



## 103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2023 and 2024

HB1297

Introduced 1/31/2023, by Rep. Amy Elik

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

40 ILCS 5/16-127

from Ch. 108 1/2, par. 16-127

Amends the Downstate Teacher Article of the Illinois Pension Code. Provides that a member may establish optional credit for up to 2 years of service as a teacher or administrator employed by a private school recognized by the Illinois State Board of Education, provided that the teacher (i) was certified under the law governing the certification of teachers at the time the service was rendered, (ii) applies in writing on or before June 30, 2028 (instead of June 30, 2023), (iii) supplies satisfactory evidence of the employment, (iv) completes at least 10 years of contributing service as a teacher, and (v) pays the required contribution. Effective immediately.

LRB103 25566 RPS 51915 b

1 AN ACT concerning public employee benefits.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Illinois Pension Code is amended by  
5 changing Section 16-127 as follows:

6 (40 ILCS 5/16-127) (from Ch. 108 1/2, par. 16-127)

7 Sec. 16-127. Computation of creditable service.

8 (a) Each member shall receive regular credit for all  
9 service as a teacher from the date membership begins, for  
10 which satisfactory evidence is supplied and all contributions  
11 have been paid.

12 (b) The following periods of service shall earn optional  
13 credit and each member shall receive credit for all such  
14 service for which satisfactory evidence is supplied and all  
15 contributions have been paid as of the date specified:

16 (1) Prior service as a teacher.

17 (2) Service in a capacity essentially similar or  
18 equivalent to that of a teacher, in the public common  
19 schools in school districts in this State not included  
20 within the provisions of this System, or of any other  
21 State, territory, dependency or possession of the United  
22 States, or in schools operated by or under the auspices of  
23 the United States, or under the auspices of any agency or

1 department of any other State, and service during any  
2 period of professional speech correction or special  
3 education experience for a public agency within this State  
4 or any other State, territory, dependency or possession of  
5 the United States, and service prior to February 1, 1951  
6 as a recreation worker for the Illinois Department of  
7 Public Safety, for a period not exceeding the lesser of  
8 2/5 of the total creditable service of the member or 10  
9 years. The maximum service of 10 years which is allowable  
10 under this paragraph shall be reduced by the service  
11 credit which is validated by other retirement systems  
12 under paragraph (i) of Section 15-113 and paragraph 1 of  
13 Section 17-133. Credit granted under this paragraph may  
14 not be used in determination of a retirement annuity or  
15 disability benefits unless the member has at least 5 years  
16 of creditable service earned subsequent to this employment  
17 with one or more of the following systems: Teachers'  
18 Retirement System of the State of Illinois, State  
19 Universities Retirement System, and the Public School  
20 Teachers' Pension and Retirement Fund of Chicago. Whenever  
21 such service credit exceeds the maximum allowed for all  
22 purposes of this Article, the first service rendered in  
23 point of time shall be considered. The changes to this  
24 subdivision (b)(2) made by Public Act 86-272 shall apply  
25 not only to persons who on or after its effective date  
26 (August 23, 1989) are in service as a teacher under the

1 System, but also to persons whose status as such a teacher  
2 terminated prior to such effective date, whether or not  
3 such person is an annuitant on that date.

4 (3) Any periods immediately following teaching  
5 service, under this System or under Article 17, (or  
6 immediately following service prior to February 1, 1951 as  
7 a recreation worker for the Illinois Department of Public  
8 Safety) spent in active service with the military forces  
9 of the United States; periods spent in educational  
10 programs that prepare for return to teaching sponsored by  
11 the federal government following such active military  
12 service; if a teacher returns to teaching service within  
13 one calendar year after discharge or after the completion  
14 of the educational program, a further period, not  
15 exceeding one calendar year, between time spent in  
16 military service or in such educational programs and the  
17 return to employment as a teacher under this System; and a  
18 period of up to 2 years of active military service not  
19 immediately following employment as a teacher.

20 The changes to this Section and Section 16-128  
21 relating to military service made by P.A. 87-794 shall  
22 apply not only to persons who on or after its effective  
23 date are in service as a teacher under the System, but also  
24 to persons whose status as a teacher terminated prior to  
25 that date, whether or not the person is an annuitant on  
26 that date. In the case of an annuitant who applies for

1 credit allowable under this Section for a period of  
2 military service that did not immediately follow  
3 employment, and who has made the required contributions  
4 for such credit, the annuity shall be recalculated to  
5 include the additional service credit, with the increase  
6 taking effect on the date the System received written  
7 notification of the annuitant's intent to purchase the  
8 credit, if payment of all the required contributions is  
9 made within 60 days of such notice, or else on the first  
10 annuity payment date following the date of payment of the  
11 required contributions. In calculating the automatic  
12 annual increase for an annuity that has been recalculated  
13 under this Section, the increase attributable to the  
14 additional service allowable under P.A. 87-794 shall be  
15 included in the calculation of automatic annual increases  
16 accruing after the effective date of the recalculation.

17 Credit for military service shall be determined as  
18 follows: if entry occurs during the months of July,  
19 August, or September and the member was a teacher at the  
20 end of the immediately preceding school term, credit shall  
21 be granted from July 1 of the year in which he or she  
22 entered service; if entry occurs during the school term  
23 and the teacher was in teaching service at the beginning  
24 of the school term, credit shall be granted from July 1 of  
25 such year. In all other cases where credit for military  
26 service is allowed, credit shall be granted from the date

1 of entry into the service.

2 The total period of military service for which credit  
3 is granted shall not exceed 5 years for any member unless  
4 the service: (A) is validated before July 1, 1964, and (B)  
5 does not extend beyond July 1, 1963. Credit for military  
6 service shall be granted under this Section only if not  
7 more than 5 years of the military service for which credit  
8 is granted under this Section is used by the member to  
9 qualify for a military retirement allotment from any  
10 branch of the armed forces of the United States. The  
11 changes to this subdivision (b)(3) made by Public Act  
12 86-272 shall apply not only to persons who on or after its  
13 effective date (August 23, 1989) are in service as a  
14 teacher under the System, but also to persons whose status  
15 as such a teacher terminated prior to such effective date,  
16 whether or not such person is an annuitant on that date.

17 (4) Any periods served as a member of the General  
18 Assembly.

19 (5) (i) Any periods for which a teacher, as defined in  
20 Section 16-106, is granted a leave of absence, provided he  
21 or she returns to teaching service creditable under this  
22 System or the State Universities Retirement System  
23 following the leave; (ii) periods during which a teacher  
24 is involuntarily laid off from teaching, provided he or  
25 she returns to teaching following the lay-off; (iii)  
26 periods prior to July 1, 1983 during which a teacher

1           ceased covered employment due to pregnancy, provided that  
2           the teacher returned to teaching service creditable under  
3           this System or the State Universities Retirement System  
4           following the pregnancy and submits evidence satisfactory  
5           to the Board documenting that the employment ceased due to  
6           pregnancy; and (iv) periods prior to July 1, 1983 during  
7           which a teacher ceased covered employment for the purpose  
8           of adopting an infant under 3 years of age or caring for a  
9           newly adopted infant under 3 years of age, provided that  
10          the teacher returned to teaching service creditable under  
11          this System or the State Universities Retirement System  
12          following the adoption and submits evidence satisfactory  
13          to the Board documenting that the employment ceased for  
14          the purpose of adopting an infant under 3 years of age or  
15          caring for a newly adopted infant under 3 years of age.  
16          However, total credit under this paragraph (5) may not  
17          exceed 3 years.

18                 Any qualified member or annuitant may apply for credit  
19                 under item (iii) or (iv) of this paragraph (5) without  
20                 regard to whether service was terminated before the  
21                 effective date of this amendatory Act of 1997. In the case  
22                 of an annuitant who establishes credit under item (iii) or  
23                 (iv), the annuity shall be recalculated to include the  
24                 additional service credit. The increase in annuity shall  
25                 take effect on the date the System receives written  
26                 notification of the annuitant's intent to purchase the

1 credit, if the required evidence is submitted and the  
2 required contribution paid within 60 days of that  
3 notification, otherwise on the first annuity payment date  
4 following the System's receipt of the required evidence  
5 and contribution. The increase in an annuity recalculated  
6 under this provision shall be included in the calculation  
7 of automatic annual increases in the annuity accruing  
8 after the effective date of the recalculation.

9 Optional credit may be purchased under this subsection  
10 (b) (5) for periods during which a teacher has been granted  
11 a leave of absence pursuant to Section 24-13 of the School  
12 Code. A teacher whose service under this Article  
13 terminated prior to the effective date of P.A. 86-1488  
14 shall be eligible to purchase such optional credit. If a  
15 teacher who purchases this optional credit is already  
16 receiving a retirement annuity under this Article, the  
17 annuity shall be recalculated as if the annuitant had  
18 applied for the leave of absence credit at the time of  
19 retirement. The difference between the entitled annuity  
20 and the actual annuity shall be credited to the purchase  
21 of the optional credit. The remainder of the purchase cost  
22 of the optional credit shall be paid on or before April 1,  
23 1992.

24 The change in this paragraph made by Public Act 86-273  
25 shall be applicable to teachers who retire after June 1,  
26 1989, as well as to teachers who are in service on that



1 date.

2 (6) Any days of unused and uncompensated accumulated  
3 sick leave earned by a teacher. The service credit granted  
4 under this paragraph shall be the ratio of the number of  
5 unused and uncompensated accumulated sick leave days to  
6 170 days, subject to a maximum of 2 years of service  
7 credit. Prior to the member's retirement, each former  
8 employer shall certify to the System the number of unused  
9 and uncompensated accumulated sick leave days credited to  
10 the member at the time of termination of service. The  
11 period of unused sick leave shall not be considered in  
12 determining the effective date of retirement. A member is  
13 not required to make contributions in order to obtain  
14 service credit for unused sick leave.

15 Credit for sick leave shall, at retirement, be granted  
16 by the System for any retiring regional or assistant  
17 regional superintendent of schools at the rate of 6 days  
18 per year of creditable service or portion thereof  
19 established while serving as such superintendent or  
20 assistant superintendent.

21 (7) Periods prior to February 1, 1987 served as an  
22 employee of the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy  
23 for which credit has not been terminated under Section  
24 15-113.9 of this Code.

25 (8) Service as a substitute teacher for work performed  
26 prior to July 1, 1990.

1           (9) Service as a part-time teacher for work performed  
2 prior to July 1, 1990.

3           (10) Up to 2 years of employment with Southern  
4 Illinois University - Carbondale from September 1, 1959 to  
5 August 31, 1961, or with Governors State University from  
6 September 1, 1972 to August 31, 1974, for which the  
7 teacher has no credit under Article 15. To receive credit  
8 under this item (10), a teacher must apply in writing to  
9 the Board and pay the required contributions before May 1,  
10 1993 and have at least 12 years of service credit under  
11 this Article.

12           (b-1) A member may establish optional credit for up to 2  
13 years of service as a teacher or administrator employed by a  
14 private school recognized by the Illinois State Board of  
15 Education, provided that the teacher (i) was certified under  
16 the law governing the certification of teachers at the time  
17 the service was rendered, (ii) applies in writing on or before  
18 June 30, 2028 ~~2023~~, (iii) supplies satisfactory evidence of  
19 the employment, (iv) completes at least 10 years of  
20 contributing service as a teacher as defined in Section  
21 16-106, and (v) pays the contribution required in subsection  
22 (d-5) of Section 16-128. The member may apply for credit under  
23 this subsection and pay the required contribution before  
24 completing the 10 years of contributing service required under  
25 item (iv), but the credit may not be used until the item (iv)  
26 contributing service requirement has been met.

1           (c) The service credits specified in this Section shall be  
2 granted only if: (1) such service credits are not used for  
3 credit in any other statutory tax-supported public employee  
4 retirement system other than the federal Social Security  
5 program; and (2) the member makes the required contributions  
6 as specified in Section 16-128. Except as provided in  
7 subsection (b-1) of this Section, the service credit shall be  
8 effective as of the date the required contributions are  
9 completed.

10           Any service credits granted under this Section shall  
11 terminate upon cessation of membership for any cause.

12           Credit may not be granted under this Section covering any  
13 period for which an age retirement or disability retirement  
14 allowance has been paid.

15           Credit may not be granted under this Section for service  
16 as an employee of an entity that provides substitute teaching  
17 services under Section 2-3.173 of the School Code and is not a  
18 school district.

19           (Source: P.A. 102-525, eff. 8-20-21.)

20           Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
21 becoming law.