

for and be admitted to membership; but no such employee shall receive prior service credit unless he becomes a member within the first year following the date of establishment. Any unclassified hourly employee of the State Highway Administration and any employee who is such by virtue of his status as a worker on a county road system, as hereinbefore provided, may apply for and be admitted to membership, and at the time of his admission to membership shall be allowed credit for all prior service for the State, and in addition thereto, shall be granted credit for the period of employment by either the State or the county in the maintenance of county roads, whether under the jurisdiction of the State Highway Administration or the State Roads Commission or prior to the time the State Roads Commission may have assumed jurisdiction over such maintenance. Provided, however, any such employee shall not receive prior service credit unless he make formal application to become a member within one year from June 1, 1943.]

[(5)] (2) (A) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this article, membership in the retirement system shall be optional with any class of officials elected or appointed; or with any employees of the Governor's office, or with any desk officer or employee of either house of the General Assembly who receives an annual salary as his compensation for such employment, who shall be deemed to be an appointed official within the application of this subsection. All officials elected or appointed on or after July 1, 1957, may become members of the system upon making application therefor at any time after their elections or appointment and before the expiration of their respective terms. All such officials shall be entitled to credit for previous service rendered by them to the State, or a participating municipal corporation, including service rendered prior to the establishment of the Employees' Retirement System. Upon receiving a claim for such service credit from the official, the board of trustees of the retirement system shall verify the fact of such previous employment and the creditable service to which the member is entitled, compute the amount due from such political subdivision for which credit is claimed, and submit a statement to the participating municipal corporation for such amount, such computation to be based upon the compensation actually received by the official from the municipal corporation during the period for which service is to be credited. The participating municipal corporation is authorized and directed forthwith to pay the said amount to the retirement system or to place it in the next ensuing budget for prompt payment when that budget becomes effective. The board of trustees is authorized and directed to include any amount due from the State in the appropriation allowed by the next ensuing State budget.

(B) Any such official who receives membership service credit for service rendered to the State or to a participating municipal corporation under the provisions of this subsection shall pay to the retirement system by single