

the retirement system as a condition of employment; provided, such person shall pass a physical examination satisfactory to the board of trustees. *Any person who shall become an employee after June 30, 1971 may become a member of the retirement system at any time within the first two years of his employment, but if he has not previously joined must become a member at the end of that period as a condition of employment; provided, such person shall pass a physical examination satisfactory to the board of trustees. The rate of contribution of the employee shall be determined by his age at the time he actually joins the system, and will not be reduced by reason of service prior to joining, provided, however, that any employee may purchase credit for service before joining by paying the contributions due plus interest. Such purchase may be made at any time prior to retirement.*

(d) Membership in the retirement system shall be open to permanent employees of the regular fire and police departments of the county beginning October 1, 1959, and any such employee becoming a member shall be considered an employee within the meaning of this article. Any person who becomes an employee of such fire or police departments on or after ~~such date~~ *July 1, 1971* ~~shall~~ *may* become a member of the retirement system *at any time within the first two years of his employment, but if he has not previously joined must become a member at the end of that period* as a condition of employment; provided, such person shall pass a physical examination satisfactory to the board; and such employee shall not be entitled to coverage under the existing provisions for pensions for firemen, policemen and their widows under Article III of this title, nor required to contribute thereunder. Any person who is an employee of either of such departments on September 30, 1959, may, within a period of six months thereafter, elect to become a member of the retirement system; provided, he shall file with the board of trustees on a form prescribed by the board a notice of his election to be included in the membership and a duly executed waiver of all present and prospective benefits which would otherwise inure to him on account of his coverage under the existing provisions for pensions for firemen, policemen and their widows under Article III of this title. No fireman or policeman becoming a member of this system shall receive credit for service rendered prior to October 1, 1959; except, that any fireman or policeman in service on September 30, 1959, becoming a member within six months thereafter, shall receive prior service credit for all service rendered prior to January 1, 1945, and may elect to pay to the system by a single payment or by an increased rate of contribution, as may be approved by the board of trustees, the contributions with interest which he would have paid had he been a member between January 1, 1945, and the date of enrollment in the retirement system as membership service, less such amounts that have been paid during such period into the retirement systems from which he is being transferred. Any such member not electing to pay for such membership service shall receive credit as prior service for fifty per cent of such service.

(f) Any person who enters the regular part-time employment of the employer after July 1, 1965 and prior to July 1, 1971 and who shall