

member with his accumulated contributions, the excess shall be transferred to the said city, county, or other political subdivision of the State.

(4) A teacher whose membership in the retirement system is contingent on his own election and who elects not to become a member, may thereafter apply for and be admitted to membership; but no such teacher shall receive prior service credit unless he becomes a member within the first year following the establishment of the retirement system.

(5) The Board of Trustees may, in its discretion, deny the right to become members to any class of teachers whose compensation is only partly paid by the State or who are serving on a temporary or other than per annum basis, and it may also in its discretion, make optional with members in any such class their individual entrance into membership.

(6) Should any member in any period of six consecutive years after last becoming a member be absent from service more than five years, or should he withdraw his accumulated contributions, or should he become a beneficiary or die, he shall thereupon cease to be a member.

1927, ch. 344, sec. 95.

98. (Creditable Service.)

(1) Under such rules and regulations as the Board of Trustees shall adopt each member who was a teacher at any time during the year immediately preceding the establishment of the system and who becomes a member during the first year of operation of the retirement system, shall file a detailed statement of all service as a teacher rendered by him prior to the date of establishment for which he claims credit, including service in a similar capacity rendered as a teacher outside the State of Maryland.

(2) The Board of Trustees shall fix and determine by appropriate rules and regulations how much service in any year is equivalent to one year of service, but in no case shall more than one year of service be creditable for all service in one calendar year. Service rendered for the regular school year in any district shall be equivalent to one year's service.

(3) Subject to the above restrictions and to such other rules and regulations as the Board of Trustees may adopt, the Board of Trustees shall verify, as soon as practicable after the filing of such statements of service, the service therein claimed.

(4) Upon verification of the statements of service the Board of Trustees shall issue prior service certificates certifying to each member the length of service rendered prior to the day of the establishment of the retirement system, with which he is credited on the basis of his statement of service. So long as membership continues a prior service certificate shall be final and conclusive for retirement purposes as to such service, provided, however, that any member may, within one year from the date of issuance or modification of such certificate, request the Board of Trustees to modify or correct his prior service certificate.

When membership ceases such prior service certificate shall become void. Should the teacher again become a member, such teacher shall enter the system as a teacher not entitled to prior service credit except as provided in Section 99, Sub-section (5), Paragraph (b) of this Article.

(5) Creditable service at retirement on which the retirement allowance of a member shall be based shall consist of the membership service rendered by him since he last become ¹ a member, and also if he has a prior service certificate which is in full force and effect, the amount of the service certified on his prior service certificate.

¹ This way in the Act.