

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs to which
3 was referred House Bill No. 519 entitled “An act relating to authorizing
4 officers of the Town of Randolph Police Department to enroll in Group C of
5 the Vermont State Employees’ Retirement System” respectfully reports that it
6 has considered the same and recommends that the bill be amended by striking
7 out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

8 Sec. 1. 3 V.S.A. § 455 is amended to read:

9 § 455. DEFINITIONS

10 (a) As used in this subchapter:

11 * * *

12 (11) “Member” means any employee included in the membership of the
13 Retirement System under section 457 of this title.

14 * * *

15 (F) “Group G member” means:

16 (i) the following employees who are first employed in the
17 positions listed in this subdivision (F)(i) on or after July 1, 2023, or who are
18 members of the System as of June 30, 2022, and make an irrevocable election
19 to prospectively join Group G on or before June 30, 2023, pursuant to the
20 terms set by the Board: facility employees of the Department of Corrections, as
21 Department of Corrections employees who provide direct security and

1 treatment services to offenders under supervision in the community, employees
2 of a facility for justice-involved youth, and employees of the Vermont
3 Psychiatric Care Hospital or its successor in interest, who provide direct
4 patient care; ~~and~~

5 (ii) the following employees who are first employed in the
6 positions listed in this subdivision (F)(ii) or first included in the membership of
7 the System on or after January 1, 2025, or who are members of the System as
8 of December 31, 2024, and make an irrevocable election to join Group G on or
9 before December 31, 2024, pursuant to the terms set by the Board:

10 (I) all sheriffs; and

11 (II) deputy sheriffs who:

12 (aa) are employed by county sheriff's departments that
13 participate in the Vermont Employees' Retirement System;

14 (bb) have attained Level II or Level III law enforcement
15 officer certification from the Vermont Criminal Justice Council;

16 (cc) are required to perform law enforcement duties as the
17 primary function of their employment; and

18 (dd) are not full-time deputy sheriffs compensated by the
19 State of Vermont whose primary function is transports as defined in 24 V.S.A.
20 § 290(b) and eligible for Group C pursuant to subdivision (9)(B) of this
21 subsection (a); and

1 to the terms set by the Board, the first day of the calendar month next
2 following the earlier of:

3 (I) 65 years of age and following completion of five years of
4 creditable service;

5 (II) attainment of 87 points reflecting a combination of the age
6 of the member and number of years of service; or

7 (III) 55 years of age and following completion of 20 years of
8 creditable service; ~~or~~

9 (vi) for all sheriffs and those deputy sheriffs who meet the
10 requirements pursuant to subdivision (11)(F)(ii) of this subsection (a), who
11 first become a Group G member after January 1, 2025, the first day of the
12 calendar month next following the earlier of:

13 (I) attainment of 55 years of age and following completion of
14 20 years of creditable service; or

15 (II) 65 years of age and following completion of five years of
16 creditable service;

17 (vii) for all municipal law enforcement officers who meet the
18 requirements pursuant to subdivision (11)(F)(iii) of this subsection (a), who
19 were first included in the membership of the System on or before June 30,
20 2008, who were employed as of December 31, 2026, and who made an
21 irrevocable election to prospectively join Group G on or before January 1,

1 2027, pursuant to the terms set by the Board, the first day of the calendar
2 month next following the earlier of:

3 (I) 62 years of age and following completion of five years of
4 creditable service;

5 (II) completion of 30 years of creditable service; or

6 (III) 55 years of age and following completion of 20 years of
7 creditable service;

8 (viii) for all municipal law enforcement officers who meet the
9 requirements pursuant to subdivision (11)(F)(iii) of this subsection (a), who
10 were first included in the membership of the System on or after July 1, 2008,
11 who were employed as of December 31, 2026, and who made an irrevocable
12 election to prospectively join Group G on or before January 1, 2027, pursuant
13 to the terms set by the Board, the first day of the calendar month next
14 following the earlier of:

15 (I) 65 years of age and following completion of five years of
16 creditable service;

17 (II) attainment of 87 points reflecting a combination of the age
18 of the member and number of years of service; or

19 (III) 55 years of age and following completion of 20 years of
20 creditable service; or

1 (3) municipal law enforcement officers who meet the requirements
2 pursuant to subdivision 455(a)(11)(F)(iii) of this chapter shall be considered
3 members of Group G.

4 Sec. 4. ONE-TIME IRREVOCABLE ELECTION FOR MUNICIPAL LAW
5 ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

6 (a) Subject to the restrictions set forth in subdivision (b)(1) of this section,
7 on or before September 1, 2026, the Office of the State Treasurer, in
8 consultation with participating eligible municipalities, shall establish a list of
9 positions newly eligible for Group G of the Vermont Employees' Retirement
10 System, which shall be limited to municipal law enforcement officers who:

11 (1) are employed by a municipal employer that participates in the
12 Vermont Employees' Retirement System;

13 (2) have a Level II or Level III law enforcement officer certification
14 from the Vermont Criminal Justice Council; and

15 (3) are required to perform law enforcement duties as the primary
16 function of their employment.

17 (b)(1) A municipal law enforcement officer who qualifies for Group G
18 Membership pursuant to this act and that has a current Level II or Level III law
19 enforcement officer certification from the Vermont Criminal Justice Council
20 shall have a one-time option to transfer to Group G on or before December 1,
21 2026. Municipal law enforcement officers without a current Level II or Level

1 III law enforcement officer certification from the Vermont Criminal Justice
2 Council shall not be eligible to transfer to Group G membership. For a
3 municipal law enforcement officer who qualifies for Group G membership
4 who is first employed on or after December 1, 2026, but before January 1,
5 2027, election to join Group G under this section shall be made as soon as
6 possible but shall be within 30 days following the employee’s date of hire.

7 (2) Election to join the Group G plan under this section shall be
8 irrevocable.

9 (c) The effective date of participation in a new group plan for those
10 employees covered under this section and who elect to transfer to Group G
11 shall be January 1, 2027. All past service accrued through the date of transfer
12 shall be calculated based upon the plan in which it was accrued, with all
13 provisions and penalties, if applicable, applied.

14 (d) A municipal employer employing a law enforcement officer
15 participating in the Vermont Employees’ Retirement System shall notify the
16 Office of the State Treasurer of changes in a law enforcement officer’s
17 eligibility for Group G within 30 days after the change in eligibility pursuant to
18 subdivision 455(11)(F)(iii) of this title.

19 (e) Nothing in this section shall be read to extend postretirement health or
20 other insurance benefits to Group G municipal law enforcement officers who

1 work for a municipal employer that participates in the Vermont Employees'
2 Retirement System.

3 Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

4 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

5

6

7 (Committee vote: _____)

8

9

Representative _____

10

FOR THE COMMITTEE