

CHAPTER 144C

AMBULANCE SERVICE PERSONNEL LONGEVITY
AWARD AND INCENTIVE PROGRAM

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144C.01 AMBULANCE SERVICE PERSONNEL LONGEVITY AWARD AND INCENTIVE PROGRAM.

[For text of subd 1, see M.S.1994]

Subd. 2. Administration. (a) Unless paragraph (c) applies, consistent with the responsibilities of the state board of investment and the various ambulance services, the ambulance service personnel longevity award and incentive program must be administered by the emergency medical services regulatory board. The administrative responsibilities of the board for the program relate solely to the record keeping, award application, and award payment functions. The state board of investment is responsible for the investment of the ambulance service personnel longevity award and incentive trust. The applicable ambulance service is responsible for determining, consistent with this chapter, who is a qualified ambulance service person, what constitutes a year of credited ambulance service, what constitutes sufficient documentation of a year of prior service, and for submission of all necessary data to the board in a manner consistent with this chapter. Determinations of an ambulance service are final.

(b) The board may administer its assigned responsibilities regarding the program directly or may retain a qualified governmental or nongovernmental plan administrator under contract to administer those responsibilities regarding the program. A contract with a qualified plan administrator must be the result of an open competitive bidding process and must be reopened for competitive bidding at least once during every five-year period after July 1, 1993.

(c) The commissioner of employee relations shall review the options within state government for the most appropriate administration of pension plans or similar arrangements for emergency service personnel and recommend to the governor the most appropriate future pension plan or nonpension plan administrative arrangement for this chapter. If the governor concurs in the recommendation, the governor shall transfer the future administrative responsibilities relating to this chapter to that administrative agency.

History: 1995 c 207 art 9 s 23

NOTE: The amendment to subdivision 2 by Laws 1995, chapter 207, article 9, section 23, is effective July 1, 1996. See Laws 1995, chapter 207, article 9, section 62, subdivision 1.

144C.05 DISTRIBUTIONS FROM ACCOUNT.

Subdivision 1. Award payments. (a) The emergency medical services regulatory board or the board's designee under section 144C.01, subdivision 2, shall pay ambulance service personnel longevity awards to qualified ambulance service personnel determined to be entitled to an award under section 144C.08 by the board based on the submissions by the various ambulance services. Amounts necessary to pay the ambulance service personnel longevity award are appropriated from the ambulance service personnel longevity award and incentive trust account to the board.

(b) If the state of Minnesota is unable to meet its financial obligations as they become due, the commissioner of health shall undertake all necessary steps to discontinue paying ambulance service personnel longevity awards until the state of Minnesota is again able to meet its financial obligations as they become due.

[For text of subd 2, see M.S.1994]

History: 1995 c 207 art 9 s 24

NOTE: The amendment to subdivision 1 by Laws 1995, chapter 207, article 9, section 24, is effective July 1, 1996. See Laws 1995, chapter 207, article 9, section 62, subdivision 1.

144C.07 CREDITING QUALIFIED AMBULANCE PERSONNEL SERVICE.

Subdivision 1. **Separate recordkeeping.** The board or the board's designee under section 144C.01, subdivision 2, shall maintain a separate record of potential award accumulations for each qualified ambulance service person under subdivision 2.

Subd. 2. **Potential allocations.** (a) On September 1, annually, the board or the board's designee under section 144C.01, subdivision 2, shall determine the amount of the allocation of the prior year's accumulation to each qualified ambulance service person. The prior year's net investment gain or loss under paragraph (b) must be allocated and that year's general fund appropriation, plus any transfer from the suspense account under section 144C.03, subdivision 2, and after deduction of administrative expenses, also must be allocated.

(b) The difference in the market value of the assets of the ambulance service personnel longevity award and incentive trust account as of the immediately previous June 30 and the June 30 occurring 12 months earlier must be reported on or before August 15 by the state board of investment. The market value gain or loss must be expressed as a percentage of the total potential award accumulations as of the immediately previous June 30, and that positive or negative percentage must be applied to increase or decrease the recorded potential award accumulation of each qualified ambulance service person.

(c) The appropriation for this purpose, after deduction of administrative expenses, must be divided by the total number of additional ambulance service personnel years of service recognized since the last allocation or 1,000 years of service, whichever is greater. If the allocation is based on the 1,000 years of service, any allocation not made for a qualified ambulance service person must be credited to the suspense account under section 144C.03, subdivision 2. A qualified ambulance service person must be credited with a year of service if the person is certified by the chief administrative officer of the ambulance service as having rendered active ambulance service during the 12 months ending as of the immediately previous June 30. If the person has rendered prior active ambulance service, the person must be additionally credited with one-fifth of a year of service for each year of active ambulance service rendered before June 30, 1993, but not to exceed in any year one additional year of service or to exceed in total five years of prior service. Prior active ambulance service means employment by or the provision of service to a licensed ambulance service before June 30, 1993, as determined by the person's current ambulance service based on records provided by the person that were contemporaneous to the service. The prior ambulance service must be reported on or before August 15 to the board in an affidavit from the chief administrative officer of the ambulance service.

History: 1995 c 207 art 9 s 25

NOTE: The amendment to this section by Laws 1995, chapter 207, article 9, section 25, is effective July 1, 1996. See Laws 1995, chapter 207, article 9, section 62, subdivision 1.

144C.08 AMBULANCE SERVICE PERSONNEL LONGEVITY AWARD.

(a) A qualified ambulance service person who has terminated active ambulance service, who has at least five years of credited ambulance service, who is at least 50 years old, and who is among the 400 persons with the greatest amount of credited ambulance service applying for a longevity award during that year, is entitled, upon application, to an ambulance service personnel longevity award. An applicant whose application is not approved because of the limit on the number of annual awards may apply in a subsequent year.

(b) If a qualified ambulance service person who meets the age and service requirements specified in paragraph (a) dies before applying for a longevity award, the estate of the decedent is entitled, upon application, to the decedent's ambulance service personnel longevity award, without reference to the limit on the number of annual awards.

(c) An ambulance service personnel longevity award is the total amount of the person's accumulations indicated in the person's separate record under section 144C.07 as of the August 15 preceding the application. The amount is payable only in a lump sum.

(d) Applications for an ambulance service personnel longevity award must be received by the board or the board's designee under section 144C.01, subdivision 2, by August 15, annually. Ambulance service personnel longevity awards are payable only as of the last business day in October annually.

History: 1995 c 207 art 9 s 26

NOTE: The amendment to this section by Laws 1995, chapter 207, article 9, section 26, is effective July 1, 1996. See Laws 1995, chapter 207, article 9, section 62, subdivision 1.

144C.09 EFFECT OF CHANGES.

[For text of subd 1, see M.S.1994]

Subd. 2. Nonassignability. No entitlement or claim of a qualified ambulance service person or the person's beneficiary to an ambulance service personnel longevity award is assignable, or subject to garnishment, attachment, execution, levy, or legal process of any kind, except as provided in section 518.58, 518.581, or 518.611. The board may not recognize any attempted transfer, assignment, or pledge of an ambulance service personnel longevity award.

[For text of subd 3, see M.S.1994]

History: 1995 c 207 art 9 s 27

NOTE: The amendment to subdivision 2 by Laws 1995, chapter 207, article 9, section 27, is effective July 1, 1996. See Laws 1995, chapter 207, article 9, section 62, subdivision 1.

144C.10 SCOPE OF ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES.

For purposes of administering the award and incentive program, the board cannot hear appeals, direct ambulance services to take any specific actions, investigate or take action on individual complaints, or otherwise act on information beyond that submitted by the licensed ambulance services.

History: 1995 c 207 art 9 s 28

NOTE: The amendment to this section by Laws 1995, chapter 207, article 9, section 28, is effective July 1, 1996. See Laws 1995, chapter 207, article 9, section 62, subdivision 1.