# GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

## **SESSION 1989**

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# HOUSE BILL 1311 Committee Substitute Favorable 7/6/89 Third Edition Engrossed 8/2/89

	Short Title: Retirement Tax Changes. (Public)		
	Sponsors:		
	Referred to:		
	April 12, 1989		
1	A BILL TO BE ENTITLED		
2	AN ACT TO PROVIDE PARTIAL INCOME TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR RETIREES		
3	AND TO INCREASE STATE AND LOCAL RETIREMENT BENEFITS.		
4	The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:		
5	PART I.		
6	RETIREMENT TAX EXEMPTIONS.		
7	Section 1.1. (a) Effective for taxable years beginning on or after January 1,		
8	1989, G.S. 105-134.6(b), as enacted by Senate Bill 51, Chapter of the 1989 Session		
9	Laws, is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:		
10	"(6) Amounts received during the taxable year as retirement benefits from		
11	one or more state, local, or federal government retirement plans, not to		
12	exceed a total of four thousand dollars (\$4,000) in any taxable year. In		
13	the case of a married couple filing a joint return where both spouses		
14	received state, local, or federal government retirement benefits during		
15	the taxable year, the four thousand dollar (\$4,000) maximum applies		
16	separately to each spouse's benefits for a potential total deduction of		
17	eight thousand dollars (\$8,000) for the couple."		
18	(b) Effective for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 1990, G.S. 105-		
19	134.6(b)(6), as added by subsection (a) of this section, reads as rewritten:		
20	"(6) Amounts received during the taxable year as retirement benefits from		
21	one or more state, local, or federal government retirement plans, not to		
22	exceed a total of four thousand dollars (\$4,000) in any taxable year. In		

1	the c	ase of a married couple filing a joint return where both spouses
2	<del>recei</del>	ved state, local, or federal government retirement benefits during
3	the ta	exable year, the four thousand dollar (\$4,000) maximum applies
4	separ	ately to each spouse's benefits for a potential total deduction of
5		thousand dollars (\$8,000) for the couple.
6	<u>a.</u>	An amount, not to exceed four thousand dollars (\$4,000), equal
7	_	to the amount calculated in subparagraph b. of this subdivision
8		plus the amount calculated in subparagraph c. of this
9		subdivision.
10	<u>b.</u>	The amount calculated in this subparagraph is the amount
11	_	received during the taxable year as retirement benefits from one
12		or more state, local, or federal government retirement plans, not
13		to exceed a total of four thousand dollars (\$4,000) in any
14		taxable year.
15	<u>c.</u>	The amount calculated in this subparagraph is the amount
16	_	received during the taxable year as retirement benefits from one
17		or more retirement plans, not to exceed the following maximum
18		amounts:
19		1. For taxable years beginning before January 1, 1991, one
20		thousand dollars (\$1,000).
21		2. For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 1991,
22		and before January 1, 1992, two thousand dollars
23		<u>(\$2,000).</u>
24		3. For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 1992,
25		and before January 1, 1993, three thousand dollars
26		<u>(\$3,000).</u>
27		4. For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 1993,
28		four thousand dollars (\$4,000).
29	<u>d.</u>	In the case of a married couple filing a joint return where both
30		spouses received retirement benefits during the taxable year, the
31		maximum dollar amounts provided in this subdivision for
32		different types of retirement benefits apply separately to each
33		spouse's benefits, as appropriate."
34	(c) Effective fo	r taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 1993, G.S. 105-
35	134.6(b)(6), as rewritte	en by subsection (b) of this section, reads as rewritten:
36	"(6) <del>a.</del> A	n amount, not to exceed four thousand dollars (\$4,000), equal to
37	the a	mount calculated in subparagraph b. of this subdivision plus the
38	amou	int calculated in subparagraph c. of this subdivision.
39	<del>b.</del>	The amount calculated in this subparagraph is the amount
40		received during the taxable year as retirement benefits from one
41		or more state, local, or federal government retirement plans, not
42		to exceed a total of four thousand dollars (\$4,000) in any
43		taxable year.

The amount calculated in this subparagraph is the amount 1 <del>c.</del> 2 received during the taxable year as retirement benefits from one 3 or more retirement plans, not to exceed the following maximum 4 amounts: 5 For taxable years beginning before January 1, 1991, one 1 6 thousand dollars (\$1,000). For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 1991, 7 <del>2.</del> and before January 1, 1992, two thousand dollars 8 9 (\$2,000). 10 <del>3.</del> For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 1992, and before January 1, 1993, three thousand dollars 11 12 (\$3.000)13 4. For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 1993, 14 four thousand dollars (\$4,000). 15 <del>d.</del> In the case of a married couple filing a joint return where both 16 spouses received retirement benefits during the taxable year, the 17 maximum dollar amounts provided in this subdivision for 18 different types of retirement benefits apply separately to each 19 spouse's benefits, as appropriate. 20 Amounts received as retirement benefits during the taxable year from 21 one or more retirement plans, not to exceed a total of four thousand dollars (\$4,000) in any taxable year. In the case of a married couple 22 23 filing a joint return where both spouses received retirement benefits 24 during the taxable year, the four thousand dollar (\$4,000) maximum applies separately to each spouse's benefits for a potential total 25 26 deduction of eight thousand dollars (\$8,000) for the couple." Sec. 1.2. G.S. 105-134.1(13), as enacted by Senate Bill 51, Chapter of 27 the 1989 Session Laws, reads as rewritten: 28 29 Retirement benefits. Amounts paid to a former employee or the "(13) 30 beneficiary of a former employee under a written retirement plan established by the employer to provide payments to an employee or 31 32 the beneficiary of an employee after the end of the employee's 33 employment with the employer where the right to receive the payments is based upon the employment relationship. With respect 34 35 to a self-employed individual or the beneficiary of a self-employed 36 individual, the term means amounts paid to the individual or 37 beneficiary of the individual under a written retirement plan 38 established by the individual to provide payments to the individual 39 or the beneficiary of the individual after the end of the selfemployment. In addition, the term includes amounts received from 40 41 an individual retirement account described in section 408 of the 42 Code or from an individual retirement annuity described in section

'employee' includes a volunteer worker."

408 of the Code. For the purpose of this subdivision, the term

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Sec. 1.3. G.S. 105-134.5(b), as enacted by Senate Bill 51, Chapter \_\_\_\_ of the 1989 Session Laws, reads as rewritten:

"(b) Nonresidents. For nonresident individuals, the term 'North Carolina taxable income' means taxable income as calculated under the Code, adjusted as provided in G.S. 105-134.6 and G.S. 105-134.7, multiplied by a fraction the denominator of which is the taxpayer's gross income as calculated under the Code, adjusted as provided in G.S. 105-134.6 and G.S. 105-134.7, and the numerator of which is the amount of that gross income, as adjusted, that is derived from North Carolina sources and is attributable to the ownership of any interest in real or tangible personal property in this State or is derived from a business, trade, profession, or occupation carried on in this State. For the purpose of this Division, retirement benefits received as a result of past employment or self-employment in this State are income derived from a business, trade, profession, or occupation carried on in this State."

Sec. 1.4. G.S. 105-160.2, as enacted by Senate Bill 51, Chapter \_\_\_\_ of the 1989 Session Laws, reads as rewritten:

## **"§ 105-160.2. Imposition of tax.**

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The tax imposed by this Division shall apply to the taxable income of estates and trusts as determined under the provisions of the Code except as otherwise provided in this Division. The taxable income of an estate or trust shall be the same as taxable income for such an estate or trust under the provisions of the Code, adjusted as provided in G.S. 105-134.6 and G.S. 105-134.7, except that the adjustments provided in G.S. 105-134.6 and G.S. 105-134.7 shall be apportioned between the estate or trust and the beneficiaries based on the distributions made during the taxable year. The tax shall be computed at the following percentages of an amount equal to the taxable income multiplied by a fraction, the numerator of which is the estate or trust's gross income from North Carolina sources, plus the gross income from sources outside of the State and from intangible sources which is for the benefit of a resident of this State, and the denominator of which is the estate or trust's gross income as calculated under the Code. For purposes of the preceding sentence, taxable income and gross income shall be computed subject to the adjustments provided in G.S. 105-134.6 and G.S. 105-134.7. For the purpose of this Division, retirement benefits received as a result of past employment or self-employment in this State are income from North Carolina sources. The tax shall be at six percent (6%) on the first eleven thousand eight hundred fifty dollars (\$11,850) of the amount computed above; and at seven and one-half percent (7 1/2%) of the excess of the amount computed above over eleven thousand eight hundred fifty dollars (\$11,850). The tax computed under the provisions of this Division shall be paid by the fiduciary responsible for administering the estate or trust."

### PART II.

#### REPEAL EXISTING EXEMPTIONS.

Sec. 2.1. G.S. 118-49 reads as rewritten:

### "§ 118-49. Exemptions of pensions from attachment; rights nonassignable.

Except for the applications of the provisions of G.S. 110-136, and in connection with a court-ordered equitable distribution under G.S. 50-20, the pensions provided are not subject to attachment, garnishments or judgments against the fireman or rescue squad

 worker entitled to them, nor are any rights in the fund or the pensions or benefits assignable nor are the pensions subject to any State or municipal tax. assignable."

Sec. 2.2. G.S. 120-4.29 reads as rewritten:

## "§ 120-4.29. Exemption from taxes, garnishment, attachment.

Except for the applications of the provisions of G. S. 110-136, and in connection with a court-ordered equitable distribution under G.S. 50-20, the right of a person to a pension, annuity, or retirement allowance, to the return of contributions, or to the receipt of the pension, annuity or retirement allowance itself, any optional benefit or any other right accrued or accruing to any person under the provisions of this Article, and the moneys in the various funds created by this Article, are exempt from any State or municipal tax, and are exempt from levy and sale, garnishment, attachment, or any other process whatsoever, and shall be unassignable except as this Article specifically provides. Notwithstanding any provisions to the contrary, any overpayment of benefits to a member in a State-administered retirement system or Disability Salary Continuation Plan may be offset against any retirement allowance, return of contributions or any other right accruing under this Chapter to the same person, the person's estate, or designated beneficiary."

Sec. 2.3. G.S. 127A-40(e) is repealed.

Sec. 2.4. G.S. 128-31 reads as rewritten:

## "§ 128-31. Exemptions from execution.

Except for the applications of the provisions of G.S. 110-136, and in connection with a court-ordered equitable distribution under G.S. 50-20, the right of a person to a pension, an annuity, or a retirement allowance, to the return of contributions, the pension, annuity or retirement allowance itself, any optional benefit or any other right accrued or accruing to any person under the provisions of this Article, and the moneys in the various funds created by this Article, are hereby exempt from any state or municipal tax, and are exempt from levy and sale, garnishment, attachment, or any other process whatsoever, and shall be unassignable except as in this Article specifically otherwise provided. Notwithstanding any provisions to the contrary, any overpayment of benefits to a member in a State-administered retirement system or Disability Salary Continuation Plan may be offset against any retirement allowance, return of contributions or any other right accruing under this Chapter to the same person, the person's estate, or designated beneficiary."

Sec. 2.5. G.S. 135-9 reads as rewritten:

### "§ 135-9. Exemption from taxes, garnishment, attachment, etc.

Except for the applications of the provisions of G.S. 110-136, and in connection with a court-ordered equitable distribution under G.S. 50-20, the right of a person to a pension, or annuity, or a retirement allowance, to the return of contributions, the pension, annuity or retirement allowance itself, any optional benefit or any other right accrued or accruing to any person under the provisions of this Chapter, and the moneys in the various funds created by this Chapter, are hereby exempt from any State or municipal tax, and are exempt from levy and sale, garnishment, attachment, or any other process whatsoever, and shall be unassignable except as in this Chapter specifically otherwise provided. Notwithstanding any provisions to the contrary, any overpayment of benefits

to a member in a State-administered retirement system or the former Disability Salary Continuation Plan or the Disability Income Plan of North Carolina may be offset against any retirement allowance, return of contributions or any other right accruing under this Chapter to the same person, the person's estate, or designated beneficiary."

Sec. 2.6. G.S. 135-95 reads as rewritten:

# "§ 135-95. Exemption from taxes, garnishment, attachment.

Except for the applications of the provisions of G.S. 110-136, and in connection with a court-ordered equitable distribution under G.S. 50-20, the right of a member in the Supplemental Retirement Income Plan to the benefits provided under this Article is nonforfeitable and exempt from levy, sale, garnishment, and the benefits payable under this Article are hereby exempt from any State and local government taxes. and garnishment."

Sec. 2.7. G.S. 143-166.30(g) reads as rewritten:

"(g) Exemption from Taxes,—Garnishment and Attachment. – The right of a participant in the Supplemental Retirement Income Plan to the benefits provided under this Article is nonforfeitable and exempt from levy, sale, garnishment, and the benefits payable under this Article are hereby exempt from any State and local government taxes. and garnishment."

Sec. 2.8. G.S. 143-166.60(h) reads as rewritten:

"(h) Exemption from Taxes,—Garnishment and Attachment. — The right of a participant in the Separate Insurance Benefits Plan to the benefits provided under this Article is nonforfeitable and exempt from levy, sale, and garnishment, and the benefits payable under this Article are exempt from any State and local government taxes. garnishment."

Sec. 2.9. G.S. 143-166.85(e) is repealed.

Sec. 2.10. G.S. 147-9.4 reads as rewritten:

## "§ 147-9.4. Deferred Compensation Plan.

Notwithstanding the provisions of G.S. 147-62, and notwithstanding any provision of law relating to salaries or salary schedules of State employees, the chief executive officer of an employer, on behalf of the employer, may from time to time enter into a contract with an employee under which the employee irrevocably elects to defer receipt of a portion of his scheduled salary in the future, but only if, as a result of such contract, the income so deferred is deferred pursuant to the Plan provided for in G.S. 143B-426.24 or pursuant to some other plan established before 1 January 1983, and is not constructively received by the employee in the year in which it was earned, for State and federal income tax purposes. In addition, the income so deferred shall be invested in the manner provided in the applicable Plan; however, the employee may revoke his election to participate and may amend the amount of compensation to be deferred by signing and filing with the Board a written revocation or amendment on a form and in the manner approved by the Board. Any such revocation or amendment shall be effective prospectively only and shall cause no change in the allocation of amounts invested prior to the filing date of such revocation or amendment.

An employee who has agreed to the deferral of income pursuant to the Plan shall have the right to receive the income so deferred only in accordance with the provisions of the Plan. Funds so deferred shall not be in lieu of any amount earned by the employee

 before his election to defer compensation became effective. The agreement to defer income referred to herein shall be effective under such necessary regulations and procedures as are adopted by the Board, and on forms prepared or approved by it. Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, the amount by which the salary of an employee is deferred pursuant to the Plan shall not be excluded, but shall be included, in computing and making payroll deductions for social security and retirement system purposes, if any, and in computing and providing matching funds for retirement system purposes, if any.

Except for the applications of the provisions of G.S. 110-136, and in connection with a court-ordered equitable distribution under G.S. 50-20, the right of an employee, who elects to defer income pursuant to the North Carolina Public Employee Deferred Compensation Plan under G.S. 143B-426.24, to benefits that have vested under the Plan, is nonforfeitable. These benefits are exempt from levy, sale, and garnishment, except as provided by this section, and exempt from all State and local taxation. section."

Sec. 2.11. G.S. 161-50.5(e) is repealed.

Sec. 2.12. Chapter 1307 of the 1979 Session Laws and Chapter 1076 of the 1969 Session Laws are repealed.

#### PART III.

### RETIREMENT BENEFITS AMENDMENTS.

Sec. 3.1. G.S. 135-5(b10) reads as rewritten:

"(b10) Service Retirement Allowance of Members Retiring on or after July 1, 1988.1988, but before July 1, 1989. – Upon retirement from service in accordance with subsection (a) above, on or after July 1, 1988, but before July 1, 1989, a member shall receive the following service retirement allowance:

- (1) A member who is a law enforcement officer or an eligible former law enforcement officer shall receive a service retirement allowance computed as follows:
  - a. If the member's service retirement date occurs on or after his 55th birthday, and completion of five years of creditable service as a law enforcement officer, or after the completion of 30 years of creditable service, the allowance shall be equal to one and sixty hundredths percent (1.60%) of his average final compensation, multiplied by the number of years of his creditable service.
  - b. This allowance shall also be governed by the provisions of G.S. 135-5(b9)(1)b.
- (2) A member who is not a law enforcement officer or an eligible former law enforcement officer shall receive a service retirement allowance computed as follows:
  - a. If the member's service retirement date occurs on or after his 65th birthday upon the completion of five years of creditable service or after the completion of 30 years of creditable service or on or after his 60th birthday upon the completion of 25 years of creditable service, such allowance shall be equal to one and

1	sixty hundredths percent (1.60%) of his average final
2	compensation, multiplied by the number of years of his
3	creditable service.
4	b. This allowance shall also be governed by the provisions of G.S.
5	135-5(b9)(2)b., c. and d."
6	Sec. 3.2. G.S. 135-5 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:
7	"(b11) Service Retirement Allowance of Members Retiring on or after July 1.
8	1989 Upon retirement from service in accordance with subsection (a) above, on or
9	after July 1, 1989, a member shall receive the following service retirement allowance:
10	(1) A member who is a law enforcement officer or an eligible former law
11	enforcement officer shall receive a service retirement allowance
12	computed as follows:
13	<u>a.</u> <u>If the member's service retirement date occurs on or after his</u>
14	55th birthday, and completion of five years of creditable service
15	as a law enforcement officer, or after the completion of 30 years
16	of creditable service, the allowance shall be equal to one and
17	sixty-three hundredths percent (1.63%) of his average final
18	compensation, multiplied by the number of years of his
19	<u>creditable service.</u>
20	<u>b.</u> This allowance shall also be governed by the provisions of G.S.
21	<u>135-5(b9)(1)b.</u>
22	(2) A member who is not a law enforcement officer or an eligible former
23	law enforcement officer shall receive a service retirement allowance
24	computed as follows:
25	<u>a.</u> <u>If the member's service retirement date occurs on or after his</u>
26	65th birthday upon the completion of five years of creditable
27	service or after the completion of 30 years of creditable service
28	or on or after his 60th birthday upon the completion of 25 years
29	of creditable service, the allowance shall be equal to one and
30	sixty-three hundredths percent (1.63%) of his average final
31	compensation, multiplied by the number of years of creditable
32	service.
33	<u>b.</u> <u>This allowance shall also be governed by the provisions of G.S.</u>
34	<u>135-5(b9)(2)b. c. and d.</u> "
35	Sec. 3.3. G.S. 135-5 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:
36	"(pp) Increase in Allowance as to Persons on Retirement Rolls as of June 1, 1989.
37	From and after July 1, 1989, the retirement allowance to or on account of beneficiaries
38	on the retirement rolls as of June 1, 1989, shall be increased by one and nine-tenths
39	percent (1.9%) of the allowance payable on June 1, 1989. This allowance shall be
40	calculated on the basis of the allowance payable and in effect on June 30, 1989, so as
41	not to be compounded on any other increase payable under subsection (o) of this section
42	or otherwise granted by act of the 1989 Session of the General Assembly."
43	Sec. 3.4. G.S. 128-27(b10) reads as rewritten:

"(b10) Service Retirement Allowance of Members Retiring on or after July 1, 1 1988.1988, but before July 1, 1989. – Upon retirement from service in accordance with 2 3 subsection (a) above, on or after July 1, 1988, but before July 1, 1989, a member shall receive the following service retirement allowance: 4 5 A member who is a law enforcement officer or an eligible former law (1) 6 enforcement officer shall receive a service retirement allowance 7 computed as follows: 8 If the member's service retirement date occurs on or after his 9 55th birthday, and completion of five years of creditable service 10 as a law enforcement officer, or after the completion of 30 years of creditable service, the allowance shall be equal to one and 11 12 sixty hundredths percent (1.60%) of his average final compensation, multiplied by the number of years of his 13 14 creditable service. 15 b. Such allowance shall also be governed by the provisions of G.S. 128-27(b8)(2). 16 A member who is not a law enforcement officer or an eligible former 17 (2) 18 law enforcement officer shall receive a service retirement allowance computed as follows: 19 20 If the member's service retirement date occurs on or after his 21 65th birthday upon the completion of five years of creditable service or after the completion of 30 years of creditable service, 22 23 or on or after his 60th birthday upon the completion of 25 years 24 of creditable service, such allowance shall be equal to one and sixty-hundredths percent (1.60%) of his average final 25 26 compensation, multiplied by the number of years of his 27 creditable service. Such allowance shall also be governed by the provisions of G.S. 28 b. 29 128-27(b7)(2a), (2b) and (3)." Sec. 3.5. G.S. 128-27 is amended by adding a new section to read: 30 Service Retirement Allowance of Members Retiring on or after July 1, 31 32 1989. – Upon retirement from service in accordance with subsection (a) above, on or 33 after July 1, 1989, a member shall receive the following service retirement allowance: A member who is a law enforcement officer or an eligible former law 34 (1) 35 enforcement officer shall receive a service retirement allowance computed as follows: 36 37 If the member's service retirement date occurs on or after his 38 55th birthday, and completion of five years of creditable service 39 as a law enforcement officer, or after the completion of 30 years of creditable service, the allowance shall be equal to one and 40 41 sixty-three hundredths percent (1.63%) of his average final 42 compensation, multiplied by the number of years of his

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creditable service.

- 1 <u>b.</u> This allowance shall also be governed by the provisions of G.S. 128-27(b8)(2).
  - (2) A member who is not a law enforcement officer or an eligible former law enforcement officer shall receive a service retirement allowance computed as follows:
    - a. If the member's service retirement date occurs on or after his 65th birthday upon the completion of five years of creditable service or after the completion of 30 years of creditable service or on or after his 60th birthday upon the completion of 25 years of creditable service, the allowance shall be equal to one and sixty-three hundredths percent (1.63%) of his average final compensation, multiplied by the number of years of creditable service.
    - b. This allowance shall also be governed by the provisions of G.S. 128-27(b7)(2a) and (3)."
  - Sec. 3.6. G.S. 128-27 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:
  - "(ff) Increase in Allowance as to Persons on Retirement Rolls as of June 1, 1989. From and after July 1, 1989, the retirement allowance to or on account of beneficiaries on the retirement rolls as of June 1, 1989, shall be increased by one and nine-tenths percent (1.9%) of the allowance payable on June 1, 1989. This allowance shall be calculated on the basis of the allowance payable and in effect on June 30, 1989, so as not to be compounded on any other increase payable under subsection (k) of this section or otherwise granted by act of the 1989 Session of the General Assembly."
  - Sec. 3.7. The State's employer contribution rate budgeted for the University Employees' Optional Retirement Program is increased from eight and seventeen hundredths percent (8.17%), as contained in the Expansion Budget Appropriations Act for Current Operations for the 1989-91 biennium, to eight and twenty-seven hundredths percent (8.27%), beginning September 1, 1989.
  - Sec. 3.8. It is the intention of the First Session of the 1989 General Assembly that the benefit accrual rates of the Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System and the Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System be further increased as a result of this act, on or after July 1, 1990, for active and retired members and beneficiaries of the Systems upon the availability of unencumbered actuarial gains in the Retirement Systems for the years ending on or after December 31, 1988, subsequent to the application of such unencumbered actuarial gains for the provisions of G.S. 128-27(k) and G.S. 135-5(o).
  - Sec. 3.9. Part III of this act shall become effective July 1, 1989. Except as otherwise provided in this act, the this act is effective for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 1989.