

Governor's Budget Recommendation Conforming Bill
Department of Corrections Deferred Retirement Option Program

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to state-administered retirement systems;
amending s. 121.091, F.S.; authorizing certain members to
elect to participate in the deferred retirement program
for an additional 36 months; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (13) of section
121.091, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

121.091 Benefits payable under the system.—Benefits may not
be paid under this section unless the member has terminated
employment as provided in s. 121.021(39) (a) or begun
participation in the Deferred Retirement Option Program as
provided in subsection (13), and a proper application has been
filed in the manner prescribed by the department. The department
may cancel an application for retirement benefits when the
member or beneficiary fails to timely provide the information
and documents required by this chapter and the department's
rules. The department shall adopt rules establishing procedures
for application for retirement benefits and for the cancellation
of such application when the required information or documents
are not received.

(13) DEFERRED RETIREMENT OPTION PROGRAM.—In general, and
subject to this section, the Deferred Retirement Option Program,
hereinafter referred to as DROP, is a program under which an
eligible member of the Florida Retirement System may elect to
participate, deferring receipt of retirement benefits while
continuing employment with his or her Florida Retirement System

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30 employer. The deferred monthly benefits shall accrue in the
31 Florida Retirement System on behalf of the member, plus interest
32 compounded monthly, for the specified period of the DROP
33 participation, as provided in paragraph (c). Upon termination of
34 employment, the member shall receive the total DROP benefits and
35 begin to receive the previously determined normal retirement
36 benefits. Participation in the DROP does not guarantee
37 employment for the specified period of DROP. Participation in
38 DROP by an eligible member beyond the initial 60-month period as
39 authorized in this subsection shall be on an annual contractual
40 basis for all participants.

41 (b) *Participation in DROP.*—Except as provided in this
42 paragraph, an eligible member may elect to participate in DROP
43 for a period not to exceed a maximum of 60 calendar months.

44 1.a. Members who are instructional personnel employed by
45 the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind and authorized by
46 the Board of Trustees of the Florida School for the Deaf and the
47 Blind, who are instructional personnel as defined in s.
48 1012.01(2)(a)-(d) in grades K-12 and authorized by the district
49 school superintendent, or who are instructional personnel as
50 defined in s. 1012.01(2)(a) employed by a developmental research
51 school and authorized by the school's director, or if the school
52 has no director, by the school's principal, may participate in
53 DROP for up to 36 calendar months beyond the 60-month period.
54 Effective July 1, 2018, instructional personnel who are
55 authorized to extend DROP participation beyond the 60-month
56 period must have a termination date that is the last day of the
57 last calendar month of the school year within the DROP extension
58 granted by the employer. If, on July 1, 2018, the member's DROP

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59 participation has already been extended for the maximum 36
60 calendar months and the extension period concludes before the
61 end of the school year, the member's DROP participation may be
62 extended through the last day of the last calendar month of that
63 school year. The employer shall notify the division of the
64 change in termination date and the additional period of DROP
65 participation for the affected instructional personnel.

66 b. Administrative personnel in grades K-12, as defined in
67 s. 1012.01(3), who have a DROP termination date on or after July
68 1, 2018, may be authorized to extend DROP participation beyond
69 the initial 60 calendar month period if the administrative
70 personnel's termination date is before the end of the school
71 year. Such administrative personnel may have DROP participation
72 extended until the last day of the last calendar month of the
73 school year in which their original DROP termination date
74 occurred if a date other than the last day of the last calendar
75 month of the school year is designated. The employer shall
76 notify the division of the change in termination date and the
77 additional period of DROP participation for the affected
78 administrative personnel.

79 c. Effective July 1, 2022, a member of the Special Risk
80 Class who is a law enforcement officer who meets the criteria in
81 s. 121.0515(3)(a) and who is a DROP participant on or after July
82 1, 2022, may participate in DROP for up to 36 calendar months
83 beyond the 60-month period if he or she enters DROP on or before
84 June 30, 2028.

85 d. Effective July 1, 2023, a member of the Special Risk
86 Class who is a corrections officer who meets the criteria in s.
87 121.0515(3)(c) and who is a DROP participant on or after July 1,

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88 2023, may participate in DROP for up to 36 calendar months
89 beyond the 60-month period if he or she enters DROP on or before
90 June 30, 2029.

91 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.

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