

353G.09 RETIREMENT BENEFIT ELIGIBILITY.

Subdivision 1. **Entitlement.** Except as provided in subdivision 3, an active member of the retirement plan is entitled to a service pension from the retirement plan if the person:

(1) has separated from active service with the fire department for at least 30 days;

(2) has attained the age of at least 50 years;

(3) has completed at least five years of good time service credit as a member of the retirement plan if the person is a member of the lump-sum retirement division or has completed at least the minimum number of years of good time service credit as a member of the retirement plan specified in the retirement benefit plan document attributable to the applicable fire department if the person is a member of the monthly benefit retirement division; and

(4) applies in a manner prescribed by the executive director for the service pension.

Subd. 2. **Vesting schedule; nonforfeitable portion of service pension.** (a) If an active member of the lump-sum retirement division has completed less than 20 years of good time service credit as a member of the lump-sum retirement division of the plan, the person's entitlement to a service pension is equal to the nonforfeitable percentage of the applicable service pension amount, as follows:

Completed years of good time service credit	Nonforfeitable percentage of the service pension
5	40 percent
6	44 percent
7	48 percent
8	52 percent
9	56 percent
10	60 percent
11	64 percent
12	68 percent
13	72 percent
14	76 percent
15	80 percent
16	84 percent
17	88 percent
18	92 percent
19	96 percent

(b) If an active member of the monthly benefit retirement division has completed less than 20 years of good time service credit as a member of the monthly benefit retirement division of the plan, the person's entitlement to a service pension must be governed by the retirement benefit plan document attributable to the applicable fire department.

Subd. 3. **Alternative lump-sum pension eligibility and computation.** (a) An active member of the lump-sum retirement division of the retirement plan is entitled to an alternative lump-sum service pension from the retirement plan if the person:

(1) has separated from active service with the fire department for at least 30 days;

(2) has attained the age of at least 50 years or the age for receipt of a service pension under the benefit plan of the applicable former volunteer firefighter relief association as of the date immediately before the election of the retirement coverage change, whichever is later;

(3) has completed at least five years of active service with the fire department and at least five years in total as a member of the applicable former volunteer firefighter relief association or of the lump-sum retirement division of the retirement plan, but has not rendered at least five years of good time service credit as a member of the lump-sum retirement division of the plan; and

(4) applies in a manner prescribed by the executive director for the service pension.

(b) If retirement coverage before statewide retirement plan coverage was provided by a defined benefit lump-sum retirement plan volunteer firefighter relief association, the alternative lump-sum service pension is the service pension amount specified in the bylaws of the applicable former volunteer firefighter relief association either as of the date immediately before the election of the retirement coverage change or as of the date immediately before the termination of firefighting services, whichever is earlier, multiplied by the total number of years of service as a member of that volunteer firefighter relief association and as a member of the retirement plan. If retirement coverage before statewide retirement plan coverage was provided by a defined contribution plan volunteer firefighter relief association, the alternative lump-sum service pension is an amount equal to that portion of the person's account balance that the person was vested for as of the date immediately before the date on which statewide retirement plan coverage was first provided to the person plus six percent annual compound interest from that date until the date immediately before the date of retirement.

History: 2009 c 169 art 9 s 18; 2010 c 359 art 6 s 5; 2015 c 68 art 7 s 1; art 8 s 18