

CHAPTER 3A

LEGISLATOR'S RETIREMENT

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3A.01 DEFINITIONS. Subdivision 1. **Purposes.** The terms defined in this section for the purposes of sections 3A.01 to 3A.10 shall be given the meanings ascribed to them.

Subd. 2. **Dependent child.** "Dependent child" means any natural or adopted child of a deceased member of the legislature under the age of 18, unmarried and actually dependent for more than one-half of his support upon such member of the legislature prior to the member of the legislature's death. It also includes any child of the member of the legislature conceived during his lifetime and born after his death.

Subd. 3. **Member of the legislature.** "Member of the legislature" means a member of the house of representatives or the senate of the state of Minnesota who has subscribed to the oath of office.

Subd. 4. **Retirement.** "Retirement" means ceasing to be a member of the legislature for any reason, including, but not limited to, expiration of the term for which a member of the legislature was elected, or death of such member.

Subd. 5. **Widow.** "Widow" means the surviving wife of a member of the legislature.

[1965 c 896 s 1]

3A.02 RETIREMENT ALLOWANCE. Subdivision 1. **Qualifications.** Any member of the legislature:

(1) Who has served at least eight years as such member of the legislature, which service need not be continuous, but must have been after January 1, 1965 except as hereinafter provided; and

(2) Who attains the age of 65 years; and

(3) Who has retired as a member of the legislature; and

(4) Who has made all contributions provided for in sections 3A.01 to 3A.10, or who has made payments in lieu of all contributions provided for in sections 3A.01 to 3A.10 as provided for in subdivision 2; shall be entitled upon written application to the state auditor to receive a retirement allowance monthly of 40 percent of his average monthly salary during the period of his service as a member of the legislature since January 1, 1965, beginning with the first day of the month following receipt of such application and for the remainder of his life, provided he is not serving as a member of the legislature or as a constitutional officer or commissioner.

In addition to the amount provided above, the retired member who meets the qualifications of paragraphs (1), (2), (3) and (4) of this subdivision shall receive for every year of service over 8 years a monthly allowance which equals two percent of the average monthly salary determined pursuant to paragraph (4).

Subd. 1a. **Retirement before age 65.** A member of the legislature who meets the requirements of clauses (1), (3), and (4) of section 3A.02, subdivision 1, may elect to receive a retirement allowance after reaching the age of 60 and before reaching the age of 65 by making application therefor to the state auditor. A retirement allowance to a member of the legislature in accordance with this subdivision shall be discounted at the rate of one-half of one percent per month for each month below the age of 65.

Subd. 2. **Payment for past service.** Any member of the legislature who is a member on July 1, 1965 or thereafter, may, notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision 1, clause (1), receive credit for service rendered as a member of the legislature prior to July 1, 1965, and the pension based thereon provided that he pays to the

state treasurer for credit to his account an amount equal to seven percent of all salary received by him for all periods of service rendered by him as a member of the legislature, even if such periods are not continuous and exceed ten years in duration. Such payment may be made at any time within six months after July 1, 1967, except as hereinafter provided. A member of the legislature on July 1, 1965, or a member thereof on July 1, 1967, may make such payment within such six month period. A member of the legislature who qualifies as a member thereof subsequent to July 1, 1967, may make such payment within six months after the date of such qualification. A member of the legislature who has been a member for four regular sessions or more may make such payment within six months after the commencement of the 1969 regular session.

Subd. 3. Appropriation. The amounts required for payment of retirement allowances provided by this section are appropriated annually to the state auditor from the general fund in the state treasury and shall be paid by him monthly to the recipients entitled thereto, in the manner in which retirement allowances are paid to qualifying retired judges of the supreme court and the district court.

[1965 c 896 s 2; 1967 c 877 s 1, 2; 1969 c 155 s 1; 1969 c 399 s 1; 1969 c 1115 s 1]

3A.03 CONTRIBUTIONS. Subdivision 1. **Percentage.** Every member of the legislature shall contribute seven percent of his total salary, by payroll deduction, to be paid into the state treasury and deposited in the general fund. It shall be the duty of the state treasurer to record the periodic contributions of each member of the legislature and credit such contribution to the member's account.

Subd. 2. Refundment. (1) Any person who has made contributions pursuant to subdivision 1 of this section who is no longer a member of the legislature and has less than ten years service as a member of the legislature and is not receiving, has not received, or is not entitled to receive any allowance or benefit under sections 3A.01 to 3A.10 is entitled to receive upon application to the state auditor a refundment of all contributions credited to his account by the state treasurer without interest thereon. The moneys required for such refundments are appropriated annually to the state auditor from the general fund in the state treasury.

(2) The refundment of contributions as provided in clause (1) above terminates all rights of a former member of the legislature or his survivors under sections 3A.01 to 3A.10. Should the former member of the legislature again be a member of the legislature after having taken a refundment as provided above, he shall be considered a new member for all purposes and such refundment may not be repaid for any credit or benefit whatever.

(3) No person shall be required to apply for or accept a refundment.

[1965 c 896 s 3; 1969 c 399 s 1]

3A.04 SURVIVOR BENEFIT. Subdivision 1. **Surviving spouse.** Upon the death of a member of the legislature while serving as such member, who has served as a member of the legislature for at least two years, or upon the death of a member of the legislature with at least eight years of service as required by section 3A.02, subdivision 1 (1), whether in the legislature or not and regardless of age, the surviving spouse shall be paid a survivor benefit in the amount of one-half of the retirement allowance of the member of the legislature computed as though the member had retired at age 65 on the date of his death. Such benefit shall be paid during the lifetime of the surviving spouse, but shall cease and terminate upon the remarriage of the surviving spouse.

Subd. 2. Dependent children. Upon the death of a member of the legislature while serving as such member, who has served as a member of the legislature for at least two years, or upon the death of a member of the legislature with at least eight years of service as required by section 3A.02, subdivision 1 (1), whether in the legislature or not and regardless of age, each dependent child of such member shall be paid a survivor benefit in the following amount: First dependent child, a monthly allowance which equals 25 percent of the monthly allowance of the member of the legislature computed as though the member had retired at age 65 on the date of his death; for each additional dependent child, a monthly allowance which equals 12½ percent of the monthly allowance of the member computed as in the case of the first child; but the total amount paid to the surviving spouse and dependent children shall not exceed in any one month 100 percent of the monthly allowance of the member

computed as in the case of the first child. The payments for dependent children shall be made to the surviving spouse or the guardian of the estate of the dependent children, if there is one. A posthumous child qualifies as a dependent child for benefits provided herein from the date of its birth.

Subd. 3. Appropriation. Widow's and dependent children's survivor benefits payable under this section are appropriated annually to the state auditor from the general fund in the state treasury, and shall be paid by him monthly in the same manner as retirement allowances are authorized to be paid by sections 3A.01 to 3A.10.

[1965 c 896 s 4; 1967 c 877 s 3, 4; 1969 c 399 s 1; 1969 c 1115 s 2, 3]

3A.05 APPLICATION FOR SURVIVOR BENEFIT. Applications for survivor benefits under sections 3A.01 to 3A.10 shall be filed with the state auditor by the widow and dependent children entitled to such benefits under section 3A.04, or by the guardian of the estate, if there is one, of the dependent children; and payments shall commence as of the first of the month next following the filing of the application.

[1965 c 896 s 5]

3A.06 RESIGNATION FROM P.E.R.A. A member of the legislature who is a member of the state employees retirement association, the public employees retirement association, the state teachers retirement fund, or other retirement association or fund authorized by law for employees in public employment, may resign as such a member at any time from and after May 27, 1965, notwithstanding any provision of any other law to the contrary, and shall receive a refundment of his contributions as otherwise provided by law.

[1965 c 896 s 6]

3A.07 APPLICATION. Sections 3A.01 to 3A.10 apply to members of the legislature in service upon July 1, 1965, or thereafter, who otherwise meet the requirements of sections 3A.01 to 3A.10.

[1965 c 896 s 7]

3A.08 EXEMPTION FROM TAXATION. All benefits and allowances provided by sections 3A.01 to 3A.10 shall be exempt from all taxes imposed by the state of Minnesota.

[1965 c 896 s 8]

3A.09 MEMBERSHIP IN P.E.R.A. Any member of the legislature who is a member of the public employees retirement association on July 1, 1965 or on July 1, 1967, may, at his option, within six months of such latter date, or within six months after the commencement of the 1969 regular session of the legislature, remain such a member and shall not be required to make the contributions required by sections 3A.01 to 3A.10 and until such election he shall remain a member of the public employees retirement association. A member of the legislature who qualifies as a member thereof subsequent to July 1, 1967, and who is a member of the public employees retirement association at the time of such qualification, may, at his option, within six months of the date of qualification, remain such a member and shall not be required to make the contributions required by section 3A.01 to 3A.10, and until such election he shall remain a member of the public employees retirement association. No member of the legislature shall belong to the public employees retirement association for service as a member of the legislature and make contributions under sections 3A.01 to 3A.10 or accrue rights under sections 3A.01 to 3A.10 at the same time. A member of the legislature who is not a member of the public employees retirement association on July 1, 1965, or on the date he qualifies as a member of the legislature, shall have contributions deducted from his next salary warrant for all pay periods after January 1, 1965, or after the date he qualifies as a member of the legislature. A member of the legislature may belong to the public employees retirement association for service performed other than as a member of the legislature and make contributions as required by sections 3A.01 to 3A.10.

[1965 c 896 s 9; 1967 c 877 s 5; 1969 c 155 s 2]

3A.10 ONE TERM OF SERVICE BEING A CERTAIN TIME. Subdivision 1. In the case of a member of the house of representatives one full term of office shall be considered two full years service notwithstanding the fact that the oath of office may be taken on different days each biennium. In the case of a member of the

senate, one full term of office shall be considered four full years service notwithstanding the fact that the oath of office may be taken on different days at the start of each term.

Subd. 2. In the case of a member of either house of the legislature who is elected to serve the remainder of an unexpired term or who is seated and subscribes to his oath of office after the day appointed by law for the opening of the legislature, the member shall be considered to have served the number of years which he would have served had he taken the oath of office on the day appointed for the commencement of the full term of office.

[1965 c 896 s 10; 1967 c 877 s 6]