

CHAPTER 423A

POLICE AND SALARIED FIREFIGHTERS
RELIEF ASSOCIATION

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423A.01 POLICE AND SALARIED FIREFIGHTER'S RELIEF ASSOCIATIONS.

Subdivision 1. **Membership of new police and salaried firefighters in the public employees police and fire fund.** Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, all persons first employed by any municipality as police officers or police officer trainees, salaried firefighters or firefighter trainees or public safety officers or public safety officer trainees after June 15, 1980 shall be members of the public employees police and fire fund established by sections 353.63 to 353.68, and shall not be members of any local police or paid firefighter's relief association established or maintained by the municipality, unless the municipality elects to retain the local relief association by the adoption of a municipal resolution approved by a majority of the governing body of the municipality following the holding of a public meeting at which the views of the public are considered and a copy of the municipal resolution is filed with the secretary of state, the commissioner of finance, the commissioner of commerce and the executive secretary of the legislative commission on pensions and retirement on or before August 15, 1980.

Subd. 2. **Operation of local relief association upon modification of retirement coverage for newly hired police officers and firefighters.** The following provisions shall govern the operation of a local relief association upon the modification of retirement coverage for newly hired police officers or firefighters:

(1) The minimum obligation of a municipality in which the retirement coverage for newly hired police officers or salaried firefighters has been modified pursuant to subdivision 1 with respect to the local relief association shall be determined and governed in accordance with the provisions of sections 69.77, 356.215 and 356.216, except that the normal cost calculation for the relief association shall be computed as a percentage of the compensation paid to the active members of the relief association. The compensation paid to persons with retirement coverage modified pursuant to subdivision 1 shall not be included in any of the computations made in determining the obligation of the municipality with respect to the local relief association.

(2) The contribution rate of members of the local relief association shall be governed by section 69.77, unless a special law establishing a greater member contribution rate is applicable whereupon it shall continue to govern. The member contribution rate of persons with retirement coverage modified pursuant to subdivision 1 shall be governed by section 353.65.

(3) Unless otherwise provided for by law, when every active member of the local relief association retires or terminates from active duty, the local relief association

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shall cease to exist as a legal entity and the assets of the special fund of the relief association shall be transferred to a trust fund to be established by the appropriate municipality for the purpose of paying service pensions and retirement benefits to recipient beneficiaries. Recipient beneficiaries who are competent to act on their own behalf shall be entitled to select the prescribed number of trustees of the trust fund as provided in this clause, subject to the approval of the governing body of the municipality. If there are at least five recipient beneficiaries, the trust fund shall be managed by a board of trustees composed of five persons selected by the recipient beneficiaries of the fund. When there are fewer than five recipient beneficiaries, the number of trustees selected by the recipient beneficiaries shall be equal to the number of the remaining recipient beneficiaries. The governing body of the municipality shall select the additional trustees. The term of the elected members of the board of trustees shall be indefinite and shall continue until a vacancy occurs in one of the board of trustee member positions. Board of trustee members shall not be compensated for their services, but shall be reimbursed for any expenses actually and necessarily incurred as a result of the performance of their duties in their capacity as board of trustee members. The municipality shall perform whatever services are necessary to administer the trust fund. When all obligations of the trust fund are paid, the balance of the assets remaining in the trust fund shall revert to the municipality for expenditure for law enforcement or firefighting purposes, whichever is applicable.

(4) The financial requirements of the trust fund and the minimum obligation of the municipality with respect to the trust fund shall be determined in accordance with sections 69.77, 356.215 and 356.216 until the unfunded accrued liability of the trust fund is fully amortized in accordance with section 69.77, subdivision 2, clause (2). The municipality shall provide in its annual budget for at least the aggregate amount of service pensions, disability benefits, survivorship benefits and refunds which are projected as payable for the following calendar year, as determined by the board of trustees of the trust fund, less the amount of assets in the trust fund as of the end of the most current calendar year for which figures are available, valued pursuant to section 356.20, subdivision 4, clause (1)(a), if the difference between those two figures is a positive number.

(5) In calculating the amount of service pensions and other retirement benefits payable from the local relief association and in calculating the amount of any automatic post retirement increases in those service pensions and retirement benefits based on the salary paid or payable to active members or escalated in any fashion, the salary for use as the base for the service pension or retirement benefit calculation and the post retirement increase calculation for the local relief association shall be the salary for the applicable position as specified in the articles of incorporation or bylaws of the relief association as of the date immediately prior to the effective date of the modification of retirement coverage for newly hired personnel pursuant to subdivision 1, as the applicable salary is reset by the municipality periodically, irrespective of whether retirement coverage for persons holding the applicable position used in calculations is provided by the relief association or by the public employees police and fire fund.

(6) If the modification of retirement coverage implemented pursuant to subdivision 1 is applicable to a local police relief association, the police state aid received by the municipality shall be disbursed pursuant to section 69.031, subdivision 5, clause (2)(c). If the modification of retirement coverage implemented pursuant to subdivision 1 is applicable to a local firefighters' relief association, the fire state aid received by the applicable municipality shall be disbursed as the municipality at its option may elect. The municipality may elect: (a) to transmit the total fire state aid to the treasurer of the local relief association for immediate deposit in the special fund of

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the relief association; or (b) to apply the total fire state aid toward the employer contribution of the municipality to the public employees police and fire fund pursuant to section 353.65, subdivision 3; or (c) to allocate the total fire state aid proportionately between the special fund of the local relief association and employer contribution of the municipality to the public employees police and fire fund on the basis of the respective number of active full time salaried firefighters receiving retirement coverage from each.

Subd. 3. Benefit increase for certain relief association members. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, any member of a local police or salaried firefighters' relief association located in a municipality which has not adopted a municipal resolution retaining the local relief association pursuant to subdivision 1, except the city of Minneapolis, shall be entitled to receive, after the effective date for the modification of pension coverage for newly employed personnel, a retirement annuity in addition to the service pension to which the member may be eligible upon retirement. The additional retirement annuity shall be payable for the life of the retired member. The additional retirement annuity shall be equal to one-half of one percent of the salary upon which the service pension is calculated payable on the date of termination of active service per year of service credit acquired in excess of 25 years of service credit. The retirement annuity under this subdivision shall not be subject to any post retirement increases granted pursuant to increases in the salary payable to a certain employment category or in the salaries payable to active members or be in any other manner escalated or increased after retirement.

Subd. 4. Automatic post retirement adjustments for certain newly employed, active and retired members. (1) Notwithstanding any provision of law, municipal charter, municipal ordinance or resolution, or relief association articles of incorporation or bylaws to the contrary, any person who meets one of the following requirements for entitlement shall be entitled to an annual automatic post retirement adjustment in the amount of the service pension calculated pursuant to clause (2). A person meets the requirements for entitlement if:

(a) the person is a member of a covered local police or salaried firefighters' relief association enumerated in clause (3), commences receiving a service pension at an age no earlier than attaining the age of 55 years, and has met all applicable requirements for entitlement to a service pension specified in the applicable laws and relief association articles of incorporation or bylaws governing the local relief association;

(b) the person is a retired member of a covered local police or salaried firefighters' relief association enumerated in clause (3), retired on a service pension after June 15, 1980 after attaining the age of at least 50 years but prior to attaining the age of 55 years, and attains the age of 55 years subsequent to retirement; or

(c) the person was a retired member on June 15, 1980 of a covered local police or salaried firefighters' relief association or retirement trust fund enumerated in clause (3), is receiving a service pension, and has attained the age of at least 55 years.

(2) Any person who meets the requirements specified in clause (1)(a) or (1)(b) shall be entitled to receive the annual automatic post retirement adjustment on the January 1 next following the date upon which the requirements for entitlement are met but in no event prior to the date upon which the person attains the age of 55 years. Any person who meets the requirements specified in clause (1)(c) shall be entitled to receive the adjustment on the January 1 next following the date upon which the person attains the age of 55 years. The amount of the adjustment shall be determined by the board of trustees of the local relief association on or before December 1 annually and the adjustment shall accrue each year as of January 1 next following the determination date. The adjustment shall be first payable with the service pension payment made for January. Each adjustment in the amount of the

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service pension shall be based on the percentage increase in the salary upon which retirement coverage is credited during the prior year subject to the limitation provided for in this clause.

The percentage increase in the salary shall be applied to the amount of service pension payable to the person for the month immediately prior to the month in which the determination is made. The maximum percentage increase shall not exceed 3-1/2 percent in any year and any increase in the salary level of the applicable position used to govern the determination of adjustments in excess of 3-1/2 percent in any year shall not carry over to or be used to calculate the rate of salary increase for any succeeding year in which the increase in the salary of the applicable position does not exceed 3-1/2 percent.

(3) The provisions of this subdivision shall apply to the active members and retired members of a local police or salaried firefighters' relief association or to the retired members of a retirement trust fund contained in the following enumeration of covered relief associations:

- (a) Buhl police relief association;
- (b) Eveleth joint retired police and firefighters retirement trust fund;
- (c) Moorhead firefighters relief association;
- (d) Moorhead police relief association;
- (e) Thief River Falls police retirement trust fund;
- (f) Virginia firefighters relief association;
- (g) West St. Paul police relief association.

History: 1980 c 607 art 15 s 4; 1982 c 578 art 3 s 16; 1983 c 289 s 114 subd 1; 1983 c 291 s 6,7; 1984 c 655 art 1 s 92

423A.02 LOCAL POLICE AND FIREFIGHTERS' RELIEF ASSOCIATION AMORTIZATION STATE AID.

Any municipality in which is located a local police or salaried firefighters' relief association to which the provisions of section 69.77, apply, unless the municipality has adopted a municipal resolution retaining the local relief association pursuant to section 423A.01, subdivision 1, shall be entitled upon annual application on or before the date specified by the commissioner of finance to receive local police and salaried firefighters' relief association amortization state aid if the municipality and the appropriate relief association both comply with the applicable provisions of sections 69.031, subdivision 5, 69.051, subdivisions 1 and 3, and 69.77. The amount of local police and salaried firefighters' relief association amortization state aid to which a municipality is entitled annually shall be an amount equal to the level annual dollar amount required to amortize, by December 31, 2010, the unfunded accrued liability of the special fund of the appropriate relief association as reported in the most recent actuarial valuation of the relief association prepared pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 1978, sections 356.215 and 356.216, and filed with the commissioner of commerce on the date of final enactment of Laws 1980, chapter 607, reduced by the dollar amount required to pay the interest on the unfunded accrued liability of the special fund of the relief association for the calendar year next following the date of final enactment of Laws 1980, chapter 607, set at the rate specified in Minnesota Statutes 1978, section 356.215, subdivision 4, clause (4). Payment of local police and salaried firefighters' relief association amortization state aid to municipalities shall be made directly to the municipalities involved in four equal installments on March 15, July 15, September 15 and November 15 annually. Upon receipt of the local police and salaried firefighters' relief association amortization state aid, the municipal treasurer shall transmit the aid amount to the treasurer of the local relief association for

immediate deposit in the special fund of the relief association. The commissioner of finance shall prescribe and periodically revise the form for and content of the annual application for the local police and salaried firefighters' relief association amortization state aid. The amounts required to pay the local police and salaried firefighters' relief association amortization state aid are hereby annually appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner of finance.

History: 1980 c 607 art 15 s 5; 1983 c 289 s 114 subd 1; 1984 c 655 art 1 s 92

423A.03 TEMPORARY PROVISION; APPLICATION TO CERTAIN MUNICIPALITIES.

Any municipality in which is located a local police or salaried firefighters' relief association which is governed by section 69.77, and in which all newly hired police officers or firefighters, whichever is applicable, after a certain date are required by special law to have their retirement coverage provided by the public employees police and fire fund established pursuant to chapter 353, and not by the local police or firefighters' relief association, may have made applicable any other provisions of section 423A.01, by adopting by majority vote of the governing body, a resolution implementing those provisions of section 423A.01 which are not present in or which are in substantial conflict with the applicable special law modifying retirement coverage for new police officers or firefighters, whichever is applicable, other than the date of the modification in retirement coverage. Prior to becoming effective, a copy of the municipal resolution shall be filed with the secretary of state, the commissioner of finance, the commissioner of commerce and the executive secretary of the legislative commission on pensions and retirement. To be deemed an implementing municipal resolution within the meaning of this section, the municipal resolution shall either refer to this section and the applicable subdivisions of section 423A.01 or shall describe in summary form the modifications to be implemented.

History: 1980 c 607 art 15 s 6; 1983 c 289 s 114 subd 1; 1984 c 655 art 1 s 92

423A.04 ALTERNATIVE BENEFIT INCREASE.

Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, and in lieu of the benefit increase provided for in section 423A.01, subdivision 3, the governing body of a participating municipality, except the city of Minneapolis, is authorized by resolution approved by a majority of the members of the governing body, following consideration of an actuarial analysis of the effect of any change, to increase the service pension or retirement benefits provided by or modify any provision of the benefit plan of either a police relief association or a salaried firefighters relief association unless the municipality elects to retain the local relief association by the adoption of a municipal resolution pursuant to section 423A.01, subdivision 1. The total cost of any increase or modification, including amortization by December 31, 2010, shall not exceed 1.26 percent of covered payroll.

History: 1980 c 607 art 15 s 7; 1981 c 224 s 207

423A.05 CLARIFICATION OF INTERPRETATION ON AUTHORITY TO APPROVE ALTERNATIVE BENEFIT INCREASE.

No provision of Minnesota Statutes, Section 645.021, or Laws 1980, Chapter 607, Article XV, Sections 7 or 25, shall be construed as authorizing any municipality which approved an alternative benefit increase for a local police or salaried firefighters relief association located in the municipality and which complied with Minnesota Statutes, Section 645.021, Subdivision 3, to amend, modify, or revoke that

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approval or substitute a different alternative benefit increase for the alternative benefit increase which was previously approved.

History: 1982 c 574 s 7

423A.06 MINIMUM DISABILITY BENEFIT COVERAGE FOR CERTAIN POLICE OFFICERS AND FIREFIGHTERS.

Subdivision 1. **Disability benefit coverage.** Notwithstanding any provision of law, municipal charter, municipal ordinance, municipal resolution, relief association articles of incorporation or relief association bylaws to the contrary, any person who is a member of a covered local police or salaried firefighters relief association enumerated in subdivision 3 where the governing body of the appropriate municipality has approved the modification in the benefit plan of the relief association and who becomes disabled in the line of duty, or not in the line of duty, if the benefit is subject to the provisions of this section as specified in subdivision 3, as that disability is defined in and as that disability is determined pursuant to the statute, special law, articles of incorporation or bylaws governing the relief association, shall be entitled to a disability benefit calculated pursuant to subdivision 2.

Subd. 2. **Disability benefit amount.** The amount of the monthly disability benefit shall be equal to 40 percent of the salary payable by the municipality on the date of disability to a top grade patrol officer or a top grade firefighter, whichever is applicable. If the service pension payable to retiring members by the relief association is subject to annual automatic post retirement adjustments or is in any fashion escalated, the disability benefit shall also be adjusted or escalated in the same manner, at the same times, and in the same amounts as service pensions are adjusted or escalated.

Subd. 3. **Covered relief associations and covered type of disability benefit.** The provisions of this section shall apply to the active members of a local police or salaried firefighters relief association contained in the following enumeration of covered relief associations if the governing body of the applicable municipality approves the modification in the benefit plan of the relief association specified in this section following consideration of an actuarial valuation which is, or an actuarial estimate based on the most recent actuarial valuation which was, prepared in accordance with sections 356.215 and 356.216, based on the benefit plan of the appropriate local relief association including the modification provided for in this subdivision and files a resolution indicating approval of the modification in the benefit plan with the secretary of state, the commissioner of commerce, and the executive secretary of the legislative commission on pensions and retirement on or before the first day of the tenth full month following March 24, 1982, and shall apply to the type or types of disability benefit coverage indicated:

(a) Chisholm firefighters relief association, disability not in the line of duty benefit;

(b) Crookston firefighters relief association, disability not in the line of duty benefit;

(c) Fairmont police relief association, disability in the line of duty benefit and disability not in the line of duty benefit;

(d) Hibbing firefighters relief association, disability in the line of duty benefit and disability not in the line of duty benefit;

(e) Hibbing police relief association, disability in the line of duty benefit and disability not in the line of duty benefit;

(f) Virginia police relief association, disability in the line of duty benefit and disability not in the line of duty benefit; and

(g) West St. Paul police relief association, disability in the line of duty benefit and disability not in the line of duty benefit.

History: 1982 c 610 s 2; 1983 c 289 s 114 subd 1; 1984 c 655 art 1 s 92

423A.10 POWERS OF CITY OFFICIALS LIMITED.

When the governing board of a firefighters or police relief association in any city shall determine what is necessary to adequately protect, maintain and administer the firefighters or police relief association, neither the governing body of the city nor any official of the city may thereafter deny adequate representation therefor. Any duties performed by any member of the association pursuant to the determination under this section are deemed to be fire or police duties.

History: 1982 c 578 art 1 s 11

423A.11 RECOMPUTATION OF A DISABILITY BENEFIT AS A SERVICE PENSION.

Subdivision 1. Termination of disability benefit. The disability benefit of any disabled member of a local police or salaried firefighters relief association, whichever is applicable, shall terminate when the disabled member attains:

(a) the minimum age for the receipt of a service pension specified in the articles of incorporation or the bylaws of the relief association, if the disabled member has credit for at least the number of years of service for active duty which would entitle the disabled member to a service pension in an amount equal to the amount of the disability benefit; or

(b) the age attained by the disabled member when the total number of years of service credited for active duty and of years of receipt of a disability benefit equals the number of years of service credit which would entitle the disabled member to a service pension in an amount equal to the amount of the disability benefit, if the disabled member has credit for less than the number of years of service for active duty which would entitle the disabled member to a service pension in an amount equal to the amount of the disability benefit when the disabled member attains the minimum age for the receipt of a service pension specified in the articles of incorporation or the bylaws of the relief association.

Subd. 2. Amount of disability benefit recomputed as a service pension. After the disability benefit terminates, the disabled member shall be deemed to be a service pensioner and shall be entitled to receive a service pension in an amount equal to the disability benefit without any benefit offset required pursuant to any applicable provision of law, articles of incorporation or bylaws which was payable by the relief association immediately prior to the date when the disability benefit terminated pursuant to this section or the service pension otherwise payable based on the service credit for active duty of the person, whichever amount is greater. The disability benefit recomputed as a service pension shall be subject to any annual automatic post retirement adjustments or escalation applicable to any other service pension payable by the relief association.

Subd. 3. Limitation on disability benefit coverage. No relief association member who has attained the age and acquired the service credit for termination of a disability benefit specified in subdivision 1 shall be eligible for a disability benefit after that date. If a relief association member who is ineligible for a disability benefit solely pursuant to the limitation set forth in this subdivision becomes permanently unable to perform the duties of a police officer or a firefighter, whichever is applicable, by virtue of a medically determinable illness or injury, the member shall be eligible to a service pension in an amount equal to the amount of the disability benefit which would have been paid had the person been entitled to a

disability benefit, or the amount of the service pension otherwise payable based on the service credit for active duty of the person, whichever is greater.

History: 1982 c 610 s 3

423A.12 SERVICE CREDIT FOR PERIODS OF DISABILITY.

If the articles of incorporation or bylaws of a local police or salaried firefighters relief association, whichever is applicable, so provide, any relief association member who received a disability benefit from the relief association on account of a medically determinable illness or injury which was at the time of the determination of the disability expected to be of permanent duration and who returned to active employment as a police officer or firefighter, whichever is applicable, shall be entitled to receive service credit toward the calculation of a service pension for the period or periods of the receipt of a disability benefit.

The maximum service credit which a relief association member may obtain pursuant to this subdivision shall be that amount of service credit which, when added to the service credit of the member for active duty, equals the amount of service credit which would entitle the member to a service pension in an amount equal to the amount of the disability benefit provided by the relief association.

History: 1982 c 610 s 4

423A.13 LESS HAZARDOUS DUTY EMPLOYMENT FOR marginally DISABLED POLICE OFFICERS OR FIREFIGHTERS.

Every city in which a local police or salaried firefighters relief association is located shall make every reasonable attempt to provide less hazardous duty employment positions for marginally or less severely disabled police officers or firefighters, which is applicable, in the police department or in the fire department, whichever is applicable, with the same compensation, fringe benefits and other terms and conditions of employment as the person would have otherwise received currently as a regularly employed police officer or firefighter, which is applicable, of the same rank and experience.

History: 1982 c 610 s 5

423A.14 OFFSETS FROM DISABILITY BENEFITS.

Subdivision 1. **Occurrence of offsets.** If a police officer or firefighter, whichever is applicable, who is a member of a local police or salaried firefighters relief association becomes disabled and is entitled to receive a disability benefit from the relief association and the disabled person is also entitled to receive benefits pursuant to the workers' compensation law by virtue of that disability, and the total of the disability benefit and the workers' compensation benefits exceeds the salary which the disabled person received as of the date of the disability or the salary currently payable to the same employment position or an employment position which is substantially similar to the employment position which the person held as of the date of the disability, whichever is greater, then the disability benefit of that person which is otherwise payable shall be reduced to that amount which, when added to the workers' compensation benefits, after deducting any amounts payable as attorney fees, medical benefits or rehabilitation benefits, does not exceed the salary which the person received as of the date of the disability or the salary currently payable to the same employment position or an employment position which is substantially similar to the employment position which the person held as of the date of the disability, whichever is greater.

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Subd. 2. **Limitation.** In no event shall the reduced disability benefit payable pursuant to the requirements of subdivision 1 exceed the amount of the disability benefit otherwise payable by the relief association without reference to subdivision 1 pursuant to the applicable statutes, special laws, articles of incorporation and bylaws.

Subd. 3. **No offset for recomputed disability benefit.** No offset pursuant to this section shall be required after a disability benefit is recomputed as a service pension pursuant to section 423A.11.

Subd. 4. **Reporting requirement.** Monthly, each city in which a local police or salaried firefighters relief association is located shall notify the secretary of the relief association of the amounts payable to disabled police officers or firefighters, whichever is applicable, during the month pursuant to the workers' compensation law.

Subd. 5. **Offset inapplicable in certain instances.** If any reduction of benefits payable pursuant to the workers' compensation law by virtue of the receipt of a disability benefit from a local police or salaried firefighters relief association is required pursuant to legislation enacted by the 1982 regular session or by a subsequent regular or special session, the provisions of this section shall not be applicable to any disability benefit recipient or any local police or salaried firefighters relief association.

History: 1982 c 610 s 6

423A.15 EFFECT OF PROVISIONS FOR EXISTING DISABILITY BENEFIT RECIPIENTS.

The provisions of section 423A.06 shall apply to any member of any applicable local relief association in active service on or after March 24, 1982. The provisions of section 423A.11 shall apply to any person receiving a disability benefit from a local relief association on or after March 24, 1982. The provisions of section 423A.12 shall apply to any person who returns to active employment as a police officer or firefighter, whichever is applicable, after receipt of a permanent disability benefit on or after March 24, 1982. The provisions of section 423A.14 shall apply to any person who first commences receipt of a disability benefit after March 24, 1982.

History: 1982 c 610 s 7

423A.16 EXEMPTION FROM ASSIGNMENTS; PROCESS.

Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, none of the moneys, annuities, or other benefits provided by any police or salaried firefighter's relief association shall be assignable in law or in equity, nor be subject to execution, levy, attachment, garnishment, or other legal process, except as provided in section 518.611.

History: 1984 c 547 s 13

423A.20 VESTING UPON LAYOFF.

Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, if a member of a salaried firefighters relief association with ten or more years of service is laid off and replaced with a volunteer firefighter, the member shall be entitled to receive a pro rata monthly benefit. For purposes of this section, "laid off" means terminated from employment with the fire department because of a shortage of funds or curtailment of service or for any other reason not reflecting discredit on the member beyond the member's control.

The retirement benefit is to commence at the later of either the minimum age for retirement or the date at which the member would have accumulated the

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minimum number of years of service for retirement if the member had remained on duty.

The pro rata benefit shall be calculated by multiplying the amount of the benefit payable to a member who met the minimum age and years of service requirements for a normal pension by the ratio of the laid off member's actual years of service to the minimum years of service required for retirement. The initial benefit payable shall be subject to the same post retirement adjustments as other benefits payable from the relief association.

History: 1984 c 574 s 14