first following such election. Such person shall
56 be an active teacher who shall be nominated by the members of the
57 system who are not retired, elected by all the members of the system
58 and a member of an exclusive representative of a teachers' bargaining
59 unit that is not represented by the members of the board elected under
60 subdivision (2) of this subsection. (4) On or before July 1, 2021, and
61 quadrennially thereafter, the members of the system shall elect from
62 their number, in a manner prescribed by said board, one person to serve
63 as a member of said board for a term of four years beginning July first
64 following such election. Such person shall be a retired teacher who is
65 (A) a member of an organization composed exclusively of retired
66 teachers that is not otherwise represented on the board, and (B) an
67 enrollee of a health benefit plan offered by the board. Such person shall
68 be nominated and elected by the retired members of the system. (5) If a
69 vacancy occurs in the positions filled by the members of the system who
70 are not retired, said board shall elect a member of the system who is not
71 retired to fill the unexpired portion of the term. If a vacancy occurs in
72 the positions filled by the retired members of the system, said board
73 shall elect a retired member of the system to fill the unexpired portion
74 of the term. The Governor shall appoint five public members to said
75 board in accordance with the provisions of section 4-9a, one of whom
76 shall be the mayor, first selectman or chief elected official of a
77 municipality. On and after the effective date of this section, the
78 Governor shall fill the next vacant position on the board that is
79 appointed by the Governor with a person who is the mayor, first
80 selectman or chief elected official of a municipality. The members of the
81 board shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for any
82 expenditures or loss of salary or wages which they incur through service

83 on the board. No elected member of the board shall serve for more than
84 twelve years, whether consecutively or nonconsecutively, except if a
85 member completes a twelfth year during a term, such member may
86 complete such term. All decisions of the board shall require the approval
87 of six members of the board or a majority of the members who are
88 present, whichever is greater.

89 Sec. 3. Section 10-183t of the general statutes is repealed and the
90 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

91 (a) The [retirement] board shall offer one or more health benefit plans
92 to: Any member receiving retirement benefits or a disability allowance
93 from the system; the spouse or surviving spouse of such member, and a
94 disabled dependent of such member if there is no spouse or surviving
95 spouse, provided such member, spouse, surviving spouse, or disabled
96 dependent is participating in Medicare Part A hospital insurance and
97 Medicare Part B medical insurance. The board may offer one or more
98 basic plans, the cost of which to any such member, spouse, surviving
99 spouse or disabled dependent shall be one-third of the basic plan's
100 premium equivalent, and one or more optional plans, provided such
101 member, spouse, surviving spouse or disabled dependent shall pay one-
102 third of the basic plan's premium equivalent plus the difference in cost
103 between any such basic plans and any such optional plans. The board
104 shall designate those plans which are basic and those plans which are
105 optional for the purpose of determining such cost and the amount to be
106 charged or withheld from benefit payments for such plans. In addition
107 to any such basic and optional plans, the board shall offer a Medicare
108 supplemental plan, which shall provide coverage substantially equal to
109 or better than such basic and optional plans and include coverage
110 consistent with all state insurance mandates. The surviving spouse of a
111 member, or a disabled dependent of a member if there is no surviving
112 spouse, shall not be ineligible for participation in any such plan solely
113 because such surviving spouse or disabled dependent is not receiving
114 benefits from the system. With respect to any person participating in
115 any such plan, the state shall appropriate to the board one-third of the
116 cost of such basic plan or plans, or one-third of the cost of the rate in

117 effect during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1998, whichever is greater.
118 On and after July 1, 2012, federal reimbursements received by the
119 [retirement] board under the retiree drug subsidy provisions of
120 Medicare Part D shall be used to offset amounts appropriated by the
121 state to the board pursuant to this subsection.

122 (b) Any member who is receiving retirement benefits or a disability
123 allowance from the system, the spouse or surviving spouse of such
124 member, or a disabled dependent of such member if there is no spouse
125 or surviving spouse, and who is not participating in Medicare Part A
126 hospital insurance and Medicare Part B medical insurance, may fully
127 participate in any or all group health insurance plans maintained for
128 active teachers by such member's last employing board of education, or
129 by the state in the case of a member who was employed by the state,
130 upon payment to such board of education or to the state, as applicable,
131 by such member, spouse, surviving spouse or disabled dependent, of
132 the premium charged for his form of coverage. Such premium shall be
133 no greater than that charged for the same form of coverage for active
134 teachers. The spouse, surviving spouse or disabled dependent shall not
135 be ineligible for participation in any such plan solely because such
136 spouse, surviving spouse or disabled dependent is not receiving
137 benefits from the system. No person shall be ineligible for participation
138 in such plans for failure to enroll in such plans at the time the member's
139 retirement benefit or disability allowance became effective. Nothing in
140 this subsection shall be construed to impair or alter the provisions of any
141 collective bargaining agreement relating to the payment by a board of
142 education of group health insurance premiums on behalf of any
143 member receiving benefits from the system. Prior to the cancellation of
144 coverage for any member, spouse, surviving spouse or disabled
145 dependent for failure to pay the required premiums or cost due, the
146 board of education or the state, if applicable, shall notify the Teachers'
147 Retirement Board of its intention to cancel such coverage at least thirty
148 days prior to the date of cancellation. Absent any contractual provisions
149 to the contrary, the payments made pursuant to subsection (c) of this
150 section shall be first applied to any cost borne by the member, spouse,

151 surviving spouse or disabled dependent participating in any such plan.
152 As used in this subsection, "last employing board of education" means
153 the board of education by which such member was employed when
154 such member filed his initial application for retirement, and "health
155 insurance plans" means hospital, medical, major medical, dental,
156 prescription drug or auditory benefit plans that are available to active
157 teachers.

158 (c) (1) On and after July 1, 2000, the board shall pay a subsidy equal
159 to the subsidy paid in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2000, to the board
160 of education or to the state, if applicable, on behalf of any member who
161 is receiving retirement benefits or a disability allowance from the
162 system, the spouse of such member, the surviving spouse of such
163 member, or a disabled dependent of such member if there is no spouse
164 or surviving spouse, who is participating in a health insurance plan
165 maintained by a board of education or by the state, if applicable. Such
166 payment shall not exceed the actual cost of such insurance.

167 (2) With respect to any person participating in any such plan
168 pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, the state shall appropriate to
169 the board one-third of the cost of the subsidy, except that, for the fiscal
170 year ending June 30, 2013, the state shall appropriate twenty-five per
171 cent of the cost of the subsidy. On and after July 1, 2018, for the fiscal
172 year ending June 30, 2019, and for each fiscal year thereafter, fifty per
173 cent of the total amount appropriated by the state in each such fiscal
174 year for the state's share of the cost of such subsidies shall be paid to the
175 board on or before July first of such fiscal year, and the remaining fifty
176 per cent of such total amount shall be paid to the board on or before
177 December first of such fiscal year.

178 (3) No payment to a board of education pursuant to this subsection
179 may be used to reduce the amount of any premium payment on behalf
180 of any such member, spouse, surviving spouse, or disabled dependent,
181 made by such board pursuant to any agreement in effect on July 1, 1990.
182 On and after July 1, 2012, the board shall pay a subsidy of two hundred
183 twenty dollars per month on behalf of the member, spouse or the

184 surviving spouse of such member who: (A) Has attained the normal
185 retirement age to participate in Medicare, (B) is not eligible for Medicare
186 Part A without cost, and (C) contributes at least two hundred twenty
187 dollars per month towards his or her medical and prescription drug
188 plan provided by the board of education.

189 (d) The Treasurer shall establish a separate retired teachers' health
190 insurance premium account within the Teachers' Retirement Fund.
191 Commencing July 1, 1989, and annually thereafter all health benefit plan
192 contributions withheld under this chapter in excess of five hundred
193 thousand dollars shall, upon deposit in the Teachers' Retirement Fund,
194 be credited to such account. Interest derived from the investment of
195 funds in the account shall be credited to the account. Funds in the
196 account shall be used for (1) payments to boards of education pursuant
197 to subsection (c) of this section and for payment of premiums on behalf
198 of members, spouses of members, surviving spouses of members or
199 disabled dependents of members participating in one or more health
200 insurance plans pursuant to subsection (a) of this section in an amount
201 equal to the difference between the amount paid pursuant to subsection
202 (a) of this section and the amount paid pursuant to subsection (c) of this
203 section, and (2) payments of not more than one hundred fifty thousand
204 dollars in any fiscal year for [professional] health care consultation fees
205 associated with the administration of the health benefit plans offered
206 pursuant to this section. Not later than August first, annually, the
207 Teachers' Retirement Board shall report to all members in written form,
208 and also in electronic form to each member for whom the board has an
209 electronic mail address on file, a detailed accounting of payments made
210 for professional fees during the previous fiscal year. If, during any fiscal
211 year, there are insufficient funds in the account for the purposes of all
212 such payments, the General Assembly shall appropriate sufficient funds
213 to the account for such purpose.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2021	New section

Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	10-183l(a)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	10-183t

Statement of Purpose:

To (1) establish a Retired Teacher Advisory Council for the Teachers' Retirement Board; (2) require that an additional retired teacher be added to the board's membership; (3) institute term limits for board members; (4) cap the amount of certain professional fees paid by the board; and (5) require that the board offer a Medicare supplemental plan to retired teachers.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]