As Passed by the House

135th General Assembly

Regular Session

Am. H. B. No. 78

2023-2024

Representatives Seitz, Miller, J.

Cosponsors: Representatives Troy, Upchurch, Carruthers, Bird, Young, T., Abrams, Baker, Brennan, Brent, Brown, Creech, Dell'Aquila, Denson, Dobos, Edwards, Forhan, Galonski, Ghanbari, Grim, Gross, Hillyer, Holmes, Hoops, Humphrey, Johnson, Jones, Lightbody, Lipps, Liston, Manning, Mathews, Miller, A., Mohamed, Patton, Pavliga, Pizzulli, Roemer, Russo, Schmidt, Somani, Thomas, C., Williams

A BILL

То	amend sections 3307.01, 3307.05, and 3309.01 of	1
	the Revised Code regarding State Teachers	2
	Retirement System Board member eligibility and	3
	system membership for student teachers who are	4
	employed as substitute teachers.	5

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1 . That sections 3307.01, 3307.05, and 3309.01 of	6
the Revised Code be amended to read as follows:	7
Sec. 3307.01. As used in this chapter:	8
(A) "Employer" means the board of education, school	9
district, governing authority of any community school	10
established under Chapter 3314. of the Revised Code, a science,	11
technology, engineering, and mathematics school established	12
under Chapter 3326. of the Revised Code, college, university,	13
institution, or other agency within the state by which a teacher	14

is employed and paid.	15
(B)(1) "Teacher" means all of the following:	16
(a) Any person paid from public funds and employed in the	17
public schools of the state under any type of contract described	18
in section 3311.77 or 3319.08 of the Revised Code in a position	19
for which the person is required to have a license or	20
registration issued pursuant to sections 3319.22 to 3319.31 of	21
the Revised Code;	22
(b) Except as provided in division (B)(2)(b) or (c) of	23
this section, any person employed as a teacher or faculty member	24
in a community school or a science, technology, engineering, and	25
mathematics school pursuant to Chapter 3314. or 3326. of the	26
Revised Code;	27
(c) Any person having a license or registration issued	28
pursuant to sections 3319.22 to 3319.31 of the Revised Code and	29
employed in a public school in this state in an educational	30
position, as determined by the department of education and	31
workforce, under programs provided for by federal acts or	32
regulations and financed in whole or in part from federal funds,	33
but for which no licensure requirements for the position can be	34
made under the provisions of such federal acts or regulations;	35
(d) Any other teacher or faculty member employed in any	36
school, college, university, institution, or other agency wholly	37
controlled and managed, and supported in whole or in part, by	38
the state or any political subdivision thereof, including	39
Central state university, Cleveland state university, and the	40
university of Toledo;	41
(e) The educational employees of the state board of	42

education, as determined by the state superintendent of public

instruction, and the educational employees of the department of	44
education and workforce, as determined by the director of	45
education and workforce;	46
(f) Any person having a registration issued pursuant to	47
section 3301.28 of the Revised Code and employed as a tutor by	48
the coordinating service center as defined in that section;	49
(g) Any person having a license issued pursuant to Chapter	50
4732. of the Revised Code and employed as a school psychologist	51
in a public school;	52
(h) Any person having a pre-service teacher permit issued	53
pursuant to section 3319.0812 of the Revised Code and employed	54
as a substitute teacher by a school district or school.	55
In all cases of doubt, the state teachers retirement board	56
shall determine whether any person is a teacher, and its	57
decision shall be final.	58
(2) "Teacher" does not include any of the following:	59
(a) Any eligible employee of a public institution of	60
higher education, as defined in section 3305.01 of the Revised	61
Code, who elects to participate in an alternative retirement	62
plan established under Chapter 3305. of the Revised Code;	63
(b) Any person employed by a community school operator, as	64
defined in section 3314.02 of the Revised Code, if on or before	65
February 1, 2016, the school's operator was withholding and	66
paying employee and employer taxes pursuant to 26 U.S.C. 3101(a)	67
and 3111(a) for persons employed in the school as teachers,	68
unless the person had contributing service in a community school	69
in the state within one year prior to the later of February 1,	70
2016, or the date on which the operator for the first time	71
withholds and pays employee and employer taxes pursuant to 26	72

U.S.C. 3101(a) and 3111(a) for that person;	73
(c) Any person who would otherwise be a teacher under	74
division (B)(2)(b) of this section who terminates employment	75
with a community school operator and has no contributing service	76
in a community school in the state for a period of at least one	77
year from the date of termination of employment.	78
(C) "Member" means any person included in the membership	79
of the state teachers retirement system, which shall consist of	80
all teachers and contributors as defined in divisions (B) and	81
(D) of this section and all disability benefit recipients, as	82
defined in section 3307.50 of the Revised Code. However, for	83
purposes of this chapter, the following persons shall not be	84
considered members:	85
(1) A student, intern, or resident who is not a member	86
while employed part-time by a school, college, or university at	87
which the student, intern, or resident is regularly attending	88
classes;	89
(2) A person denied membership pursuant to section 3307.24	90
of the Revised Code;	91
(3) An other system retirant, as defined in section	92
3307.35 of the Revised Code, or a superannuate;	93
(4) An individual employed in a program established	94
pursuant to the "Job Training Partnership Act," 96 Stat. 1322	95
(1982), 29 U.S.C.A. 1501;	96
(5) The surviving spouse of a member or retirant if the	97
surviving spouse's only connection to the retirement system is	98
an account in an STRS defined contribution plan.	99
(D) "Contributor" means any person who has an account in	100

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shall be either of the following:

(1) A member of the American academy of actuaries;

(2) A firm, partnership, or corporation of which at least	130
one person is a member of the American academy of actuaries.	131
(K) "Fiduciary" means a person who does any of the	132
following:	133
(1) Exercises any discretionary authority or control with	134
respect to the management of the system, or with respect to the	135
management or disposition of its assets;	136
(2) Renders investment advice for a fee, direct or	137
indirect, with respect to money or property of the system;	138
(3) Has any discretionary authority or responsibility in	139
the administration of the system.	140
(L)(1)(a) Except as provided in this division,	141
"compensation" means all salary, wages, and other earnings paid	142
to a teacher by reason of the teacher's employment, including	143
compensation paid pursuant to a supplemental contract. The	144
salary, wages, and other earnings shall be determined prior to	145
determination of the amount required to be contributed to the	146
teachers' savings fund or defined contribution fund under	147
section 3307.26 of the Revised Code and without regard to	148
whether any of the salary, wages, or other earnings are treated	149
as deferred income for federal income tax purposes.	150
(b) Except as provided in division (L)(1)(c) of this	151
section, "compensation" includes amounts paid by an employer as	152
a retroactive payment of earnings, damages, or back pay pursuant	153
to a court order, court-adopted settlement agreement, or other	154
settlement agreement if the retirement system receives both of	155
the following:	156
(i) Teacher and employer contributions under sections	157
3307.26 and 3307.28 of the Revised Code, plus interest	158

(2)	Compensation	does	not	include	any	of	the	following:	1	174

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- (a) Payments for accrued but unused sick leave or personal leave, including payments made under a plan established pursuant to section 124.39 of the Revised Code or any other plan established by the employer;
- (b) Payments made for accrued but unused vacation leave, including payments made pursuant to section 124.13 of the Revised Code or a plan established by the employer;
- (c) Payments made for vacation pay covering concurrent

 periods for which other salary, compensation, or benefits under

 this chapter or Chapter 145. or 3309. of the Revised Code are

 paid;

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- (d) Amounts paid by the employer to provide life 186 insurance, sickness, accident, endowment, health, medical, 187

hospital, dental, or surgical coverage, or other insurance for	188
the teacher or the teacher's family, or amounts paid by the	189
employer to the teacher in lieu of providing the insurance;	190
(e) Incidental benefits, including lodging, food, laundry,	191
parking, or services furnished by the employer, use of the	192
employer's property or equipment, and reimbursement for job-	193
related expenses authorized by the employer, including moving	194
and travel expenses and expenses related to professional	195
development;	196
(f) Payments made by the employer in exchange for a	197
member's waiver of a right to receive any payment, amount, or	198
benefit described in division (L)(2) of this section;	199
(g) Payments by the employer for services not actually	200
rendered;	201
(h) Any amount paid by the employer as a retroactive	202
increase in salary, wages, or other earnings, unless the	203
increase is one of the following:	204
(i) A retroactive increase paid to a member employed by a	205
school district board of education in a position that requires a	206
license designated for teaching and not designated for being an	207
administrator issued under section 3319.22 of the Revised Code	208
that is paid in accordance with uniform criteria applicable to	209
all members employed by the board in positions requiring the	210
licenses;	211
(ii) A retroactive increase paid to a member employed by a	212
school district board of education in a position that requires a	213
license designated for being an administrator issued under	214
section 3319.22 of the Revised Code that is paid in accordance	215
with uniform critoria applicable to all members employed by the	216

board in positions requiring the licenses;	217
(iii) A retroactive increase paid to a member employed by	218
a school district board of education as a superintendent that is	219
also paid as described in division (L)(2)(h)(i) of this section;	220
(iv) A retroactive increase paid to a member employed by	221
an employer other than a school district board of education in	222
accordance with uniform criteria applicable to all members	223
employed by the employer.	224
(i) Payments made to or on behalf of a teacher that are in	225
excess of the annual compensation that may be taken into account	226
by the retirement system under division (a)(17) of section 401	227
of the "Internal Revenue Code of 1986," 100 Stat. 2085, 26	228
U.S.C.A. 401(a)(17), as amended. For a teacher who first	229
establishes membership before July 1, 1996, the annual	230
compensation that may be taken into account by the retirement	231
system shall be determined under division (d)(3) of section	232
13212 of the "Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993," Pub.	233
L. No. 103-66, 107 Stat. 472.	234
(j) Payments made under division (B), (C), or (E) of	235
section 5923.05 of the Revised Code, Section 4 of Substitute	236
Senate Bill No. 3 of the 119th general assembly, Section 3 of	237
Amended Substitute Senate Bill No. 164 of the 124th general	238
assembly, or Amended Substitute House Bill No. 405 of the 124th	239
<pre>general assembly;</pre>	240
(k) Anything of value received by the teacher that is	241
based on or attributable to retirement or an agreement to	242
retire.	243
(3) The retirement board shall determine both of the	244
following:	245

(a) Whether particular forms of earnings are included in	246
any of the categories enumerated in this division;	247
(b) Whether any form of earnings not enumerated in this	248
division is to be included in compensation.	249
Decisions of the board made under this division shall be	250
final.	251
(M) "Superannuate" means both of the following:	252
(1) A former teacher receiving from the system a	253
retirement allowance under section 3307.58 or 3307.59 of the	254
Revised Code;	255
(2) A former teacher receiving a benefit from the system	256
under a plan established under section 3307.81 of the Revised	257
Code, except that "superannuate" does not include a former	258
teacher who is receiving a benefit based on disability under a	259
plan established under section 3307.81 of the Revised Code.	260
For purposes of sections 3307.35 and 3307.353 of the	261
Revised Code, "superannuate" also means a former teacher	262
receiving from the system a combined service retirement benefit	263
paid in accordance with section 3307.57 of the Revised Code,	264
regardless of which retirement system is paying the benefit.	265
(N) "STRS defined benefit plan" means the plan described	266
in sections 3307.50 to 3307.79 of the Revised Code.	267
(O) "STRS defined contribution plan" means the plans	268
established under section 3307.81 of the Revised Code and	269
includes the STRS combined plan under that section.	270
(P) "Faculty" means the teaching staff of a university,	271
college, or school, including any academic administrators.	272

Sec. 3307.05. The state teachers retirement board shall	273
consist of the following members:	274
(A) The superintendent of public instruction or a designee	275
of the superintendent who has the following qualifications:	276
(1) The designee is a resident of this state.	277
(2) Within the three years immediately preceding the	278
appointment, the designee has not been employed by the public	279
employees retirement system, police and fire pension fund, state	280
teachers retirement system, school employees retirement system,	281
or state highway patrol retirement system or by any person,	282
partnership, or corporation that has provided to one of those	283
retirement systems services of a financial or investment nature,	284
including the management, analysis, supervision, or investment	285
of assets.	286
(3) The designee has direct experience in the management,	287
analysis, supervision, or investment of assets.	288
(B) One member, known as the treasurer of state's	289
investment designee, who shall be appointed by the treasurer of	290
state for a term of four years and have the following	291
qualifications:	292
(1) The member is a resident of this state.	293
(2) Within the three years immediately preceding the	294
appointment, the member has not been employed by the public	295
employees retirement system, police and fire pension fund, state	296
teachers retirement system, school employees retirement system,	297
or state highway patrol retirement system or by any person,	298
partnership, or corporation that has provided to one of those	299
retirement systems services of a financial or investment nature,	300
including management, analysis, supervision, or investment of	301

assets.	302
(3) The member has direct experience in the management,	303
analysis, supervision, or investment of assets.	304
(4) The member is not currently employed by the state or a	305
political subdivision of the state.	306
(C) Two members, known as the investment expert members,	307
who shall be appointed for four-year terms. One investment	308
expert member shall be appointed by the governor, and one	309
investment expert member shall be jointly appointed by the	310
speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the	311
senate. Each investment expert member shall have the following	312
qualifications:	313
(1) Each member shall be a resident of this state.	314
(2) Within the three years immediately preceding the	315
appointment, each member shall not have been employed by the	316
public employees retirement system, police and fire pension	317
fund, state teachers retirement system, school employees	318
retirement system, or state highway patrol retirement system or	319
by any person, partnership, or corporation that has provided to	320
one of those retirement systems services of a financial or	321
investment nature, including the management, analysis,	322
supervision, or investment of assets.	323
(3) Each member shall have direct experience in the	324
management, analysis, supervision, or investment of assets.	325
Any investment expert member appointed to fill a vacancy	326
occurring prior to the expiration of the term for which the	327
member's predecessor was appointed shall hold office until the	328
end of such term. The member shall continue in office subsequent	329
to the expiration date of the member's term until the member's	330

for which the person is not required to have a registration,

certificate, or license issued pursuant to section 3301.28 or

sections 3319.22 to 3319.31 of the Revised Code or a permit

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issued under section 3319.0812 of the Revised Code;	360
(2) Any person who performs a service common to the normal	361
daily operation of an educational unit even though the person is	362
employed and paid by one who has contracted with an employer to	363
perform the service, and the contracting board or educational	364
unit shall be the employer for the purposes of administering the	365
provisions of this chapter;	366
(3) Any person, not a faculty member, employed in any	367
school or college or other institution wholly controlled and	368
managed, and wholly or partly supported by the state or any	369
political subdivision thereof, the board of trustees, or other	370
managing body of which shall accept the requirements and	371
obligations of this chapter.	372
In all cases of doubt, the school employees retirement	373
board shall determine whether any person is an employee, as	374
defined in this division, and its decision is final.	375
(C) "Prior service" means all service rendered prior to	376
September 1, 1937:	377
(1) As an employee as defined in division (B) of this	378
section;	379
(2) As an employee in a capacity covered by the public	380
employees retirement system or the state teachers retirement	381
system;	382
(3) As an employee of an institution in another state,	383
service credit for which was procured by a member under the	384
provisions of section 3309.31 of the Revised Code.	385
Prior service, for service as an employee in a capacity	386
covered by the public employees retirement system or the state	387

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teachers retirement system, shall be granted a member under	388
qualifications identical to the laws and rules applicable to	389
service credit in those systems.	390

Prior service shall not be granted any member for service rendered in a capacity covered by the public employees retirement system, the state teachers retirement system, and this system in the event the service credit has, in the respective systems, been received, waived by exemption, or forfeited by withdrawal of contributions, except as provided in this chapter.

If a member who has been granted prior service should, 398 subsequent to September 16, 1957, and before retirement, 399 establish three years of contributing service in the public 400 employees retirement system, or one year in the state teachers 401 retirement system, then the prior service granted shall become, 402 at retirement, the liability of the other system, if the prior 403 service or employment was in a capacity that is covered by that 404 405 system.

The provisions of this division shall not cancel any prior service granted a member by the school employees retirement board prior to August 1, 1959.

(D) "Total service," "total service credit," or "Ohio 409 service credit" means all contributing service of a member of 410 the school employees retirement system, and all prior service, 411 computed as provided in this chapter, and all service 412 established pursuant to sections 3309.31, 3309.311, and 3309.33 413 of the Revised Code. In addition, "total service" includes any 414 period, not in excess of three years, during which a member was 415 out of service and receiving benefits from the state insurance 416 fund, provided the injury or incapacitation was the direct 417

result of school employment.	418
(E) "Member" means any employee, except an SERS retirant	419
or other system retirant as defined in section 3309.341 of the	420
Revised Code, who has established membership in the school	421
employees retirement system. "Member" includes a disability	422
benefit recipient.	423
(F) "Contributor" means any person who has an account in	424
the employees' savings fund. When used in the sections listed in	425
division (B) of section 3309.82 of the Revised Code,	426
"contributor" includes any person participating in a plan	427
established under section 3309.81 of the Revised Code.	428
(G) "Retirant" means any former member who retired and is	429
receiving a retirement allowance under section 3309.36 or	430
3309.381 or former section 3309.38 of the Revised Code.	431
(H) "Beneficiary" or "beneficiaries" means the estate or a	432
person or persons who, as the result of the death of a	433
contributor or retirant, qualifies for or is receiving some	434
right or benefit under this chapter.	435
(I) "Interest," as specified in division (E) of section	436
3309.60 of the Revised Code, means interest at the rates for the	437
respective funds and accounts as the school employees retirement	438
board may determine from time to time.	439
(J) "Accumulated contributions" means the sum of all	440
amounts credited to a contributor's account in the employees'	441
savings fund together with any regular interest credited thereon	442
at the rates approved by the retirement board prior to	443
retirement.	444
(K) "Final average salary" means the sum of the annual	445
compensation for the three highest years of compensation for	446

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which contributions were made by the member, divided by three.	447
If the member has a partial year of contributing service in the	448
year in which the member terminates employment and the partial	449
year is at a rate of compensation that is higher than the rate	450
of compensation for any one of the highest three years of annual	451
earnings, the board shall substitute the compensation earned for	452
the partial year for the compensation earned for a similar	453
fractional portion in the lowest of the three high years of	454
annual compensation before dividing by three. If a member has	455
less than three years of contributing membership, the final	456
average salary shall be the total compensation divided by the	457
total number of years, including any fraction of a year, of	458
contributing service.	459
(L) "Annuity" means payments for life derived from	460
contributions made by a contributor and paid from the annuity	461
and pension reserve fund as provided in this chapter. All	462
annuities shall be paid in twelve equal monthly installments.	463
(M)(1) "Pension" means annual payments for life derived	464
from appropriations made by an employer and paid from the	465
employers' trust fund or the annuity and pension reserve fund.	466
All pensions shall be paid in twelve equal monthly installments.	467
(2) "Disability retirement" means retirement as provided	468
in section 3309.40 of the Revised Code.	469
(N) "Retirement allowance" means the pension plus the	470
annuity.	471
(O)(1) "Benefit" means a payment, other than a retirement	472
allowance or the annuity paid under section 3309.344 of the	473
Revised Code, payable from the accumulated contributions of the	474

member or the employer, or both, under this chapter and includes

a disability allowance or disability benefit.	476
(2) "Disability allowance" means an allowance paid on	477
account of disability under section 3309.401 of the Revised	478
Code.	479
(3) "Disability benefit" means a benefit paid as	480
disability retirement under section 3309.40 of the Revised Code,	481
as a disability allowance under section 3309.401 of the Revised	482
Code, or as a disability benefit under section 3309.35 of the	483
Revised Code.	484
(P) "Annuity reserve" means the present value, computed	485
upon the basis of mortality tables adopted by the school	486
employees retirement board, of all payments to be made on	487
account of any annuity, or benefit in lieu of any annuity,	488
granted to a retirant.	489
(Q) "Pension reserve" means the present value, computed	490
upon the basis of mortality tables adopted by the school	491
employees retirement board, of all payments to be made on	492
account of any pension, or benefit in lieu of any pension,	493
granted to a retirant or a beneficiary.	494
(R) "Year" means the year beginning the first day of July	495
and ending with the thirtieth day of June next following.	496
(S) "Local district pension system" means any school	497
employees' pension fund created in any school district of the	498
state prior to September 1, 1937.	499
(T) "Employer contribution" means the amount paid by an	500
employer as determined under section 3309.49 of the Revised	501
Code.	502
(U) "Fiduciary" means a person who does any of the	503

following:	504
(1) Exercises any discretionary authority or control with	505
respect to the management of the system, or with respect to the	506
management or disposition of its assets;	507
(2) Renders investment advice for a fee, direct or	508
indirect, with respect to money or property of the system;	509
(3) Has any discretionary authority or responsibility in	510
the administration of the system.	511
(V)(1) Except as otherwise provided in this division,	512
"compensation" means all salary, wages, and other earnings paid	513
to a contributor by reason of employment. The salary, wages, and	514
other earnings shall be determined prior to determination of the	515
amount required to be contributed to the employees' savings fund	516
under section 3309.47 of the Revised Code and without regard to	517
whether any of the salary, wages, or other earnings are treated	518
as deferred income for federal income tax purposes.	519
(2) Compensation does not include any of the following:	520
(a) Payments for accrued but unused sick leave or personal	521
leave, including payments made under a plan established pursuant	522
to section 124.39 of the Revised Code or any other plan	523
established by the employer;	524
(b) Payments made for accrued but unused vacation leave,	525
including payments made pursuant to section 124.13 of the	526
Revised Code or a plan established by the employer;	527
(c) Payments made for vacation pay covering concurrent	528
periods for which other salary or compensation is also paid or	529
during which benefits are paid under this chapter;	530
(d) Amounts paid by the employer to provide life	531

insurance, sickness, accident, endowment, health, medical,	532
hospital, dental, or surgical coverage, or other insurance for	533
the contributor or the contributor's family, or amounts paid by	534
the employer to the contributor in lieu of providing the	535
insurance;	536
(e) Incidental benefits, including lodging, food, laundry,	537
parking, or services furnished by the employer, use of the	538
employer's property or equipment, and reimbursement for job-	539
related expenses authorized by the employer, including moving	540
and travel expenses and expenses related to professional	541
development;	542
(f) Payments made to or on behalf of a contributor that	543
are in excess of the annual compensation that may be taken into	544
account by the retirement system under division (a)(17) of	545
section 401 of the "Internal Revenue Code of 1986," 100 Stat.	546
2085, 26 U.S.C.A. 401(a)(17), as amended. For a contributor who	547
first establishes membership before July 1, 1996, the annual	548
compensation that may be taken into account by the retirement	549
system shall be determined under division (d)(3) of section	550
13212 of the "Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993," Pub.	551
L. No. 103-66, 107 Stat. 472;	552
(g) Payments made under division (B), (C), or (E) of	553
section 5923.05 of the Revised Code, Section 4 of Substitute	554
Senate Bill No. 3 of the 119th general assembly, Section 3 of	555
Amended Substitute Senate Bill No. 164 of the 124th general	556
assembly, or Amended Substitute House Bill No. 405 of the 124th	557
<pre>general assembly;</pre>	558
(h) Anything of value received by the contributor that is	559
based on or attributable to retirement or an agreement to	560

retire, except that payments made on or before January 1, 1989,

Section 4. The version of section 3307.01 of the Revised

Code that is scheduled to take effect December 29, 2023, is

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date of this section.

Am. H. B. No. 78 As Passed by the House presented in this act as a composite of the section as amended by both H.B. 33 of the 135th General Assembly and S.B. 131 of the 134th General Assembly. The General Assembly, applying the principle stated in division (B) of section 1.52 of the Revised Code that amendments are to be harmonized if reasonably capable of simultaneous operation, finds that the composite is the Page 22 Page 22 Page 22

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resulting version of the section in effect prior to the

effective date of the section as presented in this act.