

SENATE BILL No. 500

By Committee on Ways and Means

2-9

1 AN ACT concerning retirement and pensions; relating to the Kansas public
2 employees retirement system and systems thereunder; creating the
3 Kansas public employees retirement system cost-of-living adjustment
4 commission; prescribing the powers and duties of the commission;
5 establishing procedures of the legislature for the review and
6 consideration of cost-of-living adjustments by the commission.
7

8 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

9 Section 1. (a) There is created the Kansas public employees
10 retirement system cost-of-living adjustment commission consisting of 13
11 voting members and two nonvoting ex officio members as follows:

12 (1) One member appointed by the governor;

13 (2) one member appointed by the speaker of the house of
14 representatives;

15 (3) one member appointed by the president of the senate;

16 (4) one member appointed by the majority leader of the house of
17 representatives. Such member appointed by the majority leader shall be a
18 member of the house of representatives committee on appropriations;

19 (5) one member appointed by the majority leader of the senate. Such
20 member appointed by the majority leader shall be a member of the senate
21 committee on ways and means;

22 (6) one member appointed by the minority leader of the house of
23 representatives;

24 (7) one member appointed by the minority leader of the senate;

25 (8) six members appointed by the board of trustees. One such
26 member shall represent the Kansas police and firemen's retirement system;
27 one such member shall represent state correctional officers; one such
28 member shall represent the retirement system for judges; one such member
29 shall represent state employees; one such member shall represent school
30 district employees; and one such member shall represent local government
31 employees. The members representing state, school district and local
32 employees shall include representation from members of both the plan
33 established pursuant to K.S.A. 74-4901 et seq., and amendments thereto,
34 and the Kansas public employees retirement system act of 2009; and

35 (9) the executive director of the Kansas public employees retirement
36 system and the state treasurer shall serve as nonvoting ex officio members.

1 (b) The initial member appointed by the speaker shall be appointed
2 prior to August 1, 2026. All other initial members shall be appointed prior
3 to September 1, 2026.

4 (c) No person shall be appointed to the commission who is a current
5 registered lobbyist.

6 (d) The member appointed by the speaker shall serve as the first
7 chairperson of the commission. The member appointed by the president
8 shall serve as the first vice chairperson of the commission. Thereafter, the
9 next chairperson to be appointed prior to August 1, 2029, shall be
10 appointed by the president and the next vice chairperson to be appointed
11 prior to September 1, 2029, shall be appointed by the speaker. The
12 authority to appoint the chairperson and vice chairperson for future
13 commissions shall alternate between the speaker and the president in
14 similar manner as for the original appointments. Vacancies shall be filled
15 in the same manner as for the original appointments.

16 (e) Any member of the commission shall be eligible for
17 reappointment.

18 (f) The term of each appointment to the commission shall end upon
19 the completion of the responsibilities of the commission pursuant to
20 subsections (h) and (i).

21 (g) The commission shall meet upon call of the chairperson or upon
22 request made by a quorum of the voting membership of the commission.
23 The commission shall meet at least one time during the calendar year
24 when appointed. A majority of the voting members of the commission
25 shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business of the
26 commission. Any action taken by the commission shall be by majority
27 vote of the voting members present.

28 (h) The Kansas public employees retirement system cost-of-living
29 adjustment commission shall:

30 (1) Make a comprehensive study of the retirement benefits of the
31 retirants of the retirement system. Such study shall include at minimum
32 one day of public hearings; and

33 (2) recommend to the legislature the annual cost-of-living adjustment
34 rate for current and future retirants of the retirement system to be effective
35 as provided in subsection (i).

36 (i) In 2026, the Kansas public employees retirement system cost-of-
37 living adjustment commission shall recommend to the legislature the cost-
38 of-living adjustment rate for retirants of the retirement system during the
39 four-year period that commences on January 1, 2028. Such cost-of-living
40 adjustment rate recommended by the commission shall be submitted to the
41 legislature on or before December 1, 2026. Such cost-of-living adjustment
42 rate recommended by the commission shall be the cost-of-living
43 adjustment rate for all active and future retirants if prior to 30 days after

1 the commencement of the legislative session next occurring after
2 submission of such recommended rate, legislation establishing such
3 recommended cost-of-living adjustment rate is passed by the legislature
4 and enacted into law. If the legislature does not take action to pass such
5 legislation, the legislature may adopt a concurrent resolution to require the
6 commission to meet again to set another cost-of-living adjustment rate to
7 be submitted to the legislature prior to the end of the current legislative
8 session. The legislature may approve such cost-of-living adjustment rate
9 by the passage of a bill prior to adjournment sine die of such legislative
10 session. In the event that a bill approving such cost-of-living adjustment
11 rate is not passed by the legislature and enacted into law, the cost-of-living
12 adjustment rate, if any, prevailing at the time of the previous session shall
13 remain in effect.

14 (j) (1) New members of the commission shall be appointed in 2029
15 and every four years thereafter. The member designated as chairperson of
16 the commission pursuant to subsection (d) shall be appointed prior to
17 August 1 of such year. All other members of the commission shall be
18 appointed prior to September 1 of such year.

19 (2) Commissions appointed in 2029 and thereafter may meet on call
20 of the chairperson or upon the request of a quorum of the commission's
21 voting membership during the calendar year, when appointed, or the
22 following calendar year. The commission shall recommend the cost-of-
23 living adjustment rate for retirants and beneficiaries to be effective during
24 the four-year period that commences on January 1 of the next occurring
25 calendar year. The commission shall submit such cost-of-living adjustment
26 rate to the legislature on or before December 1 of the calendar year
27 following the commission's appointment.

28 (3) The legislature may take such actions as provided in subsection (i)
29 during the legislative session next occurring after the submission of such
30 cost-of-living adjustment rate as provided in paragraph (2).

31 (k) Members of the commission shall receive compensation,
32 subsistence allowances, mileage and expenses as provided in K.S.A. 75-
33 3223, and amendments thereto, when attending meetings of the
34 commission.

35 (l) As used in this section:

36 (1) "Insured disability benefit recipient" means any person receiving
37 an insured disability benefit under K.S.A. 74-4927, and amendments
38 thereto;

39 (2) "retirant" means any:

40 (A) Person who is a member or special member of the retirement
41 system pursuant to the provisions of K.S.A. 74-4901 et seq., and
42 amendments thereto, and who is retired;

43 (B) person who is a joint annuitant or beneficiary of any member

1 described in subparagraph (A); and

2 (C) insured disability benefit recipient; and

3 (3) "retirement system" means the Kansas public employees
4 retirement system, the Kansas police and firemen's retirement system, the
5 state school retirement system and the retirement system for judges.

6 (m) The provisions of this section shall be a part of and supplemental
7 to the provisions of K.S.A. 74-4901 et seq., and amendments thereto.

8 Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
9 publication in the statute book.