

By: West

S.B. No. 1510

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) \$2,500; or

(2) the gross amount of the regular annuity payment to which the eligible annuitant is otherwise entitled for the month of December 2023, including, if applicable, the standard combined service retirement annuity payable under Section 814.107, Government Code.

(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

1 otherwise entitled.

2 (e) Subject to Subsections (f) and (g) of this section, to
3 be eligible for the supplemental payment, a person must be, for the
4 month of December 2023, an annuitant eligible to receive:

5 (1) a standard retirement annuity payment;

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

9 (3) a standard or occupational disability retirement
10 annuity payment;

11 (4) a death benefit annuity payment under Section
12 814.305, Government Code; or

13 (5) an alternate payee annuity payment under Section
14 804.005, Government Code.

15 (f) If the annuitant is a retiree or a beneficiary under an
16 optional retirement payment plan, to be eligible for the
17 supplemental payment, the effective date of the retirement of the
18 member of the Employees Retirement System of Texas must have been on
19 or before September 1, 2022. The supplemental payment shall be made
20 to an alternate payee who is an annuitant under Section 804.005,
21 Government Code, only if the annuity payment to the alternate payee
22 commenced on or before September 1, 2022. The supplemental payment
23 is in addition to the guaranteed number of payments under Section
24 814.108, Government Code, and may not be counted as one of the
25 guaranteed monthly payments.

26 (g) The supplemental payment does not apply to payments
27 under:

1 (1) Section 814.103 or 814.205, Government Code,
2 relating to retirees or disability retirees from the elected class
3 of membership;

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

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

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

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

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