

CHAPTER 353B

LOCAL RELIEF ASSOCIATION BENEFIT PLANS

353B.01	Local relief association benefit plans; application.	353B.08	Disability benefits.
353B.02	Definitions.	353B.09	Refund.
353B.03	Coverage and termination of coverage.	353B.10	Deferred service pension.
353B.04	Administration.	353B.11	Survivor benefits.
353B.05	Local relief association accounts within fund.	353B.12	Postretirement benefit adjustments.
353B.06	Treasurer of accounts: investment.	353B.13	Other benefit coverage.
353B.07	Service pensions.	353B.14	Dispute over benefit amounts or plan provisions.

353B.01 LOCAL RELIEF ASSOCIATION BENEFIT PLANS; APPLICATION.

The provisions of this chapter shall govern the benefit coverage and payment of benefits of any person who was a member of a local relief association consolidating with the public employees police and fire fund as provided in sections 353A.01 to 353A.10 and who elects to retain benefit coverage in the local relief association benefit plan as provided in section 353A.08.

History: 1987 c 296 s 18

353B.02 DEFINITIONS.

Subdivision 1. **Terms.** Unless the language or content clearly indicates otherwise, each of the following terms shall have the meaning ascribed to it in this section.

Subd. 2. **Accumulated contributions.** "Accumulated contributions" means the amount of member contributions to the credit of a covered employee made before the effective date of the consolidation as indicated in the records of the consolidating local relief association transferred to the public employees police and fire fund and the amount of member contributions made by the covered employee after the effective date of the consolidation.

Subd. 3. **Allowable service.** "Allowable service" means any service rendered by a covered employee before the effective date of the consolidation as indicated in the records of the consolidating local relief association transferred to the public employees police and fire fund and any service rendered by a covered employee as a police officer or a firefighter, whichever applies, in the municipality in which the local relief association is located.

Subd. 4. **Covered employee.** "Covered employee" means a person who elects to retain benefit coverage in the local relief association benefit plan under section 353A.08 and who remains employed in the position of a police officer or firefighter, whichever applies, after the effective date of the consolidation.

Subd. 5. **Disability.** "Disability" means the inability by virtue of any medically determinable injury or illness to perform the employment duties of a police officer or firefighter, whichever applies, in the municipality in which the consolidating relief association was located.

Subd. 6. **Fund.** "Fund" means the public employees police and fire fund established by and operating under chapter 353.

Subd. 7. **Prior service.** "Prior service" means any period of military service rendered in between periods of service as a police officer or firefighter, whichever applies, in the municipality in which the consolidating relief association was located.

Subd. 8. **Retired member.** "Retired member" means any person who is receiving a service pension or disability benefit following termination of active employment as a police officer or firefighter, whichever applies, in the municipality in which the consolidating relief association was located.

Subd. 9. **Retirement.** "Retirement" means the period following the termination of active employment as a police officer or firefighter, whichever applies, in the municipal-

ity in which the consolidating relief association was located and commencement of the payment of a service pension or disability benefit to the person.

Subd. 10. **Salary.** (a) "Salary" for benefit computation and contribution purposes means the salary of a first class or first grade firefighter or patrol officer, whichever applies, for the former members of the following consolidating relief associations:

- (1) Anoka police relief association;
- (2) Austin firefighters relief association;
- (3) Austin police relief association;
- (4) Columbia Heights fire department relief association, paid division;
- (5) Fairmont police benefit association;
- (6) Faribault fire department relief association;
- (7) Mankato fire department relief association;
- (8) Minneapolis fire department relief association;
- (9) Minneapolis police relief association;
- (10) Richfield fire department relief association;
- (11) Rochester fire department relief association;
- (12) Rochester police relief association;
- (13) St. Cloud fire department relief association;
- (14) St. Cloud police relief association;
- (15) St. Paul fire department relief association;
- (16) South St. Paul firefighters relief association;
- (17) West St. Paul firefighters relief association;
- (18) West St. Paul police relief association; and
- (19) Winona fire department relief association.

(b) "Salary" for benefit computation purposes means the salary of a first grade patrol officer for the second month of the previous fiscal year and for contribution purposes means the current salary of a first grade patrol officer, for the former members of the following consolidating relief associations:

- (1) Bloomington police relief association;
- (2) Crystal police relief association;
- (3) Fridley police pension association;
- (4) Richfield police relief association;
- (5) St. Louis Park police relief association; and
- (6) Winona police relief association.

(c) "Salary" for benefit computation purposes means the final salary and for contribution purposes means the current salary for the former members of the following consolidating relief associations:

- (1) Albert Lea firefighters relief association;
- (2) Albert Lea police relief association;
- (3) Buhl police relief association;
- (4) Chisholm firefighters relief association;
- (5) Crookston fire department relief association;
- (6) Crookston police relief association;
- (7) Faribault police benefit association;
- (8) Red Wing police relief association; and
- (9) Virginia fire department relief association.

(d) "Salary" for benefit computation purposes means the average earnings or salary for the final six months of employment before retirement and for contribution purposes means the current salary for the former members of the following consolidating relief associations:

MINNESOTA STATUTES 2002

1061

LOCAL RELIEF ASSOCIATION BENEFIT PLANS 353B.03

- (1) Chisholm police relief association;
- (2) Hibbing firefighters relief association; and
- (3) Hibbing police relief association.

(e) "Salary" for benefit computation purposes means the greater of the final salary at retirement or the highest salary of a patrol officer and for contribution purposes means the greater of the current salary or the current highest salary of a patrol officer for the former members of the following consolidating relief associations:

- (1) Brainerd police benefit association; and
- (2) New Ulm police relief association.

(f) "Salary" for benefit computation and contribution purposes means the following for the former members of the consolidating relief associations as indicated:

(1) salary of a top grade patrol officer, including longevity pay and education incentive pay in an amount not to exceed \$235 per month, Columbia Heights police relief association;

(2) maximum pay of a firefighter, including overtime payments for a regular workweek of a firefighter mandated by the federal Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, as amended, Duluth firefighters relief association;

(3) salary of a first class patrol officer with 16 years of service, Duluth police pension association;

(4) base salary for the rank currently held, plus longevity pay, pay for eligibility for next higher rank and pay for first aid care, Mankato police benefit association;

(5) average annual salary for highest three paid years for benefit computation purposes and current salary for contribution purposes, Red Wing fire department relief association;

(6) pay of the highest grade full-time firefighter, St. Louis Park fire department relief association;

(7) maximum monthly pay of a patrol officer, St. Paul police relief association;

(8) prevailing base pay of rank held at retirement for benefit computation purposes and current salary for contribution purposes, South St. Paul police relief association; and

(9) prevailing pay for rank held for at least six months before retirement for benefit computation purposes and current salary for contribution purposes, Virginia police relief association.

Subd. 11. **Salary base.** "Salary base" means the salary amount as defined in subdivision 10 to which a specified percentage rate or rates shall be applied in determining a service pension, disability benefit, or survivor benefit.

Subd. 12. **Year of allowable service.** "Year of allowable service" means any 12 calendar months, not necessarily consecutive, in which a member of a consolidating relief association received compensation for being a police officer or firefighter, whichever applies, from the municipality in which the consolidating relief association was located and was eligible to credit for service.

History: 1987 c 296 s 19; 1993 c 126 art 2 s 1; 1994 c 474 art 2 s 1

353B.03 COVERAGE AND TERMINATION OF COVERAGE.

Any person who was a member of a consolidating relief association and who is a police officer or firefighter, whichever applies, in the municipality in which the consolidating relief association was located on or after the effective date of consolidation shall be eligible for the applicable benefit coverage provided for in this chapter.

Upon termination of active employment in the position which gave rise to the eligibility of the person for coverage by this chapter, that eligibility for benefit coverage shall terminate.

History: 1987 c 296 s 20

353B.04 ADMINISTRATION.

The benefit coverage under this chapter shall be administered by the public employees retirement association. Unless otherwise specified and where not inconsistent with a provision of this chapter, the provisions of chapter 353 shall govern in the administration of this chapter.

History: 1987 c 296 s 21

353B.05 LOCAL RELIEF ASSOCIATION ACCOUNTS WITHIN FUND.

Subdivision 1. **Accounts.** The local relief association consolidation accounts are governed by section 353A.09.

Subd. 2. **Member contribution rates.** (a) Except as provided in paragraph (b), the member contribution rate for all consolidating local relief association members shall be eight percent of salary.

(b) The member contribution rate shall be the following for the former members of the consolidating relief associations as indicated:

(1) The Federal Insurance Contribution Act percentage amount plus four percent applied to salary equal to or less than the Federal Social Security Act taxable wage base and four percent applied to salary in excess of the Federal Social Security Act taxable wage base, Mankato fire department relief association, and Mankato police benefit associations;

(2) 8.75 percent of salary, New Ulm police relief association; and

(3) 8.25 percent of salary, St. Cloud police relief association.

Subd. 3. **Account disbursement restricted.** A local relief association consolidation account shall be disbursed only for the purposes provided in sections 353A.01 to 353A.10 and this chapter. The amounts necessary to make authorized disbursements from a local relief association consolidation account are annually appropriated.

History: 1987 c 296 s 22

353B.06 TREASURER OF ACCOUNTS; INVESTMENT.

Subdivision 1. **Treasurer.** The state treasurer is the ex officio treasurer of the accounts as provided in section 353.05.

Subd. 2. **Investment.** The assets of the account shall be invested by the state board of investment as provided in section 353.06.

History: 1987 c 296 s 23

353B.07 SERVICE PENSIONS.

Subdivision 1. **Age and service eligibility requirements.** (a) Except as provided in paragraph (b), upon termination of active employment as a police officer or firefighter, whichever applies, in the city in which the consolidating local relief association was located, a person who was a member of a consolidating local relief association who has attained the age of at least 50 years and who has credit for at least 20 years of allowable service shall be entitled upon application to receive a service pension.

(b) The age and service eligibility requirements upon termination of active employment as a police officer or firefighter, whichever applies, in the city in which the consolidating local relief association was located for entitlement upon application for the receipt of a service pension shall be the following for the former members of the consolidating relief associations as indicated:

(1) attainment of the age of 55 years and the acquisition of credit for at least 20 years of allowable service, Chisholm firefighters relief association and Chisholm police relief association;

(2) attainment of the age of 60 years and the acquisition of credit for at least 20 years of allowable service, Crookston fire department relief association;

(3) attainment of the age of 50 years and the acquisition of credit for at least ten years of allowable service, Crookston police relief association;

MINNESOTA STATUTES 2002

1063

LOCAL RELIEF ASSOCIATION BENEFIT PLANS 353B.07

(4) attainment of the age of 50 years and the acquisition of credit for at least ten years of allowable service, Fridley police pension association;

(5) attainment of the age of 55 years and the acquisition of credit for at least 20 years of allowable service, Hibbing firefighters relief association and Hibbing police relief association;

(6) attainment of the age of 50 years if first employed before January 1, 1968, or of the age of 55 years if first employed after December 31, 1967, and the acquisition of credit for at least 20 years of allowable service, Richfield fire department relief association;

(7) attainment of the age of 55 years and the acquisition of credit for at least 20 years of allowable service credit, Richfield police relief association;

(8) attainment of the age of 50 years if first employed prior to July 1, 1969, or of the age of 55 years if first employed after June 30, 1969, and the acquisition of credit for at least 20 years of allowable service, Rochester fire department relief association and Rochester police relief association; and

(9) attainment of the age of 55 years and the acquisition of credit for at least 20 years of allowable service, West St. Paul firefighters relief association.

Subd. 2. **Service pension.** The service pension shall be the formula percentage rate or rates specified in subdivision 4 applied to the salary base cited in section 353B.02, subdivision 11.

Subd. 3. **Formula percentage rate.** (a) The formula percentage rate shall be 2.333 percent per year of allowable service for each of the first 20 years of allowable service, 1.333 percent per year of allowable service for each year of allowable service in excess of 20 years but not in excess of 27 years, and .5 percent for each year of allowable service in excess of 25 years for the former members of the following consolidating relief associations:

- (1) Rochester fire department relief association;
- (2) Rochester police relief association;
- (3) St. Cloud fire department relief association;
- (4) St. Cloud police relief association;
- (5) St. Louis Park police relief association; and
- (6) Winona police relief association.

(b) The formula percentage rate shall be 2.5 percent per year of allowable service for each of the first 20 years of allowable service for the former members of the following consolidating relief associations:

- (1) Albert Lea police relief association;
- (2) Anoka police relief association;
- (3) Faribault fire department relief association;
- (4) Faribault police benefit association;
- (5) Mankato police benefit association;
- (6) Red Wing police relief association; and
- (7) West St. Paul police relief association.

(c) The formula percentage rate shall be 2.5 percent per year of allowable service for each of the first 20 years of allowable service and .5 percent per year of allowable service for each year of service in excess of 25 years of allowable service for the former members of the following consolidating relief associations:

- (1) Austin firefighters relief association;
- (2) Austin police relief association;
- (3) South St. Paul firefighters relief association;
- (4) South St. Paul police relief association; and
- (5) Virginia police relief association.

MINNESOTA STATUTES 2002

(d) The formula percentage rate shall be 2.1875 percent per year of allowable service for each of the first 20 years of allowable service and 1.25 percent per year of allowable service for each year of allowable service in excess of 20 years of allowable service but not in excess of 27 years of allowable service for the former members of the Columbia Heights police relief association.

(e) The formula percentage rate shall be 2.65 percent per year of allowable service for each of the first 20 years of allowable service and an additional annual benefit of \$120 per year of allowable service in excess of 20 years of allowable service but not in excess of 25 years of allowable service for the former members of the following consolidating relief associations:

- (1) Hibbing firefighters relief association; and
- (2) Hibbing police relief association.

(f) The formula percentage rate or rates shall be the following for the former members of the consolidating relief associations as indicated:

(1) 2.5 percent per year of allowable service for each of the first 20 years of allowable service, one percent per year of allowable service in excess of 20 years of allowable service but not more than 25 years of allowable service, and 1.5 percent per year of allowable service in excess of 25 years of allowable service, Albert Lea firefighters relief association;

(2) 2.5333 percent per year of allowable service for each of the first 20 years of allowable service and 1.3333 percent per year of allowable service in excess of 20 years of allowable service; but not in excess of 27 years of allowable service, if service as an active member terminated before January 31, 1994, and 2.3333 percent per year of allowable service for each of the first 20 years of allowable service and 1.3333 percent per year of allowable service for each year of allowable service in excess of 20 years of allowable service, but not in excess of 27 years of allowable service if service as an active member terminated on or after January 31, 1994, Bloomington police relief association;

(3) the greater of 2.5 percent per year of allowable service for each of the first 20 years of allowable service applied to the final salary base, or two percent per year of allowable service for each of the first 20 years of allowable service applied to top grade patrol officer's salary base, Brainerd police relief association;

(4) 4.25 percent per year of allowable service for each of the first 20 years of allowable service and an additional benefit of \$10 per month per year of allowable service in excess of 20 years of allowable service but not more than 25 years of allowable service, Buhl police relief association;

(5) 2.5 percent per year of allowable service for each of the first 20 years of allowable service and an additional benefit of \$5 per month per year of allowable service in excess of 20 years of allowable service but not more than 25 years of allowable service, Chisholm firefighters relief association;

(6) 2.5 percent per year of allowable service for each of the first 20 years of allowable service and an additional benefit of \$5 per month per year of allowable service in excess of 20 years of allowable service but not more than 25 years of allowable service and .5 percent per year of allowable service in excess of 25 years of allowable service, Chisholm police relief association;

(7) 2.1875 percent per year of allowable service for each year of the first 20 years of allowable service, 1.25 percent per year of allowable service in excess of 20 years of allowable service but not more than 25 years of allowable service and 1.75 percent per year of allowable service in excess of 25 years of allowable service, Columbia Heights fire department relief association, paid division;

(8) 2.5 percent per year of allowable service for each year of the first 20 years of allowable service and 1.5 percent per year of allowable service rendered after attaining the age of 60 years, Crookston fire department relief association;

(9) 2.5 percent per year of allowable service for each year of the first 30 years of allowable service, Crookston police relief association;

MINNESOTA STATUTES 2002

1065

LOCAL RELIEF ASSOCIATION BENEFIT PLANS 353B.07

(10) 2.25 percent per year of allowable service for each year of the first 20 years of allowable service and 1.25 percent per year of allowable service in excess of 20 years of allowable service, but not more than 27 years of service, Crystal police relief association;

(11) 1.99063 percent per year of allowable service for each year of the first 20 years of allowable service, 1.25 percent for the 21st year of allowable service, and 2.5 percent per year of allowable service in excess of 21 years of allowable service but not more than 25 years of allowable service, Duluth firefighters relief association;

(12) 1.9875 percent per year of allowable service for each year of the first 20 years of allowable service, 1.25 percent for the 21st year of allowable service, and 2.5 percent per year of allowable service in excess of 21 years of allowable service but not more than 25 years of allowable service, Duluth police relief association;

(13) 2.5 percent per year of allowable service for each year of the first 20 years of allowable service, and two percent per year of allowable service in excess of 20 years but not more than 25 years of allowable service and not to include any year of allowable service rendered after attaining the age of 55 years, Fairmont police benefit association;

(14) two percent per year of allowable service for each year of the first ten years of allowable service, 2.67 percent per year of allowable service in excess of ten years of allowable service but not more than 20 years of allowable service and 1.3333 percent per year of allowable service in excess of 20 years of service but not more than 27 years of allowable service, Fridley police pension association;

(15) 2.5 percent per year of allowable service for each year of the first 20 years of allowable service and an additional annual amount of \$30 per year of allowable service in excess of 20 years of allowable service but not more than 30 years of allowable service, Mankato fire department relief association;

(16) for members who terminated active service as a Minneapolis firefighter before June 1, 1993, 2.0625 percent per year of allowable service for each year of the first 20 years of allowable service, 1.25 percent per year of allowable service in excess of 20 years of allowable service but not more than 24 years of allowable service and five percent for the 25th year of allowable service, and for members who terminated active service as a Minneapolis firefighter after May 31, 1993, two percent for each year of the first 19 years of allowable service, 3.25 percent for the 20th year of allowable service, and two percent per year of allowable service in excess of 20 years of service, but not more than 25 years of allowable service, Minneapolis fire department relief association;

(17) two percent per year of allowable service for each year of the first 25 years of allowable service, Minneapolis police relief association;

(18) the greater of 2.5 percent per year of allowable service for each of the first 20 years of allowable service applied to the final salary base, or two percent per year of allowable service for each of the first 20 years of allowable service applied to highest patrol officer's salary base plus .5 percent of the final salary base per year of allowable service for each of the first three years of allowable service in excess of 20 years of allowable service, New Ulm police relief association;

(19) two percent per year of allowable service for each of the first 25 years of allowable service and 1.5 percent per year of allowable service in excess of 25 years of allowable service, Red Wing fire department relief association;

(20) 2.75 percent per year of allowable service for each of the first 20 years of allowable service, Richfield fire department relief association;

(21) 2.4 percent per year of allowable service for each of the first 20 years of allowable service and 1.3333 percent per year of allowable service in excess of 20 years of allowable service but not more than 27 years of allowable service, Richfield police relief association;

(22) for a former member with less than 20 years of allowable service on June 16, 1985, 2.6 percent, and for a former member with 20 or more years of allowable service on June 16, 1985, 2.6175 percent for each of the first 20 years of allowable service and,

for each former member, one percent for each year of allowable service in excess of 20 years, but no more than 30 years, St. Louis Park fire department relief association;

(23) 1.9375 percent per year of allowable service for each of the first 20 years of allowable service, 2.25 percent per year of allowable service in excess of 20 years of allowable service but not more than 25 years of allowable service, and .5 percent per year of allowable service in excess of 25 years of allowable service, St. Paul fire department relief association;

(24) two percent per year of allowable service for each of the first 25 years of allowable service and .5 percent per year of allowable service in excess of 25 years of allowable service, St. Paul police relief association;

(25) 2.25 percent per year of allowable service for each of the first 20 years of allowable service and one percent per year of allowable service in excess of 20 years but not more than 25 years of allowable service and .5 percent per year of allowable service in excess of 25 years, Virginia fire department relief association;

(26) two percent per year of allowable service for each of the first 20 years of allowable service, one percent per year of allowable service in excess of 20 years but not more than 24 years of allowable service, three percent for the 25th year of allowable service and one percent per year of allowable service in excess of 25 years of allowable service but not more than 30 years of allowable service, West St. Paul firefighters relief association; and

(27) 2.333 percent for each of the first 20 years of allowable service, 1.333 percent for each year of allowable service in excess of 20 years but no more than 28 years, and .5 percent for each year of allowable service in excess of 25 years, Winona fire department relief association.

Subd. 4. Application. The application for a service pension shall be made in writing on a form prescribed by the executive director of the public employees retirement association by the person entitled to the service pension, or by a person authorized to act on the behalf of that person, and shall be accompanied by appropriate substantiation in writing of the age of the person entitled to the service pension.

Subd. 5. Accrual. A service pension governed by this section shall accrue as provided in section 353.29, subdivision 7.

Subd. 6. Payment. Payment of a service pension governed by this section shall be made in accordance with section 353.29, subdivision 8.

Subd. 7. Reemployment of service pensioner. The reemployment of a person receiving a service pension governed by this section by the municipality in which the consolidating local relief association was located or any governmental subdivision as that term is defined in section 353.01, subdivision 6, shall not effect the amount of the service pension.

History: 1987 c 296 s 24; 1993 c 125 art 2 s 1; 1993 c 202 art 2 s 1; 1994 c 590 art 2 s 1; 1997 c 241 art 2 s 2

353B.08 DISABILITY BENEFITS.

Subdivision 1. Duty disability eligibility requirements. (a) For any former member of a consolidating relief association, upon termination of active employment as a police officer or firefighter, whichever applies, in the municipality in which the consolidating local relief association was located, any person who was a member of a consolidating local relief association who is not entitled to a service pension, who becomes disabled from an injury or illness arising out of or in the course of the line of duty shall be entitled upon application to receive a duty disability benefit.

(b) The additional requirement of the acquisition of credit for at least one month of allowable service credit shall apply for former members of the Winona fire department relief association.

Subd. 2. Nonduty disability eligibility requirements. (a) For any former member of a consolidating relief association, upon termination of active employment as a police officer or firefighter, whichever applies, in the municipality in which the consolidating

MINNESOTA STATUTES 2002

1067

LOCAL RELIEF ASSOCIATION BENEFIT PLANS 353B.08

local relief association was located, any person who was a member of a consolidating local relief association, who is not entitled to a service pension, who becomes disabled from an injury or illness which does not arise out of or does not occur in the course of the line of duty shall be entitled upon application to receive a nonduty disability benefit.

(b) The following additional requirement shall apply for the former members of the consolidating relief associations as indicated:

(1) the acquisition of credit for at least ten years of allowable service credit, Chisholm firefighters relief association; and

(2) the acquisition of credit for at least one month of allowable service credit, Winona fire department relief association.

Subd. 2a. **Classes of disabilities in certain instances.** (a) Except as specified in paragraph (b), there shall be no classes of disabilities or disability benefits for former members of consolidating relief associations.

(b) The classes for disabilities and disability benefits shall be the following for the former members of the consolidating relief associations as indicated:

(1) A first class disability shall be a total inability to engage in any gainful employment resulting from any medically determinable injury or illness, a second class disability shall be an inability to engage in any gainful employment resulting from any medically determinable injury or illness which is greater than a 50 percent inability and less than a total inability, and a third class disability shall be an inability to engage in any gainful employment resulting from any medically determinable injury or illness which is less than a 50 percent inability but is an inability to perform the duties of a firefighter in the municipality, Hibbing firefighters relief association; and

(2) A disability shall be an inability to perform the duties of a firefighter in the municipality resulting from any medically determinable injury or illness, with a first class disability additionally requiring an inability to perform any manual labor, a second class disability additionally encompassing a disability less severe than a first class disability allowing for the performance of light manual labor or office work, and a third class disability additionally encompassing a disability less severe than a second class disability allowing for the performance of manual labor which is less strenuous or demanding than light manual labor, Minneapolis fire department relief association.

Subd. 3. **Application.** Every claim or demand for a disability benefit shall be initiated by a written application on a form prescribed by the executive director of the public employees retirement association which shall be accompanied by medical evidence to support the claimed disability.

Subd. 4. **Medical evidence; benefit eligibility; determination.** The medical basis for the claimed disability and the eligibility for a disability benefit shall be evaluated by the medical adviser for the public employees retirement association. If the submitted medical evidence is not conclusive to establish the claimed disability and eligibility for a disability benefit, the medical adviser shall notify the executive director of the public employees retirement association of that situation and the executive director shall undertake referral of the applicant to the applicable medical consultants for examination and medical recommendation. The recommendation of the medical adviser and that of any medical consultants shall be reviewed by the executive director. If there is sufficient evidence of the claimed disability and eligibility for a disability benefit, the executive director of the public employees retirement association shall grant the person the disability benefit. An appeal of any adverse determination may be made to the board of the public employees retirement association.

Subd. 5. **Benefit accrual.** The benefit shall accrue from the first day of the month next following the commencement of the disability or the first day of the month next following the date on which any sick leave, annual leave, or salary continuation payments cease.

Subd. 6. **Duty disability benefit amount.** (a) The duty disability benefit shall be an amount equal to the service pension amount to which the person would have been entitled if the person had credit for the greater of actual years of allowable service or

MINNESOTA STATUTES 2002

20 years of allowable service, had attained the minimum age for the receipt of a service pension, and had applied for a service pension rather than a disability benefit for the former members of the following consolidating relief associations:

- (1) Albert Lea firefighters relief association;
- (2) Albert Lea police relief association;
- (3) Anoka police relief association;
- (4) Austin police relief association;
- (5) Buhl police relief association;
- (6) Chisholm police relief association;
- (7) Duluth police relief association;
- (8) Faribault fire department relief association;
- (9) Mankato police benefit association;
- (10) Minneapolis police relief association;
- (11) New Ulm police relief association;
- (12) Red Wing police relief association;
- (13) St. Paul police relief association;
- (14) South St. Paul police relief association; and
- (15) Virginia police relief association.

(b) The duty disability benefit shall be an amount equal to 48 percent of the salary base for the former members of the following consolidating relief associations:

- (1) Fridley police pension association;
- (2) Richfield police relief association;
- (3) Rochester fire department relief association;
- (4) Rochester police relief association;
- (5) St. Cloud fire department relief association;
- (6) St. Cloud police relief association;
- (7) St. Louis Park police relief association; and
- (8) Winona police relief association.

(c) The duty disability benefit shall be an amount equal to 50 percent of the salary base for the former members of the following consolidating relief associations:

- (1) Austin firefighters relief association;
- (2) Crookston fire department relief association;
- (3) Fairmont police benefit association;
- (4) Mankato fire department relief association;
- (5) South St. Paul firefighters relief association; and
- (6) Virginia fire department relief association.

(d) The duty disability benefit shall be an amount equal to 45 percent of the salary base for the former members of the Crystal police relief association.

(e) The duty disability benefit shall be an amount equal to 40 percent of the salary base for the former members of the following consolidating relief associations:

- (1) West St. Paul firefighters relief association; and
- (2) West St. Paul police relief association.

(f) The duty disability benefit shall be the following for the former members of the consolidating relief associations, as indicated:

(1) 52 percent of the salary base for former members who were disabled before January 31, 1994, and 48 percent of the salary base for former members who become disabled after January 31, 1994, Bloomington police relief association;

(2) 40 percent of the top salary for a patrol officer, Brainerd police relief association;

- (3) \$100 per month, Chisholm firefighters relief association;

MINNESOTA STATUTES 2002

1069

LOCAL RELIEF ASSOCIATION BENEFIT PLANS 353B.08

(4) 37.5 percent of the salary base if the person has credit for less than ten years of allowable service, 43.75 percent of the salary base if the person has credit for more than nine years but less than 15 years of allowable service and 50 percent of the salary base if the person has credit for more than 14 years of allowable service credit, Columbia Heights fire department relief association, paid division;

(5) 43.75 percent of the salary base, Columbia Heights police relief association;

(6) 25 percent of the salary base if the person has credit for less than 12 years of allowable service and an additional amount equal to 2.5 percent of the salary base per year if allowable service for each year of allowable service in excess of 11 years of allowable service, not more than 50 percent, Crookston police relief association;

(7) 51.0625 percent of the salary base, Duluth firefighters relief association;

(8) 12.5 percent of the salary base if the person has credit for less than six years of allowable service, 2.5 percent of the salary base per year of allowable service if the person has more than five years of allowable service, but not more than 50 percent of the salary base, Faribault police benefit association;

(9) the dollar amount which equals the benefit which would be payable under chapter 176 for a comparable benefit which qualifies for a workers' compensation benefit for a first class disability, 75 percent of the amount payable in the event of a first class disability for a second class disability and 50 percent of the amount payable in the event of a first class disability for a third class disability, Hibbing firefighters relief association;

(10) \$120 per month, Hibbing police relief association;

(11) 51.25 percent of the salary base for a first class disability, 41.25 percent of the salary base for a second class disability, and 31.25 percent of the salary base for a third class disability, Minneapolis fire department relief association;

(12) 40 percent of the salary base if the person has credit for less than 20 years of allowable service and two percent of the salary base per year of allowable service if the person has more than 19 years of allowable service, but not more than 50 percent, Red Wing fire department relief association;

(13) 54 percent of the salary base, Richfield fire department relief association;

(14) 50 percent of the salary base if the person has credit for less than 20 years of allowable service and an amount equal to the service pension amount to which the person would have been entitled based on the applicable amount of allowable service if the person had attained the minimum age for the receipt of a service pension and had applied for a service pension rather than a disability benefit and if the person has credit for at least 20 years of allowable service, St. Louis Park fire department relief association;

(15) 50 percent of the salary base if the person is not able to perform the duties of any other gainful employment, 39.375 percent of the salary base if the person is only able to perform the duties of light manual labor or office employment and 33.75 percent of the salary base if the person is able to perform the duties of other manual labor, St. Paul fire department relief association; and

(16) 42.667 percent of the salary base, Winona fire department relief association.

Subd. 7. **Nonduty disability benefit amount.** (a) Except as specified in paragraph (b) or (c), the nonduty disability benefit shall be an amount equal to the amount of the duty disability benefit.

(b) The nonduty disability benefit shall be the following for the former members of the consolidating relief associations as indicated:

(1) of the salary of a top patrol officer, 30 percent if the person has credit for less than ten years of allowable service and 40 percent if the person has credit for ten or more years of allowable service, Brainerd police benefit association;

(2) a percentage of the salary base ranging from 39.8125 percent to 51.0625 percent as determined by the executive director of the public employees retirement association based on the severity of the circumstances and the extent of disability of the person, applied in a uniform manner and reflective to the extent practicable or

MINNESOTA STATUTES 2002

determinable to the past administrative practices of the board of the consolidating relief association before the effective date of the consolidation, Duluth firefighters relief association;

(3) two percent of the salary base per year of allowable service but in total not less than ten percent of the salary base and not more than 40 percent of the salary base, Red Wing fire department relief association;

(4) two percent of the salary base per year of allowable service but in total not more than 40 percent of the salary base, St. Paul police relief association; and

(5) 35 percent of the salary base, Virginia fire department relief association.

(c) No nonduty benefit shall be payable from the Crookston fire department relief association.

Subd. 8. **Workers' compensation offset.** (a) Except as specified in paragraph (b) and except to the extent that section 423A.14 applies, there shall be no reduction in the amount of any disability benefit by virtue of the receipt of any workers' compensation benefit or amount under chapter 176.

(b) The amount of any disability benefit payable shall be reduced by the amount of any workers' compensation benefit or amount received or receivable under chapter 176 for the former members of the following consolidating relief associations:

(1) Crookston fire department relief association;

(2) Red Wing police relief association; and

(3) West St. Paul police relief association.

Subd. 9. **Other benefit offsets.** (a) Except as specified in paragraph (b) and except to the extent that section 423A.14 applies, there shall be no reduction in the amount of any disability benefit by virtue of any gainful compensation engaged in following the commencement of the disability benefit.

(b) The amount of any disability benefit payable shall be reduced by the amount by which the benefit and income from any gainful employment exceeds 120 percent of the salary base for the former members of the West St. Paul firefighters relief association.

Subd. 10. **Other disability benefit coverage.** (a) For former members of the Buhl police relief association, a disabled member shall be entitled to a short-term disability benefit of \$8 per day for a maximum of 26 weeks, during which period no duty or nonduty disability benefit shall be payable.

(b) For former members of the Crookston police relief association, an additional benefit of \$25 per month for each child of the disabled person who has not attained the age of 18 years and who is actually dependent on the disabled person shall be payable, but in combination with the disability benefit payable as provided in subdivision 6 or 7, the total benefit shall not exceed 50 percent of the salary base.

Subd. 11. **Subsequent medical reexaminations.** Periodically, upon the recommendation of the medical adviser appointed as provided in section 353.33, subdivision 6a, based on the medical nature of the initial qualifying disability and its potential for improvement or recovery, the executive director of the public employees retirement association shall have a former member of a consolidating relief association who is receiving a disability benefit reexamined and reevaluated for continued entitlement to a disability benefit. If, upon the recommendation of the medical adviser, the executive director determines that the person is no longer entitled to receive a disability benefit, the disability benefit shall be discontinued effective as of the first day of the second month following that determination and the person shall be considered for reemployment as a police officer or a firefighter, whichever applies, by the municipality in which the consolidating relief association was located.

Subd. 12. **Return to service.** If a former member of a consolidating relief association who was receiving a disability benefit returns to active employment by a governmental subdivision, the disability benefit shall terminate, the person shall return to the appropriate active member status and shall retain any service credit rendered before the receipt of the disability benefit.

Subd. 13. **Recomputation of disability benefit.** (a) Except as additionally provided in paragraph (b), a disability benefit shall be recomputed as a service pension as provided in section 423A.11.

(b) A disability benefit shall be subject to the following recomputation as a service pension for the former members of the consolidating relief associations as indicated:

(1) for a person with 15 or more years of allowable service, the disability benefit shall be recomputed as a service pension upon the person attaining the age of 50 years based on credited allowable service, assuming a minimum of 20 years of service, Columbia Heights fire department relief association, paid division;

(2) for a person with more than 21 years of allowable service, the disability benefit shall be recomputed as a service pension upon the person attaining the age of 50 years based on credited allowable service, Crystal police relief association; and

(3) for a person with sufficient allowable service to result in a service pension amount greater than 40 percent of the salary base, the disability benefit shall be recomputed as a service pension upon the person attaining the age of 50 years based on credited allowable service, St. Paul police relief association.

History: 1987 c 296 s 25; 1993 c 202 art 2 s 2; 1997 c 241 art 2 s 3

353B.09 REFUND.

Subdivision 1. **Entitlement.** A former member of a consolidating relief association who terminates active employment as a police officer or firefighter, whichever applies, by the municipality in which the consolidating relief association is located, to whom no other benefit is payable and who is not reemployed by that or another governmental subdivision within a period of 30 days following the termination of employment shall be entitled to receive a refund.

Subd. 2. **Refund amount.** (a) Except as provided in paragraph (b), (c), or (d), the refund payable to a person entitled as provided in subdivision 1 shall be the total amount of accumulated member contributions, without interest.

(b) The refund payable to a person entitled as provided in subdivision 1 shall be 75 percent of the total amount of accumulated member contributions, without interest, for the former members of the following consolidating relief associations:

- (1) Bloomington police relief association;
- (2) Fridley police pension association;
- (3) Richfield police relief association;
- (4) Rochester fire department relief association;
- (5) Rochester police relief association;
- (6) St. Cloud police relief association;
- (7) St. Louis Park police relief association;
- (8) Winona fire department relief association; and
- (9) Winona police relief association.

(c) The refund payable to a person entitled as provided in subdivision 1 shall be \$500 plus \$100 per full year of allowable service in excess of five years of allowable service if the member terminates with at least five years of allowable service but less than 20 years of allowable service, for the former members of the Minneapolis police relief association.

(d) No refund shall be payable for the former members of the following consolidating relief associations:

- (1) Duluth firefighters relief association;
- (2) Duluth police pension association;
- (3) Minneapolis fire department relief association;
- (4) St. Paul fire department relief association; and
- (5) St. Paul police relief association.

History: 1987 c 296 s 26

353B.10 DEFERRED SERVICE PENSION.

Subdivision 1. **Entitlement.** (a) Except as specified in paragraph (b), any former member of a consolidating relief association who has terminated active employment, who has acquired sufficient allowable service credit but who has not attained the age applicable to that former member specified in section 353B.07, subdivision 1, may, in lieu of any refund to which the person may be entitled, leave the amount of any accumulated member contributions in the local relief association consolidation account and thereby be entitled to a deferred service pension upon or after attaining the specified age.

(b) Any former member who has terminated active employment, may, in lieu of any refund to which the person may be entitled, leave the amount of any accumulated member contributions in the local relief association consolidation account and thereby be entitled to a deferred service pension upon or after attaining the applicable specified age if the person has acquired the amount of allowable service credit as indicated for the former members of the following consolidating relief associations:

(1) at least 20 years of allowable service if the member terminated active employment before attaining the age of 50 years, deferred until the attainment of the age of 50 years, or at least ten years of allowable service but less than 20 years of allowable service if the member terminated active employment before attaining the age of 57 years, deferred until the attainment of the age of 57 years, Albert Lea police relief association;

(2) any period of allowable service, deferred until the attainment of the age of 50 years if first employed before January 1, 1968, or until the attainment of the age of 55 years if first employed after December 31, 1967, Richfield fire department relief association;

(3) any period of allowable service, deferred to the age of 55 years, Richfield police relief association;

(4) at least ten years of allowable service, deferred until the latter of the attainment of the age of 50 years or the first day of the month following the date on which the person would have acquired 20 years of allowable service credit assuming continuous future service, St. Louis Park fire department relief association and St. Louis Park police relief association; and

(5) at least ten years of allowable service, deferred until the attainment of the age of 50 years, West St. Paul police relief association.

Subd. 2. **Deferred service pension amount.** (a) Except as specified in paragraph (b), the deferred service pension shall be in the amount calculated as provided in section 353B.07.

(b) The deferred service pension shall be the following for the former members of the consolidating relief associations as indicated:

(1) for a deferred service pension based on at least ten years of allowable service but less than 20 years of allowable service, 2.5 percent of the salary base per year of allowable service, Albert Lea police relief association;

(2) the amount calculated as provided in section 353B.07, but not more than 50 percent of the salary base, Crystal police relief association;

(3) 2.5 percent per year of allowable service of the salary base, but not to exceed 50 percent of the salary base, Richfield fire department relief association;

(4) the amount calculated as provided in section 353B.07, but not more than 54.6667 percent of the salary base, if the person had at least 20 years of allowable service credit, or 2.3333 percent of the salary base per year of allowable service, but not more than 46.6667 percent of the salary base, if the person had less than 20 years of allowable service credit, and if the person dies before attaining the age of 55 years with less than 20 years of allowable service credit, no survivor benefits shall be payable but a refund as provided in section 353B.09 shall be payable, Richfield police relief association;

(5) the amount calculated as provided in section 353B.07, but not more than 53.3333 percent of the salary base, St. Cloud fire department relief association and St. Cloud police relief association;

(6) the amount calculated as provided in section 353B.07, but not more than 56 percent of the salary base, if the person had at least 20 years of allowable service credit or 2.3333 percent of the salary base per year of allowable service, but not more than 46.6667 percent of the salary base, if the person has less than 20 years of allowable service credit, St. Louis Park police relief association;

(7) for each of the first 20 years of allowable service credit, .5 percent of the salary base per year of allowable service for each year of allowable service rendered before October 1, 1965, and two percent of the salary base per year of allowable service for each year of allowable service rendered after September 30, 1965, and for each year of allowable service in excess of 20 years, one percent of the salary base per year of allowable service, but not more than 52 percent of the salary base, West St. Paul firefighters relief associations;

(8) the amount calculated as provided in section 353B.07, but not more than 50.6667 percent of the salary base, Winona fire department relief association; and

(9) the amount calculated as provided in section 353B.07, but not more than 53.3333 percent of the salary base, Winona police relief association.

Subd. 3. **Augmentation.** The deferred service pension shall not be augmented as provided in section 353.34, subdivision 3.

History: 1987 c 296 s 27

353B.11 SURVIVOR BENEFITS.

Subdivision 1. **Eligibility; surviving spouse benefit.** (a) Except as specified in paragraph (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), or (h), the person who survives a deceased active, deferred, or retired member, who was legally married to the member at the time of the death of the deceased member, who was legally married to the member for at least one year before the separation from active service if the deceased member was a deceased, deferred, or retired member and who was residing with the member at the time of the death of the deceased member shall be entitled to receive a surviving spouse benefit.

(b) The person who survives a deceased active, deferred, or retired member, who was legally married to the member at the time of the death of the deceased member, who was legally married to the member at the time of separation from active service if the deceased member was a deceased deferred or retired member and who was residing with the member at the time of the death of the member shall be entitled to receive a surviving spouse benefit in the case of former members of the following consolidating relief associations:

- (1) Albert Lea police relief association;
- (2) Anoka police relief association;
- (3) Austin police relief association;
- (4) Brainerd police benefit association;
- (5) Columbia Heights police relief association;
- (6) Crookston fire department relief association;
- (7) Crookston police relief association;
- (8) Fairmont police benefit association;
- (9) Faribault police benefit association;
- (10) Mankato fire department relief association;
- (11) Red Wing police relief association;
- (12) South St. Paul police relief association;
- (13) Virginia fire department relief association;
- (14) Virginia police relief association; and
- (15) West St. Paul police relief association.

(c) The person who survives a deceased active, deferred, or retired member, who was legally married to the member at the time of the death of the deceased member, and who was legally married to the member at the time of separation from active service if the deceased member was a deceased deferred or retired member shall be entitled to receive a surviving spouse benefit in the case of former members of the following consolidating relief associations:

- (1) Chisholm police relief association;
- (2) Hibbing police relief association;
- (3) Mankato police benefit association; and
- (4) New Ulm police relief association.

(d) The person who survives a deceased active, deferred, or retired member, who was legally married to the member at the time of the death of the deceased member, who was either legally married to the member at the time of separation from active service or legally married the member after the time of separation from active service and was married for at least three years before the date of death of the member if the deceased member was a deceased deferred or retired member, and who was residing with the member at the time of the death of the member is entitled to receive a surviving spouse benefit in the case of former members of the Austin firefighters relief association.

(e) The person who survives a deceased active, deferred, or retired member, who was legally married to the member at the time of the death of the deceased member, who was legally married to the member for at least five years before death if the deceased member was the recipient of a service pension or was entitled to a deferred service pension, and who was residing with the member at the time of the death of the deceased member in the case of former members of the Minneapolis fire department relief association.

(f) The person who survives a deceased active, deferred, or retired member, who was legally married to the member at the time of the death of the deceased member, who was residing with the member at the time of the death of the decedent, and, if the deceased member was the recipient of a service pension or was entitled to a deferred service pension at the time of death, who was legally married to the member for at least five years before the member's death, in the case of former members of the Minneapolis police relief association.

(g) The person who survives a deceased active, deferred, or retired member, who was legally married to the member at the time of the death of the deceased member, who was legally married to the member for at least three years before the separation from active service if the deceased member was a deceased, retired, or deferred member and who was residing with the member at the time of the death of the member shall be entitled to receive a surviving spouse benefit in the case of former members of the South St. Paul firefighters relief association.

(h) The person who survives a deceased active, deferred, or retired member who was legally married to the member at the time of the death of the deceased member, who was legally married to the member for at least one year before the separation from active service if the deceased member was a deceased, deferred, or retired member and who had not deserted the member at the time of the death of the deceased member shall be entitled to receive a surviving spouse benefit in the case of former members of the St. Paul police relief association.

Subd. 2. Eligibility; surviving child benefit. (a) Except as specified in paragraph (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), or (g), the person who survives a deceased active, deferred, or retired member, who is the child of the deceased member and who is younger than age 18 at the time of the death of the deceased member shall be entitled to receive a surviving child benefit.

(b) The person who survives a deceased active, deferred, or retired member, who is the child of the deceased member, and who is younger than age 18 if the person is not a full-time student or age 22 if the person is a full-time student shall be entitled to

MINNESOTA STATUTES 2002

1075

LOCAL RELIEF ASSOCIATION BENEFIT PLANS 353B.11

receive a surviving child benefit in the case of former members of the following consolidating relief associations:

- (1) Bloomington police relief association;
- (2) Buhl police relief association;
- (3) Columbia Heights fire department relief association, paid division;
- (4) Duluth firefighters relief association;
- (5) Duluth police pension association;
- (6) Minneapolis fire department relief association;
- (7) Minneapolis police relief association; and
- (8) St. Paul fire department relief association.

(c) The person who survives a deceased active, deferred, or retired member, who is the child of the deceased member and who is younger than age 16 shall be entitled to receive a surviving child benefit in the case of former members of the following consolidating relief associations:

- (1) Chisholm police relief association; and
- (2) Hibbing police relief association.

(d) The person who survives a deceased active, deferred, or retired member, who is the child of the deceased member and who is younger than age 19 shall be entitled to receive a surviving child benefit in the case of former members of the Albert Lea firefighters relief association.

(e) The person who survives a deceased active, deferred, or retired member, who is the child of the deceased member and who is younger than age 18 if the person is not a full-time student or age 21 if the person is a full-time student shall be entitled to receive a surviving child benefit in the case of former members of the Crookston police relief association.

(f) The person who survives a deceased active, deferred, or retired member, who is the child of the deceased member, who was dependent on the deceased member and who is younger than age 18 shall be entitled to receive a surviving child benefit in the case of former members of the Red Wing police relief association.

(g) The person who survives a deceased active, deferred, or retired member, who is the child of the deceased member and who is younger than age 18 if the person is not a full-time student or age 23 if the person is a full-time student shall be entitled to receive a surviving child benefit in the case of former members of the St. Paul police relief association.

Subd. 3. Amount; surviving spouse benefit. (a) The surviving spouse benefit shall be 30 percent of the salary base for the former members of the following consolidating relief associations:

- (1) Albert Lea firefighters relief association;
- (2) Albert Lea police relief association;
- (3) Anoka police relief association;
- (4) Austin police relief association;
- (5) Brainerd police benefit association;
- (6) Crookston police relief association;
- (7) Faribault fire department relief association; and
- (8) West St. Paul firefighters relief association.

(b) The surviving spouse benefit shall be 25 percent of the salary base for the former members of the following consolidating relief associations:

- (1) Chisholm police relief association;
- (2) Duluth firefighters relief association;
- (3) Duluth police pension association;
- (4) Fairmont police benefit association;
- (5) Red Wing fire department relief association;

- (6) South St. Paul police relief association; and
- (7) West St. Paul police relief association.
- (c) The surviving spouse benefit shall be 24 percent of the salary base for the former members of the following consolidating relief associations:
 - (1) Fridley police pension association;
 - (2) Richfield police relief association;
 - (3) Rochester fire department relief association;
 - (4) Rochester police relief association;
 - (5) Winona fire department relief association; and
 - (6) Winona police relief association.
- (d) The surviving spouse benefit shall be 40 percent of the salary base for the former members of the following consolidating relief associations:
 - (1) Columbia Heights fire department relief association, paid division; and
 - (2) New Ulm police relief association.
- (e) The surviving spouse benefit shall be 30 percent of the salary base for the former members of the following consolidating relief associations:
 - (1) Hibbing firefighters relief association; and
 - (2) Hibbing police relief association.
- (f) The surviving spouse benefit shall be 23.75 percent of the salary base for the former members of the following consolidating relief associations:
 - (1) Crystal police relief associations; and
 - (2) Minneapolis police relief association.
- (g) The surviving spouse benefit shall be 32 percent of the salary base for the former members of the following consolidating relief associations:
 - (1) St. Cloud fire department relief association; and
 - (2) St. Cloud police relief association.
- (h) The surviving spouse benefit shall be one-half of the service pension or disability benefit which the deceased member was receiving as of the date of death, or of the service pension which the deferred member would have been receiving if the service pension had commenced as of the date of death or of the service pension which the active member would have received based on the greater of the allowable service credit of the person as of the date of death or 20 years of allowable service credit if the person would have been eligible as of the date of death, for the former members of the following consolidating relief associations:
 - (1) Virginia fire department relief association; and
 - (2) Virginia police relief association.
- (i) The surviving spouse benefit shall be the following for the former members of the consolidating relief associations as indicated:
 - (1) 30 percent of the salary base, reduced by any amount awarded or payable from the service pension or disability benefit of the deceased former firefighter to a former spouse of the member by virtue of the legal dissolution of the member's marriage to the former spouse if the surviving spouse married the member after the time of separation from active service, Austin firefighters relief association;
 - (2) 27.333 percent of the salary base, or one-half of the service pension payable to or accrued by the deceased former member, whichever is greater, Bloomington police relief association;
 - (3) 72.25 percent of the salary base, Buhl police relief association;
 - (4) 50 percent of the service pension which the active member would have received based on allowable service credit to the date of death and prospective service from the date of death until the date on which the person would have attained the normal retirement age, 50 percent of the service pension which the deferred member would have been receiving if the service pension had commenced as of the date of death or

MINNESOTA STATUTES 2002

1077

LOCAL RELIEF ASSOCIATION BENEFIT PLANS 353B.11

\$175 per month if the deceased member was receiving a service pension or disability benefit as of the date of death, Chisholm firefighters relief association;

(5) two-thirds of the service pension or disability benefit which the deceased member was receiving as of the date of death, or of the service pension which the deferred member would have been receiving if the service pension had commenced as of the date of death or of the service pension which the active member would have received based on the greater of the allowable service credit of the person as of the date of death or 20 years of allowable service credit if the person would have been eligible as of the date of death, Columbia Heights police relief association;

(6) the greater of \$300 per month or one-half of the service pension or disability benefit which the deceased member was receiving as of the date of death, or of the service pension which the deferred member would have been receiving if the service pension had commenced as of the date of death or of the service pension which the active member would have received based on the allowable service credit of the person as of the date of death if the person would have been eligible as of the date of death, Crookston fire department relief association;

(7) \$100 per month, Faribault police benefit association;

(8) 60 percent of the service pension or disability benefit which the deceased member was receiving as of the date of death, or of the service pension which the deferred member would have been receiving if the service pension had commenced as of the date of death or of the service pension which the active member would have received based on the allowable service credit of the person as of the date of death if the person would have been eligible as of the date of death, Mankato fire department relief association;

(9) \$175 per month, Mankato police benefit association;

(10) 26.25 percent of the salary base, Minneapolis fire department relief association;

(11) equal to the service pension or disability benefit which the deceased member was receiving as of the date of death, or of the service pension which the deferred member would have been receiving if the service pension had commenced as of the date of death or of the service pension which the active member would have received based on the allowable service credit of the person as of the date of death if the person would have been eligible as of the date of death, Red Wing police relief association;

(12) 78.545 percent of the benefit amount payable prior to the death of the deceased active, disabled, deferred, or retired firefighter if that firefighter's benefit was 55 percent of salary or would have been 55 percent of salary if the firefighter had survived to begin benefit receipt; or 80 percent of the benefit amount payable prior to the death of the deceased active, disabled, deferred, or retired firefighter if that firefighter's benefit was 54 percent of salary or would have been 54 percent of salary if the firefighter had survived to begin benefit receipt, Richfield fire department relief association;

(13) 40 percent of the salary base for a surviving spouse of a deceased active member, disabled member, or retired or deferred member with at least 20 years of allowable service, or the prorated portion of 40 percent of the salary base that bears the same relationship to 40 percent that the deceased member's years of allowable service bear to 20 years of allowable service for the surviving spouse of a deceased retired or deferred member with at least ten but less than 20 years of allowable service, St. Louis Park fire department relief association;

(14) 26.6667 percent of the salary base, St. Louis Park police relief association;

(15) 27.5 percent of the salary base, St. Paul fire department relief association;

(16) 27.5 percent of the salary base, St. Paul police relief association; and

(17) 27 percent of the salary base, South St. Paul firefighters relief association.

Subd. 4. Amount; surviving child benefit. (a) The surviving child benefit shall be eight percent of the salary base for the former members of the following consolidating relief associations:

- (1) Fridley police pension association;
- (2) Red Wing fire department relief association;
- (3) Richfield police relief association;
- (4) Rochester fire department relief association;
- (5) Rochester police relief association;
- (6) St. Cloud police relief association;
- (7) St. Louis Park police relief association;
- (8) South St. Paul firefighters relief association;
- (9) Winona fire department relief association; and
- (10) Winona police relief association.

(b) The surviving child benefit shall be \$25 per month for the former members of the following consolidating relief associations:

- (1) Anoka police relief association;
- (2) Austin firefighters relief association;
- (3) Austin police relief association;
- (4) Faribault police benefit association;
- (5) Hibbing firefighters relief association;
- (6) Mankato police benefit association;
- (7) South St. Paul police relief association; and
- (8) Virginia fire department relief association.

(c) The surviving child benefit shall be ten percent of the salary base for the former members of the following consolidating relief associations:

- (1) Albert Lea police relief association;
- (2) Crookston police relief association;
- (3) Duluth firefighters relief association;
- (4) Duluth police pension association;
- (5) Faribault fire department relief association; and
- (6) Minneapolis fire department relief association.

(d) The surviving child benefit shall be five percent of the salary base for the former members of the following consolidating relief associations:

- (1) Columbia Heights fire department relief association, paid division;
- (2) St. Paul police relief association; and
- (3) West St. Paul firefighters relief associations.

(e) The surviving child benefit shall be \$15 per month for the former members of the following consolidating relief associations:

- (1) Crookston fire department relief association;
- (2) Hibbing police relief association; and
- (3) West St. Paul police relief association.

(f) The surviving child benefit shall be 7.5 percent of the salary base for the former members of the following consolidating relief associations:

- (1) Bloomington police relief association; and
- (2) Crystal police relief association.

(g) The surviving child benefit shall be the following for the former members of the consolidating relief associations as indicated:

- (1) ten percent of the salary base if a surviving spouse benefit is also payable, that amount between ten percent of the salary base and 50 percent of the salary base as determined by the executive director of the public employees retirement association, based on the financial circumstances and need of the surviving child or surviving children, applied in a uniform manner, reflective to the extent practicable or determinable to the past administrative practices of the board of the consolidating relief

MINNESOTA STATUTES 2002

1079

LOCAL RELIEF ASSOCIATION BENEFIT PLANS 353B.11

association before the effective date of the consolidation if there is a surviving spouse but no surviving spouse benefit is also payable on account of the remarriage of the surviving spouse, or 50 percent of the salary base, payable in equal shares for more than one surviving child, if there is no surviving spouse, Albert Lea firefighters relief association;

(2) four percent of the salary base, Brainerd police benefit association;

(3) \$125 per month if a surviving spouse benefit is also payable or an amount equal to the surviving spouse benefit, payable in equal shares if there is more than one surviving child, if no surviving spouse benefit is payable, Buhl police relief association;

(4) \$15 per month, Chisholm firefighters relief association;

(5) \$125 per month, Chisholm police relief association;

(6) \$50 per month, Columbia Heights police relief association;

(7) 6.25 percent of the salary base, Fairmont police benefit association;

(8) 12.5 percent of the service pension or disability benefit which the deceased member was receiving as of the date of death, or of the service pension which the deferred member would have been receiving if the service pension had commenced as of the date of death or of the service pension which the active member would have received based on the allowable service credit of the person as of the date of death if the person would have been eligible as of the date of death, Mankato fire department relief association;

(9) ten percent of the salary base if a surviving spouse benefit is also payable or an amount determined by the executive director of the public employees retirement association based on the financial circumstances and need of the surviving child or surviving children, applied in a uniform manner, and subject to the largest applicable amount surviving child benefit maximum if no surviving spouse benefit is also payable, Minneapolis police relief association;

(10) \$25 per month if a surviving spouse benefit is also payable or an amount equal to the surviving spouse benefit, payable in equal shares if there is more than one surviving child, New Ulm police relief association;

(11) in an amount determined by the executive director of the public employees retirement association based on the financial circumstances and need of the surviving child or surviving children, applied in a uniform manner, reflective to the extent practicable or determinable to the past administrative practices of the board of the consolidating relief association before the effective date of the consolidation and not more than the largest surviving child benefit amount prescribed for any other actual or potential consolidating relief association as provided in this section, Red Wing police relief association;

(12) 9.818 percent of the benefit payable to the firefighter or to which the firefighter would have been eligible at the time of death if that firefighter's benefit was or would have been 55 percent of salary and if a surviving spouse benefit is also payable or 29.454 percent if a surviving spouse benefit is not payable; or ten percent of the benefit payable to the firefighter or to which the firefighter would have been eligible at the time of death if that firefighter's benefit was or would have been 54 percent of salary and if a surviving spouse benefit is also payable or 30 percent if a surviving spouse benefit is not payable, Richfield fire department relief association;

(13) 5.3334 percent of the salary base, St. Cloud fire department relief association;

(14) five percent of the salary base if a surviving spouse benefit is also payable or 15 percent of the salary base if no surviving spouse benefit is also payable for the surviving child or children of a deceased active member, disabled member, or retired or deferred member with at least 20 years of active service, or the prorated portion of five percent of the salary base if a surviving spouse benefit is also payable or 15 percent of the salary base if no surviving spouse benefit is also payable that bears the same relationship to five or 15 percent that the deceased member's years of allowable service bear to 20 years of allowable service for the surviving child or children of a deceased

MINNESOTA STATUTES 2002

retired or deferred member with at least ten but less than 20 years of allowable service, St. Louis Park fire department relief association;

- (15) ten percent of the salary base, St. Paul fire department relief association; and
- (16) \$50 per month, Virginia police relief association.

Subd. 5. **Survivor benefit maximum.** (a) No surviving children or surviving family maximum shall be applicable to former members of the following consolidating relief associations:

- (1) Buhl police relief association;
- (2) Chisholm firefighters relief association;
- (3) Chisholm police relief association;
- (4) Hibbing firefighters relief association;
- (5) Mankato police benefit association;
- (6) New Ulm police relief association;
- (7) Red Wing fire department relief association;
- (8) Red Wing police relief association;
- (9) St. Paul police relief association; and
- (10) South St. Paul police relief association.

(b) The surviving children maximum shall be 24 percent of the salary base, if a surviving spouse benefit is also payable or 48 percent of the salary base, if no surviving spouse benefit is also payable, for the former members of the following consolidating relief associations:

- (1) Fridley police pension association;
- (2) Richfield police relief association;
- (3) Rochester fire department relief association;
- (4) Rochester police relief association;
- (5) Winona fire department relief association; and
- (6) Winona police relief association.

(c) The surviving family maximum shall be 50 percent of the salary base for the former members of the following consolidating relief associations:

- (1) Anoka police relief association;
- (2) Austin firefighters relief association;
- (3) Austin police relief association;
- (4) Duluth firefighters relief association; and
- (5) St. Louis Park fire department relief association.

(d) The surviving family maximum shall be an amount equal to the service pension which a retiring member would have received based on 20 years of allowable service credit if the member had attained the age of at least 50 years in the case of an active member, or of the service pension which the deferred member would have been receiving if the service pension had commenced as of the date of death in the case of a deferred member, or of the service pension or disability benefit which the deceased member was receiving as of the date of death, for the former members of the following consolidating relief associations:

- (1) Columbia Heights police relief association;
- (2) Virginia fire department relief association; and
- (3) Virginia police relief association.

(e) The surviving children maximum shall be 25 percent of the salary base, if a surviving spouse benefit is also payable or 50 percent of the salary base, if no surviving spouse benefit is also payable, for the former members of the following consolidating relief associations:

- (1) Duluth police pension association; and
- (2) Fairmont police benefit association.

MINNESOTA STATUTES 2002

1081

LOCAL RELIEF ASSOCIATION BENEFIT PLANS 353B.11

(f) The surviving children maximum shall be 22.5 percent of the salary base, if a surviving spouse benefit is also payable or 45 percent of the salary base, if no surviving spouse benefit is also payable, for the former members of the Crystal police relief association.

(g) The surviving children maximum shall be 16 percent of the salary base, if a surviving spouse benefit is also payable or 48 percent of the salary base, if no surviving spouse benefit is also payable, for the former members of the following consolidating relief associations:

- (1) St. Cloud fire department relief association; and
- (2) St. Cloud police relief association.

(h) The surviving children maximum shall be 20 percent of the salary base, if a surviving spouse benefit is also payable or 50 percent of the salary base, if no surviving spouse benefit is also payable, for the former members of the following consolidating relief associations:

- (1) Albert Lea firefighters relief association;
- (2) Albert Lea police relief association; and
- (3) Faribault fire department relief association.

(i) The surviving family maximum shall be the following for the former members of the consolidating relief associations:

- (1) 60 percent of the salary base, Bloomington police relief association;
- (2) \$450 per month, Crookston police relief association;
- (3) 80 percent of the service pension or disability benefit which the deceased member was receiving as of the date of death, or of the service pension which the deferred member would have been receiving if the service pension had commenced as of the date of death or of the service pension which the active member would have received based on the greater of the allowable service credit of the person as of the date of death or 20 years of allowable service credit if the person would have been eligible as of the date of death, Mankato fire department relief association;

(4) 98.182 percent of the benefit amount payable or to which the firefighter was eligible prior to the death of the firefighter if that firefighter's benefit was or would have been 55 percent of salary, or 100 percent of the benefit amount payable or to which the firefighter was eligible prior to the death of the firefighter if that firefighter's benefit was or would have been 54 percent of salary, Richfield fire department relief association; and

- (5) 57.5 percent of the salary base, St. Paul fire department relief association.

(j) The surviving child maximum shall be the following for the former members of the consolidating relief associations:

(1) 20 percent of the top salary payable to a patrol officer, Brainerd police benefit association;

(2) ten percent of the salary base, if a surviving spouse benefit is also payable or 15 percent of the salary base, if no surviving spouse benefit is also payable, Columbia Heights fire department relief association, paid division;

(3) \$105 per month if a surviving spouse benefit is also payable or \$90 per month if no surviving spouse benefit is also payable, Crookston fire department relief association;

- (4) \$125 per month, Faribault police benefit association;

(5) \$30 per month if a surviving spouse benefit is also payable or \$180 per month if no surviving spouse benefit is also payable, Hibbing police relief association;

(6) 25 percent of the salary base, if a surviving spouse benefit is also payable or 51.25 percent of the salary base, if no surviving spouse benefit is also payable, Minneapolis fire department relief association;

(7) 17.5 percent of the salary base, if a surviving spouse benefit is also payable or 50 percent of the salary base, if no surviving spouse benefit is also payable, Minneapolis police relief association;

- (8) 24 percent of the salary base, St. Louis Park police relief association;
- (9) 23 percent of the salary base, if a surviving spouse benefit is also payable or 50 percent of the salary base, if no surviving spouse benefit is also payable, South St. Paul firefighters relief association;
- (10) ten percent of the salary base, West St. Paul firefighters relief association; and
- (11) \$30 per month if a surviving spouse benefit is also payable or \$75 per month if no surviving spouse benefit is also payable, West St. Paul police relief association.

Subd. 6. **Discontinuation; surviving spouse benefit.** For all consolidating relief associations, a surviving spouse benefit terminates only upon the death of the person entitled to receive or receiving a surviving spouse benefit.

Subd. 7. **Discontinuation; surviving child benefit.** A surviving child benefit shall terminate upon the loss of eligible surviving child status by the person previously entitled to receive or receiving a surviving child benefit.

Subd. 8. **Other death benefit coverage.** Any lump sum death benefit or funeral benefit provided for in the governing benefit plan documents shall be considered to be special benefit coverage governed by section 353A.08, subdivision 6, for the former members of the following consolidating relief associations:

- (1) Crookston fire department relief association;
- (2) Hibbing firefighters relief association;
- (3) Mankato fire department relief association;
- (4) Red Wing fire department relief association; and
- (5) Richfield fire department relief association.

History: 1987 c 296 s 28; 1991 c 269 art 2 s 8; 1993 c 124 art 2 s 1,2; 1993 c 202 art 2 s 3-6; 1993 c 307 art 4 s 44; 1994 c 491 art 2 s 1; 1994 c 590 art 2 s 2; 1994 c 591 art 2 s 1; 1996 c 448 art 4 s 1,2; 1997 c 241 art 2 s 4-6; 2000 c 461 art 3 s 26

353B.12 POSTRETIREMENT BENEFIT ADJUSTMENTS.

Subdivision 1. **Service pension.** (a) Except as specified in paragraph (b), (c), (d), or (e), any service pension payable to a former member of a consolidating relief association shall be increased annually by the same percentage that the salary base has increased.

(b) The amount of any service pension other than any additional benefit on one-half of one percent of the salary base per year of allowable service for allowable service in excess of 25 years of service shall be increased annually by the same percentage that the salary base has increased for former members of the following consolidating relief associations:

- (1) Austin firefighters relief association;
- (2) Austin police relief association;
- (3) Columbia Heights fire department relief association, paid division;
- (4) Columbia Heights police relief association;
- (5) St. Paul fire department relief association;
- (6) St. Paul police relief association;
- (7) South St. Paul firefighters relief association;
- (8) South St. Paul police relief association;
- (9) Virginia police relief association;
- (10) Winona fire department relief association; and
- (11) Winona police relief association.

(c) The amount of any service pension other than any additional benefit on one-half of one percent of the salary base per year of allowable service for allowable service in excess of 25 years of service shall be increased annually by the same percentage that the salary base has increased for former members employed before July 1, 1969, and by one-half of the dollar amount of the increase payable to former members employed

MINNESOTA STATUTES 2002

1083

LOCAL RELIEF ASSOCIATION BENEFIT PLANS 353B.12

before July 1, 1969, for former members employed after June 30, 1969, of the following consolidating relief associations:

- (1) Rochester fire department relief association; and
- (2) Rochester police relief association.

(d) The amount of any service pension shall not be subject to any annual postretirement adjustment for former members of the following consolidating relief associations:

- (1) Crookston fire department relief association; and
- (2) Crookston police relief association.

(e) The amount of the annual postretirement adjustment shall be the following for the former members of the consolidating relief associations as indicated:

(1) the amount of any service pension other than any additional benefit of one-half of one percent of the salary base per year of allowable service for allowable service in excess of 25 years of service shall be increased annually by the same percentage that the salary of a top grade firefighter has increased, Albert Lea firefighters relief association;

(2) the amount of any service pension shall be increased by the amount of any positive difference between the service pension payable for the month before the effective date of a postretirement increase and the amount equal to 50 percent of the salary of a first class patrol officer on the effective date of a postretirement increase, Albert Lea police relief association;

(3) for a service pension calculated using the top salary of a patrol officer, the service pension shall be increased by an amount equal to the percentage that the top salary of a patrol officer has increased, Brainerd police benefit association;

(4) the amount of any service pension shall be increased by 3.5 percent annually if there is any increase in the salary base, Buhl police relief association;

(5) the amount of any service pension shall be increased by three percent annually if there is any increase in the salary base, Chisholm firefighters relief association;

(6) the amount of any service pension other than any additional benefit of one-half of one percent of the salary base per year of allowable service for allowable service in excess of 25 years of service shall be increased by three percent annually, Chisholm police relief association;

(7) the amount of any service pension shall be increased by an amount equal to one-half of the percentage that the salary base has increased, Faribault police benefit association;

(8) the amount of any service pension based on at least 20 years of allowable service shall be increased by the same percentage that the salary base has increased and the amount of any service pension based on less than 20 years of allowable service shall be increased by the percentage that the salary base has increased or by three percent, whichever is less, annually, Fridley police pension association;

(9) the amount of any service pension shall be increased by one-half of the dollar amount of any increase in the salary base, Hibbing police relief association;

(10) for a service pension calculated using the salary of the highest salaried patrol officer, the service pension other than any additional benefit of one-half of one percent of final salary for the first three years of allowable service in excess of 20 years of allowable service shall be increased by the same percentage that the salary of the highest salaried patrol officer has increased, New Ulm police relief association;

(11) the amount of any service pension other than any additional benefit of one-half of one percent of the salary base per year of allowable service for allowable service in excess of 25 years of allowable service shall be increased by the same percentage that the consumer price index for all items for urban wage earners published by the federal Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, has increased over the previous 12-month period, Red Wing fire department relief association;

MINNESOTA STATUTES 2002

(12) the amount of any service pension shall be increased by the same percentage that the consumer price index for all items for urban wage earners published by the federal Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, has increased over the previous 12-month period, Red Wing police relief association;

(13) the amount of any service pension other than any additional benefit of one-half of one percent of the salary base per year of allowable service for allowable service in excess of 25 years of allowable service shall be increased by the same percentage that the salary base has increased or by 3.5 percent, whichever is less, annually, Virginia fire department relief association; and

(14) the amount of any service pension payable to a person who has attained the age of at least 55 years shall be increased by the same percentage that the salary base has increased or by 3.5 percent, whichever is less, annually, West St. Paul police relief association.

Subd. 2. Deferred service pension. (a) Except as specified in paragraph (b), any deferred service pension payable to a former member of a consolidating relief association shall be credited annually with an increase of the same percentage or amount that a service pension is to be increased as provided in subdivision 1. The amount of any postretirement increases credited during the period of deferral shall be added to the amount of the service pension payable as of the date of the termination of employment as a police officer or firefighter, whichever applies, and payable as of the date of the initial service pension payment as provided in section 353B.10.

(b) Any deferred service pension shall not be subject to any postretirement adjustment for former members of the following consolidating relief associations:

- (1) Crookston fire department relief association; and
- (2) Crookston police relief association.

Subd. 3. Disability benefit. (a) Except as specified in paragraph (b), (c), and (d), any disability benefit payable to a former member of a consolidating relief association shall be increased annually by the same percentage or amount that a service pension is to be increased as provided in subdivision 1.

(b) The amount of any disability benefit shall not be subject to any annual postretirement adjustment for former members of the following consolidating relief associations:

- (1) Crookston fire department relief association;
- (2) Crookston police relief association; and
- (3) Hibbing firefighters relief association.

(c) The amount of any disability benefit shall be increased annually by the same percentage that the salary of the position which the disabled person held at the time of the disability has increased over the previous 12-month period for former members of the Columbia Heights police relief association.

(d) The amount of any disability benefit shall be increased annually by the amount of any positive difference between the disability benefit payable for the month before the effective date of a postretirement increase and the amount equal to 50 percent of the salary of a first class patrol officer on the effective date of a postretirement increase for former members of the Albert Lea police relief association.

Subd. 4. Surviving spouse benefit. (a) Except as specified in paragraphs (b), (c), and (d), any surviving spouse benefit payable on behalf of a deceased former member of a consolidating relief association shall be increased annually by the same percentage or amount that a service pension is to be increased as provided in subdivision 1.

(b) The amount of any surviving spouse benefit shall not be subject to any annual postretirement adjustment for former members of the following consolidating relief associations:

- (1) Buhl police relief association;
- (2) Chisholm firefighters relief association;
- (3) Chisholm police relief association;

- (4) Crookston fire department relief association;
- (5) Crookston police relief association;
- (6) Faribault police benefit association;
- (7) Hibbing firefighters relief association;
- (8) Hibbing police relief association; and
- (9) Mankato police benefit association.

(c) The amount of any surviving spouse benefit shall be increased annually by the percentage that the salary base has increased over the previous 12-month period for former members of the West St. Paul police relief association.

(d) The amount of any surviving spouse benefit shall be increased annually by the amount of any positive difference between the surviving spouse benefit payable for the month before the effective date of a postretirement increase and the amount equal to 30 percent of the salary of a first class patrol officer on the effective date of a postretirement increase for former members of the Albert Lea police relief association.

Subd. 5. Surviving child benefit. (a) Except as specified in paragraphs (b), (c), and (d), any surviving child benefit payable on behalf of a former member of a consolidating relief association shall be increased annually by the same percentage or amount that a service pension is to be increased as provided in subdivision 1.

(b) The amount of any surviving child benefit shall not be subject to any annual postretirement adjustment for former members of the following consolidating relief associations:

- (1) Anoka police relief association;
- (2) Austin firefighters relief association;
- (3) Austin police relief association;
- (4) Buhl police relief association;
- (5) Chisholm firefighters relief association;
- (6) Chisholm police relief association;
- (7) Columbia Heights police relief association;
- (8) Crookston fire department relief association;
- (9) Crookston police relief association;
- (10) Faribault police benefit association;
- (11) Hibbing firefighters relief association;
- (12) Hibbing police relief association;
- (13) Mankato police benefit association;
- (14) Red Wing police relief association;
- (15) South St. Paul police relief association;
- (16) Virginia fire department relief association;
- (17) Virginia police relief association; and
- (18) West St. Paul police relief association.

(c) The amount of any surviving child benefit shall be subject to an annual postretirement adjustment only if no surviving spouse benefit is also payable and the annual adjustment shall be the same percentage or amount that a service pension is to be increased as provided in subdivision 1 for former members of the New Ulm police relief association.

(d) The amount of any surviving child benefit shall be increased annually by the amount of any positive difference between the surviving child benefit payable for the month before the effective date of a postretirement increase and the amount equal to ten percent of the salary of a first class patrol officer on the effective date of a postretirement increase for former members of the Albert Lea police relief association.

Subd. 6. Family maximum benefit. (a) Except as specified in paragraph (b), any family maximum benefit payable on behalf of a former member of a consolidating

relief association shall be increased as provided for its component surviving spouse or surviving child benefits.

(b) The amount of any family maximum benefit shall be increased annually by the amount of any positive difference between the family maximum benefit payable for the month before the effective date of a postretirement increase and the amount equal to 50 percent of the salary of a first class patrol officer on the effective date of a postretirement increase for former members of the Albert Lea police relief association.

Subd. 7. Effective date for postretirement increases. Any postretirement increases as provided in this section shall occur once per calendar year. If the postretirement increase is based on the increase in a base salary amount, the postretirement increase shall be payable as of the first of the month next following the effective date of the triggering salary increase. If more than one salary increase occurs in a calendar year, only one postretirement increase shall take effect in that calendar year and the next succeeding postretirement increase shall take into account any additional salary increases which occurred since the immediately previous postretirement increase and shall occur on the date occurring 12 months after the date of the immediately previous postretirement increase or the first of the month next following the effective date of any triggering salary increase in that calendar year, whichever occurs first. If the increase in the base salary amount upon which the postretirement increase is based includes retroactive payments to an earlier date, the applicable postretirement increase may also be payable retroactive to that date. If the postretirement increase is based on the consumer price index or is a set annual percentage amount, the postretirement increase shall be payable as of the first day of February.

History: 1987 c 296 s 29

353B.13 OTHER BENEFIT COVERAGE.

(a) A person who is a former member of the Austin firefighters relief association who receives a service pension or a disability pension from the relief association and who is under age 65 or who is not yet eligible for the receipt of federal Medicare benefits, whichever occurs first, and the person's spouse, if the spouse would be eligible for a surviving spouse benefit upon the death of the pension recipient, is entitled to receive a health or medical insurance premium benefit in an amount equal to the amount that the city of Austin would pay under the applicable collective bargaining agreement for medical or health insurance coverage for a firefighter who is employed by the city, who has a spouse and who has no other dependents, payable monthly, in addition to any other pension amount received by the eligible pension recipient, and not subject to any postretirement adjustments applicable to service pensions or disability pensions.

(b) A person who is a former member of the New Ulm police relief association, who retired from the New Ulm police department after October 15, 1985, and who is receiving a service pension after the effective date of consolidation as provided in section 353A.06, shall be entitled to receive a supplemental benefit of \$80 per month for each month following the date of retirement until the last day of the month in which the person attains the age of 65 years.

(c) The payment of the premiums for medical and dental insurance coverage and the payment of a lump sum amount at retirement for former members of the St. Cloud fire department relief association and the payment of the premiums for medical insurance coverage and the payment of a lump sum amount at retirement for former members of the St. Cloud police relief association as provided for in the governing benefit plan documents shall be considered to be special benefit coverage governed by section 353A.08, subdivision 6.

(d) A person who is a former member of the St. Paul fire department relief association who is unable to perform normally assigned fire department service due to a medically determinable physical or mental illness or injury and who is removed from the fire department payroll, upon application, until recovery, or for a period of 90 days or for a period of 150 days upon a showing of need and a medical report indicating a

MINNESOTA STATUTES 2002

1087

LOCAL RELIEF ASSOCIATION BENEFIT PLANS 353B.14

reasonable prognosis for recovery due to the extended period, whichever occurs first, shall be entitled to a sick relief benefit for each day of that inability, payable monthly, in an amount of 1.5625 percent of the salary base per day.

History: 1987 c 296 s 30; 1996 c 448 art 4 s 3

353B.14 DISPUTE OVER BENEFIT AMOUNTS OR PLAN PROVISIONS.

In the event of any dispute by or on behalf of any former member of a consolidating relief association after the effective date of consolidation over the amount of a benefit to which the person may be entitled, the proper interpretation of a provision of sections 353B.01 to 353B.14, or the conformity of the provisions of sections 353B.01 to 353B.14 to the provisions of the benefit plan of the consolidating relief association in effect immediately before the date on which the consolidation process was initiated, the dispute shall be submitted in writing to the legislative commission on pensions and retirement by the person who is a party to the dispute or by the executive director of the public employees retirement association. The legislative commission on pensions and retirement shall review the dispute as part of its deliberations on proposed or pending retirement legislation and shall make its recommendation on the resolution of the dispute, if any, to the appropriate committees of the senate and house of representatives with jurisdiction over public employee pension matters in the form of the necessary legislation amending the provisions of sections 353B.01 to 353B.14, which legislation shall include retroactivity of any increase in a benefit amount or any omitted benefit amount to the date on which the benefit subject to dispute accrued or would have accrued.

History: 1987 c 296 s 31