

By: Vasut

H.B. No. 548

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a supplemental payment for retirees of the Employees Retirement System of Texas.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. (a) From funds appropriated for this purpose, the Employees Retirement System of Texas shall make a one-time supplemental payment of a retirement or death benefit, as provided by this section.

(b) A supplemental payment is payable in January 2024, and, to the extent practicable, on a date or dates that coincide with the regular annuity payment payable to each eligible annuitant.

(c) The amount of the supplemental payment is equal to the lesser of:

(1) \$2,000; or

(2) the gross amount of the regular annuity payment to which the eligible annuitant is otherwise entitled for the month of December 2023.

(d) The Employees Retirement System of Texas shall make applicable tax withholding and other legally required deductions before disbursing the supplemental payment. A supplemental payment under this section is in addition to and not in lieu of the regular monthly annuity payment to which the eligible annuitant is otherwise entitled.

(e) Subject to Subsections (f) and (g) of this section, to

1 be eligible for the supplemental payment, a person must be, for the  
2 month of December 2023, an annuitant eligible to receive:

3 (1) a standard retirement annuity payment;

4 (2) an optional service retirement annuity payment as  
5 either a retiree or beneficiary under Section 814.108, Government  
6 Code;

7 (3) a standard or occupational disability retirement  
8 annuity payment;

9 (4) a death benefit annuity payment under Section  
10 814.305, Government Code; or

11 (5) an alternate payee annuity payment under Section  
12 804.005, Government Code.

13 (f) If the annuitant is a retiree or a beneficiary under an  
14 optional retirement payment plan, to be eligible for the  
15 supplemental payment, the effective date of the retirement of the  
16 member of the Employees Retirement System of Texas must have been on  
17 or before September 1, 2022. The supplemental payment shall be made  
18 to an alternate payee who is an annuitant under Section 804.005,  
19 Government Code, only if the annuity payment to the alternate payee  
20 commenced on or before September 1, 2022. The supplemental payment  
21 is in addition to the guaranteed number of payments under Section  
22 814.108, Government Code, and may not be counted as one of the  
23 guaranteed monthly payments.

24 (g) The supplemental payment does not apply to payments  
25 under:

26 (1) Section 814.103 or 814.205, Government Code,  
27 relating to retirees or disability retirees from the elected class

1 of membership;

2 (2) a subtitle other than Subtitle B, Title 8,  
3 Government Code, except as provided by Subsection (e)(5) of this  
4 section; or

5 (3) Section 814.304, Government Code, relating to  
6 retiree survivor beneficiaries who receive a survivor annuity as  
7 the surviving spouse of a member of the elected class.

8 (h) Except as provided by this section, the board of  
9 trustees of the Employees Retirement System of Texas shall  
10 determine the eligibility for and the amount and timing of a  
11 supplemental payment and the manner in which the payment is made.

12 (i) The supplemental payment is subject solely to the  
13 availability of appropriated funds. The supplemental payment must  
14 comply with Section 811.006, Government Code.

15 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.