



**House Ways and Means General Fund Reported  
Substitute for HB71**

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

A BILL  
TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

Relating to the Retirement Systems of Alabama; to amend Section 36-27-59, Code of Alabama 1975, as amended by Acts 2023-101 and 2023-533 of the 2023 Regular Session, to allow certain emergency medical services **personnel** to purchase hazardous duty time in the Employees' Retirement System of Alabama in the same manner as certain firefighters, law enforcement officers, and correctional officers purchase hazardous duty time in either the Employees' Retirement System of Alabama or the Teachers' Retirement System of Alabama.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Section 36-27-59 of the Code of Alabama 1975, as amended by Act 2023-101 and Act 2023-533 of the 2023 Regular Session, is amended to read as follows:

"§36-27-59

(a) When used in this section, the following terms ~~shall~~ have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

(1) CORRECTIONAL OFFICER. A full-time correctional officer who is certified as a correctional officer by the Alabama Peace Officers' Standards and Training Commission. For



**House Ways and Means General Fund Reported  
Substitute for HB71**

29 the purposes of this section, the term also includes the  
30 Commissioner of Corrections, as defined in Section 14-1-1.3,  
31 and a deputy commissioner of corrections, as defined in  
32 Section 14-1-1.5, who has earned and maintains Alabama Peace  
33 Officers' Standards and Training Commission certification as a  
34 correctional officer or law enforcement officer.

35 (2) EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PERSONNEL. Full-time  
36 emergency medical services personnel employed by a local unit  
37 of the Employees' Retirement System under Section 36-27-6, who  
38 are certified as emergency medical services personnel by the  
39 State Board of Health.

40 ~~(2)~~ (3) FIREFIGHTER. A full-time firefighter employed  
41 with the State of Alabama, a municipal fire department, or a  
42 fire district who has a level one minimum standard  
43 certification by the Firefighters Personnel Standards and  
44 Education Commission, or a firefighter employed by the Alabama  
45 Forestry Commission who has been certified by the State  
46 Forester as having met the wild land firefighter training  
47 standard of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group.

48 ~~(3)~~ (4) LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER. A full-time law  
49 enforcement officer, not covered as a state policeman,  
50 employed with any state agency, department, board, commission,  
51 or institution or a full-time law enforcement officer employed  
52 by a local unit of the Employees' Retirement System of Alabama  
53 under Section 36-27-6 who is certified as a law enforcement  
54 officer by the Alabama Peace Officers' Standards and Training  
55 Commission.

56 (b) (1) Any firefighter, law enforcement officer, or



**House Ways and Means General Fund Reported  
Substitute for HB71**

57 correctional officer, or other emergency medical services  
58 personnel covered under the Employees' Retirement System of  
59 Alabama or the Teachers' Retirement System of Alabama as a  
60 Tier I plan member, upon attainment of the requisite years of  
61 creditable service or who otherwise qualifies for service or  
62 disability retirement, shall be awarded one year of hazardous  
63 duty time for every five years of service as a firefighter, a  
64 law enforcement officer, or a correctional officer, or other  
65 emergency medical services personnel provided that the  
66 individual has made the additional contribution provided in  
67 subdivision (2) or paid the additional contribution required  
68 in subsection (c) for each year of service used in determining  
69 hazardous duty time for the individual. Proportional credit  
70 shall be awarded for any period of service less than five  
71 years.

72 (2) Effective January 1, 2001, and each pay period  
73 thereafter, each active employee who is a firefighter, law  
74 enforcement officer, or correctional officer, as defined in  
75 subsection (a), shall contribute to the Teachers' or  
76 Employees' Retirement System of Alabama six percent ~~(6%)~~ of  
77 his or her earnable compensation. For all pay dates beginning  
78 on or after October 1, 2011, each active employee who is a  
79 firefighter, law enforcement officer, or correctional officer,  
80 as defined in subsection (a), except those employees  
81 participating pursuant to Section 36-27-6, shall contribute to  
82 the Teachers' or Employees' Retirement System of Alabama eight  
83 and one-quarter percent ~~(8.25%)~~ of his or her earnable  
84 compensation. For all pay dates beginning on or after October



**House Ways and Means General Fund Reported  
Substitute for HB71**

85 1, 2012, each active employee who is a Tier I plan member and  
86 who is a firefighter, law enforcement officer, or correctional  
87 officer, as defined in subsection (a), except those employees  
88 participating pursuant to Section 36-27-6, shall contribute to  
89 the Teachers' or Employees' Retirement System of Alabama eight  
90 and one-half percent ~~(8.5%)~~ of his or her earnable  
91 compensation. Any employer participating under Section  
92 36-27-6, by adoption of a resolution, may elect for the  
93 increases in employee contributions provided by Act 2011-676  
94 to be withheld from the earnable compensation of employees of  
95 the employer.

96 (3) For all pay dates beginning on or after October 1,  
97 2024, all active employees who are considered emergency  
98 medical services personnel employed by an employer  
99 participating under Section 36-27-6 shall contribute the  
100 following:

101 a. Six percent of their earnable compensation to the  
102 Employees' Retirement System of Alabama if their employer has  
103 not elected to increase employee contributions as provided by  
104 Act 2011-676.

105 b. Eight and one-half percent of their earnable  
106 compensation to the Employees' Retirement System of Alabama if  
107 their employer has elected to increase employee contributions  
108 as provided by Act 2011-676.

109 (c) Any member of the Employees' Retirement System of  
110 Alabama or the Teachers' Retirement System of Alabama eligible  
111 under subsection (b) may receive credit for his or her  
112 eligible prior service provided the member pays to the



**House Ways and Means General Fund Reported  
Substitute for HB71**

113 Secretary-Treasurer of the Employees' Retirement System of  
114 Alabama or the Secretary-Treasurer of the Teachers' Retirement  
115 System of Alabama one percent ~~(1%)~~ of his or her current  
116 annual earnable compensation or previous year's annual  
117 earnable compensation, whichever is higher, for each year of  
118 claimed credit. The member may purchase his or her claimed  
119 credit in increments of five years, unless the total service  
120 credit is less than five years, in which case the service  
121 shall be purchased in its entirety. The member shall provide  
122 certification from each employing agency, on forms prescribed  
123 by the Teachers' or Employees' Retirement System of Alabama,  
124 of each year of claimed service, as a prerequisite to payment  
125 under this section.

126 (d) This section shall not apply to any Tier II plan  
127 member.

128 (e) The designation of the Commissioner of Corrections  
129 and a deputy commissioner of corrections as correctional  
130 officers or law enforcement officers for purposes of this  
131 section shall be applied retroactively to March 1, 2022."

132 Section 2. This act shall become effective on October  
133 1, 2024.