

424B.20 DISSOLUTION WITHOUT CONSOLIDATION.

Subdivision 1. **Applicable dissolutions.** This section applies if the fire department associated with a volunteer firefighters relief association is dissolved or eliminated by action of the governing body of the municipality in which the fire department was located or by the independent nonprofit firefighting corporation, whichever applies, and no consolidation with another volunteer firefighters relief association under sections 424B.01 to 424B.10 is sought, or if a volunteer firefighters relief association is dissolved or eliminated with municipal approval, but the fire department associated with the volunteer firefighters relief association is not dissolved or eliminated, and no consolidation with another volunteer firefighters relief association under sections 424B.01 to 424B.10 is applicable.

Subd. 2. **Procedures.** As part of the dissolution process, all legal obligations of the relief association other than service pensions and benefits must be settled under subdivision 3, a benefit trust must be established under subdivision 4, and the affairs of the relief association must be concluded under subdivision 5.

Subd. 3. **Settlement of nonbenefit legal obligations.** (a) Prior to the effective date of the dissolution of the volunteer firefighters relief association established by the relief association board of trustees, the board shall determine the following:

- (1) the fair market value of the assets of the special fund;
 - (2) the total amount of the accounts payable and other legal obligations of the special fund, excluding the accrued liability of the special fund for service pensions and other benefits; and
 - (3) the accrued liability of the special fund for service pensions and other benefits payable or accrued under the applicable bylaws of the relief association and chapter 424A.
- (b) On or before the effective date of the dissolution of the volunteer firefighters relief association, the board shall liquidate sufficient special fund assets to pay the legal obligations of the special fund and must settle those legal obligations.
- (c) On or before the effective date of the dissolution of the volunteer firefighters relief association, the board shall settle the legal obligations of the general fund of the relief association.

Subd. 4. **Benefit trust fund establishment.** (a) After the settlement of nonbenefit legal obligations of the special fund of the volunteer firefighters relief association under subdivision 3, the board of the relief association shall transfer the remaining assets of the special fund, as securities or in cash, as applicable, to the chief financial official of the municipality in which the associated fire department was located if the fire department was a municipal fire department or to the chief financial official of the municipality with the largest population served by the fire department if the fire department was an independent nonprofit firefighting corporation. If the fire department was a joint powers entity, the remaining assets of the special fund shall be transferred to the chief financial official of the municipality designated as the fiscal agent in the joint powers agreement or, if the agreement does not designate a municipality as the fiscal agent, the remaining assets of the special fund shall be transferred to the chief financial official of the municipality with the largest population served by the joint powers fire department. The board shall also compile a schedule of the relief association members to whom a service pension is or will be owed, any beneficiary to whom a benefit is owed, the amount of the service pension or benefit payable based on the applicable bylaws and state law and the service rendered to the date of the dissolution, and the date on which the pension or benefit would first be payable under the bylaws of the relief association and state law.

(b) The municipality receiving the remaining assets of the special fund of a volunteer firefighters relief association that is dissolving under this section shall establish a separate account in the municipal treasury

which must function as a trust fund for members of the volunteer firefighters relief association and their beneficiaries to whom the volunteer firefighters relief association owes a service pension or other benefit under the bylaws of the relief association and state law. Upon proper application, on or after the initial date on which the service pension or benefit is payable, the municipal treasurer shall pay the pension or benefit due, based on the schedule prepared under paragraph (a) and the other records of the dissolved relief association. The trust fund under this section must be invested and managed consistent with chapter 356A and section 424A.095. Upon payment of the last service pension or benefit due and owing, any remaining assets in the trust fund cancel to the general fund of the municipality or, if the fire department was a joint powers entity, any remaining assets in the trust fund cancel to the general fund of each municipality that was a contracting party to the joint powers agreement as specified in the joint powers agreement. If the joint powers agreement does not specify how the remaining assets are to be distributed among the contracting parties, each of the contracting parties shall receive a pro rata share of the remaining assets based on the proportion of total operating contributions each contracting municipality made to the joint powers entity over the most recent ten calendar years. If the special fund of the volunteer firefighters relief association had an unfunded actuarial accrued liability upon dissolution, the municipality is liable for that unfunded actuarial accrued liability. If the fire department was a joint powers entity, the contracting municipalities are liable for their share of the unfunded actuarial accrued liability as specified in the joint powers agreement. If the joint powers agreement does not specify liability for any unfunded actuarial accrued liability, the contracting municipalities are liable for their pro rata share of the unfunded actuarial accrued liability based on the proportion of total operating contributions each contracting municipality made to the joint powers entity over the most recent ten calendar years.

Subd. 4a. Disposition of surplus assets upon dissolution of certain volunteer firefighters relief associations. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in subdivision 4, if a volunteer firefighters relief association provides a lump-sum service pension equal to \$9,500 or more for each year of service as of June 1, 2018, upon dissolution under this section and payment of the last service pension or benefit due and owing, any remaining assets in the trust fund cancel as follows:

(1) if the municipality was required to make contributions to the relief association under chapter 424A at any time during the ten years preceding June 1, 2018, the remaining assets cancel to the general fund of the municipality; or

(2) if the municipality was not required to make contributions to the relief association under chapter 424A at any time during the ten years preceding June 1, 2018, the remaining assets cancel to the general fund of the state.

Subd. 5. Relief association affairs wind-up. Upon dissolution, the board of trustees of the volunteer firefighters relief association shall transfer the records of the relief association to the chief administrative officer of the applicable municipality. The board shall also notify the commissioner of revenue, the state auditor, and the secretary of state of the dissolution within 30 days of the effective date of the dissolution.

History: 2000 c 461 art 16 s 11; 2013 c 111 art 5 s 80; 2018 c 211 art 14 s 24,25