

CHAPTER 69

FIRE AND POLICE DEPARTMENT AID; FIREMEN'S
AND POLICEMEN'S RELIEF

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NOTE: For definitions, see Section 60.02.

69.01 CLERK TO FILE CERTIFICATE. On or before September 30, annually, the clerk of each city, village, borough, town, or township having an organized fire department, or a partly paid or volunteer department, shall file with the commissioner his certificate stating such fact, that no minor under the age of 18 is so employed, the system of water supply in use in such department, the number of its organized companies, steam, hand or other engines, hook and ladder trucks, hose carts, and feet of hose in actual use, and such other facts as the commissioner may require; provided that such clerk shall include in such certificate the name of each city, village, borough, town, or township served by such fire department under contract.

[*R L s 1650; 1935 c 280 s 1; 1943 c 75 s 1; 1949 c 545 s 1*] (3723)

69.02 REPORT OF PREMIUMS; CERTIFICATE OF COMMISSIONER. The commissioner shall include in the blank form furnished to each fire insurance company for its annual statement a list of all such cities, villages, boroughs, towns and townships, and each company shall report therein the amount of the gross direct premiums, less return premiums, received by it on all direct business during the preceding year, upon property located within the corporate limits of such cities, villages, boroughs, towns and townships, upon policies covering loss or damage by fire, lightning, extended coverage, loss or damage by water to goods and premises arising from the breakage or leakage of sprinklers, pumps or other apparatus erected for extinguishing fires, and a report setting forth the names of all cities, villages, boroughs, towns, and townships furnishing fire protection to other cities, villages, boroughs, towns, and townships and to what other city, village, borough, town, or township the services are furnished as evidenced by the service contracts filed with him. The report shall also indicate the city, village, borough, town, or township to which the premium tax should be allocated. Before July 1 following, the commissioner shall certify to the state auditor the name of each city, village, borough, town, or township which has had for not less than one year an organized fire department, and which has been so reported to him, and the amount of said gross direct premiums, less return premiums, upon property located within the corporate limits of such city, village, borough, town, or

township, and upon property located within the corporate limits of such other cities, villages, boroughs, towns, and townships as have been certified to the commissioner as having service contracts with such first mentioned city, village, borough, town, or township received by each fire company upon policies covering loss or damage by fire, lightning, extended coverage, loss or damage by water to goods and premises arising from the breakage or leakage of sprinklers, pumps or other apparatus erected for extinguishing fires, and taxes paid on account thereof in such year by each company.

[*R L s 1651; 1919 c 397 s 1; 1935 c 280 s 2; 1943 c 75 s 2; 1959 c 692 s 1*] (*3724*)

69.03 AUDITOR'S WARRANT. At the end of the fiscal year, the state auditor shall issue and deliver to the treasurer of each such municipality his warrant for an amount equal to the total amount of the two percent tax paid by insurance companies to the state upon premiums received under policies of the classes of insurance as indicated in section 69.02 and the same shall be paid out of the general revenue fund.

[*R. L. s. 1652; 1919 c. 397 s. 2*] (*3725*)

69.04 SPECIAL FUND, PAYMENTS. Such amount shall be kept in the special fund for firemen's relief provided for in sections 424.30 and 424.31 and shall be disbursed only for the purposes and in the manner set forth in those sections.

[*R L s 1653; 1909 c 237 s 1; 1917 c 207 s 1; 1919 c 326 s 1; 1927 c 373 s 1; 1929 c 165 s 1; 1935 c 247 s 1; 1937 c 349 s 3; 1943 c 323 s 2; 1945 c 225 s 1; 1953 c 521 s 1*] (*3726*)

69.05 ANNUAL REPORT; EXAMINATION OF BOOKS. The secretary and treasurer of each such association shall annually prepare a detailed report of its receipts and expenditures for the preceding year, showing to whom and for what purpose the money has been paid and expended, and, on or before September 1, file it with the clerk of the municipality and a duplicate with the commissioner of insurance. No money shall be paid to such association until such report is so filed. No one serving as a substitute or on probation, nor any fireman in a municipality having such association who is not a member thereof, nor any minor under the age of 18, shall be deemed a fireman within the meaning of this chapter. No treasurer of any such association shall enter upon his duties until he shall have given to the association a good and sufficient bond for the faithful discharge of his duty according to law. All the financial books and accounts of such association and municipality shall be subject at all times to examination by the public examiner, and he is hereby authorized and empowered to make such examination when complaint is duly made to him that the money, or any part thereof, paid under the provisions of this chapter to the treasurer of any municipality or relief association, has been or is being expended for an unauthorized purpose, shall so report to the governor, upon whose direction to the auditor no further warrants shall be issued to such municipality until the money so expended has been replaced.

[*R L s 1654; 1943 c 75 s 3; 1949 c 545 s 2*] (*3727*)

69.055 PERSONS UNDER THE AGE OF 18. It is unlawful to employ a minor under the age of 18 as a volunteer fireman or to permit him to serve with a volunteer fire department.

[*1949 c 545 s 3*]

69.06 SERVICE PENSIONS. Every fire department relief association organized under any laws of this state when its certificate of incorporation or bylaws so provide may pay out of any funds received from the state, or other source, a service pension in such amount, not exceeding \$40 per month, as hereinafter authorized, or as may be provided by its bylaws, to each of its members who has heretofore retired or may hereafter retire, who has reached or shall hereafter reach the age of 50 years and who has done or hereafter shall do active duty for 20 years or more as a member of a volunteer, paid or partially paid and partially volunteer, fire department in the municipality where the association exists, and who has been or shall hereafter be a member of such fire department relief association at least ten years prior to such retirement and who complies with such additional conditions as to age, service, and membership as may be prescribed by the certificate or bylaws of the association.

The amount of monthly pension which may be paid to such retired firemen may be increased by adding to the maximum above prescribed an amount not exceeding \$2 per month for each year of active duty over 20 years of service before retirement; provided, that no such fire department relief association shall pay to any member thereof a pension in any greater amount than the sum of \$60 per month.

Any such fire department relief association where the majority of its members are volunteer firemen may provide in its certificate of incorporation or bylaws for a service pension in an amount not exceeding \$200 per year of service to be paid in a lump sum where the retiring member qualifies for a service pension under the provisions hereinbefore set forth.

These pensions shall be uniform in amount, except as herein otherwise provided. No such pension shall be paid to any person while he remains a member of the fire department and no person receiving such pension shall be entitled to other relief from the association. No payments made or to be made by the association to any member on the pension role shall be subject to judgment, garnishment, execution, or other legal process and no person entitled to such payment shall have the right to assign the same, nor shall the association have the authority to recognize any assignment or pay over any sum which has been assigned.

[*R L s 1655; 1907 c 331 s 1; 1917 c 514 s 1; 1933 c 124 s 1; 1945 c 560 s 1; 1957 c 200 s 1*] (3728)

69.07-69.13 [Repealed, 1953 c 399 s 1]

69.22 MEMBERSHIP IN POLICE OR FIRE DEPARTMENT RELIEF ASSOCIATIONS. All employees, whether elective or appointive, and all officers in the service of any municipal police or fire department, telegraph, signal, or alarm service shall be entitled to membership in any incorporated police department relief association or fire department relief association that receives municipal or state aid in cities of 50,000 inhabitants or over, in which a separate bureau of police and fire alarm is provided by law, and these applicants in the association shall, at the time of joining, be given credit only on the first application made under sections 69.22 to 69.24 for the time of actual service in any fire department or police department and signal service, as provided in sections 69.22 to 69.24, notwithstanding any rule, bylaw, municipal charter provisions, or other provision to the contrary.

[*1919 c. 68 s. 1*] (3745)

69.23 WHO ENTITLED TO RELIEF. The members of the bureau, except unassigned officers thereof, shall only be entitled to make application in the relief association connected with the department to which they have been assigned for duty in the office of the superintendent of the bureau on the twenty-fifth day of January, 1919. The unassigned officers shall be eligible to membership in either of the associations. Credit for time earned shall be allowed only by the police benevolent association for the service so previously spent in the police department and the bureau, and by the fire department relief association for the service so previously spent in the fire department and the bureau. After joining the relief association, any transfer or assignment in the bureau of these employees shall not affect the membership in the relief association. Any appointee to the bureau shall only be entitled to join the fire department relief association in the event that he is filling a vacancy in the fire department service.

[*1919 c. 68 s. 2*] (3746)

69.24 DUAL MEMBERSHIP PROHIBITED. The members, employees and officers of the alarm, telegraph, or signal service shall not be entitled to membership in both associations at the same time.

[*1919 c. 68 s. 3*] (3747)

69.25 FIREMEN'S RELIEF ASSOCIATIONS IN CITIES OF FIRST CLASS. The fire departments of each city of the first class in this state shall maintain a firemen's relief association, which shall be duly incorporated under the laws of the state. All such associations now existing as such corporations, or hereafter incorporated under the laws of this state, shall have perpetual corporate existence.

[*1933 c. 177 s. 1*] (3750-1)

69.26 RELIEF ASSOCIATIONS SELF GOVERNING. Each relief association shall be organized, operated, and maintained in accordance with its own articles of incorporation and bylaws, by firemen, as defined in section 69.27, who are members of the fire departments. Each association shall have power to regulate its own management and its own affairs, and all additional corporate powers which may be necessary or useful; subject to the regulations and restrictions of the laws of this state pertaining to corporations not inconsistent herewith.

[*1933 c. 177 s. 2*] (3750-2)

69.27 MEMBERS. A fireman under sections 69.25 to 69.53 is one who is regularly entered on the pay-roll of one of the fire departments serving on active duty with a designated fire company thereon or having charge of one or more of

the companies and engaged in the hazards of fire fighting; and shall include all members of the electrical and mechanical divisions of these fire departments and all others who are subject to like hazards. Substitutes and persons employed irregularly from time to time shall not be included.

All persons who are members of such relief associations on April 8, 1933, whether their status is embraced within the definition of a fireman herein contained or otherwise, shall have the right to continue as members of their respective associations and be entitled to all benefits pertaining thereto, and any member included under the definition of fireman shall have the right to retain his membership on promotion or appointment to other positions to which the fireman may be subject.

Sections 69.25 to 69.53 shall not affect any pensions or other benefits which have been allowed or which are being paid by any such relief association under or in accordance with any prior act on April 8, 1933. Payment of these pensions and benefits shall be continued by the respective associations and shall be subject only to the provisions of section 69.42.

[1933 c 177 s 3; 1951 c 557 s 1] (3750-3)

69.28 ELIGIBILITY. Every fireman shall apply for membership in the relief association in the city in which he is employed within the time and in the manner hereinafter set forth. Any such fireman shall, not later than 90 days from the time he is regularly entered on the payrolls of the fire department, make written application for membership in the relief association on forms supplied by the association, accompanied by one or more physician's certificates required by the bylaws of the association. After the application has been filed the board of examiners of the association shall make a thorough investigation thereof and file its report with the secretary of the association. The application must be acted upon by the association within six months from the date applicant was entered on the pay-roll of the fire department. No fireman, who is more than 35 years of age when his application is filed, can become a member of the relief association, except that such age limitation of 35 years shall not apply on application for reinstatement in the association.

Any member of the fire department in any city of the first class on January 1, 1941, may be eligible to membership in a firemen's relief association. Such member shall make application within 90 days from and after April 21, 1953. His application must be acted upon by the association within six months thereafter.

Upon the acceptance of the application, the membership of the applicant shall become effective as of the date when he was entered on the payroll of the department, provided the applicant shall make up all dues which he would have paid had he been a member of the firemen's relief association from the date he entered upon the payroll of the department. All payments, benefits, and privileges to which these firemen are entitled as members of that fund shall be governed by sections 69.25 and 69.61.

[1933 c 177 s 4; 1937 c 155 s 1; 1941 c 258 s 1; 1953 c 570 s 1] (3750-4)

69.29 EXCLUSION FROM MEMBERSHIP. Each firemen's relief association may exclude all applicants for membership who are not physically and mentally sound so as to prevent unwarranted risks for the association. Additional requirements for entrance fees and annual dues for membership in the association may from time to time be prescribed in the bylaws of the association. Each firemen's relief association may exclude from active membership all members who reach 65 years of age regardless of the provisions of Minnesota Statutes, Sections 197.45 to 197.48. When such members who have reached 65 years of age have been so excluded from active membership in the relief association, they shall be retired and receive a service pension as provided in this chapter.

[1933 c 177 s 5; 1957 c 26 s 1; 1957 c 180 s 1] (3750-5)

69.30 OFFICERS, DUTIES, BONDS. The officers of a relief association shall be a president, one or more vice-presidents, a secretary, and a treasurer. The offices of assistant secretary and assistant treasurer may be created by the bylaws of any such association. The affairs of such association shall be managed by a board of trustees elected in the manner prescribed by the articles of incorporation of the association.

The secretary and the treasurer of each such relief association shall each furnish a corporate bond to the association for the faithful performance of his duties in such

amount as the association from time to time may determine. Each relief association shall, and it is hereby authorized to, pay the premiums on these bonds from its general fund.

[1933 c. 177 s. 6] (3750-6)

69.31 REPORTS OF OFFICERS. The secretary and the treasurer of each such association, prior to the first day of February each year, shall jointly prepare and sign, with the approval of the association's board of trustees, a detailed and itemized report of all receipts and expenditures in the association's special fund for the preceding calendar year showing the source of the receipts, to whom and for what purpose the moneys have been paid and expended, and the balance in the fund. They shall file duplicate original copies thereof with the clerk of the city in which the association is located and with the state auditor. No money shall be paid to a relief association by either the state or the city in which the association is located until the report is so filed.

[1933 c. 177 s. 7] (3750-7)

69.32 CITY CLERK TO FILE REPORT WITH COMMISSIONER. The clerk of each city of the first class having a firemen's relief association shall, on or before the 31st day of October each year, make and file with the commissioner his certificate stating the existence of the firemen's relief association.

[1933 c. 177 s. 8] (3750-8)

69.33 NAMES OF ASSOCIATIONS REPORTED TO INSURANCE COMPANIES. The commissioner shall enclose in his annual statement blank sent by him to all fire insurance companies doing business in this state a blank form containing the names of all firemen's relief associations in all cities of the first class and the names of the cities and require these companies, at the time of making their annual statements to the commissioner, to state on these blanks the amount of premiums received by them upon properties insured within the corporate limits of the cities named thereon during the year ending December 31st last past. Thereafter, before July first each year, the commissioner shall certify to the state auditor the information thus obtained, together with the amount of the tax for the benefit of the relief association paid in such year by these companies upon these insurance premiums.

[1933 c. 177 s. 9] (3750-9)

69.34 STATE AUDITOR TO DISTRIBUTE MONEYS. The state auditor, at the end of each fiscal year, shall issue and deliver to the treasurer of each such relief association his warrant upon the state treasurer for an amount equal to the total amount of the tax for the benefit of the relief association paid by fire insurance companies upon the premiums by these companies received in the city upon properties insured within the corporate limits thereof in which the association is located, together with such other appropriations or funds as may be appropriated or created and to which the association is entitled.

There is hereby appropriated to such relief associations who are entitled to payments under sections 69.01 to 69.33 from the fund or account in the state treasury to which the money was credited, such amount as is sufficient to make the payments specified in this section.

[1933 c 177 s 10; 1959 c 158 s 6] (3750-10)

69.35 PAYMENT TO BE MADE FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND. The state treasurer shall upon presentation to him of the warrant of the state auditor specified in section 69.34 pay out of the general revenue fund of the state the amount thereof to the treasurer of the relief association presenting the warrant.

[1933 c. 177 s. 11] (3750-11)

69.36 TAX LEVY. The city council or other governing body of each city wherein such a relief association is located shall each year, at the time the tax levies for the support of the city are made, and in addition thereto, levy a tax of three-fourths of one mill on all taxable property within the city. In the event the balance in the relief association's special fund, at the time the levy is made, is less than \$500,000, as determined by the association's board of trustees, then the city's governing body shall increase the rate of this tax levy to one mill, and in any city now or hereafter having 500,000 or more inhabitants the governing body of the city shall further increase the rate of this tax levy to one and one-half mills in each of the years 1957 and 1958. In the event the balance in the fund at that time, in any city in which the charter of the city contains a per capita limitation on expenditures, is less than \$400,000 then the city's governing body shall increase

the rate of this tax levy to one and one-half mills. The tax so levied shall be transmitted with other tax levies to the auditor of the county in which such city is situated and shall be collected and payment thereof enforced when and in like manner as state and county taxes are paid.

The city council or other governing body of any city of the first class, having a population of not less than 75,000 and not more than 150,000, wherein such a relief association is located, and in the charter of such city where is contained a per capita limitation on tax levies, shall each year, at the time the tax levies for the support of the city are made, and in addition thereto, levy a tax of two and three-quarters mills on all taxable property within the city. In the event the balance in the relief association's special fund, at the time the levy is made, is less than \$500,000, as determined by the association's board of trustees, then the city's governing body shall increase the rate of this tax levy to three mills.

[1933 c 177 s 12; 1935 c 87 s 1; 1937 c 279 s 1; 1943 c 316 s 1; 1947 c 145 s 1; 1951 c 273 s 1; 1955 c 188 s 1; 1957 c 24 s 1; 1957 c 590 s 1] (3750-12)

69.361 PAYROLL DEDUCTION. In addition to the moneys in the special and general fund of said association, or provided to be raised therefor under existing laws for the payment of pensions and other benefits, revenues from the following sources shall be paid to said special and general fund:

(1) It shall be the duty of the city clerk, treasurer, or other disbursing officer of such city to deduct each month from the monthly pay of each member of the relief association, a sum equal to three and one-half percent of the basic monthly pay of a first grade fireman, and pay the same to the treasurer of the relief association for credit to the special fund of said association, except that in any city now or hereafter having 75,000 inhabitants or more and less than 150,000 inhabitants, the sums herein referred to shall be four percent.

(2) The city clerk, treasurer, or other disbursing officer of the city shall deduct each month from the monthly pay of each member of the relief association, a sum equal to one-half of one percent of the basic monthly pay of a first grade fireman, and pay the same to the treasurer of the relief association for credit in the general fund of the association, except that in any city now or hereafter having 75,000 inhabitants or more and less than 150,000 inhabitants, no deductions will be made or paid for credit in the general fund.

[1947 c 145 s 2; 1955 c 188 s 2; 1957 c 590 s 2]

69.37 COUNTY TREASURER TO PAY OVER MONEYS COLLECTED. As soon as practicable after the first days of June and November, each year, the treasurer of each such county shall pay to the treasurer of each relief association within the county the amount of the tax then collected and payable to the association, together with all interest and penalties so collected, and all interest paid thereon between the time of collection and the time of payment to the relief association. The treasurer of the city, in the event that the tax, or any part thereof, is paid to him, shall likewise pay the same to the treasurer of the relief association in the city as soon as the same has been collected, together with all interest and penalties collected thereon.

[1933 c. 177 s. 13] (3750-13)

69.38 ASSOCIATIONS TO MANAGE FUNDS. Each relief association shall have full and permanent charge of, and the responsibility for the proper management and control of, all funds that may come into its possession, and particularly funds derived from the following sources:

(1) Funds derived from the state and interest from the investment thereof;

(2) Funds derived from tax levies by the city in which the relief association is located and interest from the investment thereof; and

(3) Funds derived from private sources, such as gifts, charges, rents, entertainments, dues paid by members, and from other sources.

[1933 c. 177 s. 14] (3750-14)

69.39 SEPARATE FUND. The money received from the various sources shall be kept in two separate and distinct funds, one to be designated as the association special fund, and the other as its general fund. All money received from the state and from the city in which the relief association is located shall be deposited in the special fund and expended only for purposes authorized in sections 69.40 to 69.50. All money received from other sources shall be deposited in the general fund and may be expended for any purpose deemed proper by the association.

[1933 c. 177 s. 15] (3750-15)

69.40 PAYMENTS. The amount so paid to a relief association by the state and each city under the provisions of sections 69.25 to 69.53, and by it set aside and deposited as a special fund, shall be appropriated and disbursed by the association for the following purposes:

(1) For the relief of sick, injured and disabled members of the relief association, their widows and orphans; and

(2) For the payment of disability and service pensions to members of the relief association; and

(3) For the expenses of such association as authorized by the board of trustees of any such association of any city now or hereafter having 75,000 inhabitants or more and less than 150,000 inhabitants.

[1933 c 177 s 16; 1955 c 188 s 3] (3750-16)

69.41 SICKNESS AND DISABILITY DEFINED. Each such relief association shall in its bylaws define the sickness and disability entitling its members to relief, specify the amounts thereof and the amounts to be paid to its disability and service pensioners and to widows and children of deceased members, and to fix the age limit of children to whom pensions may be paid.

[1933 c 177 s 17; 1955 c 188 s 4; 1955 c 358 s 1] (3750-17)

69.42 PENSIONS, RIGHT TO REDUCE. Such firemen's relief association shall at all times have and retain the right to reduce the amount of pensions and benefits paid out of its funds, and to reduce and otherwise adjust the amounts of the pensions and benefits to be thereafter paid out of its fund and, within the limits described in sections 69.25 to 69.53, the association shall have and retain the right to increase or otherwise adjust these pensions and benefits after the same have been so reduced.

[1933 c 177 s 18; 1955 c 188 s 5; 1955 c 358 s 2] (3750-18)

69.43 PERSONS ENTITLED TO RELIEF. A member of the association who, by reason of sickness or accident, becomes disabled from performing his assignment of duties on the fire department shall be entitled to such relief as the bylaws of the association may provide.

No allowances for such disabilities shall be made unless notice of the disability and application for benefits on account thereof shall be made by, or on behalf of, the disabled member to the secretary of the association within 30 days after the beginning of the disability.

[1933 c. 177 s. 19] (3750-19)

69.44 DISABILITY BENEFITS, AMOUNT. A member of any such relief association entitled to disability benefits as herein defined, shall receive the same from his association for such periods of time, at such times, and in such amounts, not to exceed 40 units per month, as the bylaws of said association provide.

[1933 c 177 s 20; 1947 c 144 s 1; 1949 c 573 s 1; 1951 c 557 s 2; 1953 c 80 s 1; 1955 c 188 s 6; 1955 c 358 s 3] (3750-20)

69.45 RETIREMENT PENSION. A member of such association who has completed a period, or periods of service on the fire department equal to 20 years or more, shall, after he has arrived at the age of 50 years, or more, and has retired from the payroll of the fire department, be entitled to a basic pension of not less than 20 units and not more than 32 units per month for his natural life in conformity to the bylaws of each association. Any and all leaves of absence of more than 90 days, except such as are granted to a member because of his disability due to sickness or accident, shall be excluded in computing said period of service; and all periods of time during which a member received a disability pension shall be excluded in such computation. No deductions shall be made for a leave of absence granted to a member to enable him to accept an appointive position in said fire department. No member shall be entitled to draw both a disability and a service pension.

Such monthly basic payments may be increased by adding to said basic pension the sum of one unit per month, or any portion thereof, for each year of active duty over 20 and not more than 35 years.

The bylaws of each association may provide for these increases, or any portion thereof; provided, that in no event the total pension exceed the sum of 40 units per month.

A unit shall be 1/80th of the maximum monthly salary of a first grade firefighter

on January 1 of the current calendar year in which the pensions provided for in sections 69.25 to 69.53 are paid.

[1933 c 177 s 21; 1947 c 144 s 2; 1949 c 573 s 2; 1951 c 557 s 2; 1953 c 80 s 2; 1955 c 188 s 7; 1955 c 358 s 4] (3750-21)

69.46 MEMBER MAY BE ON DEFERRED PENSION LIST. A member of the association who has performed service on the fire department for 20 years or more but has not reached the age of 50 years shall have the right to retire from the department without forfeiting his right to a service pension. He shall, upon application, be placed on the deferred pension roll of the association and, after he has reached the age of 50 years, the association shall, upon his application therefor, pay his pension from the date the application is approved by the association. Any person making this application thereby waives all other rights, claims, or demands against his association for any cause that may have arisen from, or that may be attributable to, his service in the fire department.

[1933 c. 177 s. 22] (3750-22)

69.47 WAR SERVICE INCLUDED IN PERIOD OF SERVICE. Any applicant for a service pension who subsequent to his entry into the service of such fire department leaves the active service of such fire department to serve in the military forces of the United States in any war or national emergency, or having during such war or emergency left the active service of such fire department to enter the employment of the government of the United States and in such service rendered fire prevention services during such war or emergency and has returned after his honorable discharge from such service, and, within six months after such discharge, either applied for reinstatement in or resumed active duty in said fire department, the period of his absence in such service of the United States shall be counted in computing the period of service hereinbefore provided for, but during such period of military or fire prevention service he shall not be considered as an active member of his association.

[1933 c. 177 s. 23; 1941 c. 258 s. 2; 1945 c. 286 s. 1] (3750-23)

69.48 WIDOWS AND CHILDREN, PENSIONS. When a service pensioner, disability pensioner, or deferred pensioner, or an active member of a relief association dies, leaving

(1) A widow who was his legally married wife, residing with him, and who was married to him while or prior to the time he was on the payroll of the fire department; and who, in case the deceased member was a service or deferred pensioner was legally married to the member at least three years before his retirement from the fire department; or

(2) A child or children who were living while the deceased was on the payroll of the fire department, or born within nine months after the decedent was withdrawn from the payroll of the fire department, the widow and the child or children shall be entitled to a pension or pensions, as follows:

(a) To the widow, a pension of not less than 15 units, and not to exceed the sum of 18 units per month, as the bylaws of the association provide, for her natural life; provided, that if she shall remarry then the pension shall cease and terminate as of the date of her remarriage;

(b) To the child or children, if their mother be living, a pension of not to exceed 6 units per month for each child up to the time each child reaches the age of not less than 16 years and not to exceed an age of 18 years, in conformity with the bylaws of the association; provided, the total pensions hereunder for the widow and children of the deceased member shall not exceed the sum of 40 units per month;

(c) A child or children of a deceased member receiving a pension or pensions hereunder shall, after the death of their mother, be entitled to receive a pension or pensions in such amount as the board of trustees of the association shall deem necessary to properly support the child or children until they reach the age of not less than 16 and not more than 18 years, as the bylaws of the association may provide; but the total amount of the pension or pensions hereunder for any child or children shall not exceed the sum of 40 units per month.

[1933 c 177 s 24; 1949 c 573 s 3; 1951 c 557 s 4; 1955 c 188 s 8; 1955 c 358 s 5] (3750-24)

69.485 [Repealed, 1953 c 80 s 3]

69.49 BOARD OF EXAMINERS. The relief association shall establish a board of examiners who shall, as and when requested by the association's board of trus-

tees, make a thorough investigation of and report on all applications for membership in the association; investigate and make report on all applications for disability pensions and make recommendations as to the amount to be paid to each applicant; investigate and make report on all disability pensioners, and make recommendations as to amount of pension to be paid to them, from year to year; and investigate and report on all applications for service pensions, and claims for relief. This board shall consist of a competent physician selected by the association, and at least three members of the relief association on active duty with the fire department.

[1933 c. 177 s. 25] (3750-25)

69.50 PUBLIC EXAMINER TO EXAMINE BOOKS. The public examiner of this state shall, each year, examine the books and accounts of the secretary and the treasurer of each such relief association. If he finds that any money has been expended for purposes not authorized by sections 69.25 to 69.53, he shall report the same to the governor, who shall thereupon direct the state auditor not to issue any further warrants to the association until the public examiner shall report that money unlawfully expended has been replaced. The governor may also take such further action as the emergency may demand.

[1933 c. 177 s. 26] (3750-26)

69.51 PAYMENTS EXEMPT FROM PROCESS. All payments made, or to be made, by any relief association under any of the provisions of sections 69.25 to 69.53 shall be totally exempt from garnishment, execution, or other legal process and no persons entitled to such payment shall have the right to assign the same, nor shall the association have authority to recognize any assignment or to pay any sum on account thereof; and any attempt to transfer any such right or claim, or any part thereof, shall be void.

[1933 c. 177 s. 27] (3750-27)

69.52 WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT NOT AFFECTED. Sections 69.25 to 69.53 shall not be construed as abridging, repealing, or amending the laws of this state relating to the provisions of the law commonly known as the workmen's compensation act.

[1933 c. 177 s. 28] (3750-28)

69.53 ACTS REPEALED, EXCEPTIONS. All prior laws of this state relating to firemen's relief associations in cities of the first class, the rights and obligations of the members thereof, and the use and control of the funds received by these associations, are hereby in all things repealed, except as provided in section 69.27.

[1933 c. 177 s. 29] (3750-29)

69.54 SURCHARGE ON PREMIUMS TO RESTORE DEFICIENCY IN SPECIAL FUND. When the balance in the special fund of any firemen's relief association in any city of the first class is less than \$600,000, or is less than a figure arrived at by multiplying the population of the city according to the latest federal census by one dollar and eighty-seven cents per inhabitant, whichever is the larger, as determined by the association's board of trustees, which fact shall be duly certified to by the public examiner, the board of trustees may thereupon file its duly verified petition for relief, accompanied by such certificate, with the commissioner. The commissioner shall thereupon order and direct a surcharge to be collected of two percent of the fire, lightning, and sprinkler leakage gross premiums, less return premiums, on all direct business received by any foreign or domestic fire insurance company on property in this city of the first class, or by its agents for it, in cash or otherwise, until the balance in the special fund of the relief association amounts to a figure arrived at by multiplying the population of the city according to the latest federal census by one dollar and eighty-seven cents per inhabitant or to \$600,000, whichever is the larger, and for a period of 15 days thereafter. As soon as the balance in this special fund amounts to a figure arrived at by multiplying the population of the city according to the latest federal census by one dollar and eighty-seven cents per inhabitant or to \$600,000, whichever is the larger, the board of trustees of the relief association shall certify that fact to the commissioner, who shall forthwith issue his order directing that the collection of the surcharge be discontinued after the expiration of the 15-day period and forthwith mail a copy of this order to each insurance company affected thereby. This surcharge shall be due and payable from these companies to the state treasurer, in semiannual installments, on June 30th and December 31st of each calendar year, and if not paid within 30 days after these dates, a penalty of ten percent shall

accrue thereon and thereafter this sum and penalty shall draw interest at the rate of one percent per month until paid.

[*Ex. 1934 c. 53 s. 1; 1935 c. 86 s. 1; 1937 c. 361 s. 1; Ex. 1961 c. 21 s. 1*] (3750-31)

69.55 WARRANT ON STATE TREASURER. The state auditor semiannually after July 31, 1934, shall issue and deliver to the treasurer of the relief association in such city his warrant upon the state treasurer for an amount equal to the total amount of the surcharge on the premiums within the city theretofore so collected and transmitted to the state treasurer by these insurance companies. There is hereby appropriated out of any moneys in the general revenue fund in the state treasury not otherwise appropriated such sums as may, from time to time, be necessary to pay these warrants.

[*Ex. 1934 c. 53 s. 2; 1935 c. 86 s. 2*] (3750-32)

69.56 STATE TREASURER TO PAY WARRANT. The state treasurer shall, upon presentation to him of the warrant of the state auditor specified in section 69.55, pay out of the general revenue fund of the state the amount thereof to the treasurer of the relief association presenting the warrant. The treasurer of the relief association shall place the money received by him in payment of any such warrant in the special fund of the relief association.

[*Ex. 1934 c. 53 s. 3; 1935 c. 86 s. 3*] (3750-33)

69.57 [Unnecessary]

69.58 INSURING IN UNAUTHORIZED COMPANIES; DUES; STATEMENT. The owner of any property situated in any municipality having an organized fire department, or a partly paid or volunteer department, who carries insurance in a company not licensed by this state, or if he has not insured his property, who sets aside a reserve against loss or damage by fire, shall furnish to the commissioner, on a form prescribed and furnished by the commissioner, a statement, verified by affidavit, showing the description and location of the property, the amount of insurance, in companies not licensed by this state, he has effected against loss or damage by fire, the number of the policy, the name and location of the company issuing the policy, and the premiums paid; or, if he has not insured his property, the amount paid into or credited to any insurance fund or other reserve against loss or damage by fire. This statement shall be furnished by those property owners carrying insurance in companies not licensed by this state not more than 30 days after the issuance of the policy of insurance, and by those property owners not carrying insurance but having an insurance or other reserve fund against loss or damage by fire, upon demand of the commissioner, or, if no demand is made, then on or before January 31st, each year. Every such property owner whose duty it is to make this statement who shall wilfully make a false statement, or who shall, for 30 days after the demand neglect to render the statement, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and fined \$50, one-half of which fine shall be transmitted to the commissioner and disbursed by him as other sums collected under the terms of sections 69.58 to 69.61 are disbursed.

[*Ex. 1934 c. 56 s. 1; 1937 c. 258 s. 1*] (3750-35)

69.59 COLLECTION OF PERCENTAGE ON PREMIUM; RECOVERY. If the insurance has been effected in any company not authorized to do business in this state, or if the owner carries his own insurance fund or reserves, the commissioner shall, and he is hereby authorized and empowered to, collect from the property owner such taxes as would equal the taxes on the annual premium which authorized insurance companies would have charged for insuring the property. If not paid upon demand, this percent may be recovered in a civil action brought in the name of the state.

[*Ex. 1934 c. 56 s. 2; 1937 c. 258 s. 2*] (3750-36)

69.60 PROCEEDS, DISPOSAL OF. All sums collected under the terms of sections 69.58 to 69.61 shall be payable to the respective municipalities or fire department relief associations in the same manner and disbursed for the same purposes as the two per cent state tax on fire insurance premiums.

[*Ex. 1934 c. 56 s. 3; 1937 c. 258 s. 3*] (3750-37)

69.61 EXEMPT PROPERTY. Sections 69.58 to 69.61 shall not apply to property owned and occupied exclusively as a homestead, nor to exempt property specified in section 550.37 and upon which homestead or exempt property the owner carries his own insurance.

[*Ex. 1934 c. 56 s. 4*] (3750-38)

69.62 PENSION PAYMENTS EXEMPT FROM GARNISHMENT. No payment made or to be made by any fire department relief association in a city of the first class under the provisions of section 69.25 to any member of the pension roll shall be subject to judgment, garnishment, execution, or other legal process; and no person entitled to this payment shall have the right to assign the same, nor shall the association have the authority to recognize any assignment or pay over any sum which has been assigned.

[1923 c 204 s 1] (3751)

69.66 VOLUNTEER FIREMEN, BENEFITS. Where any firemen's relief association includes membership to volunteer firemen, such association shall not provide benefits differing in nature or amount if such difference is based on compensation paid for services rendered by any member. Further such association shall not base its benefits upon any rate or amount of compensation paid for fire fighting services.

[Ex1957 c 12 s 1]

69.67 VIOLATIONS, PENALTIES. Any firemen's relief association that violates the provisions of sections 69.66 to 69.68, shall not be entitled to any payments from moneys collected pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 69.02. The state auditor shall not issue and deliver warrants provided in section 69.03 to the treasurer of any municipality or association wherein a violation of sections 69.66 to 69.68 occurs.

[Ex1957 c 12 s 2]

69.68 EXCEPTION TO APPLICATION OF ACT. Sections 69.66 to 69.68 shall not apply to any firemen's relief association which, before January 1, 1957, had established a definite formula of benefits for those members who were regularly employed firemen.

[Ex1957 c 12 s 3]

69.69 NONPROFIT FIRE FIGHTING CORPORATIONS, TREATMENT AS MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION. Any nonprofit corporation organized prior to May 23, 1965, and exclusively for fire fighting purposes, and having a retirement plan shall be considered to be a municipal fire department relief association for the purposes of receiving distributions of the fire insurance premium tax as provided in Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 69. Such nonprofit corporation shall be subject to all of the provisions of Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 69, relating to municipal fire department relief associations.

[1961 c 360 s 1; 1965 c 671 s 1]