

**353.0161 AUTHORIZED LEAVE OF ABSENCE SERVICE CREDIT PURCHASE PROCEDURE.**

Subdivision 1. **Application.** This section applies to employees covered by any plan specified in this chapter or chapter 353E for any period of authorized leave of absence specified in section 353.01, subdivision 16, paragraph (a), clause (5), for which the employee obtains credit for allowable service by making payment as specified in this section to the applicable fund.

Subd. 2. **Purchase procedure.** (a) An employee covered by a plan specified in subdivision 1 may purchase credit for allowable service in that plan for a period specified in subdivision 1 if the employee makes a payment as specified in paragraph (b) or (c), whichever applies. The employing unit, at its option, may pay the employer portion of the amount specified in paragraph (b) on behalf of its employees.

(b) If payment is received by the executive director within one year from the date the member returned to work following the authorized leave, or within 30 days after the date of termination of public service if the member did not return to work, the payment amount is equal to the employee and employer contribution rates specified in law for the applicable plan at the end of the leave period, or at termination of public service, whichever is earlier, multiplied by the employee's average monthly salary, excluding overtime, upon which deductions were paid during the six months, or portion thereof, before the commencement of the leave of absence and by the number of months of the leave of absence for which the employee wants allowable service credit. Payments made under this paragraph must include compound interest at the monthly rate of 0.71 percent until June 30, 2015, and 0.667 percent per month thereafter from the last day of the leave period until the last day of the month in which payment is received.

(c) If payment is received by the executive director after one year, the payment amount is the amount determined under section 356.551. Payment under this paragraph must be made before the date the person terminates public service under section 353.01, subdivision 11a.

Subd. 3. **Restriction on subsequent purchases.** To purchase salary credit or service credit for a subsequent authorized leave of absence period, the member must return to public service and render a minimum of three months of allowable service credit.

**History:** 2007 c 134 art 2 s 18; 2008 c 349 art 5 s 18; 2009 c 169 art 4 s 7; 2010 c 359 art 5 s 6; 2015 c 68 art 3 s 9; art 12 s 9