353G.07 SERVICE CREDIT FOR PENSION BENEFIT ACCRUAL OR CONTRIBUTION ALLOCATION.

(a) Annually, by March 31, the fire chief of a fire department with volunteer firefighters who are active members of the retirement plan must certify to the executive director the service credit for the previous calendar year of each volunteer firefighter rendering active service with the fire department.

(b) The fire chief shall provide to each firefighter rendering active service with the fire department notification of the amount of service credit rendered by the firefighter for the calendar year. The service credit notification must be provided to the firefighter 60 days before its certification to the executive director, along with an explanation of the process for the firefighter to challenge the fire chief's determination of service credit. If the service credit amount is challenged in a timely fashion, the fire chief shall hold a hearing on the challenge, accept and consider any additional pertinent information, and make a final determination of service credit. The final determination of service credit by the fire chief is not reviewable by the executive director or by the board of trustees.

(c) The service credit certification is an official public document. If a false service credit certification is filed or if false information regarding service credits is provided, section 353.19 applies.

(d) The service credit certification must be expressed as a percentage of a full year of service during which an active firefighter rendered at least the minimum level and quantity of fire suppression, emergency response, fire prevention, or fire education duties required by the fire department under the rules and regulations applicable to the fire department. No more than one year of service credit may be certified for a calendar year.

(e) If a firefighter covered by the retirement plan leaves active firefighting service to render active military service that is required to be governed by the federal Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, as amended, the person must be certified as providing a full year of service credit in each year of the military service, up to the applicable limit of the federal Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act. If the firefighter does not return from the military service in compliance with the federal Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, the service credits applicable to that military service credit period are forfeited and cancel at the end of the calendar year in which the federal law time limit occurs.

History: *2009 c 169 art 9 s 16; 2015 c 68 art 8 s 16; 2022 c 65 art 4 s 25; 2023 c 47 art 10 s 9; 2024 c 102 art 3 s 27*