

424A.05 RELIEF ASSOCIATION SPECIAL FUND.

Subdivision 1. **Establishment of special fund.** Every volunteer firefighters' relief association shall establish and maintain a special fund within the relief association.

Subd. 2. **Special fund assets and revenues.** The special fund must be credited with all fire state aid moneys received under sections 69.011 to 69.051, all taxes levied by or other revenues received from the municipality under sections 69.771 to 69.776 or any applicable special law requiring municipal support for the relief association, any moneys or property donated, given, granted or devised by any person which is specified for use for the support of the special fund and any interest or investment return earned upon the assets of the special fund. The treasurer of the relief association is the custodian of the assets of the special fund and must be the recipient on behalf of the special fund of all revenues payable to the special fund. The treasurer shall maintain adequate records documenting any transaction involving the assets or the revenues of the special fund. These records and the bylaws of the relief association are public and must be open for inspection by any member of the relief association, any officer or employee of the state or of the municipality, or any member of the public, at reasonable times and places.

Subd. 3. **Authorized disbursements from the special fund.** (a) Disbursements from the special fund may not be made for any purpose other than one of the following:

(1) for the payment of service pensions to retired members of the relief association if authorized and paid under law and the bylaws governing the relief association;

(2) for the payment of temporary or permanent disability benefits to disabled members of the relief association if authorized and paid under law and specified in amount in the bylaws governing the relief association;

(3) for the payment of survivor benefits to surviving spouses and surviving children, or if none, to designated beneficiaries, of deceased members of the relief association, and if no survivors and if no designated beneficiary, for the payment of a death benefit to the estate of the deceased active or deferred firefighter, if authorized by and paid under law and specified in amount in the bylaws governing the relief association;

(4) for the payment of the fees, dues and assessments to the Minnesota State Fire Department Association and to the Minnesota Area Relief Association Coalition in order to entitle relief association members to membership in and the benefits of these associations or organizations;

(5) for the payment of insurance premiums to the state Volunteer Firefighters Benefit Association, or an insurance company licensed by the state of Minnesota offering casualty

insurance, in order to entitle relief association members to membership in and the benefits of the association or organization; and

(6) for the payment of administrative expenses of the relief association as authorized under section 69.80.

(b) For purposes of this chapter, for a monthly benefit volunteer fire relief association or for a combination lump-sum and monthly benefit volunteer fire relief association where a monthly benefit service pension has been elected by or a monthly benefit is payable with respect to a firefighter, a designated beneficiary must be a natural person. For purposes of this chapter, for a defined contribution volunteer fire relief association, for a lump-sum volunteer fire relief association, or for a combination lump-sum and monthly benefit volunteer fire relief association where a lump-sum service pension has been elected by or a lump-sum benefit is payable with respect to a firefighter, a designated beneficiary may be a trust created under chapter 501B.

Subd. 4. **Investments of assets of the special fund.** The assets of the special fund must be invested only in securities authorized by section 69.775.

History: 1979 c 201 s 15; 1981 c 224 s 211; 1981 c 224 s 274; 1983 c 219 s 9; 2000 c 461 art 15 s 11; 2006 c 271 art 13 s 4; 2008 c 349 art 14 s 11; 2009 c 169 art 10 s 39-42