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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that under sections 88-75  
2 and 88-284, Hawaii Revised Statutes, members of the employees'  
3 retirement system who are granted approval for ordinary  
4 disability retirement are eligible to receive ordinary  
5 disability retirement benefits no earlier than thirty days from  
6 the date the application was filed or the date the member  
7 terminated service, whichever is later. However, section 6-26-  
8 2(2), Hawaii Administrative Rules, expands upon these provisions  
9 by adding that the effective date of retirement for ordinary  
10 disability retirement shall be no later than ninety days from  
11 the date of the notice informing the member of the employees'  
12 retirement system's board of trustees' approval of the  
13 application, and if the applicant fails to retire within ninety  
14 days after the mailing of that notice, the application shall be  
15 deemed canceled.

16           The legislature also finds that the ninety-day time limit  
17 is burdensome to employees' retirement system members who have  
18 applied for ordinary disability retirement, because the



1 requirement imposes a deadline by which these members must cease  
2 their employment and, hence, their compensation at full pay.  
3 Furthermore, the ninety-day time limit prevents employees'  
4 retirement system members who are approved for ordinary  
5 disability retirement from using their earned paid sick leave  
6 and vacation leave of absence beyond ninety days.

7 The purpose of this Act is to nullify the effective date of  
8 retirement for ordinary disability retirement as contained in  
9 section 6-26-2(2), Hawaii Administrative Rules, and establish  
10 that, if an applicant who files an application for ordinary  
11 disability retirement continues to work at the applicant's  
12 regular job, or remains on payroll by taking paid sick or  
13 vacation leave of absence, the effective date of retirement  
14 shall be the first day of the month following the month the  
15 applicant terminates employment or goes off the payroll.

16 SECTION 2. Section 88-75, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
17 amended to read as follows:

18 "**§88-75 Ordinary disability retirement.** Upon application  
19 of a member in service or on leave without pay, or the person  
20 appointed by the family court as guardian of an incapacitated  
21 member, any member who has ten or more years of credited service  
22 shall be retired by the board of trustees on an ordinary



1 disability retirement allowance if the medical board, after a  
2 medical examination of the member, certifies that:

- 3 (1) The member is mentally or physically incapacitated for
- 4 the further performance of duty at the time of
- 5 application;
- 6 (2) The incapacity is likely to be permanent; and
- 7 (3) The member should be retired.

8 Upon approval by the board, the member shall be eligible to  
9 receive an ordinary disability retirement benefit no earlier  
10 than thirty days from the date the application was filed or the  
11 date the member terminated service, whichever is later.

12 ~~[Retirement]~~ A member whose application for an ordinary  
13 disability retirement allowance is approved by the board while  
14 the member is still in service may terminate service and retire  
15 at any time following such approval; provided that retirement  
16 shall become effective on the first day of [a] the month[7]  
17 following the month the applicant terminates employment or goes  
18 off the payroll, except for the month of December when  
19 retirement on the first or last day of the month shall be  
20 allowed."

21 SECTION 3. Section 88-284, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
22 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

1           "(b) Upon approval by the board, the member shall receive  
2 an ordinary disability retirement benefit no earlier than thirty  
3 days from the date the application was filed or the date the  
4 member terminated service, whichever is later. [~~Retirement~~] A  
5 member whose application for an ordinary disability retirement  
6 allowance is approved by the board while the member is still in  
7 service may terminate service and retire at any time following  
8 such approval; provided that retirement shall become effective  
9 on the first day of [a] the month[7] following the month the  
10 applicant terminates employment or goes off the payroll, except  
11 for the month of December when retirement on the first or last  
12 day of the month shall be allowed."

13           SECTION 4. This Act shall apply to any application for  
14 ordinary disability retirement filed after its effective date.

15           SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
16 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

17           SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.



**Report Title:**

Employees' Retirement System; Ordinary Disability Retirement

**Description:**

Nullifies the effective date of retirement requirement for ordinary disability retirement under rules of the employees' retirement system, and establishes that if an ordinary disability retirement applicant continues to work at the applicant's regular job may terminate service at any time following approval of ordinary retirement disability. (HB2678 HD2)

