

and grounds for armory purposes or take possession of like premises leased by any national guard organization, paying rental therefor out of funds appropriated under section 20.03 (1) (d). All leases so made shall terminate upon dissolution of the Wisconsin state guard regardless of the term provided therein unless the premises shall be needed for national guard purposes, in which case the lease may be assigned by the adjutant general to the national guard organization intending to occupy the premises.

Approved May 11, 1945.

No. 296, S.]

[Published May 14, 1945.]

CHAPTER 138.

AN ACT to create chapter 201, laws of 1937, section 13a, relating to employes' retirement systems in counties having a population of 500,000 or more.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

Chapter 201, Laws of 1937, section 13a is created to read:

(Chapter 201, Laws of 1937) Section 13a (1) LEGISLATIVE POLICY. Employes have been attracted to and have remained in the public service in counties of more than 500,000 population despite the prevailing higher wages in other employments because of the deferred compensation for their services promised to them in the form of retirement annuities and death benefits in the retirement system to which they have been admitted as contributing members. The purpose of this act is to strengthen the public service in the most populous counties of the state by establishing the security of such retirement and death benefits.

(2) CONTRACTS TO ASSURE BENEFITS. The benefits of members, whether employes in service or retired as beneficiaries, and of beneficiaries of deceased members in the retirement system created by chapter 201, laws of 1937, as amended, shall be assured by benefit contracts as herein provided:

(a) Every such member and beneficiary shall be deemed to have accepted the provisions of this act and shall thereby have a benefit contract in said retirement system of which he is such member or beneficiary as of the effective date of this act unless,

within a period of 30 days thereafter, he files with the board administering the system a written notice electing that this act shall not apply to him. The annuities and all other benefits in the amounts and upon the terms and conditions and in all other respects as provided in the law under which the system was established as such law is amended and in effect on the effective date of this act shall be obligations of such benefit contract on the part of the county and of the board administering the system and each member and beneficiary having such a benefit contract shall have a vested right to such annuities and other benefits and they shall not be diminished or impaired by subsequent legislation or by any other means without his consent.

(b) The board administering the system may issue to each member and beneficiary who shall have a benefit contract under this act a written or printed contract or may supplement the membership certificate or other evidence of participation of the member or beneficiary in the system by endorsement showing that the member or beneficiary has a benefit contract according to the terms of this act but the contract shall be in full force and effect whether or not any written or printed evidence thereof shall be so issued.

(c) Every future entrant who shall become a member of this retirement system after the effective date of this act shall have a similar benefit contract and vested right in the annuities and all other benefits in the amounts and on the terms and conditions and in all other respects as provided in the law under which the retirement system was established as such law shall have been amended and be in effect at the date of commencement of his membership.

(3) SEVERABILITY. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the provisions or application of this act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application and to this end the provisions of this act are declared to be severable.

Approved May 10, 1945.