

## **APERS Handbook Form Members Update July 2001**

Listed below are the changes made to the Arkansas Public Employees Retirement System in the 2001 Legislative Session. Please use this as an insert to the **Handbook For Members** that was published in 1999.

- As a result of **Act 151**, a contributory member of APERS can elect in writing to become covered under the non-contributory provisions of the law and shall be entitled to a refund of any accumulated contributions paid on or after January 1, 1978 and prior to the date of election to be non-contributory. This Act does not permit non-contributory members to be contributory.
- As a result of **Act 154**, for retirement purposes, an elected official must terminate covered employment for a period of at least 90 days after the effective date of benefits.
- As a result of **Act 355**, effective July 1, 2001, the non-contributory multiplier for service through June 30, 2001 is 1.75%; the multiplier for service on or after July 1, 2001 remains at 1.72%. This Act also increases the contributory multiplier for service through June 30, 2001 to 2.11%; the multiplier for service on or after July 1, 2001 remains at 2.07%. The Temporary multiplier did not change and remains at .33%.

This Act provides a 1.7% At Hoc increase to all members who were retired as of June 1, 2001.

- As a result of **Act 356**, effective July 1, 2001, a death benefit is available to survivors of members who were vested and deferred. This Act is effective for those deferred vested members; survivors who die on or after the effective date of this Act.
- As a result of **Act 357**, effective July 1, 2001, the Partial Annuity Withdrawal (PAW) is established. The PAW allows a member who works beyond the date that s/he would have received an unreduced benefit to take a lump sum distribution of up to 60 months of his/her retirement benefit. The lifetime annuity is reduced by an actuarial factor tied to the age of the retiree.
- As a result of **Act 438**, effective July 1, 2001, the Annuity Option provisions are revised to reflect: Option A60-98% of Straight Life Amount; Option A120-94% of Straight Life Amount; Option B50 – 88% of Straight Life Amount; and Option B75 – 83% of Straight Life Amount.

- As a result of **Act 742**, effective July 1, 2001, any non-teaching School District employees who are members of APERS may have non teaching service after July 1, 2001 covered under the Arkansas Teacher Retirement
- As a result of **Act 762**, effective July 1, 2001, the period of participation in the APERS Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) goes to seven (7) years. This includes those already participating.
- As a result of **Act 764**, effective July 1, 2001, members of APERS will dual full-time employment covered by the Arkansas Local Police and Fire Retirement System (LOPFI), shall be members of APERS.
- As a result of **Act 765**, new employees of Arkansas state-supported universities, colleges, or junior colleges that are not a part of the University of Arkansas System are eligible to participate in their choice of retirement system (i.e. APERS,, Teachers, Alternate retirement plan).
- As a result of **Act 1297**, effective July 1, 2001, a member with 25 years of service may retire with a reduced benefit. The reduction is taken from either age 65 or 28 years of service – whichever is less.