

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) House Bill 207 - Correction Offices

Synopsis:

Permits Correctional Officers who are employed in positions that are classified as Hazardous Duty Level A-1 to retire with 25 years of pension creditable service (the employee must have twenty (20) years of pension creditable service as a Correctional Officer classified as Hazardous Duty Level A-1).

- **When does this legislation become effective?**

The legislation becomes effective January 1, 2015

- **When can a correctional officer retire with twenty-five (25) years of service under this legislation?**

The employee must have twenty (20) years of credited service as a Correctional Officer classified as Hazardous Duty Level A-1 along with contributing the additional two (2) percent for at least two (2) years. The earliest retirement effective date under this legislation would be January 1, 2017.

- **How much additional pension contributions will I be required to pay as a Correctional Officer?**

Any Correctional Officer classified as Hazardous Duty Level A-1 will be required to pay an additional two percent (2%) in contributions beginning January 1, 2015.

- **If an employee works twenty-four (24) years in another field and then transfers to a correctional officer position classified as Hazardous Duty Level A-1 for one (1) year, do they qualify for the twenty-five (25) year retirement?**

No. The employee must have twenty (20) years of credited service as a Correctional Officer classified as Hazardous Duty Level A-1.

- **If an employee works twenty-two (22) years as a Correctional Officer classified as Hazardous Duty Level A-1 and then transfers to a position not classified as Hazardous Duty A-1, do they qualify for the unreduced pension at twenty-five (25) years?**

No. The unreduced pension at twenty-five (25) years applies to those retiring as a Correctional Officer classified as Hazardous Duty Level A-1 at the time of retirement.

- **I already have twenty-five (25) or more years of credited service as a Correctional Officer classified as Hazardous Duty Level A-1. What will I get out of paying the additional contributions if I continue to work?**

If you continue to be employed as a Correctional Officer classified as Hazardous Duty Level A-1 and paying the additional contributions for two (2) years, your pension calculation for the years beyond twenty-five (25) years will be calculated using the increased factor of 2.45%.

- **If I retired prior to this legislation, could I return as a Correctional Officer classified as Hazardous Duty Level A-1 and retire again after January 1, 2017?**

You could waive your current pension and return to a pension creditable position as a Correctional Officer; however, you would need to return for a minimum of five (5) years and repay the previously collected pension payments to have a total recalculation of your pension. If you return for less than five (5) years, a calculation of only that period would be determined and added to the previously waived pension.

- **If I am a Correctional Officer classified as Hazardous Duty Level A-1 and have been for greater than the 20 years and contributed the additional 2% in contributions for the two (2) year minimum at the age of 58, can I retire?**

Yes. However, in order to retire under the Correctional Officer eligibility, you must have twenty-five (25) years of credited service with no less than 20 years as a Correctional Officer classified as Hazardous Duty A-1. The benefit calculation would not use the increased factor of 2.45% unless the creditable service was greater than twenty-five (25) years.