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## SENATE BILL 5349

State of Washington 68th Legislature 2023 Regular Session

By Senators Conway, Robinson, C. Wilson, Keiser, and Hasegawa; by request of Select Committee on Pension Policy

- 1 AN ACT Relating to repealing some postretirement employment
- 2 restrictions; amending RCW 41.32.765, 41.32.802, 41.32.862,
- 3 41.32.875, 41.35.060, 41.35.420, 41.35.680, 41.40.630, and 41.40.820;
- 4 and providing an effective date.
- 5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:
- 6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 41.32.765 and 2012 1st sp.s. c 7 s 1 are each 7 amended to read as follows:
  - (1) NORMAL RETIREMENT. Any member with at least five service credit years of service who has attained at least age sixty-five shall be eligible to retire and to receive a retirement allowance computed according to the provisions of RCW 41.32.760.
  - (2) EARLY RETIREMENT. Any member who has completed at least twenty service credit years of service who has attained at least age fifty-five shall be eligible to retire and to receive a retirement allowance computed according to the provisions of RCW 41.32.760, except that a member retiring pursuant to this subsection shall have the retirement allowance actuarially reduced to reflect the difference in the number of years between age at retirement and the attainment of age sixty-five.
- 20 (3) ALTERNATE EARLY RETIREMENT.

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- (a) Any member who has completed at least thirty service credit years and has attained age fifty-five shall be eligible to retire and to receive a retirement allowance computed according to the provisions of RCW 41.32.760, except that a member retiring pursuant to this subsection shall have the retirement allowance reduced by three percent per year to reflect the difference in the number of years between age at retirement and the attainment of age sixty-five.
- (b) On or after September 1, 2008, any member who has completed at least thirty service credit years and has attained age fifty-five shall be eligible to retire and to receive a retirement allowance computed according to the provisions of RCW 41.32.760, except that a member retiring pursuant to this subsection shall have the retirement allowance reduced as follows:

14	Retirement	Percent
15	Age	Reduction
16	55	20%
17	56	17%
18	57	14%
19	58	11%
20	59	8%
21	60	5%
22	61	2%
23	62	0%
24	63	0%
25	64	0%

- ((Any)) (i) Until December 31, 2023, any member who retires under the provisions of this subsection is ineligible for the postretirement employment provisions of RCW 41.32.802(2) until the retired member has reached sixty-five years of age.
- (ii) Beginning January 1, 2024, any current or future retiree under the provisions of this subsection may utilize the postretirement employment provisions of RCW 41.32.802(2) for up to 867 hours per year.
  - (iii) For purposes of this subsection, employment with an employer prior to the retired member reaching sixty-five years of age also includes any personal service contract, service ((by)) for an

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employer as a temporary or project employee, or any other similar compensated relationship with any employer included under the provisions of RCW 41.32.800(1). After reaching sixty-five years of age, employment with an employer only includes employers as defined in RCW 41.32.010.

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The subsidized reductions for alternate early retirement in this subsection as set forth in section 2, chapter 491, Laws of 2007 were intended by the legislature as replacement benefits for gain-sharing. Until there is legal certainty with respect to the repeal of chapter RCW, the right to retire under this noncontractual, and the legislature reserves the right to amend or repeal this subsection. Legal certainty includes, but is not limited to, the expiration of any: Applicable limitations on actions; and periods of time for seeking appellate review, up to and including reconsideration by the Washington supreme court and the supreme court of the United States. Until that time, eligible members may still retire under this subsection, and upon receipt of installment of a retirement allowance computed under this subsection, the resulting benefit becomes contractual for the recipient. If the repeal of chapter 41.31A RCW is held to be invalid in a final determination of a court of law, and the court orders reinstatement of gain-sharing or other alternate benefits as a remedy, then retirement benefits for any member who has completed at least thirty service credit years and has attained age fifty-five but has not yet received the first installment of a retirement allowance under this subsection shall be computed using the reductions in (a) of this subsection.

(c) Members who first become employed by an employer in an eligible position on or after May 1, 2013, are not eligible for the alternate early retirement provisions of (a) or (b) of this subsection. Any member who first becomes employed by an employer in an eligible position on or after May 1, 2013, and has completed at least thirty service credit years and has attained age fifty-five shall be eligible to retire and to receive a retirement allowance computed according to the provisions of RCW 41.32.760, except that a member retiring pursuant to this subsection shall have the retirement allowance reduced by five percent per year to reflect the difference in the number of years between age at retirement and the attainment of age sixty-five.

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**Sec. 2.** RCW 41.32.802 and 2022 c 110 s 2 are each amended to 2 read as follows:

- (1) (a) If a retiree enters employment with an employer sooner than one calendar month after his or her accrual date, the retiree's monthly retirement allowance will be reduced by five and one-half percent for every seven hours worked during that month. This reduction will be applied each month until the retiree remains absent from employment with an employer for one full calendar month.
- (b) The benefit reduction provided in (a) of this subsection will accrue for a maximum of one hundred forty hours per month. Any benefit reduction over one hundred percent will be applied to the benefit the retiree is eligible to receive in subsequent months.
- (2) (a) A retiree who has satisfied the break in employment requirement of subsection (1) of this section, may work up to eight hundred sixty-seven hours per calendar year in an eligible position, as defined in RCW 41.32.010, 41.35.010, 41.37.010, or 41.40.010, or as a firefighter or law enforcement officer, as defined in RCW 41.26.030, or in a position covered by annuity and retirement income plans offered by institutions of higher education pursuant to RCW 28B.10.400, without suspension of his or her benefit.
- (b) ((A retiree who has retired under the alternate early retirement provisions of RCW 41.32.765(3)(b) may be employed with an employer for up to 867 hours per calendar year without suspension of his or her benefit, provided that: (i) The retired teacher reenters employment more than one calendar month after his or her accrual date and after June 9, 2016; and (ii) the retired teacher is employed in a nonadministrative capacity.
- (c))(i) Between March 23, 2022, and July 1, 2025, a retiree who reenters employment more than one month after his or her accrual date, and who enters service in a school district in a nonadministrative position shall continue to receive pension payments while engaged in such service, until the retiree has rendered service for more than 1,040 hours in a calendar year.
- (ii) Between March 23, 2022, and July 1, 2025, a retiree that retired before January 1, 2022, and who enters service in a second-class school district, as defined in RCW 28A.300.065, as either a district superintendent or an in-school administrator shall continue to receive pension payments while engaged in such service, until the retiree has rendered service for more than 1,040 hours in a calendar year.

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(iii) The legislature reserves the right to amend or repeal this subsection (2)(((e))) in the future and no member or beneficiary has a contractual right to be employed for more than 867 hours in a calendar year without a reduction of his or her pension.

- 5 (3) If the retiree opts to reestablish membership under RCW 41.32.044, he or she terminates his or her retirement status and immediately becomes a member. Retirement benefits shall not accrue during the period of membership and the individual shall make contributions and receive membership credit. Such a member shall have the right to again retire if eligible.
- **Sec. 3.** RCW 41.32.862 and 2022 c 110 s 3 are each amended to 12 read as follows:
  - (1) (a) If a retiree enters employment with an employer sooner than one calendar month after his or her accrual date, the retiree's monthly retirement allowance will be reduced by five and one-half percent for every seven hours worked during that month. This reduction will be applied each month until the retiree remains absent from employment with an employer for one full calendar month.
  - (b) The benefit reduction provided in (a) of this subsection will accrue for a maximum of one hundred forty hours per month. Any benefit reduction over one hundred percent will be applied to the benefit the retiree is eligible to receive in subsequent months.
  - (2)(a) A retiree who has satisfied the break in employment requirement of subsection (1) of this section, may work up to eight hundred sixty-seven hours per calendar year in an eligible position, as defined in RCW 41.32.010, 41.35.010, 41.37.010, or 41.40.010, or as a firefighter or law enforcement officer, as defined in RCW 41.26.030, or in a position covered by annuity and retirement income plans offered by institutions of higher education pursuant to RCW 28B.10.400, without suspension of his or her benefit.
  - (b) ((A retiree who has retired under the alternate early retirement provisions of RCW 41.32.875(3)(b) may be employed with an employer for up to 867 hours per calendar year without suspension of his or her benefit, provided that: (i) The retired teacher reenters employment more than one calendar month after his or her accrual date and after June 9, 2016; and (ii) the retired teacher is employed in a nonadministrative capacity.
  - (c))(i) Between March 23, 2022, and July 1, 2025, a retired teacher or retired administrator who reenters employment more than

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1 one month after his or her accrual date, and who enters service in a school district in a nonadministrative position shall continue to 2 receive pension payments while engaged in such service, until the 3 retiree has rendered service for more than 1,040 hours in a calendar 4 5 year.

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- (ii) Between March 23, 2022, and July 1, 2025, a retiree that retired before January 1, 2022, and who enters service in a secondclass school district, as defined in RCW 28A.300.065, as either a district superintendent or an in-school administrator shall continue to receive pension payments while engaged in such service, until the retiree has rendered service for more than 1,040 hours in a calendar year.
- (iii) The legislature reserves the right to amend or repeal this subsection (2) (((c))) in the future and no member or beneficiary has a contractual right to be employed for more than 867 hours in a calendar year without a reduction of his or her pension.
- (3) If the retiree opts to reestablish membership under RCW 41.32.044, he or she terminates his or her retirement status and immediately becomes a member. Retirement benefits shall not accrue during the period of membership and the individual shall make contributions and receive membership credit. Such a member shall have 21 the right to again retire if eligible.
- 23 Sec. 4. RCW 41.32.875 and 2012 1st sp.s. c 7 s 2 are each 24 amended to read as follows:
- 25 (1) NORMAL RETIREMENT. Any member who is at least age sixty-five 26 and who has:
  - (a) Completed ten service credit years; or
- 28 (b) Completed five service credit years, including twelve service credit months after attaining age forty-four; or 29
- 30 (c) Completed five service credit years by July 1, 1996, under plan 2 and who transferred to plan 3 under RCW 41.32.817; 31
- shall be eligible to retire and to receive a retirement allowance 32 computed according to the provisions of RCW 41.32.840. 33
  - (2) EARLY RETIREMENT. Any member who has attained at least age fifty-five and has completed at least ten years of service shall be eligible to retire and to receive a retirement allowance computed according to the provisions of RCW 41.32.840, except that a member retiring pursuant to this subsection shall have the retirement allowance actuarially reduced to reflect the difference in the number

p. 6 SB 5349 of years between age at retirement and the attainment of age sixty-five.

(3) ALTERNATE EARLY RETIREMENT.

- (a) Any member who has completed at least thirty service credit years and has attained age fifty-five shall be eligible to retire and to receive a retirement allowance computed according to the provisions of RCW 41.32.840, except that a member retiring pursuant to this subsection shall have the retirement allowance reduced by three percent per year to reflect the difference in the number of years between age at retirement and the attainment of age sixty-five.
- (b) On or after September 1, 2008, any member who has completed at least thirty service credit years and has attained age fifty-five shall be eligible to retire and to receive a retirement allowance computed according to the provisions of RCW 41.32.840, except that a member retiring pursuant to this subsection shall have the retirement allowance reduced as follows:

17	Retirement	Percent
18	Age	Reduction
19	55	20%
20	56	17%
21	57	14%
22	58	11%
23	59	8%
24	60	5%
25	61	2%
26	62	0%
27	63	0%
28	64	0%

((Any)) (i) Until December 31, 2023, any member who retires under the provisions of this subsection is ineligible for the postretirement employment provisions of RCW 41.32.862(2) until the retired member has reached sixty-five years of age.

(ii) Beginning January 1, 2024, any current or future retiree under the provisions of this subsection may utilize the postretirement employment provisions of RCW 41.32.862(2) for up to 867 hours per year.

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(iii) For purposes of this subsection, employment with an employer prior to the retired member reaching sixty-five years of age also includes any personal service contract, service ((by)) for an employer as a temporary or project employee, or any other similar compensated relationship with any employer included under the provisions of RCW 41.32.860(1). After reaching sixty-five years of age, employment with an employer only includes employers as defined in RCW 41.32.010.

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The subsidized reductions for alternate early retirement in this subsection as set forth in section 4, chapter 491, Laws of 2007 were intended by the legislature as replacement benefits for gain-sharing. Until there is legal certainty with respect to the repeal of chapter 41.31A RCW, the right to retire under this subsection noncontractual, and the legislature reserves the right to amend or repeal this subsection. Legal certainty includes, but is not limited to, the expiration of any: Applicable limitations on actions; and periods of time for seeking appellate review, up to and including reconsideration by the Washington supreme court and the supreme court of the United States. Until that time, eligible members may still retire under this subsection, and upon receipt of the installment of a retirement allowance computed under this subsection, the resulting benefit becomes contractual for the recipient. If the repeal of chapter 41.31A RCW is held to be invalid in a final determination of a court of law, and the court orders reinstatement of gain-sharing or other alternate benefits as a remedy, then retirement benefits for any member who has completed at least thirty service credit years and has attained age fifty-five but has not yet received the first installment of a retirement allowance under this subsection shall be computed using the reductions in (a) of this subsection.

(c) Members who first become employed by an employer in an eligible position on or after May 1, 2013, are not eligible for the alternate early retirement provisions of (a) or (b) of this subsection. Any member who first becomes employed by an employer in an eligible position on or after May 1, 2013, and has completed at least thirty service credit years and has attained age fifty-five shall be eligible to retire and to receive a retirement allowance computed according to the provisions of RCW 41.32.840, except that a member retiring pursuant to this subsection shall have the retirement allowance reduced by five percent per year to reflect the difference

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- in the number of years between age at retirement and the attainment of age sixty-five.
- **Sec. 5.** RCW 41.35.060 and 2022 c 110 s 4 are each amended to 4 read as follows:

- (1) (a) If a retiree enters employment with an employer sooner than one calendar month after his or her accrual date, the retiree's monthly retirement allowance will be reduced by five and one-half percent for every eight hours worked during that month. This reduction will be applied each month until the retiree remains absent from employment with an employer for one full calendar month.
- (b) The benefit reduction provided in (a) of this subsection will accrue for a maximum of one hundred sixty hours per month. Any benefit reduction over one hundred percent will be applied to the benefit the retiree is eligible to receive in subsequent months.
- (2) (a) A retiree who has satisfied the break in employment requirement of subsection (1) of this section may work up to eight hundred sixty-seven hours per calendar year in an eligible position, as defined in RCW 41.32.010, 41.35.010, 41.37.010, or 41.40.010, or as a firefighter or law enforcement officer, as defined in RCW 41.26.030, or in a position covered by annuity and retirement income plans offered by institutions of higher education pursuant to RCW 28B.10.400, without suspension of his or her benefit.
- (b) ((A retiree in the school employees' retirement system plan 2 or plan 3 who has retired under the alternate early retirement provisions of RCW 41.35.420(3)(b) may be employed with an employer for up to 867 hours per calendar year without suspension of his or her benefit, provided that: (i) The retiree reenters employment more than one calendar month after his or her accrual date; and (ii) the retiree is employed in a nonadministrative position.
- (c))) Between March 23, 2022, and July 1, 2025, a retiree, including a retiree who has retired under the alternate early retirement provisions of RCW 41.35.420(3)(b) or 41.35.680(3)(b), who reenters employment more than one month after his or her accrual date, and who enters service in a school district in a nonadministrative position shall continue to receive pension payments while engaged in such service, until the retiree has rendered service for more than 1,040 hours in a calendar year. The legislature reserves the right to amend or repeal this subsection (2)(((e))) (b) in the future and no member or beneficiary has a contractual right to

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be employed for more than 867 hours in a calendar year without a reduction of his or her pension.

- (3) If the retiree opts to reestablish membership under RCW 41.35.030, he or she terminates his or her retirement status and becomes a member. Retirement benefits shall not accrue during the period of membership and the individual shall make contributions and receive membership credit. Such a member shall have the right to again retire if eligible in accordance with RCW 41.35.420 or 41.35.680. However, if the right to retire is exercised to become effective before the member has rendered two uninterrupted years of service, the retirement formula and survivor options the member had at the time of the member's previous retirement shall be reinstated.
- **Sec. 6.** RCW 41.35.420 and 2012 1st sp.s. c 7 s 3 are each 14 amended to read as follows:
  - (1) NORMAL RETIREMENT. Any member with at least five service credit years who has attained at least age sixty-five shall be eligible to retire and to receive a retirement allowance computed according to the provisions of RCW 41.35.400.
  - (2) EARLY RETIREMENT. Any member who has completed at least twenty service credit years and has attained age fifty-five shall be eligible to retire and to receive a retirement allowance computed according to the provisions of RCW 41.35.400, except that a member retiring pursuant to this subsection shall have the retirement allowance actuarially reduced to reflect the difference in the number of years between age at retirement and the attainment of age sixty-five.
    - (3) ALTERNATE EARLY RETIREMENT.

- (a) Any member who has completed at least thirty service credit years and has attained age fifty-five shall be eligible to retire and to receive a retirement allowance computed according to the provisions of RCW 41.35.400, except that a member retiring pursuant to this subsection shall have the retirement allowance reduced by three percent per year to reflect the difference in the number of years between age at retirement and the attainment of age sixty-five.
- (b) On or after September 1, 2008, any member who has completed at least thirty service credit years and has attained age fifty-five shall be eligible to retire and to receive a retirement allowance computed according to the provisions of RCW 41.35.400, except that a

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1 member retiring pursuant to this subsection shall have the retirement 2 allowance reduced as follows:

3	Retirement	Percent
4	Age	Reduction
5	55	20%
6	56	17%
7	57	14%
8	58	11%
9	59	8%
10	60	5%
11	61	2%
12	62	0%
13	63	0%
14	64	0%

((Any)) (i) Until December 31, 2023, any member who retires under the provisions of this subsection is ineligible for the postretirement employment provisions of RCW 41.35.060(2) until the retired member has reached sixty-five years of age.

(ii) Beginning January 1, 2024, any current or future retiree under the provisions of this subsection may utilize the postretirement provisions of RCW 41.35.060(2) for up to 867 hours per year.

(iii) For purposes of this subsection, employment with an employer prior to the retired member reaching sixty-five years of age also includes any personal service contract, service ((by)) for an employer as a temporary or project employee, or any other similar compensated relationship with any employer included under the provisions of RCW 41.35.230(1). After reaching sixty-five years of age, employment with an employer only includes employers as defined in RCW 41.35.010.

The subsidized reductions for alternate early retirement in this subsection as set forth in section 6, chapter 491, Laws of 2007 were intended by the legislature as replacement benefits for gain-sharing. Until there is legal certainty with respect to the repeal of chapter 41.31A RCW, the right to retire under this subsection is noncontractual, and the legislature reserves the right to amend or

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repeal this subsection. Legal certainty includes, but is not limited 1 to, the expiration of any: Applicable limitations on actions; and 2 periods of time for seeking appellate review, up to and including 3 reconsideration by the Washington supreme court and the supreme court 4 of the United States. Until that time, eligible members may still 5 6 retire under this subsection, and upon receipt of the 7 installment of a retirement allowance computed under this subsection, the resulting benefit becomes contractual for the recipient. If the 8 repeal of chapter 41.31A RCW is held to be invalid in a final 9 determination of a court of law, and the court orders reinstatement 10 11 of gain-sharing or other alternate benefits as a remedy, then 12 retirement benefits for any member who has completed at least thirty service credit years and has attained age fifty-five but has not yet 13 received the first installment of a retirement allowance under this 14 subsection shall be computed using the reductions in (a) of this 15 16 subsection.

- (c) Members who first become employed by an employer in an eligible position on or after May 1, 2013, are not eligible for the alternate early retirement provisions of (a) or (b) of this subsection. Any member who first becomes employed by an employer in an eligible position on or after May 1, 2013, and has completed at least thirty service credit years and has attained age fifty-five shall be eligible to retire and to receive a retirement allowance computed according to the provisions of RCW 41.35.400, except that a member retiring pursuant to this subsection shall have the retirement allowance reduced by five percent per year to reflect the difference in the number of years between age at retirement and the attainment of age sixty-five.
- 29 **Sec. 7.** RCW 41.35.680 and 2012 1st sp.s. c 7 s 4 are each 30 amended to read as follows:
- 31 (1) NORMAL RETIREMENT. Any member who is at least age sixty-five 32 and who has:
  - (a) Completed ten service credit years; or

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- (b) Completed five service credit years, including twelve service credit months after attaining age forty-four; or
- 36 (c) Completed five service credit years by September 1, 2000, 37 under the public employees' retirement system plan 2 and who 38 transferred to plan 3 under RCW 41.35.510;

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shall be eligible to retire and to receive a retirement allowance computed according to the provisions of RCW 41.35.620.

- (2) EARLY RETIREMENT. Any member who has attained at least age fifty-five and has completed at least ten years of service shall be eligible to retire and to receive a retirement allowance computed according to the provisions of RCW 41.35.620, except that a member retiring pursuant to this subsection shall have the retirement allowance actuarially reduced to reflect the difference in the number of years between age at retirement and the attainment of age sixty-five.
  - (3) ALTERNATE EARLY RETIREMENT.

- (a) Any member who has completed at least thirty service credit years and has attained age fifty-five shall be eligible to retire and to receive a retirement allowance computed according to the provisions of RCW 41.35.620, except that a member retiring pursuant to this subsection shall have the retirement allowance reduced by three percent per year to reflect the difference in the number of years between age at retirement and the attainment of age sixty-five.
- (b) On or after September 1, 2008, any member who has completed at least thirty service credit years and has attained age fifty-five shall be eligible to retire and to receive a retirement allowance computed according to the provisions of RCW 41.35.620, except that a member retiring pursuant to this subsection shall have the retirement allowance reduced as follows:

25	Retirement	Percent
26	Age	Reduction
27	55	20%
28	56	17%
29	57	14%
30	58	11%
31	59	8%
32	60	5%
33	61	2%
34	62	0%
35	63	0%
36	64	0%

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((Any)) (i) Until December 31, 2023, any member who retires under the provisions of this subsection is ineligible for the postretirement employment provisions of RCW 41.35.060(2) until the retired member has reached sixty-five years of age.

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- (ii) Beginning January 1, 2024, any current or future retiree under the provisions of this subsection may utilize the postretirement employment provisions of RCW 41.35.060(2).
- (iii) For purposes of this subsection, employment with an employer prior to the retired member reaching sixty-five years of age also includes any personal service contract, service ((by)) for an employer as a temporary or project employee, or any other similar compensated relationship with any employer included under the provisions of RCW 41.35.230(1). After reaching sixty-five years of age, employment with an employer only includes employers as defined in RCW 41.35.010.

The subsidized reductions for alternate early retirement in this subsection as set forth in section 8, chapter 491, Laws of 2007 were intended by the legislature as replacement benefits for gain-sharing. Until there is legal certainty with respect to the repeal of chapter 41.31A RCW, the right to retire under this subsection noncontractual, and the legislature reserves the right to amend or repeal this subsection. Legal certainty includes, but is not limited to, the expiration of any: Applicable limitations on actions; and periods of time for seeking appellate review, up to and including reconsideration by the Washington supreme court and the supreme court of the United States. Until that time, eligible members may still retire under this subsection, and upon receipt of the installment of a retirement allowance computed under this subsection, the resulting benefit becomes contractual for the recipient. If the repeal of chapter 41.31A RCW is held to be invalid in a final determination of a court of law, and the court orders reinstatement of gain-sharing or other alternate benefits as a remedy, retirement benefits for any member who has completed at least thirty service credit years and has attained age fifty-five but has not yet received the first installment of a retirement allowance under this subsection shall be computed using the reductions in (a) of this subsection.

(c) Members who first become employed by an employer in an eligible position on or after May 1, 2013, are not eligible for the

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alternate early retirement provisions of (a) or (b) of this subsection. Any member who first becomes employed by an employer in an eligible position on or after May 1, 2013, and has completed at least thirty service credit years and has attained age fifty-five shall be eligible to retire and to receive a retirement allowance computed according to the provisions of RCW 41.35.620, except that a member retiring pursuant to this subsection shall have the retirement allowance reduced by five percent per year to reflect the difference in the number of years between age at retirement and the attainment of age sixty-five.

- **Sec. 8.** RCW 41.40.630 and 2012 1st sp.s. c 7 s 5 are each 12 amended to read as follows:
  - (1) NORMAL RETIREMENT. Any member with at least five service credit years who has attained at least age sixty-five shall be eligible to retire and to receive a retirement allowance computed according to the provisions of RCW 41.40.620.
  - (2) EARLY RETIREMENT. Any member who has completed at least twenty service credit years and has attained age fifty-five shall be eligible to retire and to receive a retirement allowance computed according to the provisions of RCW 41.40.620, except that a member retiring pursuant to this subsection shall have the retirement allowance actuarially reduced to reflect the difference in the number of years between age at retirement and the attainment of age sixty-five.
    - (3) ALTERNATE EARLY RETIREMENT.

- (a) Any member who has completed at least thirty service credit years and has attained age fifty-five shall be eligible to retire and to receive a retirement allowance computed according to the provisions of RCW 41.40.620, except that a member retiring pursuant to this subsection shall have the retirement allowance reduced by three percent per year to reflect the difference in the number of years between age at retirement and the attainment of age sixty-five.
- (b) On or after July 1, 2008, any member who has completed at least thirty service credit years and has attained age fifty-five shall be eligible to retire and to receive a retirement allowance computed according to the provisions of RCW 41.40.620, except that a member retiring pursuant to this subsection shall have the retirement allowance reduced as follows:

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1	Retirement	Percent
2	Age	Reduction
3	55	20%
4	56	17%
5	57	14%
6	58	11%
7	59	8%
8	60	5%
9	61	2%
10	62	0%
11	63	0%
12	64	0%

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((Any)) (i) Until December 31, 2023, any member who retires under the provisions of this subsection is ineligible for the postretirement employment provisions of RCW 41.40.037(2)(d) until the retired member has reached sixty-five years of age.

(ii) Beginning January 1, 2024, any current or future retiree under the provisions of this subsection may utilize the postretirement employment provisions of RCW 41.40.037(2) for up to 867 hours per year.

(iii) For purposes of this subsection, employment with an employer prior to the retired member reaching sixty-five years of age also includes any personal service contract, service ((by)) for an employer as a temporary or project employee, or any other similar compensated relationship with any employer included under the provisions of RCW 41.40.690(1). After reaching sixty-five years of age, employment with an employer only includes employers as defined in RCW 41.40.010.

The subsidized reductions for alternate early retirement in this subsection as set forth in section 9, chapter 491, Laws of 2007 were intended by the legislature as replacement benefits for gain-sharing. Until there is legal certainty with respect to the repeal of chapter 41.31A RCW, the riaht to retire under this subsection noncontractual, and the legislature reserves the right to amend or repeal this subsection. Legal certainty includes, but is not limited to, the expiration of any: Applicable limitations on actions; and periods of time for seeking appellate review, up to and including

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reconsideration by the Washington supreme court and the supreme court 1 of the United States. Until that time, eligible members may still 2 3 retire under this subsection, and upon receipt of the first installment of a retirement allowance computed under this subsection, 4 the resulting benefit becomes contractual for the recipient. If the 5 6 repeal of chapter 41.31A RCW is held to be invalid in a final determination of a court of law, and the court orders reinstatement 7 of gain-sharing or other alternate benefits as a remedy, then 8 retirement benefits for any member who has completed at least thirty 9 service credit years and has attained age fifty-five but has not yet 10 received the first installment of a retirement allowance under this 11 12 subsection shall be computed using the reductions in (a) of this subsection. 13

(c) Members who first become employed by an employer in an eligible position on or after May 1, 2013, are not eligible for the alternate early retirement provisions of (a) or (b) of this subsection. Any member who first becomes employed by an employer in an eligible position on or after May 1, 2013, and has completed at least thirty service credit years and has attained age fifty-five shall be eligible to retire and to receive a retirement allowance computed according to the provisions of RCW 41.40.620, except that a member retiring pursuant to this subsection shall have the retirement allowance reduced by five percent per year to reflect the difference in the number of years between age at retirement and the attainment of age sixty-five.

- 26 **Sec. 9.** RCW 41.40.820 and 2012 1st sp.s. c 7 s 6 are each amended to read as follows:
- 28 (1) NORMAL RETIREMENT. Any member who is at least age sixty-five 29 and who has:
  - (a) Completed ten service credit years; or

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- 31 (b) Completed five service credit years, including twelve service 32 credit months after attaining age forty-four; or
- 33 (c) Completed five service credit years by the transfer payment 34 date specified in RCW 41.40.795, under the public employees' 35 retirement system plan 2 and who transferred to plan 3 under RCW 36 41.40.795;
- 37 shall be eligible to retire and to receive a retirement allowance 38 computed according to the provisions of RCW 41.40.790.

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- (2) EARLY RETIREMENT. Any member who has attained at least age fifty-five and has completed at least ten years of service shall be eligible to retire and to receive a retirement allowance computed according to the provisions of RCW 41.40.790, except that a member retiring pursuant to this subsection shall have the retirement allowance actuarially reduced to reflect the difference in the number of years between age at retirement and the attainment of age sixty-five.
  - (3) ALTERNATE EARLY RETIREMENT.

- (a) Any member who has completed at least thirty service credit years and has attained age fifty-five shall be eligible to retire and to receive a retirement allowance computed according to the provisions of RCW 41.40.790, except that a member retiring pursuant to this subsection shall have the retirement allowance reduced by three percent per year to reflect the difference in the number of years between age at retirement and the attainment of age sixty-five.
- (b) On or after July 1, 2008, any member who has completed at least thirty service credit years and has attained age fifty-five shall be eligible to retire and to receive a retirement allowance computed according to the provisions of RCW 41.40.790, except that a member retiring pursuant to this subsection shall have the retirement allowance reduced as follows:

23	Retirement	Percent
24	Age	Reduction
25	55	20%
26	56	17%
27	57	14%
28	58	11%
29	59	8%
30	60	5%
31	61	2%
32	62	0%
33	63	0%
34	64	0%

35 ((Any)) (i) Until December 31, 2023, any member who retires under 36 the provisions of this subsection is ineligible for the

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postretirement employment provisions of RCW 41.40.037(2)(d) until the retired member has reached sixty-five years of age.

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(ii) Beginning January 1, 2024, any current or future retiree under the provisions of this subsection may utilize the postretirement employment provisions of RCW 41.40.037(2) for up to 867 hours per year.

(iii) For purposes of this subsection, employment with an employer prior to the retired member reaching sixty-five years of age also includes any personal service contract, service ((by)) for an employer as a temporary or project employee, or any other similar compensated relationship with any employer included under the provisions of RCW 41.40.850(1). After reaching sixty-five years of age, employment with an employer only includes employers as defined in RCW 41.40.010.

The subsidized reductions for alternate early retirement in this subsection as set forth in section 10, chapter 491, Laws of 2007 were intended by the legislature as replacement benefits for gain-sharing. Until there is legal certainty with respect to the repeal of chapter 41.31A RCW, the right to retire under this subsection noncontractual, and the legislature reserves the right to amend or repeal this subsection. Legal certainty includes, but is not limited to, the expiration of any: Applicable limitations on actions; and periods of time for seeking appellate review, up to and including reconsideration by the Washington supreme court and the supreme court of the United States. Until that time, eligible members may still retire under this subsection, and upon receipt of the installment of a retirement allowance computed under this subsection, the resulting benefit becomes contractual for the recipient. If the repeal of chapter 41.31A RCW is held to be invalid in a final determination of a court of law, and the court orders reinstatement gain-sharing or other alternate benefits as a remedy, then retirement benefits for any member who has completed at least thirty service credit years and has attained age fifty-five but has not yet received the first installment of a retirement allowance under this subsection shall be computed using the reductions in (a) of this subsection.

(c) Members who first become employed by an employer in an eligible position on or after May 1, 2013, are not eligible for the alternate early retirement provisions of (a) or (b) of this subsection. Any member who first becomes employed by an employer in

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- an eligible position on or after May 1, 2013, and has completed at 1 least thirty service credit years and has attained age fifty-five 2 shall be eligible to retire and to receive a retirement allowance 3 computed according to the provisions of RCW 41.40.790, except that a 4 member retiring pursuant to this subsection shall have the retirement 5 6 allowance reduced by five percent per year to reflect the difference in the number of years between age at retirement and the attainment 7 of age sixty-five. 8
- 9 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 10.** This act takes effect January 1, 2024.

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