CHAPTER 356A

PUBLIC PENSION FIDUCIARY RESPONSIBILITY

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356A.01 DEFINITIONS.

Subdivision 1. **Scope.** For purposes of this chapter, the following terms have the meanings given them in this section.

Subd. 2. **Benefit.** "Benefit" means an amount, other than an administrative expense, paid or payable from a pension plan, including a retirement annuity, service pension, disability benefit, survivor benefit, death benefit, funeral benefit, or refund.

Subd. 3. **Benefit provisions.** "Benefit provisions" means the portion of a pension plan that deals specifically with the benefit coverage provided by the plan, including the kinds of coverage, the eligibility for and entitlement to benefits, and the amount of benefits.

Subd. 4. **Benefit recipient.** "Benefit recipient" means a person who has received a benefit from a pension plan or to whom a benefit is payable under the terms of the plan document of the pension plan.

Subd. 5. **Chief administrative officer.** "Chief administrative officer" means the person who has primary responsibility for the execution of the administrative or management affairs of a pension plan.

Subd. 6. **Cofiduciary.** "Cofiduciary" means a fiduciary of a pension plan, other than a fiduciary directly undertaking a fiduciary activity or directly and primarily responsible for a fiduciary activity.

Subd. 7. **Covered governmental entity.** "Covered governmental entity" means a governmental subdivision or other governmental entity that employs persons who are plan participants in a covered pension plan and who are eligible for that participation because of their employment.

Subd. 8. **Covered pension plan.** "Covered pension plan" means a pension plan or fund listed in section 356.20, subdivision 2, or section 356.30, subdivision 3, or a plan established under chapter 353D, 354B, 354C, or 354D.

Subd. 9. **Covered pension plan other than a statewide plan.** "Covered pension plan other than a statewide plan" means a pension plan not included in the definition of a statewide plan in subdivision 24.

Subd. 10. **Direct or indirect profit.** "Direct or indirect profit" means a payment of money, the provision of a service or an item of other than nominal value, an extension of credit, a loan, or any other special consideration to a fiduciary or a direct relative of a fiduciary on behalf of the fiduciary in consideration for the performance of a fiduciary activity or a failure to perform a fiduciary activity.

Subd. 11. **Direct relative.** "Direct relative" means any of the persons or spouses of persons related to one another within the third degree of kindred under civil law.

Subd. 12. **Fiduciary.** "Fiduciary" means a person identified in section 356A.02.

Subd. 13. **Fiduciary activity.** "Fiduciary activity" means an activity described in section 356A.02, subdivision 2.

Subd. 14. **Financial institution.** "Financial institution" means a bank, savings institution, or credit union organized under federal or state law.

Subd. 15. **Governing board of a pension plan.** "Governing board of a pension plan" means the body of a pension plan that is assigned or that undertakes the chief policy-making powers and management duties of the plan.

Subd. 16. **Investment Advisory Council.** "Investment Advisory Council" means the Investment Advisory Council established by section 11A.08.

Subd. 17. **Liability.** "Liability" means a secured or unsecured debt or an obligation for a future payment of money, including an actuarial accrued liability or an unfunded actuarial accrued liability, except where the context clearly indicates another meaning.

Subd. 18. **Office of the pension plan.** "Office of the pension plan" means an administrative facility or portion of a facility where the primary business or administrative affairs of a pension plan are conducted and the primary and permanent records and files of the plan are retained.

Subd. 19. **Pension fund.** "Pension fund" means the assets amassed and held in a pension plan, other than the general fund, as reserves for present and future payment of benefits and administrative expenses. For the Bloomington Fire Department Relief Association or a retirement plan governed by chapter 424A, the term means the relief association special fund.

Subd. 20. **Pension plan.** "Pension plan" means all aspects of an arrangement between a public employer and its employees concerning the pension benefit coverage provided to the employees.

Subd. 21. **Plan document.** "Plan document" means a written document or series of documents containing the eligibility requirements and entitlement provisions constituting the benefit coverage of a pension plan, including any articles of incorporation, bylaws, governing body rules and policies, municipal charter provisions, municipal ordinance provisions, or general or special state law.

Subd. 22. **Plan participant.** "Plan participant" means a person who is an active member of a pension plan by virtue of the person's employment or who is making a pension plan member contribution.

Subd. 23. **State Board of Investment.** "State Board of Investment" means the Minnesota State Board of Investment created by the Minnesota Constitution, article XI, section 8.

Subd. 24. **Statewide plan.** "Statewide plan" means any of the following pension plans:

(1) the Minnesota State Retirement System or a pension plan administered by it;

(2) the Public Employees Retirement Association or a pension plan administered by it; and

(3) the Teachers Retirement Association or a pension plan administered by it.

History: *1989 c 319 art 7 s 1; 2000 c 461 art 12 s 16; 2012 c 286 art 10 s 9; 2013 c 111 art 5 s 67; 2014 c 275 art 2 s 16*

356A.02 FIDUCIARY STATUS AND ACTIVITIES.

Subdivision 1. **Fiduciary status.** For purposes of this chapter, the following persons are fiduciaries:

(1) any member of the governing board of a covered pension plan;

(2) the chief administrative officer of a covered pension plan or of the State Board of Investment;

(3) any member of the State Board of Investment; and

(4) any member of the Investment Advisory Council.

Subd. 2. **Fiduciary activity.** The activities of a fiduciary identified in subdivision 1 that must be carried out in accordance with the requirements of section 356A.04 include, but are not limited to:

(1) the investment and reinvestment of plan assets;

(2) the determination of benefits;

(3) the determination of eligibility for membership or benefits;

(4) the determination of the amount or duration of benefits;

(5) the determination of funding requirements or the amounts of contributions;

(6) the maintenance of membership or financial records;

(7) the expenditure of plan assets; and

(8) the selection of financial institutions and investment products.

History: *1989 c 319 art 7 s 2; 2000 c 461 art 12 s 17; 2007 c 133 art 3 s 3*

356A.03 PROHIBITION OF CERTAIN PERSONS FROM FIDUCIARY STATUS.

Subdivision 1. **Individual prohibition.** For the prohibition period established by subdivision 2, a person, other than a constitutional officer of the state, who has been convicted of a violation listed in subdivision 3, may not serve in a fiduciary capacity identified in section 356A.02.

Subd. 2. **Prohibition period.** A prohibition under subdivision 1 is for a period of five years, beginning on the day following conviction for a violation listed in subdivision 3 or, if the person convicted is incarcerated, the day following unconditional release from incarceration.

Subd. 3. **Applicable violations.** A prohibition under subdivision 1 is imposed as a result of any of the following violations of law:

(1) a violation of federal law specified in United States Code, title 29, section 1111, as amended;

(2) a violation of Minnesota law that is a felony under Minnesota law; or

(3) a violation of the law of another state, United States territory or possession, or federally recognized Indian Tribal government, or of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, that would be a felony under the offense definitions and sentences in Minnesota law.

Subd. 4. **Documentation.** In determining the applicability of this section, the appropriate appointing authority, the State Board of Investment, or the covered pension plan, as the case may be, may rely on a disclosure form meeting the requirements of the federal Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended through June 2, 1989, and filed with the State Board of Investment or the pension plan.

History: *1989 c 319 art 7 s 3*

356A.04 GENERAL STANDARD OF FIDUCIARY CONDUCT.

Subdivision 1. **Duty.** A fiduciary of a covered pension plan owes a fiduciary duty to:

(1) the active, deferred, and retired members of the plan, who are its beneficiaries;

(2) the taxpayers of the state or political subdivision, who help to finance the plan; and

(3) the state of Minnesota, which established the plan.

Subd. 2. **Prudent person standard.** A fiduciary identified in section 356A.02 shall act in good faith and shall exercise that degree of judgment and care, under the circumstances then prevailing, that persons of prudence, discretion, and intelligence would exercise in the management of their own affairs, not for speculation, considering the probable safety of the plan capital as well as the probable investment return to be derived from the assets.

History: *1989 c 319 art 7 s 4*

356A.05 DUTIES APPLICABLE TO ALL ACTIVITIES.

(a) The activities of a fiduciary of a covered pension plan must be carried out solely for the following purposes:

(1) to provide authorized benefits to plan participants and beneficiaries;

(2) to incur and pay reasonable and necessary administrative expenses; or

(3) to manage a covered pension plan in accordance with the purposes and intent of the plan document.

(b) The activities of fiduciaries identified in section 356A.02 must be carried out faithfully, without prejudice, and in a manner consistent with law and the plan document.

History: *1989 c 319 art 7 s 5*

356A.06 INVESTMENTS; ADDITIONAL DUTIES.

Subdivision 1. **Authorized holder of assets; title to assets.** (a) Assets of a covered pension plan may be held only by:

(1) the plan treasurer;

(2) the State Board of Investment;

(3) the depository agent of the plan;

(4) a security broker or the broker's agent with, in either case, insurance equal to or greater than the plan assets held from the Securities Investor Protection Corporation or from excess insurance coverage; or

(5) the depository agent of the State Board of Investment.

(b) Legal title to plan assets must be vested in the plan, the State Board of Investment, the governmental entity that sponsors the plan, the nominee of the plan, or the depository agent. The holder of legal title shall function as a trustee for a person or entity with a beneficial interest in the assets of the plan.

Subd. 2. **Diversification.** The investment of plan assets must be diversified to minimize the risk of substantial investment losses unless the circumstances at the time an investment is made clearly indicate that diversification would not be prudent.

Subd. 3. **Absence of personal profit.** No fiduciary may personally profit, directly or indirectly, as a result of the investment or management of plan assets. This subdivision, however, does not preclude the receipt by a fiduciary of reasonable compensation, including membership in or the receipt of benefits from a pension plan, for the fiduciary's position with respect to the plan.

Subd. 4. **Economic interest statement.** (a) Each member of the governing board of a covered pension plan and the chief administrative officer of the plan shall file with the plan a statement of economic interest.

(b) For a covered pension plan other than a plan specified in paragraph (c), the statement must contain the information required by section 10A.09, subdivision 5, and any other information that the fiduciary or the governing board of the plan determines is necessary to disclose a reasonably foreseeable potential or actual conflict of interest.

(c) For a covered pension plan governed by sections 424A.091 to 424A.096 or the Bloomington Fire Department Relief Association if its special fund assets are under $8,000,000, the statement must contain the following:

(1) the person's principal occupation and principal place of business;

(2) whether or not the person has an ownership of or interest of ten percent or greater in an investment security brokerage business, a real estate sales business, an insurance agency, a bank, a savings and loan, or another financial institution; and

(3) any relationship or financial arrangement that can reasonably be expected to give rise to a conflict of interest.

(d) The statement must be filed annually with the chief administrative officer of the plan and be available for public inspection during regular office hours at the office of the pension plan.

(e) A disclosure form meeting the requirements of the federal Investment Advisers Act of 1940, United States Code, title 15, sections 80b-1 to 80b-21 as amended, and filed with the State Board of Investment or the pension plan meets the requirements of this subdivision.

(f) The chief administrative officer of each covered pension plan, by January 15, annually, shall transmit a certified listing of all individuals who have filed statements of economic interest with the plan under this subdivision during the preceding 12 months and the address of the office referenced in paragraph (d) to the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board.

Subd. 5. MS 2024 [Repealed, 2025 c 37 art 8 s 2]

Subd. 6. **Limited list of authorized investment securities.** (a) **Authority.** This subdivision specifies the investment authority for a limited list plan. A limited list plan is a covered pension plan that does not:

(1) have pension fund assets with a market value in excess of $1,000,000;

(2) use the services of an investment advisor registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission in accordance with the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, or registered as an investment advisor in accordance with sections 80A.58, and 80A.60, for the investment of at least 60 percent of its pension fund assets, calculated on market value;

(3) use the services of the State Board of Investment for the investment of at least 60 percent of its pension fund assets, calculated on market value; or

(4) use a combination of the services of an investment advisor meeting the requirements of clause (2) and the services of the State Board of Investment for the investment of at least 75 percent of its pension fund assets, calculated on market value.

(b) **Investment agency appointment authority.** The governing board of a covered pension plan may select and appoint investment agencies to act for or on its behalf.

(c) **Savings accounts; similar vehicles.** A limited list plan is authorized to invest in:

(1) certificates of deposit issued, to the extent of available insurance or collateralization, by a financial institution that is a member of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, that is insured by the National Credit Union Administration or an approved credit union share guaranty corporation, or that is authorized to do business in this state and has deposited with the chief administrative officer of the plan a sufficient amount of marketable securities as collateral in accordance with section 118A.03;

(2) guaranteed investment contracts, limited to those issued by insurance companies or banks rated in the top four quality categories by a nationally recognized rating agency or to alternative guaranteed investment contracts where the underlying assets comply with the requirements of this paragraph; and

(3) savings accounts, limited to those fully insured by federal agencies.

(d) **Government-backed obligations.** A limited list plan is authorized to invest in governmental obligations as further specified in this paragraph, including bonds, notes, bills, mortgages, and other evidences of indebtedness, if the issue is backed by the full faith and credit of the issuer or if the issue is rated among the top four quality rating categories by a nationally recognized rating agency. The obligations in which plans are authorized to invest under this paragraph are guaranteed or insured issues of:

(1) the United States, one of its agencies, one of its instrumentalities, or an organization created and regulated by an act of Congress;

(2) the Dominion of Canada or one of its provinces if the principal and interest are payable in United States dollars;

(3) a state or one of its municipalities, political subdivisions, agencies, or instrumentalities; or

(4) any United States government-sponsored organization of which the United States is a member if the principal and interest are payable in United States dollars.

(e) **Corporate obligations.** A limited list plan is authorized to invest in corporate obligations, including bonds, notes, debentures, transportation equipment obligations, or any other longer-term evidences of

indebtedness issued or guaranteed by a corporation organized under the laws of the United States or any of its states, or the Dominion of Canada or any of its provinces if:

(1) the principal and interest are payable in United States dollars; and

(2) the obligations are rated among the top four quality categories by a nationally recognized rating agency.

(f) **Mutual fund authority, limited list authorized assets.** Securities authorized under paragraphs (c) to (e) may be owned directly or through shares in exchange-traded funds, or through open-end mutual funds, or as units of commingled trusts.

(g) **Extended mutual fund authority.** Notwithstanding restrictions in other paragraphs of this subdivision, a limited list plan is authorized to invest the assets of the special fund in exchange-traded funds and open-end mutual funds, if their portfolio investments comply with the type of securities authorized for investment under section 356A.06, subdivision 7, paragraphs (c) to (g). Investments under this paragraph must not exceed 75 percent of the assets of the special fund, not including any money market investments through mutual or exchange-traded funds.

(h) **Supplemental fund authority.** The governing body of a limited list plan may certify special fund assets to the State Board of Investment for investment under section 11A.17.

(i) **Assets mix restrictions.** A limited list plan must conform to the asset mix limitations specified in section 356A.06, subdivision 7.

Subd. 7. **Expanded list of authorized investment securities.** (a) **Authority.** A covered pension plan not described by subdivision 6, paragraph (a), is an expanded list plan and shall invest its assets as specified in this subdivision. The governing board of an expanded list plan may select and appoint investment agencies to act for or on its behalf.

(b) **Securities generally; investment forms.** An expanded list plan is authorized to purchase, sell, lend, and exchange the investment securities authorized under this subdivision, including puts and call options and future contracts traded on a contract market regulated by a governmental agency or by a financial institution regulated by a governmental agency. These securities may be owned directly or through shares in exchange-traded or mutual funds, or as units in commingled trusts, subject to any limitations specified in this subdivision.

(c) **Government obligations.** An expanded list plan is authorized to invest funds in governmental bonds, notes, bills, mortgages, and other evidences of indebtedness if the issue is backed by the full faith and credit of the issuer or the issue is rated among the top four quality rating categories by a nationally recognized rating agency. The obligations in which funds may be invested under this paragraph are guaranteed or insured issues of:

(1) the United States, one of its agencies, one of its instrumentalities, or an organization created and regulated by an act of Congress;

(2) the Dominion of Canada or one of its provinces if the principal and interest are payable in United States dollars;

(3) a state or one of its municipalities, political subdivisions, agencies, or instrumentalities; and

(4) a United States government-sponsored organization of which the United States is a member if the principal and interest are payable in United States dollars.

(d) **Investment-grade corporate obligations.** An expanded list plan is authorized to invest funds in bonds, notes, debentures, transportation equipment obligations, or any other longer term evidences of indebtedness issued or guaranteed by a corporation organized under the laws of the United States or any of its states, or the Dominion of Canada or any of its provinces if:

(1) the principal and interest are payable in United States dollars; and

(2) the obligations are rated among the top four quality categories by a nationally recognized rating agency.

(e) **Below-investment-grade corporate obligations.** An expanded list plan is authorized to invest in unrated corporate obligations or in corporate obligations that are not rated among the top four quality categories by a nationally recognized rating agency if:

(1) the aggregate value of these obligations does not exceed five percent of the covered pension plan's market value;

(2) the covered pension plan's participation is limited to 50 percent of a single offering subject to this paragraph; and

(3) the covered pension plan's participation is limited to 25 percent of an issuer's obligations subject to this paragraph.

(f) **Other obligations.** (1) An expanded list plan is authorized to invest funds in:

(i) bankers acceptances and deposit notes if issued by a United States bank that is rated in the highest four quality categories by a nationally recognized rating agency;

(ii) certificates of deposit if issued by a United States bank or savings institution rated in the highest four quality categories by a nationally recognized rating agency or whose certificates of deposit are fully insured by federal agencies, or if issued by a credit union in an amount within the limit of the insurance coverage provided by the National Credit Union Administration or an approved credit union share guaranty corporation;

(iii) commercial paper if issued by a United States corporation or its Canadian subsidiary and if rated in the highest two quality categories by a nationally recognized rating agency;

(iv) mortgage securities and asset-backed securities if rated in the top four quality categories by a nationally recognized rating agency;

(v) repurchase agreements and reverse repurchase agreements if collateralized with letters of credit or securities authorized in this section;

(vi) guaranteed investment contracts if issued by an insurance company or a bank that is rated in the top four quality categories by a nationally recognized rating agency or alternative guaranteed investment contracts if the underlying assets comply with the requirements of this subdivision;

(vii) savings accounts if fully insured by a federal agency; and

(viii) guaranty fund certificates, surplus notes, or debentures if issued by a domestic mutual insurance company.

(2) Sections 16A.58, 16C.03, subdivision 4, and 16C.05 do not apply to certificates of deposit and collateralization agreements executed by the covered pension plan under clause (1), item (ii).

(3) In addition to investments authorized by clause (1), item (iv), an expanded list plan is authorized to purchase from the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency all or any part of a pool of residential mortgages, not in default, that has previously been financed by the issuance of bonds or notes of the agency. The covered pension plan may also enter into a commitment with the agency, at the time of any issue of bonds or notes, to purchase at a specified future date, not exceeding 12 years from the date of the issue, the amount of mortgage loans then outstanding and not in default that have been made or purchased from the proceeds of the bonds or notes. The covered pension plan may charge reasonable fees for any such commitment and may agree to purchase the mortgage loans at a price sufficient to produce a yield to the covered pension plan comparable, in its judgment, to the yield available on similar mortgage loans at the date of the bonds or notes. The covered pension plan may also enter into agreements with the agency for the investment of any portion of the funds of the agency. The agreement must cover the period of the investment, withdrawal privileges, and any guaranteed rate of return.

(g) **Corporate stocks.** An expanded list plan is authorized to invest in stocks or convertible issues of any corporation organized under the laws of the United States or any of its states, any corporation organized under the laws of the Dominion of Canada or any of its provinces, or any corporation listed on an exchange that is regulated by an agency of the United States or of the Canadian national government.

An investment in any corporation must not exceed five percent of the total outstanding shares of that corporation, except that an expanded list plan may hold up to 20 percent of the shares of a real estate investment trust and up to 20 percent of the shares of a closed mutual fund. Purchase of shares of exchange-traded or mutual funds shall be consistent with paragraph (b).

(h) **Other investments.** (1) In addition to the investments authorized in paragraphs (b) to (g), and subject to the provisions in clause (2), an expanded list plan is authorized to invest funds in:

(i) equity and debt investment businesses through participation in limited partnerships, trusts, private placements, limited liability corporations, limited liability companies, limited liability partnerships, and corporations;

(ii) real estate ownership interests or loans secured by mortgages or deeds of trust or shares of real estate investment trusts, through investment in limited partnerships, bank-sponsored collective funds, trusts, mortgage participation agreements, and insurance company commingled accounts, including separate accounts;

(iii) resource investments through limited partnerships, trusts, private placements, limited liability corporations, limited liability companies, limited liability partnerships, and corporations; and

(iv) international securities.

(2) The investments authorized in clause (1) must conform to the following provisions:

(i) the aggregate value of all investments made under clause (1), items (i), (ii), and (iii), may not exceed 35 percent of the market value of the fund for which the expanded list plan is investing;

(ii) there must be at least four unrelated owners of the investment other than the expanded list plan for investments made under clause (1), item (i), (ii), or (iii);

(iii) the expanded list plan's participation in an investment vehicle is limited to 20 percent thereof for investments made under clause (1), item (i), (ii), or (iii);

(iv) the expanded list plan's participation in a limited partnership does not include a general partnership interest or other interest involving general liability. The expanded list plan may not engage in any activity as a limited partner which creates general liability;

(v) the aggregate value of all unrated obligations and obligations that are not rated among the top four quality categories by a nationally recognized rating agency authorized by paragraph (e) and clause (1), item (iv), must not exceed five percent of the covered plan's market value; and

(vi) for volunteer firefighter relief associations, emerging market equity and international debt investments authorized under clause (1), item (iv), must not exceed 15 percent of the association's special fund market value.

(i) **Supplemental plan investments.** The governing body of an expanded list plan may certify assets to the State Board of Investment for investment under section 11A.17.

(j) **Asset mix limitations.** The aggregate value of an expanded list plan's investments under paragraphs (g) and (h) and equity investments under paragraph (i), regardless of the form in which these investments are held, must not exceed 85 percent of the covered plan's market value.

Subd. 7a. **Restrictions.** Any agreement to lend securities must be concurrently collateralized with cash or securities with a market value of not less than 100 percent of the market value of the loaned securities at the time of the agreement. For a covered pension authorized to purchase put and call options and futures contracts under subdivision 7, any agreement for put and call options and futures contracts may only be entered into with a fully offsetting amount of cash or securities. Only securities authorized by this section, excluding those under subdivision 7, paragraph (h), clause (1), items (i) to (iv), may be accepted as collateral or offsetting securities.

Subd. 8. **Minimum liquidity requirements.** A covered pension plan described by subdivision 6 or 7, in order to pay benefits as they come due, shall invest a portion of its assets in authorized short-term debt obligations that can be immediately liquidated without accrual of a substantial determinable penalty or loss and that have an average maturity of no more than 90 days. The chief administrative officer of the plan shall determine the minimum liquidity requirement of the plan and shall retain appropriate documentation of that determination for three years from the date of determination.

Subd. 8a. **Collateralization requirement.** (a) The governing board of a covered pension plan shall designate a national bank, an insured state bank, an insured credit union, or an insured thrift institution as the depository for the pension plan for assets not held by the pension plan's custodian bank.

(b) Unless collateralized as provided under paragraph (c), a covered pension plan may not deposit in a designated depository an amount in excess of the insurance held by the depository in the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the National Credit Union Administration, or an approved credit union share guaranty corporation, whichever applies.

(c) For an amount greater than the insurance under paragraph (b), the depository must provide collateral in compliance with section 118A.03 or with any comparable successor enactment relating to the collateralization of municipal deposits.

Subd. 8b. **Disclosure of investment authority; receipt of statement.** (a) For this subdivision, the term "broker" means a broker, broker-dealer, investment advisor, investment manager, or third-party agent who transfers, purchases, sells, or obtains investment securities for, or on behalf of, a covered pension plan.

(b) Before a covered pension plan may complete an investment transaction with or in accord with the advice of a broker, the covered pension plan shall provide annually to the broker a written statement of investment restrictions applicable under state law to the covered pension plan or applicable under the pension plan governing board investment policy.

(c) A broker must acknowledge in writing annually the receipt of the statement of investment restrictions and must agree to handle the covered pension plan's investments and assets in accord with the provided investment restrictions. A covered pension plan may not enter into or continue a business arrangement with a broker until the broker has provided this written acknowledgment to the chief administrative officer of the covered pension plan.

(d) If any portion of the plan's assets are held by a security broker or its agent, the security broker or its agent must acknowledge in writing annually that sufficient insurance has been obtained from the Securities Investor Protection Corporation, supplemented by additional insurance, if necessary, to cover the full amount of covered pension plan assets held by the security broker or its agent. Uniform acknowledgment forms prepared by the state auditor shall be used by covered pension plans and brokers to meet the requirements of this subdivision.

Subd. 9. **Prohibited transactions.** (a) No fiduciary of a covered pension plan may engage in a prohibited transaction or allow the plan to engage in a transaction that the fiduciary knows or should know is a prohibited transaction.

(b) A prohibited transaction is any of the following transactions, whether direct or indirect:

(1) the sale, exchange, or lease of real estate between the pension plan and a fiduciary of the plan;

(2) the lending of money or other extension of credit between the plan and a fiduciary of the plan;

(3) the furnishing to a plan by a fiduciary for compensation or remuneration, of goods, services other than those performed in the capacity of fiduciary, or facilities;

(4) the furnishing to a fiduciary by a plan of goods, services, or facilities other than office and related space, equipment and office supplies, and administrative services appropriate to the recipient's fiduciary position;

(5) the transfer of plan assets to a plan fiduciary for use by or for the benefit of the fiduciary, other than the payment of retirement plan benefits to which a fiduciary is entitled or the payment to a fiduciary of a reasonable salary and of necessary and reasonable expenses incurred by the fiduciary in the performance of the fiduciary's duties; and

(6) the sale, exchange, loan, or lease of any item of value between a plan and a fiduciary of the plan other than for a fair market value and as a result of an arm's-length transaction.

Subd. 10. **Defined contribution plans; application.** (a) To the extent that a plan governed by chapter 352D, 353D, 354B, 354C, or 354D permits a participant or beneficiary to select among investment products for the person's account and the participant or beneficiary exercises that investment self-direction, no fiduciary is liable for any loss which may result from the participant's or beneficiary's exercise of that investment self-direction.

(b) Subdivisions 1, 2, 6, 8, and 8a do not apply to plans governed by chapter 354B or 354C.

History: *1989 c 319 art 7 s 6; 1990 c 570 art 5 s 1; 1994 c 604 art 2 s 3; 1995 c 122 s 2; 1995 c 262 art 6 s 1,2; 1996 c 399 art 2 s 12; 1996 c 438 art 4 s 7; art 10 s 2; 1997 c 202 art 2 s 63; 1998 c 386 art 2*

s 90; 2000 c 461 art 12 s 18; 1Sp2001 c 10 art 3 s 26; 2002 c 363 s 41; 1Sp2005 c 8 art 9 s 9; art 10 s 66; 2006 c 196 art 1 s 52; art 2 s 12; 2006 c 271 art 8 s 6; 2007 c 134 art 1 s 11; 2008 c 349 art 14 s 3-5; 2010 c 359 art 13 s 3; 2012 c 286 art 10 s 10,11; 2013 c 111 art 5 s 68,80; 2014 c 296 art 12 s 3,4; 2018 c 211 art 14 s 1; 2022 c 65 art 9 s 13,14; 2024 c 102 art 12 s 5; 2026 c 56 s 31-33

356A.07 BENEFIT SUMMARY; ANNUAL REPORTS; ADDITIONAL DUTIES.

Subdivision 1. **Benefit provisions summary.** The chief administrative officer of a covered pension plan shall prepare and provide each active plan participant with a summary of the benefit provisions of the plan document. The summary must be provided within 30 days of the start or resumption of a participant's membership in the plan, or within 30 days of the date on which the start or resumption of membership was reported to a covered pension plan by a covered governmental entity, whichever is later. The summary must contain a notice that it is a summary of the plan document but is not itself the plan document, and that in the event of a discrepancy between the summary and the plan document as amended, the plan document governs. A copy of the plan document as amended must be furnished to a plan participant or benefit recipient upon request. The chief administrative officer may utilize the services of the covered governmental entity in providing the summary. The summary must be in a form reasonably calculated to be understood by an average plan participant.

Subd. 2. **Annual financial report.** A covered pension plan shall provide each active plan participant and benefit recipient with a copy of the most recent annual financial report required by section 356.20 and a copy of the most recent actuarial evaluation, if any, required by section 356.215, 356.216, or 424A.093, or by Laws 2013, chapter 111, article 5, section 39, or a summary of those reports.

Subd. 3. **Distribution.** A covered pension plan may distribute the summaries required by this section through covered governmental entities so long as the plan has made arrangements with the entities to assure, with reasonable certainty, that the summaries will be distributed, or made easily available, to active plan participants.

Subd. 4. **Review procedure.** If a review procedure is not specified by law for a covered pension plan, the chief administrative officer of the plan shall propose, and the governing board of the plan shall adopt and implement, a procedure for reviewing a determination of eligibility, benefits, or other rights under the plan that is adverse to a plan participant or benefit recipient. The review procedure must include provisions for timely notice to the plan participant or benefit recipient and reasonable opportunity to be heard in any review proceeding conducted and may, but need not be, a contested case under chapter 14.

History: *1989 c 319 art 7 s 7; 2013 c 111 art 5 s 69,80*

356A.08 PLAN ADMINISTRATION; ADDITIONAL DUTIES.

Subdivision 1. **Public meetings.** A meeting of the governing board of a covered pension plan or of a committee of the governing board of the covered pension plan is governed by chapter 13D.

Subd. 2. **Limit on compensation.** No fiduciary of a covered pension plan or a direct relative of a fiduciary may receive any direct or indirect compensation, fee, or other item of more than nominal value from a third party in consideration for a pension plan disbursement.

History: *1989 c 319 art 7 s 8; 1Sp2001 c 10 art 4 s 2*

356A.09 FIDUCIARY BREACH; REMEDIES.

Subdivision 1. **Occurrence of breach.** A fiduciary breach occurs if a fiduciary violates the general standard of fiduciary conduct as specified in section 356A.04 in carrying out the activities of a fiduciary. A fiduciary breach also occurs if a fiduciary of a covered pension plan violates the provisions of section 356A.06, subdivision 9.

Subd. 2. **Remedies.** Remedies available for a fiduciary breach by a fiduciary are those specified by statute or available at common law.

History: *1989 c 319 art 7 s 9*

356A.10 COFIDUCIARY RESPONSIBILITY AND LIABILITY.

Subdivision 1. **Cofiduciary responsibility in general.** A cofiduciary has a general responsibility to oversee the fiduciary activities of all other fiduciaries unless the activity has been allocated or delegated in accordance with subdivision 3. A cofiduciary also has a general responsibility to correct or alleviate a fiduciary breach of which the cofiduciary had or ought to have had knowledge.

Subd. 2. **Cofiduciary liability.** A cofiduciary is liable for a fiduciary breach committed by another fiduciary when the cofiduciary has a responsibility to oversee the fiduciary activities of the other fiduciary or to correct or alleviate a breach by that fiduciary.

Subd. 3. **Limitation on cofiduciary responsibility.** A cofiduciary may limit cofiduciary responsibility and liability through the allocation or delegation of fiduciary activities if the allocation or delegation:

(1) follows appropriate procedures;

(2) is made to an appropriate person or persons; and

(3) is subject to continued monitoring of performance.

Subd. 4. **Bar to liability in certain instances.** A properly made delegation or allocation of a fiduciary activity is a bar to liability on the part of a fiduciary making the delegation or allocation unless the fiduciary has or ought to have knowledge of the breach and takes part in the breach, conceals it, or fails to take reasonable steps to remedy it.

Subd. 5. **Extent of cofiduciary liability.** Unless liability is barred under subdivision 4, cofiduciary liability is joint and several, but a cofiduciary has the right to recover from the responsible fiduciary for any damages paid by the cofiduciary.

History: *1989 c 319 art 7 s 10*

356A.11 FIDUCIARY INDEMNIFICATION.

Subdivision 1. **Indemnified fiduciaries.** A fiduciary who is a member of the governing board of a pension plan, the State Board of Investment or the Investment Advisory Council, or who is an employee of a covered pension plan or of the State Board of Investment may be indemnified from liability for fiduciary breach. Indemnification is at the discretion of the governing board of the plan or of the State Board of Investment in the case of members of the state board or of the Investment Advisory Council. A decision to indemnify a fiduciary must apply to all eligible fiduciaries of similar rank.

Subd. 2. **Allowable indemnification.** An indemnified fiduciary must be held harmless from reasonable costs or expenses incurred as a result of any actual or threatened litigation or other proceedings.

History: *1989 c 319 art 7 s 11*

356A.12 JURISDICTION; SERVICE OF PROCESS; AND STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.

Subdivision 1. **Jurisdiction.** The district court has jurisdiction over a challenge of a fiduciary action or inaction.

Subd. 2. **Service of process.** For a fiduciary or cofiduciary alleged in the complaint to be responsible for an alleged breach, personal service of process must be obtained.

Subd. 3. **Limitations on legal actions.** A legal action challenging a fiduciary action or inaction must be timely. Notwithstanding any limitation in chapter 541, an action is timely if it is brought within the earlier of the following periods:

(1) the period ending three years after the date of the last demonstrable act representing the alleged fiduciary breach or after the final date for performance of the act the failure to perform which constitutes the alleged breach; or

(2) the period ending one year after the date of the discovery of the alleged fiduciary breach.

History: *1989 c 319 art 7 s 12*

356A.13 CONTINUING FIDUCIARY EDUCATION.

Subdivision 1. **Obligation of fiduciaries.** A fiduciary of a covered pension plan shall make reasonable effort to obtain knowledge and skills sufficient to enable the fiduciary to perform fiduciary activities adequately. At a minimum, a fiduciary of a covered pension plan shall comply with the program established in accordance with subdivision 2.

Subd. 2. **Continuing fiduciary education program.** The governing boards of covered pension plans shall each develop and periodically revise a program for the continuing education of any of their board members and any of their chief administrative officers who are not reasonably considered to be experts with respect to their activities as fiduciaries. The program must be designed to provide those persons with knowledge and skills sufficient to enable them to perform their fiduciary activities adequately.

History: *1989 c 319 art 7 s 13*