

State of Arkansas
76th General Assembly
Regular Session, 1987
By: Senator Canada

SENATE BILL 66

"AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT FORMER MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WHO RETIRED OR WERE ELIGIBLE TO RETIRE PRIOR TO JANUARY 1, 1978, SHALL BE ENTITLED TO RECEIVE RETIREMENT BENEFITS COMPARABLE TO THE BENEFITS OF THOSE MEMBERS WHO RETIRED OR BECAME ELIGIBLE TO RETIRE AFTER JANUARY 1, 1978; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Any former member of the Arkansas General Assembly who retired or was eligible to retire prior to January 1, 1978 under the Legislative Division of the Public Employees Retirement System shall be entitled to have his or her legislative retirement benefits computed upon the basis of the salary prescribed for members of the General Assembly on January 1, 1978, and in the manner and on the formula prescribed in Act 793 of 1977, as amended, and if such previously retired member served as Speaker of the House of Representatives or President Pro Tem of the Senate shall be entitled to have his or her benefits computed on the basis of the salaries prescribed by law on January 1, 1978 for service as Speaker of the House or President Pro Tem of the Senate.

SECTION 2. The provisions of this Act shall be applicable with respect to the computation of legislative retirement benefits for the month of July, 1987, and thereafter.

SECTION 3. It is hereby found and determined by the General Assembly that legislators who served in the Arkansas General Assembly prior to 1977 received nominal compensation for their services and those members who retired prior to the constitutional increase in salary of legislators are

receiving only nominal retirement benefits; that members of the General Assembly who have retired in the last few years or who will retire in the future receive substantially larger retirement benefits under the Legislative Division of the Public Employees Retirement System than those who retired earlier; that fairness and equity demand that members of the General Assembly who have comparable service in the General Assembly receive comparable retirement benefits regardless of when such service was rendered; that this Act is designed to assure that members of the General Assembly who served when the compensation was very low and who retired prior to the legislative salary increase in 1977 and who are drawing nominal retirement benefits shall be treated fairly and equitably and will, after the effective date of this Act, be entitled to the same monthly retirement benefit as members of the General Assembly who have retired in recent years or will retire in the future. Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this Act being necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.

