

AN ACT

RELATING TO THE RETIREE HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY; PROVIDING FOR CONTRIBUTION LEVELS IN SUBSEQUENT FISCAL YEARS; AMENDING SECTIONS OF THE NMSA 1978.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. Section 7-1-6.30 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1990, Chapter 6, Section 20, as amended) is amended to read:

"7-1-6.30. DISTRIBUTION--RETIREE HEALTH CARE FUND.--

For the period ending June 30, 2002, a distribution pursuant to Section 7-1-6.1 NMSA 1978 shall be made to the retiree health care fund in an amount equal to one-twelfth of one hundred six percent of the total amount distributed to the retiree health care fund in the previous fiscal year. For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2002 and subsequent fiscal years, a distribution pursuant to Section 7-1-6.1 NMSA 1978 shall be made to the retiree health care fund in an amount equal to one-twelfth of one hundred twelve percent of the total amount distributed to the retiree health care fund in the previous fiscal year."

Section 2. Section 10-7C-13 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1990, Chapter 6, Section 13, as amended) is amended to read:

"10-7C-13. PAYMENT OF PREMIUMS ON HEALTH CARE

PLANS.--

A. Each eligible retiree shall pay a monthly premium for the basic plan in an amount set by the board not

to exceed fifty dollars (\$50.00) plus the amount, if any, of the compounded annual increases authorized by the board, which increases shall not exceed nine percent until fiscal year 2008 after which the increases shall not exceed the authority's group health care trend. In addition to the monthly premium for the basic plan, each current retiree and nonsalaried eligible participating entity governing authority member who becomes an eligible retiree shall also pay monthly an additional participation fee set by the board. That fee shall be five dollars (\$5.00) plus the amount, if any, of the compounded annual increases authorized by the board, which increases shall not exceed nine percent until fiscal year 2008 after which the increases shall not exceed the authority's group health care trend. The additional monthly participation fee paid by the current retirees and nonsalaried eligible participating entity governing authority members who become eligible retirees shall be a consideration and a condition for being permitted to participate in the Retiree Health Care Act. Eligible dependents shall pay monthly premiums in amounts that with other money appropriated to the fund shall cover the cost of the basic plan for the eligible dependents.

B. Eligible retirees and eligible dependents shall pay monthly premiums to cover the cost of the optional plans that they elect to receive, and the board shall adopt rules for the collection of additional premiums from

eligible retirees and eligible dependents participating in the optional plans. An eligible retiree or eligible dependent may authorize the authority in writing to deduct the amount of these premiums from the monthly annuity payments, if applicable.

C. The participating employers, active employees and retirees are responsible for the financial viability of the program. The overall financial viability is not an additional financial obligation of the state.

D. For eligible retirees who become eligible for participation on or after July 1, 2001, the board may determine monthly premiums based on the retirees' years of credited service with participating employers."

Section 3. Section 10-7C-15 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1990, Chapter 6, Section 15, as amended) is amended to read:

"10-7C-15. RETIREE HEALTH CARE FUND CONTRIBUTIONS. --

A. Following completion of the preliminary contribution period, each participating employer shall make contributions to the fund in the amount of:

(1) one percent of each participating employee's annual salary for the period July 1, 1990 through June 30, 2002; and

(2) up to one and three-tenths percent of each participating employee's annual salary beginning July 1, 2002.

Each employer that chooses to become a participating

employer after January 1, 1998 shall make contributions to the fund in the amount determined to be appropriate by the board.

B. Following completion of the preliminary contribution period, each participating employee, as a condition of employment, shall contribute to the fund an employee contribution in an amount equal to:

(1) one-half of one percent of the employee's salary for the period July 1, 1990 through June 30, 2002; and

(2) up to sixty-five hundredths of one percent beginning July 1, 2002.

As a condition of employment, each participating employee of an employer that chooses to become a participating employer after January 1, 1998 shall contribute to the fund an amount that is determined to be appropriate by the board. Each month, participating employers shall deduct the contribution from the participating employee's salary and shall remit it to the board as provided by any procedures that the board may require.

C. A participating employer that fails to remit before the tenth day after the last day of the month all employer and employee deposits required by the Retiree Health Care Act to be remitted by the employer for the month shall pay to the fund, in addition to the deposits, interest

on the unpaid amounts at the rate of six percent per year compounded monthly.

D. The employer and employee contributions shall be paid in monthly installments based on the percent of payroll certified by the employer.

E. Except in the case of erroneously made contributions or as may be otherwise provided in Subsection D of Section 10-7C-9 NMSA 1978, contributions from participating employers and participating employees shall become the property of the fund on receipt by the board and shall not be refunded under any circumstances, including termination of employment or termination of the participating employer's operation or participation in the Retiree Health Care Act.

F. Notwithstanding any other provision in the Retiree Health Care Act and at the first session of the legislature following July 1, 2010, the legislature shall review and adjust the distribution pursuant to Section 7-1-6.1 NMSA 1978 and the employer and employee contributions to the authority in order to ensure the actuarial soundness of the benefits provided under the Retiree Health Care Act. " =