

## CHAPTER 471

## MUNICIPAL RIGHTS, POWERS, DUTIES

471.345	Uniform Municipal Contracting Law.	471.895	Certain gifts by interested persons prohibited.
471.59	Joint exercise of powers.	471.928	Recording.
471.61	Group benefits for officers, employees, retirees.	471.975	May pay differential of reserve on active duty.
471.661	Out-of-state travel.	471.999	Report to legislature.
471.701	Salary data.		
471.88	Exceptions.		

**471.345 UNIFORM MUNICIPAL CONTRACTING LAW.**

*[For text of subds 1 to 8, see M.S.2004]*

**Subd. 10. Shared hospital or ambulance service purchasing.** Supplies, materials, or equipment to be used in the operation of a hospital licensed under sections 144.50 to 144.56 or an ambulance service licensed under chapter 144E that are purchased or leased under a shared service purchasing arrangement whereby more than one hospital or ambulance service purchases supplies, materials, or equipment with one or more other hospitals or ambulance services either through one of the hospitals or ambulance services or through another entity, may be purchased without regard to the competitive bidding requirements of this section, if the following conditions are met:

(1) the hospital's or ambulance service's governing authority authorizes the arrangement;

(2) the shared services purchasing program purchases items available from more than one source on the basis of competitive bids or competitive quotations of prices; and

(3) the arrangement authorizes the hospital's or ambulance service's governing authority or its representatives to review the purchasing procedures to determine compliance with these requirements.

The shared services purchasing program may award contracts to more than one bidder if doing so does not decrease the service level or diminish the effects of competition.

*[For text of subds 11 to 18, see M.S.2004]*

**History:** 2005 c 63 s 1

**471.59 JOINT EXERCISE OF POWERS.**

**Subdivision 1. Agreement.** Two or more governmental units, by agreement entered into through action of their governing bodies, may jointly or cooperatively exercise any power common to the contracting parties or any similar powers, including those which are the same except for the territorial limits within which they may be exercised. The agreement may provide for the exercise of such powers by one or more of the participating governmental units on behalf of the other participating units. The term "governmental unit" as used in this section includes every city, county, town, school district, other political subdivision of this or another state, another state, the University of Minnesota, nonprofit hospitals licensed under sections 144.50 to 144.56, rehabilitation facilities and extended employment providers that are certified by the commissioner of employment and economic development, day training and habilitation services licensed under sections 245B.01 to 245B.08, and any agency of the state of Minnesota or the United States, and includes any instrumentality of a governmental unit. For the purpose of this section, an instrumentality of a governmental unit means an instrumentality having independent policy making and appropriating authority.

*[For text of subds 2 to 13, see M.S.2004]*

**History:** 2005 c 9 s 2

**471.61 GROUP BENEFITS FOR OFFICERS, EMPLOYEES, RETIREES.***[For text of subds 1 to 3, see M.S.2004]*

Subd. 5. **Provision of long-term care insurance.** Any political subdivision, or any two or more political subdivisions acting jointly, may contract with an insurance company licensed to do business in this state for the voluntary purchase of long-term care insurance by the employees and their dependents of the political subdivision or subdivisions. The coverage may be through a group policy or through individual coverage.

**History:** *1Sp2005 c 4 art 5 s 16*

**471.661 OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL.**

By January 1, 2006, the governing body of each statutory or home rule charter city, county, school district, regional agency, or other political subdivision, except a town, must develop a policy that controls travel outside the state of Minnesota for the applicable elected officials of the relevant unit of government. The policy must be approved by a recorded vote and specify:

- (1) when travel outside the state is appropriate;
- (2) applicable expense limits; and
- (3) procedures for approval of the travel.

The policy must be made available for public inspection upon request and reviewed annually. Subsequent changes to the policy must be approved by a recorded vote.

**History:** *2005 c 156 art 2 s 38*

**471.701 SALARY DATA.**

A city or county with a population of more than 15,000 must annually notify its residents of the positions and base salaries of its three highest-paid employees. This notice may be provided on the home page of the primary Web site maintained by the political subdivision for a period of not less than 90 consecutive days, in a publication of the political subdivision that is distributed to all residents in the political subdivision, or as part of the annual notice of proposed property taxes prepared under section 275.065.

**History:** *2005 c 156 art 2 s 39*

**471.88 EXCEPTIONS.***[For text of subds 1 to 6, see M.S.2004]*

Subd. 6a. **Contract with volunteer ambulance service.** A contract with a volunteer ambulance service for the payment of compensation to its members or for the payment of retirement benefits to these members.

*[For text of subds 7 to 20, see M.S.2004]*

**History:** *2005 c 80 s 1*

**471.895 CERTAIN GIFTS BY INTERESTED PERSONS PROHIBITED.***[For text of subds 1 and 2, see M.S.2004]*

Subd. 3. **Exceptions.** (a) The prohibitions in this section do not apply if the gift is:

- (1) a contribution as defined in section 211A.01, subdivision 5;
- (2) services to assist an official in the performance of official duties, including but not limited to providing advice, consultation, information, and communication in connection with legislation, and services to constituents;
- (3) services of insignificant monetary value;

(4) a plaque or similar memento recognizing individual services in a field of specialty or to a charitable cause;

(5) a trinket or memento costing \$5 or less;

(6) informational material of unexceptional value; or

(7) food or a beverage given at a reception, meal, or meeting away from the recipient's place of work by an organization before whom the recipient appears to make a speech or answer questions as part of a program.

(b) The prohibitions in this section do not apply if the gift is given:

(1) because of the recipient's membership in a group, a majority of whose members are not local officials, and an equivalent gift is given or offered to the other members of the group;

(2) by an interested person who is a member of the family of the recipient, unless the gift is given on behalf of someone who is not a member of that family; or

(3) by a national or multistate organization of governmental organizations or public officials, if a majority of the dues to the organization are paid from public funds, to attendees at a conference sponsored by that organization, if the gift is food or a beverage given at a reception or meal and an equivalent gift is given or offered to all other attendees.

**History:** 2005 c 156 art 6 s 66

#### **471.928 RECORDING.**

Any ordinance adopted pursuant to sections 471.924 to 471.929 must be recorded with the county recorder. The county auditor shall file a certified copy of the ordinance.

**History:** 2005 c 4 s 115

#### **471.975 MAY PAY DIFFERENTIAL OF RESERVE ON ACTIVE DUTY.**

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b), a statutory or home rule charter city, county, town, or other political subdivision may pay to each eligible member of the National Guard or other reserve component of the armed forces of the United States an amount equal to the difference between the member's basic active duty military salary and the salary the member would be paid as an active political subdivision employee, including any adjustments the member would have received if not on leave of absence. This payment may be made only to a person whose basic active duty military salary is less than the salary the person would be paid as an active political subdivision employee. Back pay authorized by this section may be paid in a lump sum. Payment under this section must not extend beyond four years from the date the employee reported for active service, plus any additional time the employee may be legally required to serve.

(b) Subject to the limits under paragraph (g), each school district shall pay to each eligible member of the National Guard or other reserve component of the armed forces of the United States an amount equal to the difference between the member's basic active duty military salary and the salary the member would be paid as an active school district employee, including any adjustments the member would have received if not on leave of absence. The pay differential must be based on a comparison between the member's daily rate of active duty pay, calculated by dividing the member's military monthly salary by the number of paid days in the month, and the member's daily rate of pay for the member's school district salary, calculated by dividing the member's total school district salary by the number of contract days. The member's salary as a school district employee must include the member's basic salary and any additional salary the member earns from the school district for cocurricular activities. The differential payment under this paragraph must be the difference between the daily rates of military pay times the number of school district contract days the member misses because of military active duty. This payment may be made only to a person whose basic active duty military salary is less than the salary the person would be paid as an

active school district employee. Payments may be made at the intervals at which the member received pay as a school district employee. Payment under this section must not extend beyond four years from the date the employee reported for active service, plus any additional time the employee may be legally required to serve.

(c) An eligible member of the reserve components of the armed forces of the United States is a reservist or National Guard member who was an employee of a political subdivision at the time the member reported for active service on or after May 29, 2003, or who is on active service on May 29, 2003.

(d) Except as provided in paragraph (e) and elsewhere in Minnesota Statutes, a statutory or home rule charter city, county, town, or other political subdivision has total discretion regarding employee benefit continuation for a member who reports for active service and the terms and conditions of any benefit.

(e) A school district must continue the employee's enrollment in health and dental coverage, and the employer contribution toward that coverage, until the employee is covered by health and dental coverage provided by the armed forces. If the employee had elected dependent coverage for health or dental coverage as of the time that the employee reported for active service, a school district must offer the employee the option to continue the dependent coverage at the employee's own expense. A school district must permit the employee to continue participating in any pretax account in which the employee participated when the employee reported for active service, to the extent of employee pay available for that purpose.

(f) For purposes of this section, "active service" has the meaning given in section 190.05, subdivision 5, but excludes service performed exclusively for purposes of:

(1) basic combat training, advanced individual training, annual training, and periodic inactive duty training;

(2) special training periodically made available to reserve members; and

(3) service performed in accordance with section 190.08, subdivision 3.

(g) A school district making payments under paragraph (b) shall place a sum equal to any difference between the amount of salary that would have been paid to the employee who is receiving the payments and the amount of salary being paid to substitutes for that employee into a special fund that must be used to pay or partially pay the deployed employee's payments under paragraph (b). A school district is required to pay only this amount to the deployed school district employee.

**History:** 2005 c 156 art 4 s 9

#### **471.999 REPORT TO LEGISLATURE.**

The commissioner of employee relations shall report to the legislature by January 1 of each year on the status of compliance with section 471.992, subdivision 1, by governmental subdivisions.

The report must include a list of the political subdivisions in compliance with section 471.992, subdivision 1, and the estimated cost of compliance. The report must also include a list of political subdivisions found by the commissioner to be not in compliance, the basis for that finding, recommended changes to achieve compliance, estimated cost of compliance, and recommended penalties, if any. The commissioner's report must include a list of subdivisions that did not comply with the reporting requirements of this section. The commissioner may request, and a subdivision shall provide, any additional information needed for the preparation of a report under this subdivision.

Notwithstanding any rule to the contrary, beginning in 2005, a political subdivision must report on its compliance with the requirements of sections 471.991 to 471.999 no more frequently than once every three years. No report from a political subdivision is required for 2003 and 2004.

**History:** 1Sp2005 c 1 art 4 s 113