

Prior law, applicable to statewide retirement systems, provided the authority to grant retirees of a system a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) based on the funded status of that system in 1986, and its progress towards 100% funding by 2016.

Prior law provided that the statewide retirement systems are:

- (1) Assessors' Retirement Fund
- (2) Clerks' of Court Retirement and Relief Fund
- (3) District Attorneys' Retirement System
- (4) Firefighters' Retirement System
- (5) Municipal Employees' Retirement System of Louisiana
- (6) Municipal Police Employees' Retirement System of Louisiana
- (7) Parochial Employees' Retirement System of Louisiana
- (8) Registrar of Voters Employees' Retirement System, and
- (9) Sheriffs' Pension and Relief Fund.

New law retains prior law; however, new law allows the board of a statewide retirement system to make an irrevocable election by December 31, 2013, to be governed by the provisions of new law rather than prior law.

New law provides authority for the boards of those systems which opt into new law to grant a COLA according to the following criteria:

- (1) The system has a funded ratio of 90% or more and has not granted a benefit increase to retirees, survivors, and beneficiaries in the most recent fiscal year.
- (2) The system has a funded ratio of 80% or more and has not granted a benefit increase to retirees, survivors, and beneficiaries in either of the two most recent fiscal years.
- (3) The system has a funded ratio of 70% or more and has not granted a benefit increase to retirees, survivors, and beneficiaries in any of the three most recent fiscal years.

Prior law provided the Sheriffs' Pension and Relief Fund the authority to grant a COLA not to exceed 3% of the monthly benefit. New law allows the Fund to grant a COLA not to exceed 2½% of the monthly benefit. New law also provides that the dollar amount of such adjustment for any recipient shall not exceed 5% of the average monthly benefit in payment to service retirees as of the end of the preceding fiscal year.

Effective June 30, 2013.

(Amends R.S. 11:2178(M)(1)(a)(ii); adds R.S. 11:242(F), 243, and 2178(M)(1)(d))