

(4) No election by an eligible employee of an optional retirement program shall be effective unless it is accompanied by an appropriate application, where required, for the issuance of a contract or contracts under the program.

(e) The State shall contribute on behalf of each participant in the optional retirement program 5.84 percent of each participant's annual earnable compensation. Each participant shall contribute the amount which he would have been required to contribute as a member of [the Teachers' Retirement System or the Pension System for the Teachers] A RESPECTIVE SYSTEM. Contributions authorized or required by the provisions of this subsection on behalf of each participant may be made by payroll deduction or by a reduction in salary in accordance with the provisions of § 403(b) of the United States Internal Revenue Code. Payment of contributions shall be made by the appropriate governing board to the designated company for the benefit of each participant. In the event of a qualified employee participating in an optional retirement program whose compensation is paid from special and/or federal funds, the State's contribution to such optional retirement program shall be paid from the special and/or federal funds.

(f) Any eligible employee who is a member of the EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM, THE PENSION SYSTEM FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, THE Teachers' Retirement System or the Pension System for the Teachers of the State of Maryland at the time he elects to participate in an optional retirement program established pursuant to this section shall be deemed to be a person who discontinues service in the [Teachers' Retirement System or the Pension System for the Teachers] RESPECTIVE SYSTEM on the effective date of the election for the purpose of determining his eligibility for immediate vested rights and benefits in the [Teachers' Retirement System or the Pension System for the Teachers] RESPECTIVE SYSTEM. These benefits shall be computed only on the basis of years of service otherwise creditable to him as a contributing member of the [Teachers' Retirement System or the Pension System for the Teachers] RESPECTIVE SYSTEM. Any such person may withdraw his accumulated contributions in the Annuity Savings Fund, with interest, at or after the time he elects to join an optional retirement program. If a person does withdraw his accumulated contributions, he shall forfeit any right to any benefit, whether vested or not, in the [Teachers' Retirement System or the Pension System for Teachers] RESPECTIVE SYSTEM, as applicable.

(i) Any eligible employee electing to participate in an optional retirement program shall be ineligible for membership in the EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM, THE PENSION SYSTEM FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, THE Teachers' Retirement System of the State of Maryland or the