

Sixty-eighth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1040

Introduced by

Legislative Management

(Retirement Committee)

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact sections 54-52-02.15, 54-52.2-09, 54-52.6-02.1,
2 54-52.6-05.1, 54-52.6-09.5, 54-52.6-09.6, and 54-52.6-22 of the North Dakota Century Code,
3 relating to the closure of the public employees retirement system main plan, the deferred
4 compensation program, and expansion of the defined contribution retirement plan; to amend
5 and reenact section 6-09.4-10.1, paragraph 1 of subdivision a of subsection 1 of section
6 15-39.1-10.3, sections 21-10-13, 54-52-01, 54-52-02.5, 54-52-02.9, 54-52-02.11, and
7 54-52-02.12, subsection 2 of section 54-52-05, sections 54-52-06 and 54-52-14.3, subdivision b
8 of subsection 1 of section 54-52-17.2, and sections 54-52.6-01, 54-52.6-02, 54-52.6-03,
9 54-52.6-05, 54-52.6-08, 54-52.6-09, 54-52.6-10, 54-52.6-13, 54-52.6-15, and 54-52.6-19 of the
10 North Dakota Century Code, relating to a transfer from the legacy earnings fund to the public
11 employees retirement system main plan and the public employees retirement system defined
12 benefit and defined contribution retirement plans; to repeal section 54-52-06.5 of the North
13 Dakota Century Code, relating to public employees retirement system retirement plan
14 contribution rates upon reaching full funding; to provide for a study; to provide for a transfer; to
15 provide for application; and to provide an effective date.

16 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

17 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 6-09.4-10.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is
18 amended and reenacted as follows:

19 **6-09.4-10.1. Legacy sinking and interest fund - Debt service requirements - Public**
20 **finance authority.**

21 There is created in the state treasury the legacy sinking and interest fund. The fund consists
22 of all moneys deposited in the fund under section 21-10-13. Moneys in the fund may be spent
23 by the public finance authority pursuant to legislative appropriations to meet the debt service
24 requirements for evidences of indebtedness issued by the authority for transfer to the Bank of

1 North Dakota for allocations to infrastructure projects and programs. Any moneys in the fund in
2 excess of the amounts appropriated from the fund to meet the debt service requirements for a
3 biennium must be transferred by the state treasurer to the public employees retirement system
4 main system plan under chapter 54-52, but only if the public employees retirement system main
5 system plan's actuarial funded ratio as reported for the most recently completed even-
6 numbered fiscal year is less than ninety percent. If the public employees retirement system
7 main system plan's actuarial funded ratio is ninety percent or more and then subsequently
8 decreases below ninety percent, the state treasurer may not resume the transfers under this
9 subdivision unless the main system plan's actuarial funded ratio is less than seventy percent.

10 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Paragraph 1 of subdivision a of subsection 1 of section
11 15-39.1-10.3 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 12 (1) The public employees retirement system, except an "eligible employee" as
13 that term is defined under section 54-52-02.15.

14 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 21-10-13 of the North Dakota Century Code is
15 amended and reenacted as follows:

16 **21-10-13. Legacy earnings fund - State treasurer - Transfers.**

- 17 1. There is created in the state treasury the legacy earnings fund. The fund consists of all
18 moneys transferred to the fund under subsection 2 and all interest and earnings upon
19 moneys in the fund.
- 20 2. Any legacy fund earnings transferred to the general fund at the end of each biennium
21 in accordance with section 26 of article X of the Constitution of North Dakota must be
22 immediately transferred by the state treasurer to the legacy earnings fund.
- 23 3. For each biennium subsequent to the biennium in which the legacy fund earnings are
24 transferred under subsection 2, the amount available for appropriation from the legacy
25 earnings fund is seven percent of the five-year average value of the legacy fund
26 assets as reported by the state investment board. The average value of the legacy
27 fund assets must be calculated using the value of the assets at the end of each fiscal
28 year for the five-year period ending with the most recently completed even-numbered
29 fiscal year.

- 1 4. On July first of each odd-numbered year, from the amount available for appropriation
2 or transfer from the legacy earnings fund for the biennium, the state treasurer shall
3 transfer funding in the following order:
- 4 a. The lesser of the first one hundred fifty million dollars or an amount equal to any
5 legislative appropriations to meet the debt service requirements for a biennium
6 for evidences of indebtedness issued by the public finance authority for transfer
7 to the Bank of North Dakota for allocations to infrastructure projects and
8 programs to the legacy sinking and interest fund under section 6-09.4-10.1.
- 9 b. The next seventy million dollars to the public employees retirement system for
10 administrative expenses for chapters 54-52 and 54-52.6 and for the unfunded
11 liability of the main system plan under chapter 54-52, but only if the public
12 employees retirement system main system plan's actuarial funded ratio as
13 reported for the most recently completed even-numbered fiscal year is less than
14 ninety percent. If the public employees retirement system main system plan's
15 actuarial funded ratio is ninety percent or more and subsequently decreases
16 below ninety percent, the state treasurer may not resume the transfers under this
17 subdivision unless the main system plan's actuarial funded ratio is less than
18 seventy percent as reported for the most recently completed even-numbered
19 fiscal year.
- 20 c. The next sixty million dollars to the highway tax distribution fund for allocations
21 under section 54-27-19.
- 22 e.d. Any remaining funds for other purposes as designated by the legislative
23 assembly, including:
- 24 (1) Up to fifty million dollars for tax relief pursuant to appropriations or transfers
25 authorized by the legislative assembly;
- 26 (2) Up to thirty million dollars to the clean sustainable energy fund pursuant to
27 appropriations or transfers authorized by the legislative assembly; and
- 28 (3) Up to thirty million dollars for university research programs, the innovation
29 loan fund to support technology advancement, and workforce enrichment
30 initiatives pursuant to appropriations or transfers authorized by the
31 legislative assembly.

- 1 5. If the amounts transferred under subsection 2 exceed the amount available for
2 appropriation under subsection 3, an amount equal to any appropriations from the
3 legacy sinking and interest fund for bond payments under section 6-09.4-10.1 must be
4 retained in the legacy earnings fund through June 30, 2025, after which an amount
5 equal to twice any appropriations from the legacy sinking and interest fund under
6 section 6-09.4-10.1 for bond payments, but not more than one hundred fifty million
7 dollars, must be retained in the legacy earnings fund. After deducting any amounts to
8 be retained in the legacy earnings fund, the state treasurer shall transfer, within thirty
9 days, any remaining amounts under this subsection in the following order:
- 10 a. The first one hundred million dollars to the legacy fund to become part of the
11 principal.
- 12 b. Any remaining amount to the strategic investment and improvements fund to be
13 used in accordance with the provisions of section 15-08.1-08.

14 **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-52-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is
15 amended and reenacted as follows:

16 **54-52-01. Definition of terms.**

17 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

- 18 1. "Account balance" means the total contributions made by the employee, vested
19 employer contributions under section 54-52-11.1, the vested portion of the vesting
20 fund as of June 30, 1977, and interest credited thereon at the rate established by the
21 board.
- 22 2. "Beneficiary" means any person in receipt of a benefit provided by this plan or any
23 person designated by a participating member to receive benefits.
- 24 3. "Correctional officer" means a participating member who is employed as a correctional
25 officer by a political subdivision.
- 26 4. "Deferred member" means a participating member who is not actively participating in
27 the main plan under this chapter and who has an account intact in the main plan under
28 this chapter.
- 29 5. "Eligible employee", except as otherwise provided under section 54-52-02.15, means
30 ~~all a permanent employees~~employee who meet~~meets~~ all of the eligibility requirements
31 set by this chapter and who ~~are~~is eighteen years or more of age, ~~and. The term~~

1 includes appointive and elective officials under sections 54-52-02.5, 54-52-02.11, and
2 54-52-02.12, and nonteaching employees of the superintendent of public instruction,
3 including the superintendent of public instruction, who elect to transfer from the
4 teachers' fund for retirement to the public employees retirement system under section
5 54-52-02.13, and employees of the state board for career and technical education who
6 elect to transfer from the teachers' fund for retirement to the public employees
7 retirement system under section 54-52-02.14. ~~Eligible employee~~The term does not
8 include nonclassified state employees who ~~elect~~elect under section 54-52.6-02 to
9 become members of the retirement plan established under chapter 54-52.6 ~~but~~. The
10 term does include employees of the judicial branch and employees of the board of
11 higher education and state institutions under the jurisdiction of the board of higher
12 education.

13 ~~5-6.~~ "Employee" means any individual employed by a governmental unit, whose
14 compensation is paid out of the governmental unit's funds, or funds controlled or
15 administered by a governmental unit, or paid by the federal government through any of
16 its executive or administrative officials; licensed employees of a school district means
17 those employees eligible to participate in the teachers' fund for retirement who, except
18 under subsection 2 of section 54-52-17.2, are not eligible employees under this
19 chapter.

20 ~~6-7.~~ "Employer" means a governmental unit.

21 ~~7-8.~~ "Firefighter" means a participating member who is employed as a firefighter by a
22 political subdivision and, notwithstanding subsection 13, for an individual employed
23 after July 31, 2017, is employed at least thirty-two hours per week and at least twenty
24 weeks each year of employment. A firefighter who is a participating member of the law
25 enforcement retirement plan created by this chapter who begins employment after
26 July 31, 2017, is ineligible to participate concurrently in any other retirement plan
27 administered by the public employees retirement system. The term does not include a
28 firefighter employee of the North Dakota national guard.

29 ~~8-9.~~ "Funding agent" or "agents" means an investment firm, trust bank, or other financial
30 institution which the retirement board may select to hold and invest the employers' and
31 members' contributions.

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- 1 ~~9-10.~~ "Governmental unit" means the state of North Dakota, except the highway patrol for
2 members of the retirement plan created under chapter 39-03.1, or a participating
3 political subdivision ~~thereof~~ of the state.
- 4 ~~10-11.~~ "National guard security officer or firefighter" means a participating member who is:
5 a. A security police employee of the North Dakota national guard; or
6 b. A firefighter employee of the North Dakota national guard.
- 7 ~~11-12.~~ "Participating member" means an eligible employee who through payment into the
8 plan has established a claim against the plan.
- 9 ~~12-13.~~ "Peace officer" means a participating member who is a peace officer as defined in
10 section 12-63-01 and is employed as a peace officer by the bureau of criminal
11 investigation or by a political subdivision and, notwithstanding subsection 13, for
12 persons employed after August 1, 2005, is employed thirty-two hours or more per
13 week and at least twenty weeks each year of employment. A peace officer who is a
14 participating member of the law enforcement retirement plan created by this chapter
15 who begins employment after August 1, 2005, is ineligible to participate concurrently in
16 any other retirement plan administered by the public employees retirement system.
- 17 ~~13-14.~~ "Permanent employee" means ~~a governmental unit~~ an employee whose services are
18 not limited in duration and who is filling an approved and regularly funded position in
19 an eligible governmental unit, and is employed twenty hours or more per week and at
20 least twenty weeks each year of employment.
- 21 ~~14-15.~~ "Prior service" means service or employment before July 1, 1966.
- 22 ~~15-16.~~ "Prior service credit" means such credit toward a retirement benefit as the retirement
23 board may determine under the provisions of this chapter.
- 24 ~~16-17.~~ "Public employees retirement system" means the retirement plan and program
25 established by this chapter.
- 26 ~~17-18.~~ "Retirement" means the acceptance of a retirement allowance under this chapter upon
27 either termination of employment or termination of participation in the retirement plan.
- 28 ~~18-19.~~ "Retirement board" or "board" means the governing authority created under section
29 54-52-03.
- 30 ~~19-20.~~ "Seasonal employee" means a participating member who does not work twelve
31 months a year.

1 ~~20-21.~~ "Service" means employment on or after July 1, 1966.

2 ~~21-22.~~ "Service benefit" means the credit toward retirement benefits as determined by the
3 retirement board under the provisions of this chapter.

4 ~~22-23.~~ "Temporary employee" means a ~~governmental unit~~an employee who is not eligible to
5 participate as a permanent employee, who is at least eighteen years old and not
6 actively contributing to another employer-sponsored pension fund, and, if employed by
7 a school district, occupies a noncertified teacher's position.

8 ~~23-24.~~ "Wages" and "salaries" means the member's earnings in eligible employment under
9 this chapter reported as salary on the member's federal income tax withholding
10 statements plus any salary reduction or salary deferral amounts under 26 U.S.C. 125,
11 401(k), 403(b), 414(h), or 457. "Salary" does not include fringe benefits such as
12 payments for unused sick leave, personal leave, vacation leave paid in a lump sum,
13 overtime, housing allowances, transportation expenses, early retirement incentive pay,
14 severance pay, medical insurance, workforce safety and insurance benefits, disability
15 insurance premiums or benefits, or salary received by a member in lieu of previously
16 employer-provided fringe benefits under an agreement between the member and
17 participating employer. Bonuses may be considered as salary under this section if
18 reported and annualized pursuant to rules adopted by the board.

19 **SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-52-02.5 of the North Dakota Century Code is
20 amended and reenacted as follows:

21 **54-52-02.5. Newly elected and appointed state officials.**

22 1. After December 31, 1999, a person but before January 1, 2025, an individual elected
23 or appointed to a state office for the first time must, from and after the date that
24 ~~person~~individual qualifies and takes office, be a participating member of the public
25 employees retirement system unless that person makes an election at any time during
26 the first six months after the date the person takes office to participate in the defined
27 contribution retirement plan established under chapter 54-52.6.

28 2. After December 31, 2024, an individual elected or appointed to a state office for the
29 first time, from and after the date that individual qualifies and takes office, must be a
30 participating member of the defined contribution retirement plan established under
31 chapter 54-52.6, unless at the time of election or appointment the individual is a

1 participating or deferred member under this chapter, in which case the official remains
2 a participating member under this chapter.

3 3. As used in this section, the phrase "for the first time" means ~~a person~~ an individual
4 appointed, who, after December 31, 1999, does not hold office as an appointed official
5 at the time of that ~~person's~~ individual's appointment.

6 **SECTION 6. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-52-02.9 of the North Dakota Century Code is
7 amended and reenacted as follows:

8 **54-52-02.9. Participation by temporary employees.**

- 9 1. ~~Within~~ Before January 1, 2025, within one hundred eighty days of beginning
10 employment, a temporary employee may elect to participate in the public employees
11 retirement system under this chapter and receive credit for service after enrollment.
12 Monthly, the temporary employee shall pay to the fund an amount equal to
13 ~~eight~~ fourteen and twelve hundredths percent times the temporary employee's present
14 monthly salary. The amount required to be paid by a temporary employee increases
15 by ~~two~~ one percent times the temporary employee's present monthly salary beginning
16 with the monthly reporting period of January ~~2012~~, ~~and with an additional two percent~~
17 ~~increase, beginning with the reporting period of January 2013, and with an additional~~
18 ~~increase of two percent, beginning with the monthly reporting period of January~~
19 ~~2014~~ 2025.
- 20 2. If the temporary employee first enrolled:
21 a. Before January 1, 2020, in addition the temporary employee shall pay the
22 required monthly contribution to the retiree health benefit fund established under
23 section 54-52.1-03.2. This contribution must be recorded as a member
24 contribution pursuant to section 54-52.1-03.2.
25 b. After December 31, 2019, the temporary employee shall pay to the fund an
26 additional amount equal to one and fourteen hundredths percent times the
27 temporary employee's present monthly salary.
- 28 3. A temporary employee who is a participating member under this chapter due to
29 employment before January 1, 2025, who becomes a permanent employee after
30 December 31, 2024, qualifies to participate in the defined benefit retirement plan
31 under this chapter and receive credit for service after enrollment.

1 4. After December 31, 2024, and within one hundred eighty days of beginning
2 employment, a temporary employee may elect to participate in the defined contribution
3 retirement plan under chapter 54-52.6.

4 5. An employer may not pay the temporary employee's contributions. A temporary
5 employee may continue to participate as a temporary employee in the public
6 employees retirement system until termination of employment or reclassification of the
7 temporary employee as a permanent employee. A temporary employee may not
8 purchase any additional credit, including additional credit under section 54-52-17.4 or
9 past service under section 54-52-02.6.

10 **SECTION 7. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-52-02.11 of the North Dakota Century Code is
11 amended and reenacted as follows:

12 **54-52-02.11. Participation requirements for nonstate elected officials.**

13 Elected

14 1. Before January 1, 2025, eligible elected officials of participating counties, at their
15 individual option, may enroll in the defined benefit plan within the first six months of
16 their term.

17 2. After December 31, 2024, eligible elected officials of participating counties, at their
18 individual option, may enroll in the defined contribution retirement plan under chapter
19 54-52.6 within the first six months of their term.

20 **SECTION 8. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-52-02.12 of the North Dakota Century Code is
21 amended and reenacted as follows:

22 **54-52-02.12. Participation requirements for nonstate appointed officials.**

23 1. Nonstate appointed officials of participating employers appointed on or after August 1,
24 1999, but before January 1, 2025, who meet the participation requirements of this
25 chapter must be enrolled in the defined benefit plan effective within the first month of
26 taking office.

27 2. After December 31, 2024, nonstate appointed officials of participating employers who
28 meet the participation requirements must be enrolled in the defined contribution
29 retirement plan under chapter 54-52.6 effective within the first month of taking office.

30 **SECTION 9.** Section 54-52-02.15 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted
31 as follows:

1 **54-52-02.15. Public employees retirement system main plan - Closure to new hires -**

2 **Multiple plan membership.**

3 1. Under this section "eligible employee" means a permanent employee who:

4 a. Meets all the eligibility requirements set by this chapter;

5 b. Is at least eighteen years of age;

6 c. Becomes a participating member after December 31, 2024; and

7 d. Is not eligible to participate in the law enforcement plan, judges' plan, highway
8 patrol plan, teachers' fund for retirement plan, or alternative retirement program
9 established under section 15-10-17 for university system employees.

10 2. Effective January 1, 2025, the public employees retirement system defined benefit
11 main plan maintained for employees is closed to new eligible employees. However, an
12 employee who becomes a participating or deferred member under this chapter before
13 January 1, 2025, remains in the defined benefit retirement plan under this chapter,
14 regardless of being rehired after December 31, 2024.

15 3. Except as otherwise provided under this section, effective January 1, 2025, an eligible
16 employee who begins employment with an employer shall participate in the defined
17 contribution retirement plan under chapter 54-52.6 as provided under section
18 54-52.6-02.1.

19 4. This section does not impact an employee to the extent the employee is a participating
20 member in one or more of the following enumerated plans: law enforcement plan,
21 judges' plan, highway patrol plan, teachers' fund for retirement plan, or alternative
22 retirement program established under section 15-10-17 for university system
23 employees.

24 a. A participating or deferred member in the defined contribution retirement plan
25 under chapter 54-52.6 who becomes eligible to participate in a plan enumerated
26 under this subsection is eligible to participate in the retirement plan enumerated
27 under this subsection.

28 b. A participating member of a retirement plan enumerated under this subsection
29 who becomes an eligible employee is not eligible to participate in the defined
30 benefit retirement plan under this chapter but instead participates in the defined
31 contribution retirement plan under chapter 54-52.6. However, this subdivision

1 does not apply to an individual who before January 1, 2025, is a participating or a
2 deferred member under this chapter, as that individual continues to participate in
3 the defined benefit retirement plan under this chapter.

4 5. The board shall adopt rules to implement this section.

5 **SECTION 10. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 2 of section 54-52-05 of the North Dakota
6 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

7 2. Each member must be assessed and required to pay monthly ~~four~~seven percent of the
8 monthly salary or wage paid to the member, and such assessment must be deducted
9 and retained out of such salary in equal monthly installments commencing with the
10 first month of employment. ~~Member contributions increase by one percent of the~~
11 ~~monthly salary or wage paid to the member beginning with the monthly reporting~~
12 ~~period of January 2012, and with an additional increase of one percent, beginning with~~
13 ~~the monthly reporting period of January 2013, and with an additional increase of one~~
14 ~~percent, beginning with the monthly reporting period of January 2014.~~

15 **SECTION 11. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-52-06 of the North Dakota Century Code is
16 amended and reenacted as follows:

17 **54-52-06. Employer's contribution to retirement plan - Report to the legislative**
18 **assemblyemployee benefits programs committee.**

19 1. Each governmental unit shall contribute an amount equal to four and
20 twelve-hundredths percent of the monthly salary or wage of a participating member.
21 Governmental unit contributions increase by one percent of the monthly salary or
22 wage of a participating member beginning with the monthly reporting period of
23 January 2012; with an additional increase of one percent, beginning with the reporting
24 period of January 2013; ~~and~~ with an additional increase of one percent, beginning with
25 the monthly reporting period of January 2014; and with an additional increase of
26 one percent, beginning with the monthly reporting period of January 2024. For a
27 participating member who first enrolls after December 31, 2019, the governmental unit
28 shall contribute an additional amount equal to one and fourteen-hundredths percent of
29 the monthly salary or wage of the participating member.

30 2. For those members who elect to exercise their rights under section 54-52-17.14, the
31 employing governmental unit, or in the case of a member not presently under covered

1 employment the most recent employing governmental unit, shall pay the associated
2 employer contribution. If the employee's contribution is paid by the governmental unit
3 under subsection 3 of section 54-52-05, the employer unit shall contribute, in addition,
4 an amount equal to the required employee's contribution. Each governmental unit
5 shall pay the contribution monthly, or in the case of an election made pursuant to
6 section 54-52-17.14 a lump sum, into the retirement fund from the governmental unit's
7 funds appropriated for payroll and salary or any other funds available for these
8 purposes. Any governmental unit failing to pay the contributions monthly, or in the
9 case of an election made pursuant to section 54-52-17.14 a lump sum, or failing to
10 otherwise comply with the board's established wage reporting or payroll reporting
11 process requirements, is subject to a civil penalty of fifty dollars and, as interest, one
12 percent of the amount due for each month of delay or fraction of a month after the
13 payment became due. In lieu of assessing a civil penalty or one percent per month, or
14 both, interest at the actuarial rate of return may be assessed for each month the
15 contributions are delinquent. If contributions are paid within ninety days of the date the
16 contributions became due, penalty and interest to be paid on delinquent contributions
17 may be waived.

18 3. An employer is required to submit contributions for any past eligible employee who
19 was employed after July 1, 1977, for which contributions were not made if the
20 employee would have been eligible to become vested had the employee participated
21 and if the employee elects to join the public employees retirement system. Employer
22 contributions may not be assessed for eligible service that an employee has waived
23 pursuant to subsection 1 of section 54-52-05.

24 4. ~~The~~Annually, the board shall report to ~~each session of the legislative assembly~~the
25 employee benefits programs committee the contributions necessary, as determined by
26 the actuarial study, to maintain the fund's actuarial soundness.

27 **SECTION 12. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-52-06 of the North Dakota Century Code is
28 amended and reenacted as follows:

29 **54-52-06. Employer's contribution to retirement plan - Report to the employee**
30 **benefits programs committee.**

31 ~~4. Each~~

- 1 1. a. As determined by actuarial valuations, each state governmental unit shall
2 contribute to the defined benefit plan an amount equal to four and
3 twelve-hundredths percent of the monthly salary or wage of a participating
4 member. Governmental unit contributions increase by one percent of the monthly
5 salary or wage of a participating member beginning with the monthly reporting
6 period of January 2012; with an additional increase of one percent, beginning
7 with the reporting period of January 2013; with an additional increase of one
8 percent, beginning with the monthly reporting period of January 2014; and with
9 an additional increase of one percent, beginning with the monthly reporting
10 period of January 2024 on a level percent of compensation basis for all main
11 system defined benefit retirement plan employees and all defined contribution
12 retirement plan employees sufficient under the actuarial valuation to meet both
13 the normal cost plus the actuarially determined amount required to amortize the
14 unfunded accrued liability of the main plan over a closed period of two hundred
15 forty-six months, beginning January 1, 2026, and continuing through June 30,
16 2046. By November fifteenth of each even-numbered year the board shall publish
17 the contribution rate required under this subsection. The board shall calculate this
18 rate based on the July first actuarial report of that year.
- 19 b. Each participating political subdivision shall contribute an amount equal to eight
20 and twelve-hundredths percent of the monthly salary or wage of a participating
21 member.
- 22 c. For a participating member who first enrolls after December 31, 2019, the
23 governmental unit a participating political subdivision shall contribute an additional
24 amount equal to one and fourteen-hundredths percent of the monthly salary or
25 wage of the participating member.
- 26 2. For those members who elect to exercise their rights under section 54-52-17.14, the
27 employing governmental unit, or in the case of a member not presently under covered
28 employment the most recent employing governmental unit, shall pay the associated
29 employer contribution. If the employee's contribution is paid by the governmental unit
30 under subsection 3 of section 54-52-05, the employer unit shall contribute, in addition,
31 an amount equal to the required employee's contribution. Each governmental unit

1 shall pay the contribution monthly, or in the case of an election made pursuant to
2 section 54-52-17.14 a lump sum, into the retirement fund from the governmental unit's
3 funds appropriated for payroll and salary or any other funds available for these
4 purposes. Any governmental unit failing to pay the contributions monthly, or in the
5 case of an election made pursuant to section 54-52-17.14 a lump sum, or failing to
6 otherwise comply with the board's established wage reporting or payroll reporting
7 process requirements, is subject to a civil penalty of fifty dollars and, as interest, one
8 percent of the amount due for each month of delay or fraction of a month after the
9 payment became due. In lieu of assessing a civil penalty or one percent per month, or
10 both, interest at the actuarial rate of return may be assessed for each month the
11 contributions are delinquent. If contributions are paid within ninety days of the date the
12 contributions became due, penalty and interest to be paid on delinquent contributions
13 may be waived.

14 3. An employer is required to submit contributions for any past eligible employee who
15 was employed after July 1, 1977, for which contributions were not made if the
16 employee would have been eligible to become vested had the employee participated
17 and if the employee elects to join the public employees retirement system. Employer
18 contributions may not be assessed for eligible service that an employee has waived
19 pursuant to subsection 1 of section 54-52-05.

20 4. Annually, the board shall report to the employee benefits programs committee the
21 contributions necessary, as determined by the actuarial study, to maintain the fund's
22 actuarial soundness.

23 **SECTION 13. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-52-14.3 of the North Dakota Century Code is
24 amended and reenacted as follows:

25 **54-52-14.3. Public employee retirement funds - Use and investment.**

26 Any provision of law relating to the use and investment of public employee retirement funds
27 must be deemed a part of the employment contracts of the employees participating in any
28 public employee retirement system. All moneys from any source paid into any public employee
29 retirement system fund created by the laws of this state must be used and invested only for the
30 exclusive benefit of the members, retirees, and beneficiaries of ~~that~~the retirement system,
31 including the payment of system administrative costs.

1 **SECTION 14. AMENDMENT.** Subdivision b of subsection 1 of section 54-52-17.2 of the
2 North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

3 b. ~~Pursuant~~Subject to section 54-52-02.15 and pursuant to rules adopted by the
4 board, an employee who has service credit in the system and in any of the plans
5 described in paragraphs 1 and 2 of subdivision a is entitled to benefits under this
6 chapter. The benefits of a temporary employee employed after July 31, 2015,
7 must be calculated using the benefit formula in section 54-52-17. A permanent
8 employee or a temporary employee employed before August 1, 2015, may elect
9 to have benefits calculated using the benefit formula in section 54-52-17 under
10 either of the following methods:

- 11 (1) The final average salary as calculated in section 54-52-17. If the
12 participating member has worked for less than thirty-six months at
13 retirement, the final average salary is the average salary for the total months
14 of employment.
- 15 (2) The final average salary as calculated in section 54-52-17 for employment
16 with any of the three eligible employers under this subdivision, with service
17 credit not to exceed one month in any month when combined with the
18 service credit earned in the alternate retirement system.

19 **SECTION 15.** Section 54-52.2-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted
20 as follows:

21 **54-52.2-09. Employer match for members of defined contribution retirement plan.**

22 An employee who first participated in the defined contribution retirement plan under chapter
23 54-52.6 after December 31, 2024, who elects to contribute less than the optional three percent
24 of wages or salary under subdivision b of subsection 1 of section 54-52.6-09, who participates
25 in the deferred compensation program under this chapter, qualifies for employer matching of
26 contributions made under this section. The employee may elect to contribute an amount of
27 wages or salary which does not exceed any remaining balance of the optional three percent
28 contribution and the employer shall match this contribution. This section does not limit the ability
29 of an employee to contribute unmatched wages or salary under this chapter, subject to federal
30 contribution limitations.

1 **SECTION 16. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-52.6-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is
2 amended and reenacted as follows:

3 **54-52.6-01. Definition of terms.**

4 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

- 5 1. "Board" means the public employees retirement system board.
- 6 2. "Deferred member" means ~~a person who elected to receive deferred vested retirement~~
7 benefits an individual who is not actively participating in the main plan under chapter
8 54-52 who has an account intact in the main plan under chapter 54-52.
- 9 3. "Eligible employee" means ~~a permanent state employee, except an employee of the~~
10 judicial branch or an employee of the board of higher education and state institutions
11 under the jurisdiction of the board, who is eighteen years or more of age and who is in
12 a position not classified by North Dakota human resource management services. If a
13 participating member loses permanent employee status and becomes a temporary
14 employee, the member may still participate in the defined contribution retirement plan,
15 for employees who become participating members after December 31, 2024, has the
16 same meaning as provided under section 54-52-02.15. For employees who elected to
17 join the defined contribution retirement plan under this chapter before January 1, 2025,
18 the term includes a permanent state employee, except an employee of the judicial
19 branch or an employee of the board of higher education and state institutions under
20 the jurisdiction of the board of higher education, who is at least eighteen years of age
21 and who is in a position not classified by the North Dakota human resource
22 management services.
- 23 4. "Employee" means ~~any person~~ an individual employed by the ~~state~~ governmental
24 unit, whose compensation is paid out of ~~state~~ the governmental unit's funds, or funds
25 controlled or administered by the ~~state~~ governmental unit or paid by the federal
26 government through any of its executive or administrative officials.
- 27 5. "Employer" means ~~the state of North Dakota~~ a governmental unit.
- 28 6. "Governmental unit" means the state of North Dakota or a participating political
29 subdivision of the state.
- 30 7. "Normal retirement date" is determined based on subsection 3 of section 54-52-17.

1 8. "Participating member" means an eligible employee who elects to
2 ~~participate~~participates in the defined contribution retirement plan established under
3 this chapter.

4 ~~7-9.~~ "Permanent employee" means a state employee whose services are not limited in
5 duration and who is filling an approved and regularly funded position and is employed
6 twenty hours or more per week and at least five months each year.

7 ~~8-10.~~ "Temporary employee" means a governmental unit employee who is not an eligible
8 employee due to not meeting the qualification of being a permanent employee, and
9 who is not actively contributing to another employer-sponsored pension fund, and, if
10 employed by a school district, occupies a noncertified teacher's position.

11 11. "Wages" and "salaries" means earnings in eligible employment under this chapter
12 reported as salary on a federal income tax withholding statement plus any salary
13 reduction or salary deferral amounts under 26 U.S.C. 125, 401(k), 403(b), 414(h), or
14 457. "Salary" does not include fringe benefits such as payments for unused sick leave,
15 personal leave, vacation leave paid in a lump sum, overtime, housing allowances,
16 transportation expenses, early retirement, incentive pay, severance pay, medical
17 insurance, workforce safety and insurance benefits, disability insurance premiums or
18 benefits, or salary received by a member in lieu of previously employer-provided fringe
19 benefits under an agreement between an employee and a participating employer.
20 Bonuses may be considered as salary under this section if reported and annualized
21 pursuant to rules adopted by the board.

22 **SECTION 17. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-52.6-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is
23 amended and reenacted as follows:

24 **54-52.6-02. Election.**

25 1. The board shall provide an opportunity for each eligible employee who is a member of
26 the public employees retirement system on September 30, 2001, and who has not
27 made a written election under this section to transfer to the defined contribution
28 retirement plan before October 1, 2001, to elect in writing to terminate membership in
29 the public employees retirement system and elect to become a participating member
30 under this chapter. Except as provided in section 54-52.6-03, an election made by an
31 eligible employee under this section is irrevocable. The board shall accept written

1 elections under this section from eligible employees during the period beginning on
2 July 1, 1999, and ending 12:01 a.m. December 14, 2001. An eligible employee who
3 does not make a written election or who does not file the election during the period
4 specified in this section continues to be a member of the public employees retirement
5 system. An eligible employee who makes and files a written election under this section
6 ceases to be a member of the public employees retirement system effective twelve
7 midnight December 31, 2001; becomes a participating member in the defined
8 contribution retirement plan under this chapter effective 12:01 a.m. January 1, 2002;
9 and waives all of that person's rights to a pension, annuity, retirement allowance,
10 insurance benefit, or any other benefit under the public employees retirement system
11 effective December 31, 2001. This section does not affect a person's an individual's
12 right to health benefits or retiree health benefits under chapter 54-52.1. An eligible
13 employee who is first employed and entered upon the payroll of that person's
14 employer after September 30, 2001, and before January 1, 2025, may make an
15 election to participate in the defined contribution retirement plan established under this
16 chapter at any time during the first six months after the date of employment. If the
17 board, in its sole discretion, determines that the employee was not adequately notified
18 of the employee's option to participate in the defined contribution retirement plan, the
19 board may provide the employee a reasonable time within which to make that election,
20 which may extend beyond the original six-month decision window.

- 21 2. If an individual who is a deferred member of the public employees retirement system
22 on September 30, 2001, is re-employed before January 1, 2025, and by virtue of that
23 employment is again eligible for membership in the public employees retirement
24 system under chapter 54-52, the individual may elect in writing to remain a member of
25 the public employees retirement system or if eligible to participate in the defined
26 contribution retirement plan established under this chapter to terminate membership in
27 the public employees retirement system and become a participating member in the
28 defined contribution retirement plan established under this chapter. An election made
29 by a deferred member under this section is irrevocable. The board shall accept written
30 elections under this section from a deferred member during the period beginning on
31 the date of the individual's re-employment and ending upon the expiration of six

1 months after the date of that re-employment. If the board, in its sole discretion,
2 determines that the employee was not adequately notified of the employee's option to
3 participate in the defined contribution retirement plan, the board may provide the
4 employee a reasonable time within which to make that election, which may extend
5 beyond the original six-month decision window. A deferred member who makes and
6 files a written election to remain a member of the public employees retirement system
7 retains all rights and is subject to all conditions as a member of that retirement system.
8 A deferred member who does not make a written election or who does not file the
9 election during the period specified in this section continues to be a member of the
10 public employees retirement system. A deferred member who makes and files a
11 written election to terminate membership in the public employees retirement system
12 ceases to be a member of the public employees retirement system effective on the
13 last day of the payroll period that includes the date of the election; becomes a
14 participating member in the defined contribution retirement plan under this chapter
15 effective the first day of the payroll immediately following the date of the election; and
16 waives all of that person's rights to a pension, an annuity, a retirement allowance,
17 insurance benefit, or any other benefit under the public employees retirement system
18 effective the last day of the payroll that includes the date of the election. This section
19 does not affect any right to health benefits or retiree health benefits to which the
20 deferred member may otherwise be entitled.

- 21 3. An eligible employee who elects under this section to participate in the retirement plan
22 established under this chapter must remain a participant even if that employee returns
23 to the classified service or becomes employed by a political subdivision that
24 participates in the public employees retirement system. The contribution amount must
25 be as provided in this chapter, regardless of the position in which the employee is
26 employed. Notwithstanding the irrevocability provisions of this chapter, if a member
27 who elects to participate in the retirement plan established under this chapter
28 becomes a supreme or district court judge, becomes a member of the highway patrol,
29 becomes employed in a position subject to teachers' fund for retirement membership,
30 or becomes an employee of the board of higher education or state institution under the
31 jurisdiction of the board of higher education who is eligible to participate in an

1 alternative retirement program established under subsection 6 of section 15-10-17, the
2 member's status as a member of the defined contribution retirement plan is
3 suspended, and the member becomes a new member of the retirement plan for which
4 that member's new position is eligible. The member's account balance remains in the
5 defined contribution retirement plan, but no new contributions may be made to that
6 account. The member's service credit and salary history that were forfeited as a result
7 of the member's transfer to the defined contribution retirement plan remain forfeited,
8 and service credit accumulation in the new retirement plan begins from the first day of
9 employment in the new position. If the member later returns to employment that is
10 eligible for the defined contribution retirement plan, the member's suspension must be
11 terminated, the member again becomes a member of the defined contribution
12 retirement plan, and the member's account resumes accepting contributions. At the
13 member's option, and pursuant to rules adopted by the board, the member may
14 transfer any available balance as determined by the provisions of the alternate
15 retirement plan into the member's account under this chapter.

- 16 4. After consultation with its actuary, the board shall determine the method by which a
17 participating member or deferred member may make a written election under this
18 section. If the participating member or deferred member is married at the time of the
19 election, the election is not effective unless the election is signed by the individual's
20 spouse. However, the board may waive this requirement if the spouse's signature
21 cannot be obtained because of extenuating circumstances.
- 22 5. If the board receives notification from the internal revenue service that this section or
23 any portion of this section will cause the public employees retirement system or the
24 retirement plan established under this chapter to be disqualified for tax purposes
25 under the Internal Revenue Code, then the portion that will cause the disqualification
26 does not apply.
- 27 6. A participating member under this section who becomes a temporary employee may
28 still participate in the defined contribution retirement plan upon filing an election with
29 the board within one hundred eighty days of transferring to temporary employee
30 status. The participating member may not become a member of the defined benefit
31 plan as a temporary employee.

- 1 a. The temporary employee electing to participate in the defined contribution
2 retirement plan shall pay monthly to the fund an amount equal to eight and twelve
3 hundredths percent times the temporary employee's present monthly salary. The
4 amount required to be paid by a temporary employee increases by two percent
5 times the temporary employee's present monthly salary beginning with the
6 monthly reporting period of January 2012, and with an additional increase of two
7 percent, beginning with the monthly reporting period of January 2013, and with
8 an additional increase of two percent, beginning with the monthly reporting period
9 of January 2014. The temporary employee shall also pay the required monthly
10 contribution to the retiree health benefit fund established under section
11 54-52.1-03.2. This contribution must be recorded as a member contribution
12 pursuant to section 54-52.1-03.2 into the plan as provided under section
13 54-52.6-09.6.
- 14 b. An employer may not pay the temporary employee's contributions.
- 15 c. A temporary employee may continue to participate as a temporary employee until
16 termination of employment or reclassification of the temporary employee as a
17 permanent employee.
- 18 7. A former participating member under this section who has accepted a retirement
19 distribution pursuant to section 54-52.6-13 and who subsequently becomes employed
20 by an entity different from the employer with which the member was employed at the
21 time the member retired but which does participate in any state-sponsored retirement
22 plan may, before re-enrolling in the defined contribution retirement plan, elect to
23 permanently waive future participation in the defined contribution retirement plan,
24 whatever plan in which the new employing entity participates, and the retiree health
25 program and maintain that member's retirement status. Neither the member nor the
26 employer are required to make any future retirement contributions on behalf of that
27 employee.
- 28 8. After December 31, 2024, an eligible employee is no longer allowed to elect
29 participation under this section.

30 **SECTION 18.** Section 54-52.6-02.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and
31 enacted as follows:

1 **54-52.6-02.1. Participation in defined contribution retirement plan.**

2 1. Except as otherwise provided under section 54-52-02.5 or 54-52-02.15 or this chapter,
3 effective January 1, 2025, an eligible employee who is first enrolled shall participate in
4 the defined contribution retirement plan under this chapter.

5 2. A temporary employee may elect to participate in the defined contribution retirement
6 plan as provided under section 54-52.6-09.6.

7 3. A county elected official may elect to participate in the defined contribution retirement
8 plan as provided under section 54-52-02.11.

9 4. A nonstate appointed official shall participate in the defined contribution retirement
10 plan as provided under section 54-52-02.12.

11 **SECTION 19. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-52.6-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is
12 amended and reenacted as follows:

13 **54-52.6-03. Transfer of accumulated fund balances.**

14 1. For an individual who elects under section 54-52.6-02 to terminate membership in the
15 public employees retirement system under chapter 54-52, the board shall transfer a
16 lump sum amount from the retirement fund to the participating member's account in
17 the defined contribution retirement plan under this chapter. However, if the individual
18 terminates employment ~~prior to~~before receiving the lump sum transfer under this
19 section, the election made under section 54-52.6-02 is ineffective and the individual
20 remains a member of the public employees retirement system under chapter 54-52
21 and retains all the rights and benefits provided under that chapter. The board shall
22 calculate the amount to be transferred for persons employed before October 1, 2001,
23 using the two following formulas, and shall transfer the greater of the two amounts
24 obtained:

25 4.a. The actuarial present value of the individual's accumulated benefit obligation
26 under the public employees retirement system based on the assumption that the
27 individual will retire under the earliest applicable normal retirement age, plus
28 interest from January 1, 2001, to the date of transfer, at the rate of one-half of
29 one percent less than the actuarial interest assumption at the time of the election;
30 or

1 2.b. The actual employer contribution made, less vested employer contributions made
2 pursuant to section 54-52-11.1, plus compound interest at the rate of one-half of
3 one percent less than the actuarial interest assumption at the time of the election
4 plus the employee account balance.

5 2. The board shall calculate the amount to be transferred for persons employed after
6 September 30, 2001, and before January 1, 2025, using only the formula contained in
7 subdivision b of subsection 21.

8 **SECTION 20. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-52.6-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is
9 amended and reenacted as follows:

10 **54-52.6-05. Direction of investments.**

11 1. Each participating member shall direct the investment of the individual's accumulated
12 employer and employee contributions and earnings to one or more investment choices
13 within available categories of investment provided by the board. The board shall follow
14 federal guidelines for establishing a qualified default investment alternative for
15 contributions made by a participating member who fails to provide explicit investment
16 direction. The qualified default investment alternative must include an in-plan annuity.
17 If a participating member does not elect an investment option upon enrollment into the
18 defined contribution retirement plan, the board shall automatically enroll the
19 participating member into the qualified default investment alternative option.

20 2. The board shall provide an investment menu of investment options. In establishing the
21 investment options, the board shall:

22 a. Include predetermined investment portfolio options constructed to reflect different
23 risk profiles that automatically reallocate and rebalance contributions as a
24 participating member ages.

25 b. Allow a participating member to construct an investment portfolio using some or
26 all of the investment options.

27 3. The board shall provide a diversified menu of mutual funds and in-plan lifetime annuity
28 options, either fixed, variable, or a combination of both. In selecting an annuity
29 provider the board shall comply with section 54-52.6-05.1.

30 **SECTION 21.** Section 54-52.6-05.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and
31 enacted as follows:

1 **54-52.6-05.1. Annuity provider - Qualifications.**

2 1. The board shall select one or more annuity providers to provide the annuity options
3 under this chapter.

4 2. In selecting an annuity provider under this section, the board shall:

5 a. Determine whether the annuity provider and the provider's subsidiaries and
6 affiliates have appropriate financial strength and stability at the time of selection
7 and during the term of contract with the board.

8 (1) The board may require the provider to provide the board with written
9 representation:

10 (a) The provider is in compliance with title 26.1.

11 (b) The provider at the time of selection is and for each of the preceding
12 seven years was in compliance and good standing with the insurance
13 commissioner of the provider's domiciliary state and the provider is
14 not operating under an order of rehabilitation or liquidation.

15 (c) The provider maintains and has maintained reserves that satisfy the
16 statutory requirements of each state in which the provider does
17 business.

18 (2) The board may require a provider selected by the board to provide annuities
19 under this chapter to notify the board of a change of circumstances resulting
20 in the provider failing to meet any of the requirements under paragraph 1.

21 (3) The board must have determined the provider has a claims paying ability
22 rating that meets standards adopted by the board.

23 b. Determine whether the annuity provider is able to provide contracted rights and
24 benefits to a participating member.

25 c. Determine whether the costs, including fees and commissions, of the annuity
26 options in relation to the benefits and product features of the annuity options are
27 reasonable.

28 d. Determine whether the administrative services to be provided under the annuity
29 option are appropriate. At a minimum the administrative services must include
30 periodic reports to the board.

- 1 e. Determine whether the annuity provider is experienced in paying lifetime
2 retirement income through annuities offered to public employee defined
3 contribution retirement plans.
- 4 f. Determine whether the annuity provider offers a menu of annuity options that
5 meet the following conditions:
- 6 (1) The annuity options are suitable for participating members and
7 beneficiaries.
- 8 (2) The contract terms and income benefits are clearly stated, based on
9 reasonable assumptions.
- 10 (3) The menu of annuity options offers a range of lifetime income options.
- 11 (4) If an annuity is a variable annuity, the annuity offers a fixed account option
12 along with a variable option.
- 13 g. Determine whether the annuity provider offers objective and participant-specific
14 education and tools to help a participating member understand the appropriate
15 use of annuities as a long-term retirement savings vehicle.

16 **SECTION 22. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-52.6-08 of the North Dakota Century Code is
17 amended and reenacted as follows:

18 **54-52.6-08. Credit of transfers.**

19 The board shall promptly credit the plan account of a participating member who makes an
20 election under ~~this chapter~~section 54-52.6-02 to terminate membership in the public employees
21 retirement system under chapter 54-52 with any amount transferred from the public employees
22 retirement system.

23 **SECTION 23. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-52.6-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is
24 amended and reenacted as follows:

25 **54-52.6-09. Contributions - Penalty.**

26 1. Each

- 27 a. A participating member who first joined the defined contribution retirement plan
28 before January 1, 2025, shall contribute monthly seven percent of the monthly
29 salary or wage paid to the participant.
- 30 b. A participating member who first joined the defined contribution retirement plan
31 after December 31, 2024, shall contribute monthly four percent of the monthly

1 salary or wage paid to the participant, ~~and this.~~ In addition, the participating
2 member may elect to contribute monthly up to an additional three percent of the
3 monthly salary or wage paid to the participant.

4 c. This assessment must be deducted from the participant's salary in equal monthly
5 installments commencing with the first month of participation in the defined
6 contribution retirement plan established under this chapter. ~~Participating member~~
7 contributions increase by one percent of the monthly salary or wage paid to the
8 participant beginning with the monthly reporting period of January 2012; with an
9 additional increase of one percent, beginning with the reporting period of
10 January 2013; and with an additional increase of one percent, beginning with the
11 monthly reporting period of January 2014.

12 2. The

13 a. For a participating member who first joined the defined contribution retirement
14 plan before January 1, 2025, the employer shall contribute an amount equal to
15 seven and twelve-hundredths percent of the monthly salary or wage of the
16 participating member.

17 b. For a participating member who first joined the defined contribution retirement
18 plan after December 31, 2024, the employer shall contribute an amount equal to
19 four and twelve-hundredths percent of the monthly salary or wage of a
20 participating member, plus up to an additional three percent as an employer
21 matching contribution calculated based on the participating member's election
22 under subdivision b of subsection 1. ~~Employer contributions increase by one~~
23 percent of the monthly salary or wage of a participating member beginning with
24 the monthly reporting period of January 2012; with an additional increase of one
25 percent, beginning with the monthly reporting period of January 2013; and with
26 an additional increase of one percent, beginning with the monthly reporting
27 period of January 2014.

28 c. For members a participating member first enrolled after December 31, 2019, the
29 employer contribution includes an additional increase of one and fourteen-
30 hundredths percent.

1 d. If the employee's contribution is paid by the employer under subsection 3, the
2 employer shall contribute, in addition, an amount equal to the required
3 employee's contribution. Monthly, the employer shall pay such contribution into
4 the participating member's account from the employer's funds appropriated for
5 payroll and salary or any other funds available for such purposes.

6 e. If the employer fails to pay the contributions monthly, or fails to otherwise comply
7 with the board's established wage reporting or payroll reporting process
8 requirements, the employer is subject to a civil penalty of fifty dollars and, as
9 interest, one percent of the amount due for each month of delay or fraction of a
10 month after the payment became due. In lieu of assessing a civil penalty or one
11 percent per month, or both, interest at the actuarial rate of return may be
12 assessed for each month the contributions are delinquent. If contributions are
13 paid within ninety days of the date the contributions became due, penalty and
14 interest to be paid on delinquent contributions may be waived.

15 3. Each employer, at its option, may pay the employee contributions required by this
16 section for all compensation earned after December 31, 1999. The amount paid must
17 be paid by the employer in lieu of contributions by the employee. If the employer
18 decides not to pay the contributions, the amount that would have been paid will
19 continue to be deducted from the employee's compensation. If contributions are paid
20 by the employer, they must be treated as employer contributions in determining tax
21 treatment under this code and the federal Internal Revenue Code. Contributions paid
22 by the employer may not be included as gross income of the employee in determining
23 tax treatment under this code and the federal Internal Revenue Code until they are
24 distributed or made available. The employer shall pay these employee contributions
25 from the same source of funds used in paying compensation to the employee. The
26 employer shall pay these contributions by effecting an equal cash reduction in the
27 gross salary of the employee or by an offset against future salary increases or by a
28 combination of a reduction in gross salary and offset against future salary increases.
29 Employee contributions paid by the employer must be treated for the purposes of this
30 chapter in the same manner and to the same extent as employee contributions made
31 before the date on which employee contributions were assumed by the employer. An

1 employer shall exercise its option under this subsection by reporting its choice to the
2 board in writing.

3 **SECTION 24.** Section 54-52.6-09.5 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and
4 enacted as follows:

5 **54-52.6-09.5. Employer contribution for defined benefit plan.**

6 In addition to the employer contribution under section 54-52.6-09, a state employer shall
7 contribute to the defined benefit retirement plan under chapter 54-52, an amount equal to the
8 contribution rate calculated under section 54-52-06 less the amount of the required employer
9 contribution under sections 54-52.2-09 and 54-52.6-09. If a state employer uses federal funds
10 to pay any or all of an employee's wages, the employer shall use state funds to pay this
11 additional contribution.

12 **SECTION 25.** Section 54-52.6-09.6 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and
13 enacted as follows:

14 **54-52.6-09.6. Participation by temporary employees.**

15 A temporary employee may elect, within one hundred eighty days of beginning employment,
16 to participate in the defined contribution retirement plan under this chapter. Monthly, the
17 temporary employee shall contribute an amount equal to nine and twenty-six hundredths
18 percent times the temporary employee's present monthly salary, and may elect to contribute up
19 to an additional six percent. An employer may not pay the temporary employee's contribution. A
20 temporary employee may continue to participate as a temporary employee until termination of
21 employment or reclassification of the temporary employee as a permanent employee.

22 **SECTION 26. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-52.6-10 of the North Dakota Century Code is
23 amended and reenacted as follows:

24 **54-52.6-10. Vesting.**

25 1. A participating member is immediately one hundred percent vested in that member's
26 contributions made to that member's account under this chapter. A participating
27 member vests in the employer contributions made on that member's behalf to an
28 account under this chapter according to the following schedule:

29 1-a. Upon completion of two years of service, fifty percent.

30 2-b. Upon completion of three years of service, seventy-five percent.

31 3-c. Upon completion of four years of service, one hundred percent.

1 2. A participating member also becomes one hundred percent vested in the employer
2 contributions upon reaching age sixty-five. A participating member who was a member
3 or deferred member of the public employees retirement system under chapter 54-52
4 who makes an election to participate in the defined contribution retirement plan
5 pursuant to this chapter under section 54-52.6-02 must be credited with the years of
6 service accrued under the public employees retirement system on the effective date of
7 participation in the defined contribution retirement plan for the purpose of meeting
8 vesting requirements for benefits under this section. Any forfeiture as a result of the
9 failure of a participating member to vest in the employer contribution must be
10 deposited in the administrative expenses account.

11 **SECTION 27. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-52.6-13 of the North Dakota Century Code is
12 amended and reenacted as follows:

13 **54-52.6-13. Distributions.**

- 14 1. A participating member is eligible to receive distribution of that ~~person's~~individual's
15 accumulated balance in the plan upon becoming a former participating member.
- 16 2. Upon the death of a participating member or former participating member, the board
17 shall pay the accumulated account balance of that deceased participant to the
18 deceased participant's refund beneficiary, if any, as provided in this subsection. If the
19 deceased participant designated an alternate refund beneficiary with the surviving
20 spouse's written consent, the board shall distribute the accumulated balance to the
21 named beneficiary. If the deceased participant named more than one primary
22 beneficiary with the surviving spouse's written consent, the board shall pay the
23 accumulated account balance to the named primary beneficiaries in the percentages
24 designated by the deceased participant or, if the deceased participant had not
25 designated a percentage for the beneficiaries, in equal percentages. If one or more of
26 the primary beneficiaries has predeceased the deceased participant, the board shall
27 pay the predeceased beneficiary's share to the remaining primary beneficiaries. If any
28 beneficiary survives the deceased participant, yet dies before distribution of the
29 beneficiary's share, the beneficiary must be treated as if the beneficiary predeceased
30 the deceased participant. If there is no remaining primary beneficiary, the board shall
31 pay the accumulated account balance of that deceased participant to the contingent

1 beneficiaries in the same manner. If there is no remaining designated beneficiary, the
2 board shall pay the accumulated account balance of that deceased participant to the
3 deceased participant's estate. If the deceased participant had not designated an
4 alternate refund beneficiary or the surviving spouse is the refund beneficiary, the
5 surviving spouse of the deceased participant may select a form of payment as
6 provided in subdivision d of subsection 3.

- 7 3. a. A former participating member may elect one or a combination of several of the
8 following methods of distribution of the accumulated balance:
- 9 a. (1) A lump sum distribution to the recipient.
 - 10 b. (2) A lump sum direct rollover to another qualified plan, to the extent allowed by
11 federal law.
 - 12 e. (3) Periodic distributions, including annuities, as authorized by the board.
 - 13 d. (4) No current distribution, in which case the accumulated balance must remain
14 in the plan until the former participating member or refund beneficiary elects
15 a method or methods of distribution under this section, to the extent allowed
16 by federal law.
- 17 b. A surviving spouse beneficiary may elect one or a combination of several of the
18 methods of distribution provided in ~~subdivisions a, b, or e~~ paragraph 1, 2, or 3 of
19 subdivision a if the surviving spouse is the sole refund beneficiary. If the surviving
20 spouse is not the sole refund beneficiary, the refund beneficiary may only choose
21 a lump sum distribution of the accumulated balance.
- 22 4. If the former participating member's vested account balance is less than one thousand
23 dollars, the board shall automatically shall refund the member's vested account
24 balance upon termination of employment. The member may waive the refund if the
25 member submits a written statement to the board, within one hundred twenty days
26 after termination, requesting that the member's vested account balance remain in the
27 plan.

28 **SECTION 28. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-52.6-15 of the North Dakota Century Code is
29 amended and reenacted as follows:

1 **54-52.6-15. Board to provide information.**

2 1. The board shall provide information to employees who are eligible under section
3 54-52.6-02 to elect to become participating members under this chapter. The
4 information must include at a minimum the employee's current account balance, the
5 assumption of investment risk under a defined contribution retirement plan,
6 administrative and investment costs, coordination of benefits information, and a
7 comparison of projected retirement benefits under the public employees retirement
8 system under chapter 54-52 and the retirement plan established under this chapter.

9 2. The board, or the board's vendor, shall provide to participating members:

- 10 a. Enrollment information that includes benefits of the defined contribution
11 retirement plan, investment options available, the assumption of risk, and
12 administrative and investment costs.
- 13 b. Ongoing investment and retirement income planning, including education on how
14 to set, measure, and adjust income and saving goals based on desired
15 retirement income and financial objectives, actual behavior, and changing
16 circumstances.
- 17 c. Retirement income education, including distribution options available and in-plan
18 annuitization options.
- 19 d. Advice and guidance information, tools, and services primarily focused on long-
20 term planning and investing and life events that potentially influence and impact
21 retirement savings.

22 3. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the board is not liable for any election or
23 investment decision made by an employee based upon information provided to an
24 employee under this chapter.

25 **SECTION 29. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-52.6-19 of the North Dakota Century Code is
26 amended and reenacted as follows:

27 **54-52.6-19. Overpayments.**

28 The board has the right of setoff to recover overpayments made under this chapter and to
29 satisfy any claims arising from embezzlement or fraud committed by a participating member,
30 deferred member under this chapter, refund beneficiary, or other person ~~who~~that has a claim to
31 a distribution or any other benefit from a plan governed by this chapter.

1 **SECTION 30.** Section 54-52.6-22 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted
2 as follows:

3 **54-52.6-22. Report to employee benefits programs committee.**

4 Annually, the board shall provide a report to the employee benefits programs committee on
5 the status of the defined contribution retirement plan under this chapter.

6 **SECTION 31. REPEAL.** Section 54-52-06.5 of the North Dakota Century Code is repealed.

7 **SECTION 32. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY - PUBLIC EMPLOYEES**

8 **RETIREMENT SYSTEM RETIREMENT PLAN.** During the 2023-24 interim, the legislative
9 management shall study the public employees retirement system main system plan, including
10 funding options and contributions by political subdivisions. The legislative management shall
11 report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the
12 recommendations, to the sixty-ninth legislative assembly.

13 **SECTION 33. TRANSFER - STRATEGIC INVESTMENT AND IMPROVEMENTS FUND TO**

14 **PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM FUND.** The office of management and budget
15 shall transfer \$240,000,000 from the strategic investment and improvements fund to the public
16 employees retirement system fund, for the purpose of reducing the unfunded liability of the
17 public employees retirement system main system plan, during the biennium beginning July 1,
18 2023, and ending June 30, 2025.

19 **SECTION 34. APPLICATION.** Subdivision a of subsection 1 of section 54-52-06, as
20 amended under section 12 of this Act, applies to employer contributions beginning January
21 2026, using a contribution rate based on the July 1, 2024, actuarial analysis.

22 **SECTION 35. EFFECTIVE DATE.** Sections 1, 3, 11, 32 and 33 of this Act become effective
23 July 1, 2023; section 2, sections 4 through 10, sections 13 through 23, and sections 25 through
24 31 of this Act become effective January 1, 2025; and sections 12, 24, and 34 of this Act become
25 effective January 1, 2026.