

CHAPTER 94
SENATE BILL No. 74

AN ACT relating to state educational institutions; concerning the conversion of positions in the classified service to positions in the unclassified service; amending K.S.A. 2004 Supp. 74-4925 and 75-2935 and repealing the existing sections.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

New Section 1. (a) The state board of regents, in accordance with the provisions of this section, may authorize any state institution of higher education to convert all classified staff employee positions or any portion thereof in the institution to the unclassified service of state employment. Those classified staff employees whose positions are converted from classified to unclassified status shall retain all health and flexible benefits and leave and retirement benefits provided to them under the state classified employee system. Each institution designated by the board shall develop a plan for a system for administration of all other aspects of employment for these employees, including personnel policies and procedures, and each such system of administration shall be subject to approval by the state board of regents. Such personnel policies and procedures shall include a disciplinary and grievance process which provides for the right to appeal and due process procedures. Development of such plan shall be subject to input from affected classified employees. Implementation of this section shall not cause a salary reduction or layoff of any classified employee. This section shall not be implemented by the state board of regents at any state institution of higher education unless an election has been held for classified staff employees affected by such proposal at such institution and the classified staff employees voting at the election by majority vote approve the conversion of the classified staff employee positions affected by such proposal at that institution to unclassified positions. Any such election held after the effective date of this act shall be preceded by an official announcement providing at least 90 days notice of the date, time and place of the election. After a vote of approval, the state educational institution shall provide all affected employees with opportunities for input into the development of the plan that is to be presented to the state board of regents.

(b) For the limited purposes of this section, and K.S.A. 74-4925, and amendments thereto, these newly designated unclassified employees shall be referred to as “university support staff” and the university of Kansas medical center shall be considered a state institution of higher education separate from the university of Kansas, Lawrence, and its campuses.

(c) Nothing in this act shall affect the representation rights of collective bargaining organizations that represent employees of a state institution of higher education, nor shall the provisions of this act affect any term or condition of any collective bargaining agreement in effect on the effective date of this act.

Sec. 2. K.S.A. 2004 Supp. 74-4925 is hereby amended to read as follows: 74-4925. (1) The state board of regents shall:

(a) Assist all those members of the faculty and other persons who are employed by the state board of regents or by educational institutions under its management and who are in the unclassified service under the Kansas civil service act as provided in subsection (1)(f) of K.S.A. 75-2935 and amendments thereto, except health care employees, as defined by subsection (1)(f) of K.S.A. 75-2935 and amendments thereto, *and university support staff, as defined by section 1 and amendments thereto*, in the purchase of retirement annuities for their service rendered after December 31, 1961. Effective on the first day of the first payroll period commencing with or following July 1, 1994, county extension agents employed by Kansas state university under K.S.A. 2-615 and amendments thereto shall be eligible for assistance by the state board of regents in the purchase of retirement annuities under this section. The state board of regents shall not assist any such person who is employed after December 31, 1961, until such person has been employed for a waiting period of at least one year except that (i) the state board of regents may assist any newly employed person immediately if at the time of the commencement of employment the person is covered by a valid retirement annuity contract issued by a company described in subsection (2) which was entered into pursuant to a retirement pension plan adopted for faculty members

or other persons, or both, employed by an institution of higher education and to which such person or such person's employer on such person's behalf has been making contributions for at least one year, and (ii) all periods of employment with (A) participating employers under the Kansas public employees retirement system, for which employment participating service credit accrued, or (B) institutions of higher education in other states for which employment retirement benefits accrued under a retirement system or plan provided for such employment, shall be credited toward satisfaction of such one-year waiting period if served, in either case, during the five years immediately preceding employment with the state board of regents or with an educational institution under its management in the unclassified service under the Kansas civil service act as provided in subsection (1)(f) of K.S.A. 75-2935 and amendments thereto, in addition to such employment with the state board of regents or with an educational institution under its management; no period of employment as a student employee, as a seasonal or temporary employee or as a part-time employee, whose employment requires less than 1,000 hours of work per year, shall be credited toward the one-year waiting period under subsection (1)(a); this act shall not apply to persons employed in such temporary and part-time positions designated by the state board of regents as exceptions hereto;

(b) require such members of the faculty and others described in subsection (1)(a) who are so assisted by the state board of regents to contribute an amount toward the purchase of such retirement annuities of 5.5% of their salaries, such contributions to be made through payroll deductions and on a pretax basis;

(c) contribute an amount toward the purchase of such retirement annuities equal to the percentage amount, as prescribed by K.S.A. 74-4925e and amendments thereto, of the total amount of the salaries on which such members of the faculty and others described in subsection (1)(a) contribute during such period for which the contribution of the state board of regents is made;

(d) provide, under such rules and regulations as the state board of regents may adopt, for the retirement of any such member of the faculty or other person described in subsection (1)(a) on account of age or condition of health, retirement of such member of the faculty or other person described in subsection (1)(a) on account of age to be not earlier than the 55th birthday and prior to January 1, 1994, not later than the end of the academic year following the 70th year. On and after January 1, 1994, there shall be no mandatory retirement on account of age. Any person who retires under this section and who receives benefits from the Kansas public employees retirement system for prior service credit shall have such benefits calculated in accordance with the applicable provisions of K.S.A. 74-4914 and 74-4915 and amendments thereto.

(2) For the purposes of this section the state board of regents may contract with:

(a) Any life insurance company authorized to do business in this state; or

(b) any life insurance company organized and operated without profit to any private shareholder or individual exclusively for the purpose of aiding and strengthening educational institutions by issuing insurance and annuity contracts only to or for the benefit of such institution and individuals engaged in the services of such institutions, whether or not such company is authorized to do business in Kansas. No premium tax or income tax shall be due or payable on such annuity contract or contracts for such retirement programs issued by a company described in this subsection (2)(b), except that neither the purchase nor the issuance of such retirement annuities from or by a company described in this subsection (2)(b) shall constitute the effecting of a contract of insurance.

(3) (a) Such member of the faculty or other person described in subsection (1)(a) shall also be a member of the Kansas public employees retirement system, but only for the purpose of granting retirement benefits based on prior service only which was rendered prior to January 1, 1962, which shall be credited to the member as provided in subsection (1) of K.S.A. 74-4913 and amendments thereto, except that such member of the faculty or other person described in subsection (1)(a) who was employed prior to July 1, 1962, who has not yet retired and who is employed on July 1, 1988, on an academic year contract, shall receive credit for 12 months of prior service for each nine months of prior service for

which such member or person was employed on an academic year contract prior to July 1, 1962. For the purpose of determining eligibility for a vested benefit, service by such a member of the faculty or other person after December 31, 1961, shall be construed to be credited service under subsection (2) of K.S.A. 74-4917 and amendments thereto.

(b) Any member of the faculty or other person described in subsection (1)(a) who retires after 10 years of continuous service immediately preceding retirement shall be granted a retirement benefit based on prior service only which was rendered prior to January 1, 1962. Application for such benefit shall be in such form and manner as the board shall prescribe.

(4) For the purpose of establishing a procedure whereby the state board of regents and any member of the faculty or other person described in subsection (1)(a), subject to rules and regulations of the state board of regents, may take advantage of section 403(a) or (b) of the federal internal revenue code of 1986 or any other section of the federal internal revenue code of 1986 which defers or excludes amounts from inclusion in income, any member of the faculty or any other person described in subsection (1)(a), whether or not such person has satisfied the one-year waiting period requirement under subsection (1)(a), may request in writing that the state board of regents reduce such person's annual salary, as fixed by the board, in an amount equal to not less than 5% nor more than the percentage allowed under section 403(b) of the federal internal revenue code of 1986, as designated by such member of the faculty or other person described in subsection (1)(a), of the gross amount of such annual salary. In the event of such request by a faculty member or other person who is required to make the contribution as provided in subsection (1)(b), such person shall not be required to make such contribution and the state board of regents shall provide a sum equal to the percentage amount, as prescribed by K.S.A. 74-4925e and amendments thereto, of the gross annual salary of the member of the faculty or other person and shall purchase for and on behalf of each such person whose salary has been so reduced a retirement annuity contract or contracts, the annual premiums for which shall be equal to the sum of the amount of the salary reduction of the member of the faculty or other person and the amount paid by the state board of regents. In the event of such request by a faculty member or other person who is serving the one-year waiting period pursuant to subsection (1)(a) who is not required to make the contribution as provided in subsection (1)(b), the state board of regents shall purchase for and on behalf of each such person whose salary has been so reduced a retirement annuity contract or contracts, the annual premiums for which shall be equal to the sum of the amount of the salary reduction of the member of the faculty or other person, but the state board of regents shall not provide the sum equal to the percentage amount, as prescribed by K.S.A. 74-4925e and amendments thereto, of the gross annual salary of such person as provided for such person who is required to make the contribution as provided in subsection (1)(b). Such retirement annuity contracts may be purchased by the state board of regents from companies described in subsection (2)(a) and subsection (2)(b) or from noninsurance companies who offer retirement plans that meet the requirements of section 403(b) of the federal internal revenue code of 1986, except that the state board of regents may require that the first 5% of the gross amount of such person's annual salary which is reduced under this subsection (4) and the amount equal to the percentage amount, as prescribed by K.S.A. 74-4925e and amendments thereto, of the gross amount of such person's annual salary which is provided by the state board of regents for the purchase of retirement annuity contracts under this subsection (4), if required to be provided under this subsection (4), shall be used to purchase such retirement annuity contracts from such company or companies as may be designated by the state board of regents for such purposes. The director of accounts and reports is authorized to draw warrants on the state treasurer upon the filing with the director of proper vouchers for the amount of the premium on the retirement annuity contract to be paid pursuant to the terms of such contracts and this act.

(5) All employees who are described in subsection (1)(a) and who commence such employment on and after July 1, 1976, shall receive assistance under subsection (1) and shall be covered by a valid retirement annuity contract issued by a company described in subsection (2).

(6) Any employee of the state board of regents or of an educational

institution under its management, other than an elected official, who is receiving or is eligible for assistance by the state board of regents in the purchase of a retirement annuity under this section and who becomes ineligible for such assistance because such employee's position is reclassified to a position in the classified service under the Kansas civil service act or who becomes ineligible for such assistance because such employee transfers to a position in the classified service under the Kansas civil service act with the state board of regents or an educational institution under its management, shall become a member of the Kansas public employees retirement system in accordance with the provisions of subsection (5) of K.S.A. 74-4911 and amendments thereto, unless such employee files a written election in the office of the Kansas public employees retirement system, in the form and manner prescribed by the board of trustees thereof, to remain eligible for assistance by the state board of regents under this section prior to the first day of the first complete payroll period occurring after the effective date of such reclassification or transfer. Failure to file such written election shall be presumed to be an election not to remain eligible for assistance by the state board of regents under this section and to become a member of the Kansas public employees retirement system under subsection (5) of K.S.A. 74-4911 and amendments thereto. Such election, whether to remain eligible for such assistance or to become a member of such system, shall be effective as of the effective date of such reclassification or transfer and shall be irrevocable.

(7) The state board of regents shall adopt uniform policies applicable to members of the faculty and other persons, who are employed by the state board of regents or by any educational institution under its management and who are in the unclassified service under the Kansas civil service act as provided in subsection (1)(f) of K.S.A. 75-2935 and amendments thereto, except health care employees, as defined by subsection (1)(f) of K.S.A. 75-2935 and amendments thereto, for the purposes of administering the provisions of this section and the provision of retirement annuities and other benefits hereunder. All assistance provided by the state board of regents for such persons, and agreements entered into therefor, pursuant to this section prior to the effective date are hereby authorized, confirmed and validated.

(8) Any employee described in subsection (1)(a) who is on leave of absence and who accepts a position in the executive branch of government may file a written election in the office of the Kansas public employees retirement system, in the form and manner prescribed by the board, to remain eligible for assistance by the state board of regents under this section prior to the first day of the first complete payroll period occurring after the commencement of such service in the executive branch of government. Failure to file such written election shall be presumed to be an election not to remain eligible for assistance by the state board of regents. The state board of regents shall contribute an amount toward the purchase of retirement annuities on behalf of such employee equal to the sum of the amounts provided in subsection (1)(c).

(9) Any employee described in subsection (1)(a) who is on leave of absence and who is elected or appointed as a member of the legislature may file a written election in the office of the state board of regents, in the form and manner prescribed by the board, to remain eligible for assistance by the state board of regents under this section prior to the first day of the first complete payroll period occurring after the commencement of such service in the legislature or for any employee who is a member of the legislature on January 8, 2001, prior to the first day of the first complete payroll period occurring after July 1, 2001. Failure to file such written election shall be presumed to be an election not to remain eligible for assistance by the state board of regents. For any employee who files an election as provided in this subsection and who was a member of the legislature on January 8, 2001, such election shall be effective on January 8, 2001. The state board of regents shall contribute an amount toward the purchase of retirement annuities on behalf of such employee equal to the percentage amount, as prescribed by K.S.A. 74-4925e, and amendments thereto, on the biweekly rate of the salary of such employee with the state board of regents in effect on the date preceding such leave of absence and continuing throughout such leave of absence. Any such employee who makes an election as provided by this subsection shall be eligible for the insured death benefit and insured disability benefit in the same manner as provided under the provisions of

K.S.A. 74-4927a, and amendments thereto. The provisions of this section are intended to further the public policy of encouraging persons to serve in elective office.

(10) Any employee who filed a written election under subsection (9) prior to July 1, 2001, and who is a member of the legislature after January 14, 2002, may file a written election in the office of the state board of regents, in a form and manner prescribed by the board, to be eligible for an amount to be contributed for any periods prior to January 8, 2001, that an employee was on leave of absence and who was elected or appointed as a member of the legislature. The board of regents shall submit a request to the director of legislative administrative services to calculate an amount to be contributed toward the purchase of the employee's retirement annuities and to include in the request a certification of the dates for leaves of absence taken by the employee prior to January 8, 2001, for the purpose of serving in the legislature during regular sessions. The amount shall be calculated by the director of legislative administrative services for periods during which the legislature was in regular session, first by annualizing the compensation and expenses allowance under subsections (a) and (b) of K.S.A. 46-137a and amendments thereto paid to any such legislator during those periods; and second, by applying the annual interest earnings assumed by the board of trustees of the Kansas public employees retirement system for the purpose of anticipating actuarial gains on investments for the same time periods. The amount calculated by the director of legislative administrative services shall be submitted to the board of regents. The board of regents shall contribute such amount submitted toward the purchase of retirement annuities on behalf of such employee.

Sec. 3. K.S.A. 2004 Supp. 75-2935 is hereby amended to read as follows: 75-2935. The civil service of the state of Kansas is hereby divided into the unclassified and the classified services.

(1) The unclassified service comprises positions held by state officers or employees who are:

- (a) Chosen by election or appointment to fill an elective office;
- (b) members of boards and commissions, heads of departments required by law to be appointed by the governor or by other elective officers, and the executive or administrative heads of offices, departments, divisions and institutions specifically established by law;
- (c) except as otherwise provided under this section, one personal secretary to each elective officer of this state, and in addition thereto, 10 deputies, clerks or employees designated by such elective officer;
- (d) all employees in the office of the governor;
- (e) officers and employees of the senate and house of representatives of the legislature and of the legislative coordinating council and all officers and employees of the office of revisor of statutes, of the legislative research department, of the division of legislative administrative services, of the division of post audit and the legislative counsel;
- (f) chancellor, president, deans, administrative officers, student health service physicians, pharmacists, teaching and research personnel, health care employees and student employees in the institutions under the state board of regents, the executive officer of the board of regents and the executive officer's employees other than clerical employees, and, at the discretion of the state board of regents, directors or administrative officers of departments and divisions of the institution and county extension agents, except that this subsection (1)(f) shall not be construed to include the custodial, clerical or maintenance employees, or any employees performing duties in connection with the business operations of any such institution, except administrative officers and directors; as used in this subsection (1)(f), "health care employees" means employees of the university of Kansas medical center who provide health care services at the university of Kansas medical center and who are medical technicians or technologists or respiratory therapists, who are licensed professional nurses or licensed practical nurses, or who are in job classes which are designated for this purpose by the chancellor of the university of Kansas upon a finding by the chancellor that such designation is required for the university of Kansas medical center to recruit or retain personnel for positions in the designated job classes; and employees of any institution under the state board of regents who are medical technologists;
- (g) operations, maintenance and security personnel employed to implement agreements entered into by the adjutant general and the federal

national guard bureau, and officers and enlisted persons in the national guard and the naval militia;

(h) persons engaged in public work for the state but employed by contractors when the performance of such contract is authorized by the legislature or other competent authority;

(i) persons temporarily employed or designated by the legislature or by a legislative committee or commission or other competent authority to make or conduct a special inquiry, investigation, examination or installation;

(j) officers and employees in the office of the attorney general and special counsel to state departments appointed by the attorney general, except that officers and employees of the division of the Kansas bureau of investigation shall be in the classified or unclassified service as provided in K.S.A. 75-711, and amendments thereto;

(k) all employees of courts;

(l) client, patient and inmate help in any state facility or institution;

(m) all attorneys for boards, commissions and departments;

(n) the secretary and assistant secretary of the Kansas state historical society;

(o) physician specialists, dentists, dental hygienists, pharmacists, medical technologists and long term care workers employed by the department of social and rehabilitation services;

(p) physician specialists, dentists and medical technologists employed by any board, commission or department or by any institution under the jurisdiction thereof;

(q) student employees enrolled in public institutions of higher learning;

(r) administrative officers, directors and teaching personnel of the state board of education and the state department of education and of any institution under the supervision and control of the state board of education, except that this subsection (1)(r) shall not be construed to include the custodial, clerical or maintenance employees, or any employees performing duties in connection with the business operations of any such institution, except administrative officers and directors;

(s) all officers and employees in the office of the secretary of state;

(t) one personal secretary and one special assistant to the following: The secretary of administration, the secretary of aging, the secretary of agriculture, the secretary of commerce, the secretary of corrections, the secretary of health and environment, the superintendent of the Kansas highway patrol, the secretary of labor, the secretary of revenue, the secretary of social and rehabilitation services, the secretary of transportation, the secretary of wildlife and parks and the commissioner of juvenile justice;

(u) one personal secretary and one special assistant to the chancellor and presidents of institutions under the state board of regents;

(v) one personal secretary and one special assistant to the executive vice chancellor of the university of Kansas medical center;

(w) one public information officer and one chief attorney for the following: The department of administration, the department on aging, the department of agriculture, the department of commerce, the department of corrections, the department of health and environment, the department of labor, the department of revenue, the department of social and rehabilitation services, the department of transportation, the Kansas department of wildlife and parks and the commissioner of juvenile justice;

(x) civil service examination monitors;

(y) one executive director, one general counsel and one director of public affairs and consumer protection in the office of the state corporation commission;

(z) specifically designated by law as being in the unclassified service;

(aa) all officers and employees of Kansas, Inc. and the Kansas technology enterprise corporation; ~~and~~

(bb) any position that is classified as a position in the information resource manager job class series, that is the chief position responsible for all information resources management for a state agency, and that becomes vacant on or after the effective date of this act. Nothing in this section shall affect the classified status of any employee in the classified service who is employed on the date immediately preceding the effective date of this act in any position that is a classified position in the information resource manager job class series and the unclassified status as

prescribed by this subsection shall apply only to a person appointed to any such position on or after the effective date of this act that is the chief position responsible for all information resources management for a state agency; and

(cc) positions at state institutions of higher education that have been converted to unclassified positions pursuant to section 1 and amendments thereto.

(2) The classified service comprises all positions now existing or hereafter created which are not included in the unclassified service. Appointments in the classified service shall be made according to merit and fitness from eligible pools which so far as practicable shall be competitive. No person shall be appointed, promoted, reduced or discharged as an officer, clerk, employee or laborer in the classified service in any manner or by any means other than those prescribed in the Kansas civil service act and the rules adopted in accordance therewith.

(3) For positions involving unskilled, or semiskilled duties, the secretary of administration, as provided by law, shall establish rules and regulations concerning certifications, appointments, layoffs and reemployment which may be different from the rules and regulations established concerning these processes for other positions in the classified service.

(4) Officers authorized by law to make appointments to positions in the unclassified service, and appointing officers of departments or institutions whose employees are exempt from the provisions of the Kansas civil service act because of the constitutional status of such departments or institutions shall be permitted to make appointments from appropriate pools of eligibles maintained by the division of personnel services.

Sec. 4. K.S.A. 2004 Supp. 74-4925 and 75-2935 are hereby repealed.

Sec. 5. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.

Approved April 8, 2005.
