

From the Department of Government Relations —

SB 1646 with House Floor Amendment 2 (Sen. McClure-R and Rep. Marron-R)

TRS Private/Parochial School Service Credit and Summer School Exemption SUPPORT

The Issue: In 2002, the General Assembly allowed for the purchase of up to 2 years of private/parochial school service credit by TRS active participants. The provision closed in 2005. In 2009, the General Assembly allowed for a 3 year window to be opened for individuals to purchase this type of service credit again. Additionally, summer school earnings are subject to the 6% limitation that was implemented in 2005.

SB 1646, as amended, reopens the window upon becoming law until June 30, 2023. The bill requires that members in TRS that wish to purchase this service credit must:

- 1. Have been a teacher in a private school recognized by ISBE
- 2. Be a certified teacher when that service was rendered
- 3. Apply in writing to TRS before June 30, 2023
- 4. Complete at least 10 years of TRS contributing service

Required member contributions are equal to the employee and employer contribution that would have been required had such service been rendered as a member based on the annual salary rate during the first year of full-time employment as a teacher following the private or parochial school service, plus (ii) interest thereon at the actuarially assumed rate from the date of first full-time employment as a teacher following the private or parochial school service to the date of payment, compounded annually, at the TRS assumed rate of return (currently, 7%).

Additionally, SB 1646 would exclude salary increases resulting from teaching summer school beginning on or after May 1, 2021 and before September 15, 2022 from the 6% salary limitation currently in law. This provision has been advocated for by school management to assist with the planning and implementation of summer school offerings to address the learning loss that resulted from the Covid-19 pandemic.