

CHAPTER 424

FIREFIGHTER'S RELIEF AND RETIREMENT

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NOTE: For definitions, see chapter 69.

424.01 FIREFIGHTER'S RELIEF ASSOCIATION IN CITIES OF SECOND CLASS. The fire department of each city of the second class in this state shall maintain a firefighter's relief association which shall be incorporated under the laws of the state. All such associations now existing as such corporations, or hereafter incorporated under the laws of this state, shall have perpetual corporate existence.

[1941 c 267 s 1; 1977 c 429 s 63]

424.02 ORGANIZATION; OPERATION. Each relief association shall be organized, operated, and maintained in accordance with its own articles of incorporation and bylaws, by firefighters, as hereinafter defined, who are members of the fire departments. Each association shall have power to regulate its own management and its own affairs, and all additional corporated powers which may be necessary or useful; subject to the regulations and restrictions of sections 424.01 to 424.29, and other laws of this state pertaining to corporations, not inconsistent herewith.

[1941 c 267 s 2; 1977 c 429 s 63]

424.03 MEMBERS, DEFINITIONS; RIGHTS. A firefighter under sections 424.01 to 424.29 is one who is regularly entered on the payroll of one of the fire departments, serving on active duty with a designated fire company therein, or having charge of one or more of the companies and engaged in the hazards of fire-fighting; and includes all members of the electrical and mechanical divisions of the fire departments who are subject to like hazards; and shall include all volunteer firefighters of the city not on the payroll who regularly comply with such rules as may be prescribed by the governing body of the city for service by volunteer firefighters with the fire department of the city, and who by reason of their status as such volunteer firefighters are engaged in the hazards of fire-fighting. Substitutes and persons employed irregularly from time to time shall not be included.

Any person who is employed in subsidized on-the-job training, work experience or public service employment as an enrollee under the federal comprehensive employment and training act shall not be included as a member of the relief association from and after March 30, 1978 unless the person has as of the later of March 30, 1978 or the date of employment sufficient service credit in the relief association to meet the minimum vesting requirements for a deferred service pension, or the city agrees in writing to make the total required employer contributions on account of that individual from revenue sources other than funds provided under the federal comprehensive training and employment act, or the person agrees in writing to make the required employer contributions in addition to the member contribution.

All persons who are members of the relief associations on April 16, 1941, or who were members of a firefighters' relief association in a municipality which shall have become a city of second class by reason of adoption of a home rule charter or increase in its population, whether their status is embraced within the definition of a fi-

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refighter herein contained or otherwise, shall have the right to continue as members of their respective associations and be entitled to all benefits pertaining thereto, and any member included under the definition of firefighters herein provided shall have the right to retain his membership on promotion or appointment to other positions to which such firefighters herein may be subject.

Sections 424.01 to 424.29 shall not affect any pensions or other benefits which have been allowed or which are being paid by any such relief association under or in accordance with any prior law on April 16, 1941; or as of the date that the municipality may become a city of the second class by reason of the adoption of a home rule charter, or increase in its population. Payment of such pensions and benefits shall be continued by the respective associations, subject only to the provisions of section 424.18.

[1941 c 267 s 3; 1955 c 289 s 1; 1977 c 429 s 63; 1978 c 720 s 17]

424.04 MEMBERS. Every firefighter, as defined in section 424.03, shall be eligible to apply for membership in the relief association in the city in which he is employed within the time and in the manner hereinafter set forth. Any such firefighter desiring to become a member shall, not later than 90 days from the time when he is regularly entered on the payrolls of the fire department, make written application for membership in the relief association on forms supplied by the association, accompanied by one or more physician's certificates as required by the bylaws of the association. After the application has been filed, the board of examiners of the association shall make a thorough investigation thereof and file their report with the secretary of the association. Such application must be acted upon by the association within six months from the date applicant was entered on the payroll of the fire department. No firefighter who is more than 35 years of age when his application is filed can become a member of the relief association, except that such age limitation of 35 years shall not apply on application for reinstatement in the association.

[1941 c 267 s 4; 1977 c 429 s 63]

424.05 MAY EXCLUDE CERTAIN PERSONS. Each firefighter's relief association shall have the right to exclude all applicants for membership who are not physically and mentally sound, so as to prevent unwarranted risks for the association; and additional requirements for the entrance fees and annual dues for membership in the association may from time to time be prescribed in the bylaws of the association.

[1941 c 267 s 5; 1977 c 429 s 63]

424.06 OFFICERS; TRUSTEES. The officers of the relief association shall be a president, one or more vice-presidents, a secretary, and a treasurer. The offices of assistant secretary and assistant treasurer may be created by the bylaws of any such associations. The affairs of each association shall be managed by a board of trustees elected in the manner prescribed by the articles of incorporation of the association.

The secretary and treasurer of each relief association shall each furnish a corporate bond to the association for the faithful performance of their duties, in amounts as the association from time to time may determine. Each relief association shall be and is hereby authorized to pay the premiums on such bonds from its general fund.

[1941 c 267 s 6]

424.07 [Repealed, Ex1971 c 6 s 11]

424.08 CITY CLERK TO FILE REPORT OF EXISTENCE OF ASSOCIATION. The clerk of every city of the second class having a firefighter's relief association shall, on or before March 1 each year, make and file with the insurance commissioner of this state and the county auditor his certificate stating the existence of the firefighter's relief association and any other facts the commissioner or auditor may require.

[1941 c 267 s 8; 1969 c 1001 s 10; 1977 c 429 s 63]

424.09 [Repealed, Ex1971 c 6 s 11]

424.10 [Repealed, 1969 c 1001 s 11]

424.11 [Repealed, 1969 c 1001 s 11]

424.12 TAX LEVY, SALARY DEDUCTIONS, BENEFIT PAYMENTS. Subdivision 1. The city council or other governing body of each city wherein such a relief

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association is located shall each year, at the time the tax levies for the support of the city are made, and in addition thereto, levy a tax not to exceed one-third of one mill on all taxable property within the city.

Subd. 2. When the balance in the special fund of any firefighter's relief association in any city of the second class is less than \$100,000 the city council or commission or other governing body, shall, each year, at the time the tax levies are made for the support of the city, and in addition thereto, levy a tax of one-third of one mill on all taxable property in such city. When the fund shall reach or exceed \$100,000, the levy, each year, shall be one-thirtieth of one mill. In addition, and only if such tax is levied, the city treasurer, finance commissioner, or other officer charged with the responsibility of the city's finances, shall, each month, deduct two percent of the lowest salary paid to any firefighter, and transfer the total thereof to the treasurer of the special fund of the firefighter's relief association who shall credit this total to the special fund and to the credit of the individual firefighter.

Subd. 3. When the balance in the special fund of any firefighter's relief association in any city of the second class is less than \$75,000 the city council or commission or other governing body, may, each year at the time the tax levies are made for the support of the city, and in addition thereto, levy a tax of one-third of one mill on all taxable property in the city in addition to the levies provided in subdivisions 1 and 2. If this tax is levied, the city treasurer, finance commissioner, or other officer charged with the responsibility of the city's finances, shall, each month, deduct four percent of the lowest salary paid to any firefighter, and transfer the total thereof to the treasurer of the special fund of the firefighter's relief association who shall credit this total to the special fund and to the credit of the individual firefighter. This deduction shall be in lieu of any deduction under subdivision 2.

Subd. 4. If a firefighter in such city of the second class is separated from the service due to resignation or some reason not involving malfeasance, nonfeasance, moral turpitude, injury, death, or other disability, the treasurer of the special fund shall return to the firefighter all of the amounts so deducted from his base pay without interest. Members of the firefighter's relief association in such city of the second class who were in cities of the second class receiving a firefighter's pension on January 1, 1941, and who were active on January 1, 1941, and who joined the association thereafter, or their beneficiaries, shall receive as benefit payments, according to the rules of the association, amounts to be determined by the board of trustees of the association, but these amounts shall be no more than \$125 per month. The tax so levied shall be transmitted with other tax levies to the auditor of the county in which the city is situated, and by the county shall be collected and payments thereof enforced when and in like manner as state and county taxes are paid.

[1941 c 267 s 12; 1943 c 567 s 1; 1945 c 241 s 1; 1947 c 28 s 1; 1949 c 139 s 1; 1951 c 522 s 1; 1953 c 234 s 1; 1955 c 164 s 1; 1973 c 773 s 1; 1977 c 429 s 63]

424.13 COUNTY TREASURER TO PAY OVER TAXES COLLECTED. As soon as practical, after the first day of June and the first day of November in each year, the treasurer of each county shall pay to the treasurer of each relief association within the county the amount of the tax then collected, and payable to the association together with all interest and penalties so collected, and all interest paid thereon between the time of collection and the time of payment to the relief association. The city treasurer of such city, in the event the tax or any part thereof is paid to him, shall likewise pay the same to the treasurer of the relief association in the city as soon as the same has been collected, together with all interest and penalties collected thereon.

[1941 c 267 s 13]

424.14 RELIEF ASSOCIATIONS TO HAVE CUSTODY OF FUNDS. Each relief association shall have full and permanent charge of, and the responsibility for the proper management and control of, all funds that may come into its possession, and particularly funds derived from the following sources:

- (1) Funds derived from the state of Minnesota and interest from the investment thereof;
- (2) Funds derived from the tax levies by the city in which such relief association is located and interest from the investment thereof; and

(3) Funds derived from private sources such as gifts, charges, rents, entertainments, dues paid by members, and from other sources.

[1941 c 267 s 14]

424.15 MONEY TO BE KEPT IN TWO FUNDS. The money received from the various sources shall be kept in two separate and distinct funds, one to be designated as the association special fund, and the other as its general fund. All money received from the state of Minnesota and from the city in which the relief association is located shall be deposited in the special fund, and expended only for purposes hereinafter authorized. All money received from other sources shall be deposited in the general fund, and may be expended for any purpose deemed proper by such association.

[1941 c 267 s 15]

424.16 SPECIAL FUND; DISBURSEMENT; SEGREGATION IN CASE OF VOLUNTEER MEMBERS. The amounts so paid to relief association by the state and each city under the provisions of sections 424.01 to 424.29 and by it set aside and deposited as a special fund, shall be appropriated and disbursed by each such association for the following purposes:

(1) For the relief of sick, injured, and disabled members of the relief associations, their surviving spouses and orphans; and

(2) For payment of disability and service pensions to members of the relief associations.

(3) In any city of the second class in which members of the firefighters' relief association include volunteer firefighters the special fund shall be segregated into two accounts, one of which shall be for the benefit of members who are volunteer firefighters, and the other for the benefit of members who are paid firefighters. All monies received by the association which are derived from payroll deductions from paid firefighters' salaries under section 424.12 shall be paid into the account of the fund for the benefit of paid firefighters only. Funds received from other sources shall be allocated between the account for the benefit of paid firefighters and the account for the benefit of volunteer firefighters in such proportions as shall be designated by the governing body of the city from time to time. In the event the governing body of the city shall abolish the volunteer branch of its fire department any surplus remaining in the account of the fund for the benefit of volunteer firefighters after discharging all obligations to those who are volunteer members at the time of such abolition shall be paid into the account of the fund for the benefit of paid firefighters. Any funds of a firefighters' relief association in a municipality which shall have become a city of the second class by adoption of a home rule charter, or increase in its population, may be allocated by action of the governing body of such city between the respective accounts of the special fund of the relief association for the benefit of paid firefighters and volunteer firefighters if, prior to becoming a city of second class, the municipality shall have had a relief association whose members included volunteer firefighters.

(4) For the payment of administrative expenses of the association as authorized pursuant to section 69.80.

[1941 c 267 s 16; 1955 c 289 s 2; 1957 c 179 s 1; 1977 c 429 s 63; 1978 c 562 s 27; 1978 c 690 s 6]

424.165 SPECIAL FUND, MAINTENANCE. Subdivision 1. Surcharge. When the balance in the special fund of any firefighter's relief association in any city of the second class is less than \$50,000 as determined by any such association's board of trustees, which fact shall be duly certified to by the state auditor, such board of trustees may thereupon file its duly verified petition for relief, accompanied by such certificate, with the commissioner of insurance. The commissioner of insurance shall thereupon order and direct a surcharge to be collected of two percent of the fire, lightning and sprinkler leakage gross premiums, less return premiums, on all direct business received by any foreign or domestic fire insurance company on property in such city of the second class, or by its agents for it, in cash or otherwise, until the balance in the special funds of such relief association amounts to \$50,000 and for a period of 15 days thereafter. As soon as the balance in said special fund amounts to \$50,000 the board of trustees of such relief association shall certify that fact to the commissioner of insurance and the commissioner of insurance shall forthwith issue his order ordering and directing that the collection of such surcharge shall be discontinued after the expiration of said 15-day period and shall forthwith mail a copy of the order last men-

tioned to each insurance company affected thereby. Said surcharge shall be due and payable from such companies to the state treasurer in semi-annual installments on June 30 and December 31 of each calendar year to be kept by the state treasurer in a separate fund and if not paid within 30 days after such dates a penalty of three per cent shall accrue thereon and thereafter such sum and penalty shall draw interest at the rate of one percent per month until paid.

Subd. 2. Issuance of warrant. The commissioner of finance on July 31, 1938, and semi-annually thereafter, shall issue and deliver to the treasurer of such relief association in such city his warrant upon the state treasurer for an amount equal to the total amount of said surcharge on said premiums within such city theretofore so collected and transmitted to the state treasurer by such insurance companies. Said warrants shall be paid out of said separate fund hereinbefore provided for, and the payment in each case shall be made to the treasurer of the relief association presenting the warrant.

There is hereby appropriated to such firefighter's relief association, from such fund or account in the state treasury to which the money was credited, such sums as may, from time to time, be necessary to pay these warrants.

Subd. 3. Funds to be kept in special fund. The treasurer of such relief association shall place the money received by him in payment of any such warrant in the special fund of such relief association.

Subd. 4. Emergency declared to exist. An emergency exists and this section shall be construed as a relief measure for firefighter's relief associations in any city of the second class.

[1937 c 109 s 1-4; 1955 c 199 s 1; 1959 c 158 s 30; 1973 c 492 s 7,14; 1977 c 429 s 63] (1648-1, 1648-2, 1648-3, 1648-4)

424.17 RELIEF, DETERMINATION OF ENTITLEMENT; VOLUNTEERS INCLUDED. Each relief association shall, in its bylaws, define the sickness and disability entitling its members to relief, and specify the amounts thereof, and also specify the amounts to be paid to its disability and service pensioners, and to surviving spouses and children of deceased members, and to fix the age limit of children to which pensions may be paid. When the total assets of the association shall amount to \$50,000 or more, it shall have the right to pay to its members the maximum amounts specified in sections 424.01 to 424.29. The bylaws of such association shall provide for payment of a service pension to volunteer firefighters who are members of the association, which service pension shall be paid in a lump sum in an amount not exceeding \$100 per year of service, to a retiring member or surviving spouse or minor children of a deceased member who qualifies for a service pension by reason of having reached the age of 50 years, and who has done active duty for 20 years or more as a volunteer firefighter of the fire department in the municipality where the association exists. The bylaws of such association may provide for payment of a service pension to volunteer firefighters who are members of the association, which service pension shall be paid in a lump sum, in an amount not exceeding \$100 per year of service, to a retiring member, who qualifies for a service pension by reason of having become physically disabled (as certified by a physician designated by the governing body of the municipality) so that he cannot continue with his duties as a volunteer firefighter of the fire department in the municipality where the association exists, or to the surviving spouse or minor children of a deceased member who dies before reaching the age of 50 years, and before rendering 20 years active duty as a volunteer firefighter. No other pension or benefit shall be payable to members of the association who are volunteer firefighters, provided that, if the services of all volunteer firefighters are discontinued and the volunteer division of the fire department abolished by the municipality, the volunteer firefighters who are members of the association at the time of such discontinuance and abolishment shall be paid a service pension, in a lump sum, in an amount not to exceed \$100 per year of service rendered prior to such discontinuance and abolishment. In determining the period of service of any individual member of the association for the purpose of computation of service requirements in connection with payment of any pensions or other benefits specified by the bylaws of the relief association, or any provision of sections 424.03 to 424.29, service of a volunteer or paid firefighter of the fire department of the municipality in which the relief association is situated, and membership in a firefighters' relief association in such municipality prior to said municipality becoming a city of the second class, shall be taken into account on the same

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basis as if said municipality had been a city of the second class during all of the time such service was rendered.

[1941 c 267 s 17; 1955 c 289 s 3; 1957 c 179 s 2; 1977 c 429 s 63; 1978 c 562 s 28]

424.18 MAY REDUCE AMOUNT OF PENSION. The firefighter's relief association shall at all times have and retain the right to reduce the amount of pensions and benefits to be thereafter paid out of its funds; when its total funds, as determined by its board of trustees, are less than \$25,000 and within the limits described in sections 424.01 to 424.29, the associations shall have and retain the right to increase or otherwise adjust the pensions and benefits after same have been so reduced.

[1941 c 267 s 18; 1977 c 429 s 63]

424.19 RELIEF. A member of such association who, by reason of sickness or accident, becomes disabled from performing his assignment of duties on the fire department, shall be entitled to the relief as the bylaws of the association may provide. No allowances for the disabilities shall be made unless notice of the disability and application for benefits on account thereof shall be made by or on behalf of the disabled member to the secretary of the association within 30 days after the beginning of such disability.

[1941 c 267 s 19]

424.20 MEMBERS TO RECEIVE DISABILITY BENEFITS. A member of any such relief association entitled to disability benefits shall receive the same from his association for such periods of time, at such times, and in such amounts not to exceed \$75 per month as the bylaws of the association provide.

[1941 c 267 s 20]

424.21 MEMBERSHIP. A member of the association, as defined in section 424.03, who has completed a period or periods of service on the fire department equal to 20 years or more, shall, after he has arrived at the age of 50 years or more, and has retired from the payroll of the fire department, be entitled to a pension of not less than \$50 nor more than \$75 per month provided that the bylaws of a relief association in a city of second class situated in a county in which there is also a city of first class may provide for a pension of not more than a sum equal to one-half of the salary as payable from time to time during the period of the pension payment to firefighters of the highest grade (not including officers of the department) in the employ of the municipality, such pension to be payable for his natural life in conformity with the bylaws of each association. All leaves of absence of more than 90 days, except such as are granted to a member because of his disability due to sickness or accident, shall be excluded in computing the period of service; and all periods of time during which a member received a disability pension shall be excluded in the computation. No deductions shall be made for a leave of absence granted to a member to enable him to accept an appointive position in the fire department. No member shall be entitled to draw both a disability and a service pension. The bylaws of each association may provide for these increases, or any portion thereof; provided, that in no event shall the total pension exceed the sum of \$75 per month; provided that the bylaws of a relief association in a city of second class situated in a county in which there is also a city of first class may provide for a pension of not more than a sum equal to one-half of the monthly salary of a firefighter of the highest grade (not including officers of the department) in the employ of the municipality from time to time during the period of the pension payment.

[1941 c 267 s 21; 1957 c 179 s 3; 1977 c 429 s 63]

424.22 RETIREMENT. A member of such association who has performed service on the fire department for 20 years or more, but has not reached the age of 50 years, shall have the right to retire from the department without forfeiting his right to a service pension. He shall, upon application, be placed on the deferred pension roll of the association, and, after he has reached the age of 50 years, the association shall, upon application therefor, pay his pension from the date the application is approved by the association. Any person making the application thereby waives all other rights, claims, or demands against his association for any cause that may have arisen from, or that may be attributable to, his service on the fire department.

[1941 c 267 s 22]

424.23 MILITARY SERVICE INCLUDED IN SERVICE. Any applicant for a service pension who, subsequent to his entry into the service of the fire department, has served in the military forces of the United States in the world war, or having during the war entered the employment of the government of the United States and in such service rendered fire prevention service during the war, and has returned, after his honorable discharge from such service, and resumed active duty in the fire department, the period of his absence in the service of the United States shall not be deducted in computing the period of service hereinbefore provided for, but shall be construed and counted as a part and portion of his active duty in the fire department.

[1941 c 267 s 23]

424.24 PENSIONS TO SURVIVORS. Subdivision 1. When a service pensioner, disability pensioner, or deferred pensioner, or an active member of such relief association dies, leaving a surviving spouse, one or more surviving child, or both, such surviving spouse and the child or children shall be entitled to a pension or pensions as follows:

(a) To the surviving spouse a pension of not less than \$25, and not to exceed \$50 per month; provided that the bylaws of a relief association in a city of second class situated in a county in which there is also a city of first class may provide for a pension of not more than a sum equal to 40 percent of the monthly salary of a firefighter of the highest grade (not including officers of the department) in the employ of the municipality from time to time during the period of the pension payment, as the bylaws of the association provide for the natural life of the surviving spouse; provided, that if the surviving spouse shall remarry, such pension shall cease and terminate as of the date of remarriage.

(b) To such child or children, if the surviving spouse of the member is living, a pension of not to exceed \$15 per month; provided that the bylaws of a relief association in a city of second class situated in a county in which there is also a city of first class may provide for a pension of not more than a sum equal to five percent of the monthly salary of a firefighter of the highest grade (not including officers of the department) in the employ of the municipality from time to time during the period of the pension payment, for each child up to the time each child reaches the age of not less than 16, and not to exceed an age of 18 years, in conformity with the bylaws of each association; provided, the total pension hereunder for the surviving spouse and children of the deceased member shall not exceed the sum of \$75 per month; provided that the bylaws of a relief association in a city of second class situated in a county in which there is also a city of first class may provide for a pension of not more than a sum equal to 50 percent of the monthly salary of a firefighter of the highest grade (not including officers of the department) in the employ of the municipality from time to time during the period of the pension payment.

(c) A child or children of a deceased member receiving a pension or pensions hereunder shall, after the death of the surviving spouse of the member, be entitled to receive a pension or pensions in the amount or amounts as the board of trustees of the association shall deem necessary to properly support the child or children until they reach the age of not less than 16, and not more than 18 years, as the bylaws of each association may provide; but the total amount of such pension or pensions hereunder for any such child or children shall not exceed the sum of \$75 per month; provided that the bylaws of a relief association in a city of second class situated in a county in which there is also a city of first class may provide for a pension of not more than a sum equal to 50 percent of the monthly salary of a firefighter of the highest grade (not including officers of the department) in the employ of the municipality from time to time during the period the pension payment is payable.

Subd. 2. (a) "Surviving spouse" means a person who became the member's legally married spouse during or prior to the time the member was on the payroll of any such fire department as a firefighter, and remained such continuously after their marriage until the member's death, without having been granted a marriage dissolution or legal separation, and who, in case the deceased member was a service or deferred pensioner, was legally married to the member for at least three years prior to the member's retirement from the fire department; and who, in any case, was residing with the member at the time of the member's death. No temporary absence for purposes of business, health or pleasure shall constitute a change of residence for purposes of this clause.

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(b) "Surviving child" means any child of the member living while the deceased member was on the payroll of the fire department, or who were born within nine months after the deceased member was withdrawn from the payroll of the fire department.

[1941 c 267 s 24; 1957 c 179 s 4; 1977 c 429 s 63; 1978 c 562 s 29]

424.25 BOARD OF EXAMINERS. The relief association shall establish a board of examiners who shall, as and when requested by the association's board of trustees, make a thorough investigation and report on all applications for membership in the association; investigate and make report on all applications for disability pension and make recommendations as to amount to be paid to the applicant; investigate and make report on all disability pensioners, and make recommendations as to amount of pension to be paid to them from year to year; and investigate and report on all applications for service pensions, and claims for relief. This board shall consist of a competent physician selected by the association, and at least three members of the relief association on active duty with the fire department.

[1941 c 267 s 25]

424.26 STATE AUDITOR TO EXAMINE ACCOUNTS. The state auditor of this state shall each year examine the books and accounts of the secretary and the treasurer of each such relief association. If he finds that any money has been expended for purposes not authorized by sections 424.01 to 424.29, he shall report the same to the governor, who shall thereupon direct the commissioner of finance not to issue any further warrants to the association until the state auditor shall report that money unlawfully expended has been replaced. The governor may also take such further action as the emergency may demand.

[1941 c 267 s 26; 1973 c 492 s 7,14]

424.27 PAYMENTS EXEMPT FROM LEGAL PROCESS. All payments made or to be made by any relief associations under any of the provisions of sections 424.01 to 424.29 shall be totally exempt from garnishment, execution, or other legal process, and no persons entitled to such payment shall have the right to assign the same, nor shall the association have authority to recognize any assignment, or to pay any sum on account thereof; and any attempt to transfer any such right or claim or any part thereof shall be void.

[1941 c 267 s 27]

424.28 WORKERS' COMPENSATION ACT NOT AFFECTED. Sections 424.01 to 424.29 shall not be construed as abridging, repealing, or amending the laws of this state relating to the provisions of the law commonly known as the workers' compensation act.

[1941 c 267 s 28; 1975 c 359 s 23]

424.29 PENSIONS TO BE UNIFORM. All pensions paid to firefighters or their surviving spouses pursuant to the provisions of sections 424.01 to 424.29 shall be uniform except as may be specifically provided for therein.

[1941 c 267 s 31; 1977 c 429 s 63; 1978 c 562 s 30]

424.30 TAX FOR RELIEF FUND. Subdivision 1. The council or other governing body of each city in this state, other than cities of the first and second class and other than any city operating under Laws 1935, Chapters 153, 192, and 208, and Laws 1939, Chapter 434, and Laws 1941, Chapter 196, or acts amendatory thereof, which has a regularly organized fire department, shall each year, at the time the tax levies are made for the support of the city, and in addition thereto, levy a tax of one-thirtieth of a mill on all the taxable property of such city; and it may, when it deems it necessary or desirable so to do, levy an additional amount not to exceed nineteen-thirtieths of one mill. The tax so levied shall be transmitted to the auditor of the county in which the city is situated at the time all other tax levies are transmitted, and shall be collected and payment thereof enforced. If the governing body of any such city having a duly incorporated firefighter's relief association fails to include the one-thirtieth of one mill tax in its levy for 1960 or any subsequent year, the board of trustees of the association may certify that fact to the county auditor, who shall thereupon add the omitted levy to the city levy for that year, or, if then too late, for the next following year.

Subd. 2. The town or city, when the tax and state aid is received, shall pay the same over to the treasurer of the duly incorporated firefighter's relief association of such town or city, if there is one organized, together with all penalties and interest collected thereon; but if there is no firefighter's relief association so organized in any such town or city, or if any such association resign, be removed or has heretofore resigned or has been removed as trustee of such money, then the municipality shall keep the money in the municipal treasury to be disbursed only for the purposes authorized by section 424.31 or for the equipment and maintenance of the fire department and for construction, acquisition, or repair of buildings, room, and premises for fire department use.

[1909 c 197 s 1; 1937 c 349 s 1; 1943 c 323 s 1; 1953 c 379 s 1; 1953 c 521 s 2; 1959 c 509 s 1; Ex1971 c 6 s 10; 1973 c 123 art 5 s 7; 1973 c 773 s 1; 1977 c 429 s 63] (1919)

424.31 BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF FIREFIGHTERS' RELIEF ASSOCIATIONS.

The board of trustees of every firefighters' relief association of this state shall be composed of the following persons: Six trustees elected annually by such firefighters' relief association from its own members and the following ex officio members taken from the officers of the municipality in which the relief association is located, the mayor or president, the recorder or clerk, the treasurer, and the chief of the fire department thereof; and any such board of trustees of a duly incorporated relief association shall have exclusive control and management of all funds received by its treasurer under the provisions of sections 424.30 and 424.31, funds derived from the state of Minnesota, and all moneys or property donated, given, granted, or devised for the benefit of these funds, and such funds when received shall be kept in a special fund on the books of the secretary and treasurer of the association and never disbursed for any purpose except the following:

- (1) For the relief of sick, injured, and disabled members of any fire department in such city;
- (2) For the payment of pensions to disabled firefighters and the surviving spouses and orphans of firefighters;
- (3) For the payment of pensions to retired firefighters pursuant to the laws of the state;
- (4) For the payment of the fees, dues, and assessments in the Minnesota state fire department association, and in the volunteer firefighters' benefit association of Minnesota so as to entitle the members of any qualified fire department to membership in and benefits of such state association;
- (5) For the payment of such death or funeral benefits as may be from time to time stipulated in the bylaws of the respective relief associations; and
- (6) For the payment of administrative expenses of the association as authorized pursuant to section 69.80.

The term "surviving spouse" means a person who was the spouse of a firefighter or pensioner during the time the member was an active firefighter, provided that the spouse was married to the member three or more years prior to the time when such firefighter retired as a service pensioner. The term "surviving spouse" shall not include the surviving spouse who has deserted a firefighter or pensioner or who has not been dependent upon the member for support.

The funds received by any relief association from dues, fines, initiation fees, and entertainments shall be kept in a fund called the general fund and may be disbursed for any purposes authorized by the articles of incorporation and bylaws of the association. The relief association is hereby authorized and empowered to invest its funds in such income paying properties and securities as the council of the city in which such organization is located shall from time to time authorize. Benefits shall in all cases be within the limits authorized by state law and in accordance with the articles of incorporation and bylaws of the association.

[1909 c 197 s 2; 1923 c 163 s 1; 1929 c 166; 1931 c 71; 1933 c 135; 1937 c 349 s 2; 1945 c 206 s 1; 1957 c 177 s 1; 1973 c 123 art 5 s 7; 1976 c 95 s 1; 1977 c 429 s 63; 1978 c 562 s 31; 1978 c 690 s 7] (1920)