

(5) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Act, membership in the retirement system shall be optional with any class of elected officials, or with any class of officials appointed for fixed terms.

(6) Should any member in any period of six consecutive years after last becoming a member be absent from service more than two years, or should he withdraw all or part of his accumulated contributions, or should he become a beneficiary or die, he shall thereupon cease to be a member.

(7) It shall be the duty of the head of each department to submit to the Board of Trustees a statement showing the name, title, compensation, duties, date of birth, and length of service of each member and such information regarding other employees in his department as the Board of Trustees may require. The Board of Trustees shall then place each member in one of the following groups:

Group 1. Clerical, administrative, professional and technical workers engaged in duties requiring principally mental exertion.

Group 2. Laborers, mechanics and other workers engaged in duties requiring principally physical exertion.

Any other group of not less than two hundred and fifty persons which may be hereafter recommended by the actuary on the basis of service and mortality experience and approved by the Board of Trustees, to cover all or part of any group or groups previously created or any additional classes of employees.

4. *Creditable Service.* (1) Under such rules and regulations as the Board of Trustees shall adopt each member who was an employee at any time during the year immediately preceding the date of establishment and who become a member during the first year after the date of establishment, shall file a detailed statement of all service as an employee rendered by him prior to the date of establishment for which he claims credit.

(2) The Board of Trustees shall fix and determine by appropriate rules and regulations how much service in any year is equivalent to one year of service, but in no case shall it allow credit for a period of absence without pay of more than a month's duration nor shall more than one year of service be creditable for all service in one calendar year. Service rendered for the full normal working time in any year shall be equivalent to one year's service.

(3) Subject to the above restrictions and to such other rules and regulations as the Board of Trustees may adopt, the Board of Trustees shall verify, as soon as practicable after the filing of such statements of service, the service therein claimed.