

## CHAPTER 353

### PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION

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#### 353.01 DEFINITIONS.

*[For text of subds 1 and 2, see M.S.1984]*

Subd. 2a. **Included employees.** The following persons are included in the meaning of "public employee":

- (a) Elected or appointed officers and employees of elected officers.
- (b) District court reporters.
- (c) Officers and employees of the public employees retirement association.
- (d) Employees of the League of Minnesota Cities.
- (e) Officers and employees of public hospitals, owned or operated by or an integral part of, any governmental subdivision or governmental subdivisions.
- (f) Employees of a school district who receive separate salaries for driving their own buses.
- (g) Employees of the Association of Minnesota Counties.
- (h) Employees of the Metropolitan Inter-County Association.
- (i) Employees of the Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association.
- (j) Employees of the metropolitan airports commission if employment initially commences on or after July 1, 1979.
- (k) Employees of the Minneapolis employees retirement fund, if employment initially commences on or after July 1, 1979.
- (l) Employees of the Range Association of Municipalities and Schools.
- (m) Employees of the soil and water conservation districts.
- (n) Employees of a county historical society.

*[For text of subds 2b to 15, see M.S.1984]*

Subd. 16. **Allowable service.** "Allowable service" means:

(1) Service during years of actual membership in the course of which employee contributions were currently made; periods covered by payments in lieu of salary deductions made as provided in section 353.35, and service in years during which the public employee was not a member but for which he later elected, while a member, to obtain credit by making payments to the fund as permitted by any law then in effect.

(2) Any period of authorized leave of absence with pay from which deductions for employee contributions are made, deposited, and credited to the fund.

(3) Any period of authorized leave of absence without pay which does not exceed one year, and during or for which a member obtained credit by payments to the fund made in lieu of salary deductions, provided that such payments are made in an amount or amounts based on his average salary on which deductions were paid (a) for the last six months of public service, or (b) that portion of the last six months

while he was in public service, to apply to the period in either case immediately preceding commencement of such leave of absence; provided, however, that if the employee elects to pay employee contributions for the period of any leave of absence without pay, or for any portion thereof, he shall also, as a condition to the exercise of such election, pay to the fund an amount equivalent to both the required employer and additional employer contributions therefor, such payment to be made currently or within one year from the date the leave of absence terminates, unless the employer by appropriate action of its governing body and made a part of its official records, prior to the date of the first payment of such employee contribution, certifies to the association in writing that it will cause to be paid such employer and additional employer contributions from the proceeds of a tax levy made pursuant to section 353.28. Payments under this clause shall include interest at the rate of six percent per annum from the date of the termination of the leave of absence to the date payment is made.

(4) Any period during which a member is on an authorized sick leave of absence, without pay limited to one year, or an authorized temporary layoff.

(5) Any period during which a member is on an authorized leave of absence to enter military service, provided that the member returns to public service upon discharge from military service pursuant to section 192.262, and pays into the fund employee contributions based upon his salary at the date of return from military service. After June 30, 1983 payment must be made within five years of the date of discharge from the military service. The amount of these contributions shall be in accord with the contribution rates and salary limitations, if any, in effect during such leave, plus interest thereon at six percent per annum compounded annually from the date of return to public service to the date payment is made. In such cases the matching employer contribution and additional employer contribution provided in section 353.27, subdivisions 3 and 3a, shall be paid by the department employing such member upon his return to public service and the governmental subdivision involved is hereby authorized to appropriate money therefor. Such member shall not receive credit for any voluntary extension of military service at the instance of the member beyond the initial period of enlistment, induction or call to active duty.

(6) For calculating benefits under sections 353.30, 353.31, 353.32, and 353.33 for state officers and employees displaced by the community corrections act, Minnesota Statutes 1984, chapter 401, and transferred into county service under Minnesota Statutes 1984, section 401.04, allowable service means combined years of allowable service as defined in Minnesota Statutes 1984, section 352.01, subdivision 11, and Minnesota Statutes 1984, section 353.01, subdivision 16, paragraphs (1) to (5).

*[For text of subds 17 to 33, see M.S.1984]*

**History:** 1985 c 261 s 3; 1Sp1985 c 7 s 12

### **353.03 BOARD OF TRUSTEES.**

**Subdivision 1. Management; composition; election.** The management of the public employees retirement fund is vested in a board of trustees consisting of the state auditor and eight members. The governor shall appoint five trustees to four-year terms, one of whom shall be designated to represent school boards, one to represent cities, one to represent counties, one who shall be a retired annuitant, and one who is a public member knowledgeable in pension matters. The membership of the association shall elect three trustees for terms of four years. Trustees elected by the membership of the association shall be public employees and members of the association. For seven days beginning November 1 of each year preceding a year in

which an election is held, the association shall accept at its office filings in person or by mail of candidates for the board of trustees. A candidate shall submit at the time of filing a nominating petition signed by 25 or more members of the fund. No name may be withdrawn from nomination by the nominee after November 15. At the request of a candidate for an elected position on the board of trustees, the board shall mail a statement of up to 300 words prepared by the candidate to all persons eligible to vote in the election of the candidate. The board may adopt policies to govern form and length of these statements, timing of mailings, and deadlines for submitting materials to be mailed. These policies must be approved by the secretary of state. Disputes between the board and a candidate concerning application of these policies to a particular statement shall be resolved by the secretary of state. A candidate who:

(a) receives contributions or makes expenditures in excess of \$100; or

(b) has given implicit or explicit consent for any other person to receive contributions or make expenditures in excess of \$100;

for the purpose of bringing about the candidate's election, must file a report with the ethical practices board disclosing the source and amount of all contributions to his or her campaign. The ethical practices board shall prescribe forms governing these disclosures. Expenditures and contributions have the meaning defined in section 10A.01. These terms do not include the mailing made by the association board on behalf of the candidate. A candidate must file a report within 30 days from the day that the results of the election are announced. The ethical practices board shall maintain these reports and make them available for public inspection in the same manner as the board maintains and makes available other reports filed with it. By January 10 of each year in which elections are to be held the board shall distribute by mail to the members ballots listing the candidates. No member may vote for more than one candidate for each board position to be filled. A ballot indicating a vote for more than one person for any position shall be void. No special marking may be used on the ballot to indicate incumbents. The last day for mailing ballots to the fund shall be January 31. Terms expire on January 31 of the fourth year, and positions are vacant until newly elected members are qualified. The ballot envelopes shall be so designed and the ballots shall be counted in such a manner as to insure that each vote is secret.

The elections shall be supervised by the secretary of state. It shall be the duty of the board of trustees to faithfully administer the law without prejudice and consistent with the expressed intent of the legislature. They shall act as trustees with a fiduciary obligation to the state of Minnesota which created the fund, the taxpayers of the governmental subdivisions which aid in financing it and the public employees who are its beneficiaries. They shall act in good faith and shall exercise that degree of judgment and care, under circumstances then prevailing, which persons of prudence, discretion, and intelligence exercise in the management of their own affairs.

**Subd. 1a. Vacancy, how filled.** Any vacancy on the board caused by death, resignation, or removal of any trustee, or occurring because an elected trustee ceases to be a public employee and an active member of the association, must be filled by the board for trustees elected by members, and by the governor for other trustees, for the unexpired portion of the term in which the vacancy occurs.

**Subd. 2. No compensation expenses.** The members of the board of trustees shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed out of the retirement fund for expenses actually and necessarily paid or incurred in the performance of their duties. Members of the board of trustees shall suffer no loss of compensation from a

public employer by reason of service on or for the board or on any authorized committee thereof.

Subd. 3. **Duties and powers of the board.** (a) The board shall elect a president and vice-president. The board shall approve the staffing complement necessary to administer the fund. The cost of administering this chapter must be paid by the fund.

(b) The board shall adopt bylaws for its own government and for the management of the fund consistent with the laws of the state and may modify them at pleasure. It shall adopt, alter, and enforce reasonable rules consistent with the laws of the state for the administration and management of the fund, for the payment and collection of payments from members, and for the payment of withdrawals and benefits. It shall pass upon and allow or disallow all applications for membership in the fund and shall allow or disallow claims for withdrawals, pensions, or benefits payable from the fund. It shall adopt an appropriate mortality table based on experience of the fund as recommended by the association actuary, with interest set at the rate specified in section 356.215, subdivision 4, clause (4). It shall provide for the payment out of the fund of all necessary expenses for the administration of the fund and of all claims for withdrawals, pensions, or benefits allowed. The board shall approve or disapprove all recommendations and actions of the executive director made subject to its approval or disapproval by subdivision 3a.

(c) In passing upon all applications and claims, the board may summon, swear, hear, and examine witnesses and, in the case of claims for disability benefits, may require the claimant to submit to a medical examination by a physician of the board's choice, at the expense of the fund, as a condition precedent to the passing on the claim, and, in the case of all applications and claims, may conduct investigations necessary to determine their validity and merit.

(d) The board may continue to authorize the sale of life insurance to members under the insurance program in effect on January 1, 1985, but must not change that program without the approval of the commissioner of finance. The association shall not receive any financial benefit from the life insurance program beyond the amount necessary to reimburse the association for costs incurred in administering the program. The association shall not engage directly or indirectly in any other activity involving the sale or promotion of goods or services, or both, whether to members or nonmembers.

(e) The board shall establish procedures governing reimbursement of expenses to board members. These procedures shall define the types of activities and expenses that qualify for reimbursement, shall provide that all out-of-state travel must be authorized by the board, and shall provide for independent verification of claims for expense reimbursement. The procedures must comply with applicable rules and policies of the department of finance, the department of administration, and the department of employee relations.

Subd. 3a. **Executive director.** (a) **Appointment.** The board shall appoint, with the advice and consent of the senate, an executive director on the basis of education, experience in the retirement field, and leadership ability. The executive director shall have had at least five years' experience in an executive level management position, which has included responsibility for pensions, deferred compensation, or employee benefits. The executive director serves at the pleasure of the board. The salary of the executive director is as provided by section 15A.081, subdivision 1.

(b) **Duties.** The management of the association is vested in the executive director who shall be the executive and administrative head of the association. He shall act as adviser to the board on all matters pertaining to the association. He shall also act as the secretary of the board. The executive director shall:

- (1) attend all meetings of the board;
- (2) prepare and recommend to the board rules for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this chapter;
- (3) establish and maintain an adequate system of records and accounts following recognized accounting principles and controls;
- (4) designate an assistant director, with the approval of the board, who shall serve in the unclassified service and whose salary is set in accordance with section 43A.18, subdivision 3, appoint a confidential secretary in the unclassified service, and appoint employees to carry out this chapter, who are subject to chapters 43A and 179A in the same manner as are executive branch employees;
- (5) organize the work of the association as he deems necessary to fulfill the functions of the association, and define the duties of its employees and delegate to them any of his powers or duties, subject to his control and under such conditions as he may prescribe;
- (6) with the approval of the board, contract for actuarial services, professional management services, and consulting services as necessary to fulfill the purposes of this chapter. All contracts are subject to chapter 16B. The commissioner of administration shall not approve, and the association shall not enter into, any contract to provide lobbying services or legislative advocacy of any kind. Copies of all professional management survey reports shall be sent directly to the legislature and the legislative auditor at the same time reports are furnished the board. Only management firms experienced in conducting management surveys of federal, state or local public retirement systems shall be qualified to contract with the director hereunder;
- (7) with the approval of the board provide inservice training for all employees of the association;
- (8) make refunds of accumulated contributions to former members and to the designated beneficiary, surviving spouse, legal representative or next of kin of deceased members or deceased former members, all as provided in this chapter;
- (9) determine the amount of the annuities and disability benefits of members covered by the association and authorize payment thereof beginning as of the dates such annuities and benefits begin to accrue, all in accordance with the provisions of this chapter;
- (10) pay annuities, refunds, survivor benefits, salaries and all necessary operating expenses of the association;
- (11) prepare and submit to the board and the legislature an annual report covering the operation of the association, as required by chapter 356;
- (12) prepare and submit biennial and annual budgets to the board for its approval and submit the approved budgets to the department of finance for approval by the commissioner; and
- (13) with the approval of the board, perform such other duties as may be required for the administration of the association and the other provisions of this chapter and for the transaction of its business.

*[For text of subd 4, see M.S.1984]*

**Subd. 5. Application of laws.** Laws applicable to state agencies and agencies with statewide jurisdiction shall apply to the association.

**History:** 1985 c 11 s 5-10

**353.27 PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT FUND.***[For text of subds 1 to 11, see M.S.1984]*

Subd. 12. **Omitted salary deductions; obligations.** In the case of omission of required deductions from salary of an employee, past due for a period of 60 days or less, the head of the department shall deduct from the employee's next salary payment and forthwith remit to the executive director the amount of the employee contribution delinquency, with cumulative interest thereon at the rate of six percent per annum, compounded annually, from the date or dates each delinquent employee contribution was first payable, such interest to be paid by the employer. To the extent that any such omitted required deductions are not paid by the employee, they shall constitute a liability of the governmental subdivision which failed to make said required deductions, with interest thereon as hereinbefore specified. After July 1, 1973, any such omitted required deductions, past due for a period in excess of 60 days, shall become the sole obligation of the governmental subdivision from the time such deductions were first payable, together with interest thereon as hereinbefore specified. Any amount so due, together with employer and additional employer contributions at the rates and in the amounts specified in subdivisions 3 and 3a, with interest thereon at the rate of six percent compounded annually from the date they were first payable, shall be paid from the proceeds of a tax levy made pursuant to section 353.28, or from other funds available to the employer. Unless otherwise indicated, this subdivision shall have both retroactive and prospective application, and the governmental subdivision is liable retroactively and prospectively for all amounts due hereunder. No action for the recovery of delinquent employee and employer contributions or interest thereon shall be commenced after the expiration of three calendar years next following the calendar year in which the contributions were omitted.

*[For text of subd 13, see M.S.1984]***History:** 1Sp1985 c 7 s 13**353.271 PARTICIPATION IN MINNESOTA POSTRETIREMENT INVESTMENT FUND.***[For text of subd 1, see M.S.1984]*

Subd. 2. **Valuation of assets; adjustment of benefits.** (1) For members retiring, the required reserves determined using the postretirement interest assumption specified in section 356.215, subdivision 4d, shall be transferred to the Minnesota postretirement investment fund as of the date of retirement.

(2) Annuity payments shall be adjusted in accordance with the provisions of section 11A.18.

(3) Notwithstanding section 356.18, increases in payments pursuant to this section will be made automatically unless the intended recipient files written notice with the public employees retirement association requesting that the increase shall not be made.

**History:** 1Sp1985 c 7 s 14**353.34 TERMINATION OF PUBLIC SERVICE.***[For text of subds 1 to 3a, see M.S.1984]*

Subd. 3b. **Deferred annuity; certain former municipal court judges.** Any person who qualified for membership in the association solely because of service as a municipal court judge, whose service as a municipal court judge was terminated by Laws 1971, chapter 951, section 9, and who elected to leave his or her accumulated deductions in the fund to qualify for a deferred annuity, may receive a deferred early retirement annuity under section 353.30, subdivision 1, 1a, 1b, or 1c, notwithstanding the law in effect on the date of his or her termination of public service.

*[For text of subds 5 and 6, see M.S.1984]*

**History:** 1985 c 261 s 4

### **353.656 DISABILITY BENEFITS.**

Subdivision 1. **In line of duty; computation of benefits.** Any member of the police and fire fund less than 55 years of age, who shall become disabled and physically unfit to perform his duties as a police officer or fire fighter subsequent to June 30, 1973, as a direct result of an injury, sickness, or other disability incurred in or arising out of any act of duty, which shall render him physically or mentally unable to perform his duties as a police officer or fire fighter, shall receive disability benefits during the period of such disability. The benefits shall be in an amount equal to 50 percent of the "average salary" pursuant to subdivision 3 plus an additional 2-1/2 percent of said average salary for each year of service in excess of 20 years but not exceeding 25 years and two percent for each year thereafter. Should disability under this subdivision occur before the member has at least five years of allowable service credit in the police and fire fund, the disability benefit shall be computed on the "average salary" from which deductions were made for contribution to the police and fire fund.

*[For text of subds 1a to 6, see M.S.1984]*

**History:** 1Sp1985 c 7 s 15

### **353.657 SURVIVOR BENEFITS.**

*[For text of subds 1 and 2, see M.S.1984]*

Subd. 2a. If a member who has attained the age of at least 55 years and has credit for not less than ten years allowable service dies before public service has terminated, or if an employee who has filed a valid application for an annuity or disability benefit prior to termination of public service dies before the annuity or benefit has become payable, notwithstanding any designation of beneficiary to the contrary, the surviving spouse may elect to receive, in lieu of a refund with interest provided in section 353.32, subdivision 1, or survivor benefits otherwise payable pursuant to subdivisions 1 and 2, an annuity equal to the 100 percent joint and survivor annuity which the member could have qualified for on the date of death, computed as provided in sections 353.651, subdivisions 2 and 3, and 353.30, subdivision 3. No payment shall accrue beyond the end of the month in which entitlement to such annuity has terminated. An amount equal to the excess, if any, of the accumulated contributions which were credited to the account of the deceased employee over and above the total of the annuities paid and payable to the surviving spouse shall be paid to the deceased member's last designated beneficiary or, if none, to the legal representative of the estate of such deceased member. Any member may request in writing that this subdivision not apply and that payment be made only to the designated beneficiary, as otherwise provided by this chapter.

*[For text of subds 3 and 4, see M.S.1984]*

**History:** 1Sp1985 c 7 s 16