

CHAPTER 353

PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION

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353.01 DEFINITIONS.

[For text of subd 1, see M.S.2004]

Subd. 2. Public employee. "Public employee" means a governmental employee performing personal services for a governmental subdivision defined in subdivision 6, whose salary is paid, in whole or in part, from revenue derived from taxation, fees, assessments, or from other sources. The term includes the classes of persons described or listed in subdivision 2a. The term also includes persons who elect association membership under subdivision 2d, paragraph (a), and persons for whom the applicable governmental subdivision had elected association membership under subdivision 2d, paragraph (b). The term also includes full-time employees of the Dakota County Agricultural Society. The term excludes the classes of persons listed in subdivision 2b for purposes of membership in the association.

[For text of subd 2a, see M.S.2004]

Subd. 2b. Excluded employees. The following public employees are not eligible to participate as members of the association with retirement coverage by the public employees retirement plan, the local government correctional employees retirement plan under chapter 353E, or the public employees police and fire retirement plan:

(1) public officers, other than county sheriffs, who are elected to a governing body, or persons who are appointed to fill a vacancy in an elective office of a governing body, whose term of office commences on or after July 1, 2002, for the service to be rendered in that elective position. Elected governing body officials who were active members of the association's coordinated or basic retirement plans as of June 30, 2002, continue participation throughout incumbency in office until termination of public service occurs as defined in subdivision 11a;

(2) election officers or election judges;

(3) patient and inmate personnel who perform services for a governmental subdivision;

(4) except as otherwise specified in subdivision 12a, employees who are hired for a temporary position as defined under subdivision 12a, and employees who resign from a nontemporary position and accept a temporary position within 30 days in the same governmental subdivision;

(5) employees who are employed by reason of work emergency caused by fire, flood, storm, or similar disaster;

(6) employees who by virtue of their employment in one governmental subdivision are required by law to be a member of and to contribute to any of the plans or funds administered by the Minnesota State Retirement System, the Teachers Retirement

Association, the Duluth Teachers Retirement Fund Association, the Minneapolis Teachers Retirement Fund Association, the St. Paul Teachers Retirement Fund Association, the Minneapolis Employees Retirement Fund, or any police or firefighters relief association governed by section 69.77 that has not consolidated with the Public Employees Retirement Association, or any local police or firefighters consolidation account who have not elected the type of benefit coverage provided by the public employees police and fire fund under sections 353A.01 to 353A.10, or any persons covered by section 353.665, subdivision 4, 5, or 6, who have not elected public employees police and fire plan benefit coverage. This clause must not be construed to prevent a person from being a member of and contributing to the Public Employees Retirement Association and also belonging to and contributing to another public pension plan or fund for other service occurring during the same period of time. A person who meets the definition of "public employee" in subdivision 2 by virtue of other service occurring during the same period of time becomes a member of the association unless contributions are made to another public retirement fund on the salary based on the other service or to the Teachers Retirement Association by a teacher as defined in section 354.05, subdivision 2;

(7) persons who are members of a religious order and are excluded from coverage under the federal Old Age, Survivors, Disability, and Health Insurance Program for the performance of service as specified in United States Code, title 42, section 410(a)(8)(A), as amended through January 1, 1987, if no irrevocable election of coverage has been made under section 3121(r) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended;

(8) employees of a governmental subdivision who have not reached the age of 23 and are enrolled on a full-time basis to attend or are attending classes on a full-time basis at an accredited school, college, or university in an undergraduate, graduate, or professional-technical program, or a public or charter high school;

(9) resident physicians, medical interns, and pharmacist residents and pharmacist interns who are serving in a degree or residency program in public hospitals;

(10) students who are serving in an internship or residency program sponsored by an accredited educational institution;

(11) persons who hold a part-time adult supplementary technical college license who render part-time teaching service in a technical college;

(12) except for employees of Hennepin County or Hennepin Healthcare System, Inc., foreign citizens working for a governmental subdivision with a work permit of less than three years, or an H-1b visa valid for less than three years of employment. Upon notice to the association that the work permit or visa extends beyond the three-year period, the foreign citizens must be reported for membership from the date of the extension;

(13) public hospital employees who elected not to participate as members of the association before 1972 and who did not elect to participate from July 1, 1988, to October 1, 1988;

(14) except as provided in section 353.86, volunteer ambulance service personnel, as defined in subdivision 35, but persons who serve as volunteer ambulance service personnel may still qualify as public employees under subdivision 2 and may be members of the Public Employees Retirement Association and participants in the public employees retirement fund or the public employees police and fire fund, whichever applies, on the basis of compensation received from public employment service other than service as volunteer ambulance service personnel;

(15) except as provided in section 353.87, volunteer firefighters, as defined in subdivision 36, engaging in activities undertaken as part of volunteer firefighter duties; provided that a person who is a volunteer firefighter may still qualify as a public employee under subdivision 2 and may be a member of the Public Employees Retirement Association and a participant in the public employees retirement fund or the public employees police and fire fund, whichever applies, on the basis of compensa-

tion received from public employment activities other than those as a volunteer firefighter;

(16) pipefitters and associated trades personnel employed by Independent School District No. 625, St. Paul, with coverage under a collective bargaining agreement by the pipefitters local 455 pension plan who were either first employed after May 1, 1997, or, if first employed before May 2, 1997, elected to be excluded under Laws 1997, chapter 241, article 2, section 12;

(17) electrical workers, plumbers, carpenters, and associated trades personnel employed by Independent School District No. 625, St. Paul, or the city of St. Paul, who have retirement coverage under a collective bargaining agreement by the Electrical Workers Local 110 pension plan, the United Association Plumbers Local 34 pension plan, or the Carpenters Local 87 pension plan who were either first employed after May 1, 2000, or, if first employed before May 2, 2000, elected to be excluded under Laws 2000, chapter 461, article 7, section 5;

(18) bricklayers, allied craftworkers, cement masons, glaziers, glassworkers, painters, allied tradesworkers, and plasterers employed by the city of St. Paul or Independent School District No. 625, St. Paul, with coverage under a collective bargaining agreement by the Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 1 pension plan, the Cement Masons Local 633 pension plan, the Glaziers and Glassworkers Local L-1324 pension plan, the Painters and Allied Trades Local 61 pension plan, or the Twin Cities Plasterers Local 265 pension plan who were either first employed after May 1, 2001, or if first employed before May 2, 2001, elected to be excluded under Laws 2001, First Special Session chapter 10, article 10, section 6;

(19) plumbers employed by the Metropolitan Airports Commission, with coverage under a collective bargaining agreement by the Plumbers Local 34 pension plan, who either were first employed after May 1, 2001, or if first employed before May 2, 2001, elected to be excluded under Laws 2001, First Special Session chapter 10, article 10, section 6;

(20) employees who are hired after June 30, 2002, to fill seasonal positions under subdivision 12b which are limited in duration by the employer to 185 consecutive calendar days or less in each year of employment with the governmental subdivision;

(21) persons who are provided supported employment or work-study positions by a governmental subdivision and who participate in an employment or industries program maintained for the benefit of these persons where the governmental subdivision limits the position's duration to three years or less, including persons participating in a federal or state subsidized on-the-job training, work experience, senior citizen, youth, or unemployment relief program where the training or work experience is not provided as a part of, or for, future permanent public employment;

(22) independent contractors and the employees of independent contractors; and

(23) reemployed annuitants of the association during the course of that reemployment.

Subd. 2d. Optional membership. (a) Membership in the association is optional by action of the individual employee for the following public employees who meet the conditions set forth in subdivision 2a:

(1) members of the coordinated plan who are also employees of labor organizations as defined in section 353.017, subdivision 1, for their employment by the labor organization only if they elect to have membership under section 353.017, subdivision 2;

(2) persons who are elected or persons who are appointed to elected positions other than local governing body elected positions who elect to participate by filing a written election for membership;

(3) members of the association who are appointed by the governor to be a state department head and who elect not to be covered by the general state employees retirement plan of the Minnesota State Retirement System under section 352.021;

(4) city managers as defined in section 353.028, subdivision 1, who do not elect to be excluded from membership in the association under section 353.028, subdivision 2; and

(5) employees of the Port Authority of the city of St. Paul who were at least age 45 on January 1, 2003, and who elect to participate by filing a written election for membership.

(b) Membership in the association is optional by action of the governmental subdivision for the employees of the following governmental subdivisions under the conditions specified:

(1) the Minnesota Association of Townships if the board of the association, at its option, certifies to the executive director that its employees are to be included for purposes of retirement coverage, in which case the status of the association as a participating employer is permanent;

(2) a county historical society if the county in which the historical society is located, at its option, certifies to the executive director that the employees of the historical society are to be county employees for purposes of retirement coverage under this chapter. The status as a county employee must be accorded to all similarly situated county historical society employees and, once established, must continue as long as a person is an employee of the county historical society; and

(3) Hennepin Healthcare System, Inc., a public corporation, with respect to employees other than paramedics, emergency medical technicians, and protection officers, if the corporate board establishes alternative retirement plans for certain classes of employees of the corporation and certifies the employees to be excluded from future retirement coverage.

(c) For employees who are covered by paragraph (a), clause (1), (2), or (3), or covered by paragraph (b), clause (1) or (2), if the necessary membership election is not made, the employee is excluded from retirement coverage under this chapter. For employees who are covered by paragraph (a), clause (4), if the necessary election is not made, the employee must become a member and have retirement coverage under this chapter. For employees specified in paragraph (b), clause (3), membership continues until the exclusion option is exercised for the designated class of employee. The option to become a member, once exercised under this subdivision, may not be withdrawn until termination of public service as defined under subdivision 11a.

[For text of subds 3 and 4, see M.S.2004]

Subd. 6. Governmental subdivision. (a) "Governmental subdivision" means a county, city, town, school district within this state, or a department or unit of state government, or any public body whose revenues are derived from taxation, fees, assessments or from other sources.

(b) Governmental subdivision also means the Public Employees Retirement Association, the League of Minnesota Cities, the Association of Metropolitan Municipalities, public hospitals owned or operated by, or an integral part of, a governmental subdivision or governmental subdivisions, the Association of Minnesota Counties, the Metropolitan Intercounty Association, the Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association, the Metropolitan Airports Commission, the University of Minnesota with respect to police officers covered by the public employees police and fire retirement plan, the Minneapolis Employees Retirement Fund for employment initially commenced after June 30, 1979, the Range Association of Municipalities and Schools, soil and water conservation districts, economic development authorities created or operating under sections 469.090 to 469.108, the Port Authority of the city of St. Paul, the Spring Lake Park Fire Department, incorporated, the Lake Johanna Volunteer Fire Department, incorporated, the Red Wing Environmental Learning Center, the Dakota County Agricultural Society, and Hennepin Healthcare System, Inc.

(c) Governmental subdivision does not mean any municipal housing and redevelopment authority organized under the provisions of sections 469.001 to 469.047; or any port authority organized under sections 469.048 to 469.089 other than the Port

Authority of the city of St. Paul; or any hospital district organized or reorganized prior to July 1, 1975, under sections 447.31 to 447.37 or the successor of the district, nor the Minneapolis Community Development Agency.

[For text of subds 7 to 8, see M.S.2004]

Subd. 10. **Salary.** (a) Subject to the limitations of section 356.611, "salary" means:

(1) the periodic compensation of a public employee, before deductions for deferred compensation, supplemental retirement plans, or other voluntary salary reduction programs, and also means "wages" and includes net income from fees;

(2) for a public employee who is covered by a supplemental retirement plan under section 356.24, subdivision 1, clause (8), (9), or (10), which require all plan contributions be made by the employer, the contribution to the applicable supplemental retirement plan when the contribution is from mandatory withholdings from employees' wages; and

(3) for a public employee who has prior service covered by a local police or firefighters relief association that has consolidated with the Public Employees Retirement Association or to which section 353.665 applies and who has elected coverage either under the public employees police and fire fund benefit plan under section 353A.08 following the consolidation or under section 353.665, subdivision 4, the rate of salary upon which member contributions to the special fund of the relief association were made prior to the effective date of the consolidation as specified by law and by bylaw provisions governing the relief association on the date of the initiation of the consolidation procedure and the actual periodic compensation of the public employee after the effective date of consolidation.

(b) Salary does not mean:

(1) the fees paid to district court reporters, unused annual vacation or sick leave payments, in lump-sum or periodic payments, severance payments, reimbursement of expenses, lump-sum settlements not attached to a specific earnings period, or workers' compensation payments;

(2) employer-paid amounts used by an employee toward the cost of insurance coverage, employer-paid fringe benefits, flexible spending accounts, cafeteria plans, health care expense accounts, day care expenses, or any payments in lieu of any employer-paid group insurance coverage, including the difference between single and family rates that may be paid to a member with single coverage and certain amounts determined by the executive director to be ineligible;

(3) the amount equal to that which the employing governmental subdivision would otherwise pay toward single or family insurance coverage for a covered employee when, through a contract or agreement with some but not all employees, the employer:

(i) discontinues, or for new hires does not provide, payment toward the cost of the employee's selected insurance coverages under a group plan offered by the employer;

(ii) makes the employee solely responsible for all contributions toward the cost of the employee's selected insurance coverages under a group plan offered by the employer, including any amount the employer makes toward other employees' selected insurance coverages under a group plan offered by the employer; and

(iii) provides increased salary rates for employees who do not have any employer-paid group insurance coverages;

(4) except as provided in section 353.86 or 353.87, compensation of any kind paid to volunteer ambulance service personnel or volunteer firefighters, as defined in subdivision 35 or 36; and

(5) the amount of compensation that exceeds the limitation provided in section 356.611.

(c) Amounts provided to an employee by the employer through a grievance proceeding or a legal settlement are salary only if the settlement is reviewed by the executive director and the amounts are determined by the executive director to be consistent with paragraph (a) and prior determinations.

[For text of subds 11 to 12b, see M.S.2004]

Subd. 14. **Actuarial equivalent.** "Actuarial equivalent" means the condition of one annuity or benefit having an equal actuarial present value as another annuity or benefit, determined as of a given date with each actuarial present value based on the appropriate mortality table adopted by the board of trustees based on the experience of the fund as recommended by the actuary retained under section 356.214, and approved under section 356.215, subdivision 18, and using the applicable preretirement or postretirement interest rate assumption specified in section 356.215, subdivision 8.

[For text of subds 15 to 16, see M.S.2004]

Subd. 16a. **Uncredited military service credit purchase.** (a) A public employee who has at least three years of allowable service with the Public Employees Retirement Association or the public employees police and fire plan and who performed service in the United States armed forces before becoming a public employee, or who failed to obtain service credit for a military leave of absence under subdivision 16, paragraph (h), is entitled to purchase allowable service credit for the initial period of enlistment, induction, or call to active duty without any voluntary extension by making payment under section 356.551 if the public employee has not purchased service credit from any other Minnesota defined benefit public employee pension plan for the same period of service.

(b) A public employee who desires to purchase service credit under paragraph (a) must apply with the executive director to make the purchase. The application must include all necessary documentation of the public employee's qualifications to make the purchase, signed written permission to allow the executive director to request and receive necessary verification of applicable facts and eligibility requirements, and any other relevant information that the executive director may require.

(c) Allowable service credit for the purchase period must be granted by the public employees association or the public employees police and fire plan, whichever applies, to the purchasing public employee upon receipt of the purchase payment amount. Payment must be made before the effective date of retirement of the public employee.

[For text of subd 17, see M.S.2004]

Subd. 17a. **Average salary.** (a) "Average salary," for purposes of calculating a retirement annuity under section 353.29, subdivision 3, means an amount equivalent to the average of the highest salary of the member, police officer, or firefighter, whichever applies, upon which employee contributions were paid for any five successive years of allowable service, based on dates of salary periods as listed on salary deduction reports. Average salary must be based upon all allowable service if this service is less than five years.

(b) "Average salary" may not include any reduced salary paid during a period in which the employee is entitled to benefit payments from workers' compensation for temporary disability, unless the average salary is higher, including this period.

[For text of subds 18 to 31, see M.S.2004]

Subd. 32. **Coordinated member.** "Coordinated member" means a public employee, including a public hospital employee, who is covered by an agreement or modification made between the state and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, making the provisions of the federal Old Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance Act applicable to the member if the membership eligibility criteria are met under this chapter. A coordinated member also is a former basic member who has a complete and continuous separation for at least 30 days from employment as a public employee meeting the requirements specified in subdivision 28, paragraphs (a) and (b), and who reenters public service as a public employee and meets the membership eligibility criteria under this chapter.

Subd. 33. **Basic member.** "Basic member" means a public employee, including a public hospital employee, who is not covered by any agreement or modification made between the state and the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

[For text of subds 35 to 40, see M.S.2004]

History: 2005 c 10 art 5 s 1,4; 2005 c 125 art 3 s 1-3; 1Sp2005 c 8 art 1 s 9,10; art 3 s 2; art 4 s 5; art 10 s 38,39

NOTE: The amendments to subdivisions 2b, 2d, and 6 by Laws 2005, chapter 125, article 3, sections 1 to 3, are effective the day after the Hennepin County Board files a certificate of local approval in compliance with section 645.021, subdivision 3. Laws 2005, chapter 125, article 1, section 29, as amended by Laws 2005, First Special Session chapter 7, section 34; and Laws 2005, chapter 125, article 3, section 7.

353.025 RANGE ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPALITIES AND SCHOOLS.

Employees of the Range Association of Municipalities and Schools are coordinated members of the general employees retirement plan of the Public Employees Retirement Association unless specifically exempt under section 353.01, subdivision 2b. The Range Association of Municipalities and Schools is a governmental subdivision for the purposes of this chapter.

History: 1Sp2005 c 8 art 10 s 40

353.026 COVERAGE FOR CERTAIN MUNICIPAL AND SCHOOL DISTRICT EMPLOYEES.

Any person who was employed by the city of Minneapolis, Special School District No. 1, or public corporation as defined in section 422A.01, subdivision 9, on or after July 1, 1978, and before July 1, 1979, and who was excluded from retirement coverage by the coordinated program of the Minneapolis municipal employees retirement fund under section 422A.09, subdivision 3, is entitled to retirement coverage by the general employees retirement plan of the Public Employees Retirement Association unless specifically excluded under section 353.01, subdivision 2b, from and after May 19, 1981.

History: 1Sp2005 c 8 art 10 s 41

353.027 RETENTION OF COVERAGE FOR CERTAIN MUNICIPAL COURT EMPLOYEES.

Any person employed on January 1, 1975, by a municipal court established under Minnesota Statutes 1957, section 488.03, and located in the cities of New Brighton, Roseville, Maplewood, North Saint Paul, White Bear Lake, or St. Paul is eligible for membership in the general employees retirement plan of the Public Employees Retirement Association and retains any rights or benefits the person had attained as a member of the general employees retirement plan of the association on January 1, 1975, so long as the person remains an employee of the municipal court of Ramsey County.

History: 1Sp2005 c 8 art 10 s 42

353.028 CITY MANAGERS; ELECTION; DEFERRED COMPENSATION.

Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** (a) For purposes of this section, each of the terms in this subdivision has the meaning indicated.

(b) "City manager" means (1) a person who is duly appointed to and is holding the position of city manager in a Plan B statutory city or in a home rule city operating under the "council-manager" form of government, or (2) a person who is appointed to and is holding the position of chief administrative officer of a home rule charter city or a statutory city under a charter provision, ordinance, or resolution establishing such a position and prescribing its duties and responsibilities.

(c) "Governing body" means the city council of the city employing the city manager.

(d) "Election" means the election described in subdivision 2.

Subd. 2. **Election.** (a) A city manager may elect to be excluded from membership in the general employees retirement plan of the Public Employees Retirement Association. The election of exclusion must be made within six months following the commencement of employment, must be made in writing on a form prescribed by the executive director, and must be approved by a resolution adopted by the governing body of the city. The election of exclusion is not effective until it is filed with the executive director. Membership of a city manager in the general employees retirement plan ceases on the date the written election is received by the executive director or upon a later date specified. Employee and employer contributions made on behalf of a person exercising the option to be excluded from membership under this section must be refunded in accordance with section 353.27, subdivision 7.

(b) A city manager who has elected exclusion under this subdivision may elect to revoke that action by filing a written notice with the executive director. The notice must be on a form prescribed by the executive director and must be approved by a resolution of the governing body of the city. Membership of the city manager in the association resumes prospectively from the date of the first day of the pay period for which contributions were deducted or, if pay period coverage dates are not provided, the date on which the notice of revocation or contributions are received in the office of the association, provided that the notice of revocation is received by the association within 60 days of the receipt of contributions.

(c) An election under paragraph (b) is irrevocable. Any election under paragraph (a) or (b) must include a statement that the individual will not seek authorization to purchase service credit for any period of excluded service.

Subd. 3. **Deferred compensation; city contribution.** If an election of exclusion is made, and if the city manager and the governing body of the city additionally agree in writing that the additional compensation is to be deferred and is to be contributed on behalf of the city manager to a deferred compensation program which meets the requirements of section 457 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, the governing body may compensate the city manager, in addition to the salary allowed under any limitation imposed on salaries by law or charter, in an amount equal to the employer contribution which would be required by section 353.27, subdivision 3, if the city manager were a member of the general employees retirement plan.

Subd. 4. **Refunds; deferred annuity.** A city manager who makes an election to be excluded from membership is entitled to a refund of accumulated deductions or, if otherwise qualified, a deferred annuity under section 353.34, at the option of the manager.

Subd. 5. **Election; other employment.** If a city manager who has made an election to be excluded subsequently accepts employment in another governmental subdivision or subsequently accepts employment other than as a city manager in the same city, the election is rescinded on the effective date of employment.

History: 1Sp2005 c 8 art 10 s 43

353.14 BENEFITS FROM OTHER FUNDS.

No annuity or benefit provided by this chapter may be affected, diminished, or impaired by any pension, benefit, or annuity which any member or survivor is entitled to receive from a tax supported public retirement plan or system authorized by any other law based on service that is different service than the service for which the member or survivor is entitled to receive benefit or annuity from a retirement plan administered by the Public Employees Retirement Association.

History: 1Sp2005 c 8 art 10 s 44

353.15 NONASSIGNABILITY AND EXEMPTION OF ANNUITIES AND BENEFITS FROM JUDICIAL PROCESS.

Subdivision 1. **Exemption.** The provisions of section 356.401 apply to the general employees retirement plan, to the public employees police and fire retirement plan, and to the local government correctional service retirement plan.

Subd. 2: [Repealed, 1Sp2005 c 8 art 10 s 81]

Subd. 3. **Payment to public bodies.** If, in the judgment of the executive director, conditions so warrant, payment of an annuity, a retirement benefit, or a refund may be made to a public body in behalf of an annuitant, disabiltant, or survivor upon such terms as the executive director may prescribe.

History: 1Sp2005 c 8 art 10 s 45,46

353.27 PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT FUND.

[For text of subd 1, see M.S.2004]

Subd. 2. **Employee contribution.** (a) The employee contribution is the following applicable percentage of the total salary amount for a "basic member" and for a "coordinated member":

	Basic Program	Coordinated Program
Effective before January 1, 2006	9.10	5.10
Effective January 1, 2006	9.10	5.50
Effective January 1, 2007	9.10	5.75
Effective January 1, 2008	9.10	6.00 plus any contribution rate adjustment under subdivision 3b

(b) These contributions must be made by deduction from salary as defined in section 353.01, subdivision 10, in the manner provided in subdivision 4. If any portion of a member's salary is paid from other than public funds, the member's employee contribution must be based on the total salary received by the member from all sources.

Subd. 3. **Employer contribution.** (a) The employer contribution is the following applicable percentage of the total salary amount for "basic members" and for "coordinated members":

	Basic Program	Coordinated Program
Effective before January 1, 2006	9.10	5.10
Effective January 1, 2006	9.10	5.50
Effective January 1, 2007	9.10	5.75
Effective January 1, 2008	9.10	6.00 plus any contribution rate adjustment under subdivision 3b

(b) This contribution must be made from funds available to the employing subdivision by the means and in the manner provided in section 353.28.

Subd. 3a. **Additional employer contribution.** (a) An additional employer contribution must be made equal to the following applicable percentage of the total salary amount for "basic members" and for "coordinated members":

	Basic Program	Coordinated Program
Effective before January 1, 2006	2.68	.43
Effective January 1, 2006	2.68	.50
Effective January 1, 2009	2.68	.75
Effective January 1, 2010	2.68	1.00

These contributions must be made from funds available to the employing subdivision by the means and in the manner provided in section 353.28.

(b) The coordinated program contribution rates set forth in paragraph (a) effective for January 1, 2009, or January 1, 2010, must not be implemented if, following receipt of the July 1, 2008, or July 1, 2009, annual actuarial valuation reports under section 356.215, respectively, the actuarially required contributions are equal to or less than the total rates under this section in effect as of January 1, 2008.

(c) This subdivision is repealed once the actuarial value of the assets of the plan equal or exceed the actuarial accrued liability of the plan as determined by the actuary retained by the Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement under section 356.215. The repeal is effective on the first day of the first full pay period occurring after March 31 of the calendar year following the issuance of the actuarial valuation upon which the repeal is based.

Subd. 3b. Change in employee and employer contributions in certain instances. (a) For purposes of this section, a contribution sufficiency exists if the total of the employee contribution under subdivision 2, the employer contribution under subdivision 3, the additional employer contribution under subdivision 3a, and any additional contribution previously imposed under this subdivision exceeds the total of the normal cost, the administrative expenses, and the amortization contribution of the retirement plan as reported in the most recent actuarial valuation of the retirement plan prepared by the actuary retained under section 356.214 and prepared under section 356.215 and the standards for actuarial work of the Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement. For purposes of this section, a contribution deficiency exists if the total of the employee contributions under subdivision 2, the employer contributions under subdivision 3, the additional employer contribution under subdivision 3a, and any additional contribution previously imposed under this subdivision is less than the total of the normal cost, the administrative expenses, and the amortization contribution of the retirement plan as reported in the most recent actuarial valuation of the retirement plan prepared by the actuary retained under section 356.214 and prepared under section 356.215 and the standards for actuarial work of the Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement.

(b) Employee and employer contributions under subdivisions 2 and 3 must be adjusted:

(1) if, after July 1, 2010, the regular actuarial valuations of the general employees retirement plan of the Public Employees Retirement Association under section 356.215 indicate that there is a contribution sufficiency under paragraph (a) equal to or greater than 0.5 percent of covered payroll for two consecutive years, the coordinated program employee and employer contribution rates must be decreased as determined under paragraph (c) to a level such that the sufficiency equals no more than 0.25 percent of covered payroll based on the most recent actuarial valuation; or

(2) if, after July 1, 2010, the regular actuarial valuations of the general employees retirement plan of the Public Employees Retirement Association under section 356.215 indicate that there is a deficiency equal to or greater than 0.5 percent of covered payroll for two consecutive years, the coordinated program employee and employer contribution rates must be increased as determined under paragraph (c) to a level such that no deficiency exists based on the most recent actuarial valuation.

(c) The contribution rate increase or decrease must be determined by the executive director of the Public Employees Retirement Association, must be reported to the chair and the executive director of the Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement on or before the next February 1, and, if the Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement does not recommend against the rate change or does not recommend a modification in the rate change, is effective on the next July 1 following the determination by the executive director that a contribution deficiency or sufficiency has existed for two consecutive fiscal years based on the most recent actuarial valuations under section 356.215. If the actuarially required contribution exceeds or is

less than the total support provided by the combined employee and employer contribution rates by more than 0.5 percent of covered payroll, the coordinated program employee and employer contribution rates must be adjusted incrementally over one or more years to a level such that there remains a contribution sufficiency of no more than 0.25 percent of covered payroll.

(d) No incremental adjustment may exceed 0.25 percent for either the coordinated program employee and employer contribution rates per year in which any adjustment is implemented. A contribution rate adjustment under this subdivision must not be made until at least two years have passed since fully implementing a previous adjustment under this subdivision.

[For text of subds 4 to 10, see M.S.2004]

Subd. 11. Employers; required to furnish requested information. (a) All governmental subdivisions shall furnish promptly such other information relative to the employment status of all employees or former employees, including, but not limited to, payroll abstracts pertaining to all past and present employees, as may be requested by the executive director, including schedules of salaries applicable to various categories of employment.

(b) In the event payroll abstract records have been lost or destroyed, for whatever reason or in whatever manner, so that such schedules of salaries cannot be furnished therefrom, the employing governmental subdivision, in lieu thereof, shall furnish to the association an estimate of the earnings of any employee or former employee for any period as may be requested by the executive director. If the association is provided a schedule of estimated earnings, the executive director is authorized to use the same as a basis for making whatever computations might be necessary for determining obligations of the employee and employer to the retirement fund. If estimates are not furnished by the employer at the request of the executive director, the executive director may estimate the obligations of the employee and employer to the retirement fund based upon those records that are in its possession.

[For text of subds 12 to 13, see M.S.2004]

History: 1Sp2005 c 8 art 5 s 1-4; art 10 s 47

353.271 PARTICIPATION IN MINNESOTA POSTRETIREMENT INVESTMENT FUND.

Subdivision 1. Authorization. The general employees retirement plan of the Public Employees Retirement Association, the public employees police and fire retirement plan, and the local government correctional service retirement plan are authorized to participate in the Minnesota postretirement investment fund. There is one general participation in the Minnesota postretirement investment fund for each plan of the Public Employees Retirement Association.

Subd. 2. Valuation of assets; adjustment of benefits. (a) The required reserves for retirement annuities payable as provided in this chapter other than those payable from the various local relief association consolidation accounts, as determined in accordance with the appropriate mortality table adopted by the board of trustees based on the experience of the fund as recommended by the actuary retained under section 356.214, and approved under section 356.215, subdivision 18, and using the postretirement interest assumption specified in section 356.215, subdivision 8, must be transferred to the Minnesota postretirement investment fund as of the last business day of the month in which the retirement annuity begins.

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

(c) Increases in payments under this section must be made automatically unless the intended recipient files written notice with the executive director of the Public Employees Retirement Association requesting that the increase not be made.

History: 1Sp2005 c 8 art 10 s 48

353.28 FINANCING OF EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS.*[For text of subd 1, see M.S.2004]*

Subd. 5. **Interest chargeable on amounts due.** Any amount due under this section or section 353.27, subdivision 4, is payable with interest at an annual compound rate of 8.5 percent from the date due until the date payment is received by the association, with a minimum interest charge of \$10.

Subd. 6. **Collection of unpaid amounts.** (a) If a governmental subdivision which receives the direct proceeds of property taxation fails to pay an amount due under chapter 353, 353A, 353B, 353C, or 353D, the executive director shall certify the amount to the governmental subdivision for payment. If the governmental subdivision fails to remit the sum so due in a timely fashion, the executive director shall certify the amount to the applicable county auditor for collection. The county auditor shall collect the amount out of the revenue of the governmental subdivision, or shall add the amount to the levy of the governmental subdivision and make payment directly to the association. This tax must be levied, collected, and apportioned in the manner that other taxes are levied, collected, and apportioned.

(b) If a governmental subdivision which is not funded directly from the proceeds of property taxation fails to pay an amount due under this chapter, the executive director shall certify the amount to the governmental subdivision for payment. If the governmental subdivision fails to pay the amount for a period of 60 days after certification, the executive director shall certify the amount to the commissioner of finance, who shall deduct the amount from any subsequent state-aid payment or state appropriation amount applicable to the governmental subdivision.

*[For text of subd 8, see M.S.2004]***History:** 1Sp2005 c 8 art 5 s 5,6**353.29 RETIREMENT ANNUITY UPON TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP.***[For text of subd 1, see M.S.2004]*

Subd. 2. [Repealed, 1Sp2005 c 8 art 1 s 32]

Subd. 3. **Retirement annuity formula.** (a) This paragraph, in conjunction with section 353.30, subdivisions 1, 1a, 1b, and 1c, applies to any member who first became a public employee or a member of a pension fund listed in section 356.30, subdivision 3, before July 1, 1989, unless paragraph (b), in conjunction with section 353.30, subdivision 5, produces a higher annuity amount, in which case paragraph (b) will apply. The average salary as defined in section 353.01, subdivision 17a, multiplied by the percent specified in section 356.315, subdivision 3, for each year of allowable service for the first ten years and thereafter by the percent specified in section 356.315, subdivision 4, per year of allowable service and completed months less than a full year for the "basic member," and the percent specified in section 356.315, subdivision 1, for each year of allowable service for the first ten years and thereafter by the percent specified in section 356.315, subdivision 2, per year of allowable service and completed months less than a full year for the "coordinated member," shall determine the amount of the "normal" retirement annuity.

(b) This paragraph applies to a member who has become at least 55 years old and first became a public employee after June 30, 1989, and to any other member whose annuity amount, when calculated under this paragraph and in conjunction with section 353.30, subdivision 5, is higher than it is when calculated under paragraph (a), in conjunction with section 353.30, subdivisions 1, 1a, 1b, and 1c. The average salary, as defined in section 353.01, subdivision 17a, multiplied by the percent specified in section 356.315, subdivision 4, for each year of allowable service and completed months less than a full year for a basic member and the percent specified in section 356.315, subdivision 2, per year of allowable service and completed months less than a full year for a coordinated member, shall determine the amount of the normal retirement annuity.

[For text of subds 4 to 8, see M.S.2004]

History: 1Sp2005 c 8 art 1 s 11

353.31 SURVIVOR BENEFITS.

[For text of subds 1 to 1b, see M.S.2004]

Subd. 1c. **Coordinated members.** Except for benefits provided under section 353.32, no survivor benefits are payable to the surviving spouse or dependent children of a deceased coordinated member.

[For text of subds 8 and 9, see M.S.2004]

History: 1Sp2005 c 8 art 10 s 49

353.32 REFUNDS AFTER DEATH OF MEMBER OR FORMER MEMBER.

[For text of subds 1 to 5, see M.S.2004]

Subd. 9. **Payment to a minor.** If a member or former member dies having named as beneficiary a person who is a minor at the time of the application for refund, the board may make the payment (1) directly to the minor, (2) to a person who has legally qualified and is acting as guardian of the minor's person or property in any jurisdiction, or (3) to either parent of the minor or to an adult person with whom the minor may at the time be living. The parent or other person to whom any amount is to be paid must advise the board in writing that the amount will be held or used in trust for the benefit of such minor. Any annuity or disability benefit payable at the time of death of an annuitant or recipient of a disability benefit, which is payable to a beneficiary who is a minor, may be paid in the same manner. The payment is a bar to recovery by any other person or persons.

History: 1Sp2005 c 8 art 10 s 50

353.33 TOTAL AND PERMANENT DISABILITY BENEFITS.

[For text of subds 1 and 2, see M.S.2004]

Subd. 3. **Computation of benefits.** This disability benefit is an amount equal to the normal annuity payable to a member who has reached normal retirement age with the same number of years of allowable service and the same average salary, as provided in section 353.01, subdivision 17a, and section 353.29, subdivision 3.

A basic member shall receive a supplementary monthly benefit of \$25 to age 65 or the five-year anniversary of the effective date of the disability benefit, whichever is later.

If the disability benefits under this subdivision exceed the average salary as defined in section 353.01, subdivision 17a, the disability benefits must be reduced to an amount equal to the average salary.

[For text of subds 3b to 11, see M.S.2004]

Subd. 12. **Basic disability survivor benefits.** If a basic member who is receiving a disability benefit under subdivision 3:

(1) dies before attaining age 65 or within five years of the effective date of the disability, whichever is later, the surviving spouse is entitled to receive a survivor benefit under section 353.31, unless the surviving spouse elected to receive a refund under section 353.32, subdivision 1;

(2) is living at age 65 or five years after the effective date of the disability, whichever is later, the basic member may continue to receive a normal disability benefit, or elect a joint and survivor optional annuity under section 353.31, subdivision 1b. The election of the joint and survivor optional annuity must occur within 90 days of attaining age 65 or of reaching the five-year anniversary of the effective date of the disability benefit, whichever is later. The optional annuity takes effect on the first day

of the month following the month in which the person attains age 65 or reaches the five-year anniversary of the effective date of the disability benefit, whichever is later; or

(3) if there is a dependent child or children under clause (1) or (2), the dependent child is entitled to a dependent child benefit under section 353.31, subdivision 1b, paragraph (b).

History: 1Sp2005 c 8 art 1 s 12; art 10 s 51

353.34 RIGHTS UPON TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP.

[For text of subds 1 to 3, see M.S.2004]

Subd. 3a. **Deferred annuity; certain hospital employees.** Any member employed by a public hospital, as defined in section 355.01, subdivision 3k, who has at least three years of allowable service credit on the date the public hospital is taken over by a private corporation or organization, may elect to receive a deferred annuity pursuant to subdivision 3 notwithstanding the length of service requirement contained therein.

Subd. 3b. [Repealed, 1Sp2005 c 8 art 10 s 81]

[For text of subds 5 to 7, see M.S.2004]

History: 2005 c 10 art 5 s 2

353.36 Subdivision 1. [Repealed, 1971 c 106 s 40]

Subd. 2. [Repealed, 1Sp2005 c 8 art 10 s 81]

Subd. 2a. [Repealed, 1Sp2005 c 8 art 10 s 81]

Subd. 2b. [Repealed, 1Sp2005 c 8 art 10 s 81]

Subd. 2c. [Repealed, 1Sp2005 c 8 art 10 s 81]

353.46 SAVINGS CLAUSES.

[For text of subds 1a and 2, see M.S.2004]

Subd. 4. [Repealed, 1Sp2005 c 8 art 10 s 81]

[For text of subd 6, see M.S.2004]

353.64 MEMBERSHIP; QUALIFICATIONS; POLICE OFFICER, FIREFIGHTER.

[For text of subds 1 to 5a, see M.S.2004]

Subd. 6a. **University of Minnesota police officers; inclusions and exclusions.** (a) Unless paragraph (b) applies, a person who is employed as a peace officer by the University of Minnesota at any campus or facility of the university, who is required by the university to be and is licensed as a peace officer by the Minnesota Peace Officer Standards and Training Board under sections 626.84 to 626.863, and who has the full power of arrest is a member of the public employees police and fire retirement plan.

(b) A police officer employed by the University of Minnesota who is required by the Board of Regents to contribute to the University of Minnesota faculty retirement plan is not eligible to be a member of the public employees police and fire retirement plan.

[For text of subds 7 to 9, see M.S.2004]

Subd. 10. **Pension coverage for Hennepin Healthcare System, Inc.; paramedics and emergency medical technicians.** An employee of Hennepin Healthcare System, Inc. who is:

(1) certified as a paramedic or emergency medical technician by the state under section 144E.28, subdivision 4;

(2) employed full time as a paramedic or emergency medical technician by Hennepin County on or after the effective date specified in Laws 1994, chapter 499, section 2; and

(3) not eligible after the effective date under Laws 1994, chapter 499, section 2, for coverage under the agreement signed between the state and the secretary of the federal Department of Health and Human Services making the provisions of the federal Old Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance Act applicable to paramedics and emergency medical technicians because the person's position is excluded after that date from application under United States Code, title 42, sections 418(d)(5)(A) and 418(d)(8)(D), and section 355.07;

is a member of the public employees police and fire fund under sections 353.63 to 353.68.

Hennepin Healthcare System, Inc. shall deduct the employee contribution from the salary of each full-time paramedic and emergency medical technician it employs as required by section 353.65, subdivision 2, shall make the employer contribution for each full-time paramedic and emergency medical technician it employs as required by section 353.65, subdivision 3, and shall meet the employer recording and reporting requirements in section 353.65, subdivision 4.

[For text of subd 11, see M.S.2004]

History: 2005 c 125 art 3 s 4; 1Sp2005 c 8 art 4 s 6

NOTE: The amendment to subdivision 10 by Laws 2005, chapter 125, article 3, section 4, is effective the day after the Hennepin County Board files a certificate of local approval in compliance with section 645.021, subdivision 3. Laws 2005, chapter 125, article 1, section 29, as amended by Laws 2005, First Special Session chapter 7, section 34; and Laws 2005, chapter 125, article 3, section 7.

353.65 CONTRIBUTIONS.

[For text of subd 1, see M.S.2004]

Subd. 2. Employee contribution rate. (a) The employee contribution is an amount equal to the percent of the total salary of the member specified in paragraph (b). This contribution must be made by deduction from salary in the manner provided in subdivision 4. Where any portion of a member's salary is paid from other than public funds, the member's employee contribution is based on the total salary received from all sources.

(b) For calendar year 2006, the employee contribution rate is 7.0 percent. For calendar year 2007, the employee contribution rate is 7.8 percent. For calendar year 2008, the employee contribution rate is 8.6 percent. For calendar year 2009 and thereafter, the employee contribution rate is 9.4 percent.

Subd. 3. Employer contribution rate. (a) The employer contribution shall be an amount equal to the percent of the total salary of every member as specified in paragraph (b). This contribution shall be made from funds available to the employing subdivision by the means and in the manner provided in section 353.28.

(b) For calendar year 2006, the employer contribution rate is 10.5 percent. For calendar year 2007, the employer contribution rate is 11.7 percent. For calendar year 2008, the employer contribution rate is 12.9 percent. For calendar year 2009 and thereafter, the employer contribution rate is 14.1 percent.

[For text of subds 4 and 6, see M.S.2004]

History: 1Sp2005 c 8 art 5 s 7,8

353.651 RETIREMENT ANNUITY UPON SEPARATION FROM PUBLIC SERVICE.

[For text of subd 1, see M.S.2004]

Subd. 2. [Repealed, 1Sp2005 c 8 art 1 s 32]

Subd. 3. Retirement annuity formula. The average salary as defined in section 353.01, subdivision 17a, multiplied by the percent specified in section 356.315, subdivision 6, per year of allowable service determines the amount of the normal retirement annuity. If the member has earned allowable service for performing services other than

those of a police officer or firefighter, the annuity representing that service must be computed under sections 353.29 and 353.30.

[For text of subd 4, see M.S.2004]

History: 1Sp2005 c 8 art 1 s 13

353.656 DISABILITY BENEFITS.

Subdivision 1. **In line of duty; computation of benefits.** A member of the police and fire plan who becomes disabled and physically unfit to perform duties as a police officer, firefighter, or paramedic as defined under section 353.64, subdivision 10, as a direct result of an injury, sickness, or other disability incurred in or arising out of any act of duty, which has or is expected to render the member physically or mentally unable to perform the duties as a police officer, firefighter, or paramedic as defined under section 353.64, subdivision 10, for a period of at least one year, shall receive disability benefits during the period of such disability. The benefits must be in an amount equal to 60 percent of the "average salary" as defined in section 353.01, subdivision 17a, plus an additional percent specified in section 356.315, subdivision 6, of that average salary for each year of service in excess of 20 years. If the disability under this subdivision occurs before the member has at least five years of allowable service credit in the police and fire plan, the disability benefit must 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 12, see M.S.2004]

History: 1Sp2005 c 8 art 1 s 14

353.657 SURVIVOR BENEFITS.

Subdivision 1. **Generally.** In the event a member of the police and fire fund dies from any cause before retirement or after becoming disabled and receiving disability benefits, the association shall grant survivor benefits to a surviving spouse, as defined in section 353.01, subdivision 20, and who was married to the member for a period of at least one year, except that if death occurs in the line of duty no time limit is required. For purposes of this section, line of duty also includes active military service, as defined in section 190.05, subdivision 5. The association shall also grant survivor benefits to a dependent child or children, as defined in section 353.01, subdivision 15.

Notwithstanding the definition of surviving spouse, a former spouse of the member, if any, is entitled to a portion of the monthly surviving spouse benefit if stipulated under the terms of a marriage dissolution decree filed with the association. If there is no surviving spouse or child or children, a former spouse may be entitled to a lump-sum refund payment under section 353.32, subdivision 1, if provided for in a marriage dissolution decree but not a monthly surviving spouse benefit despite the terms of a marriage dissolution decree filed with the association.

The spouse and child or children are entitled to monthly benefits as provided in the following subdivisions.

[For text of subds 2 to 4, see M.S.2004]

History: 1Sp2005 c 1 art 4 s 97

353.663 [Repealed, 1Sp2005 c 8 art 10 s 81]

353.666 PAST SERVICE CREDIT FOR CERTAIN MEMBERS EXTENDED COVER-AGE.

(a) A member to whom public employees police and fire retirement plan membership was extended under section 353.64, subdivision 11, may receive retroactive service credit in the public employees police and fire retirement plan for service as a tribal police officer rendered before the effective date of membership of the tribal police department employee in the police and fire fund, provided that the employee and the

police department did not make contributions into a qualified tax-deferred retirement plan for that employment period.

(b) The request for retroactive coverage must be in writing and must be filed with the association within 60 days of when police and fire fund membership commenced. The prior service credit purchase payment is governed by section 356.551, except that the member must pay an amount equal to the employee salary deductions. The employee salary deductions for the retroactive period must be based on the police and fire pension plan member contribution rates in effect when the service was rendered and applied to the salary amount that was earned and paid to the police officer. The employer must pay the balance of the prior service credit purchase payment amount within 30 days of the member contribution payment.

History: 2005 c 10 art 5 s 4

353.74 [Repealed, 1Sp2005 c 8 art 10 s 81]

353.75 [Repealed, 1Sp2005 c 8 art 10 s 81]