

Retirement

CHAPTER 352

MINNESOTA STATE RETIREMENT SYSTEM

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352.01 DEFINITIONS.

Subdivision 1. **Terms.** Unless the language or context clearly indicates that a different meaning is intended, the terms defined in this section, for the purposes of this chapter, have the meanings given them.

Subd. 2. **State employee.** "State employee" means any employee or officer in the classified and unclassified service of the state. The term also includes the special classes of persons listed in subdivision 2a but excludes the special classes of persons listed in subdivision 2b.

Subd. 2a. **Included employees.** (a) "State employee" includes:

- (1) employees of the Minnesota Historical Society;
- (2) employees of the State Horticultural Society;
- (3) employees of the Disabled American Veterans, Department of Minnesota, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Minnesota, if employed before July 1, 1963;
- (4) employees of the Minnesota Crop Improvement Association;
- (5) employees of the adjutant general who are paid from federal funds and who are not covered by any federal civilian employees retirement system;
- (6) employees of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities employed under the university or college activities program;
- (7) currently contributing employees covered by the system who are temporarily employed by the legislature during a legislative session or any currently contributing employee employed for any special service as defined in subdivision 2b, clause (8);
- (8) employees of the Armory Building Commission;
- (9) employees of the legislature appointed without a limit on the duration of their employment and persons employed or designated by the legislature or by a legislative

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committee or commission or other competent authority to conduct a special inquiry, investigation, examination, or installation;

(10) trainees who are employed on a full-time established training program performing the duties of the classified position for which they will be eligible to receive immediate appointment at the completion of the training period;

(11) employees of the Minnesota Safety Council;

(12) any employees on authorized leave of absence from the Transit Operating Division of the former Metropolitan Transit Commission who are employed by the labor organization which is the exclusive bargaining agent representing employees of the Transit Operating Division;

(13) employees of the Metropolitan Council, Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission, Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission, Metropolitan Mosquito Control Commission, or Metropolitan Radio Board unless excluded or covered by another public pension fund or plan under section 473.415, subdivision 3;

(14) judges of the Tax Court;

(15) personnel employed on June 30, 1992, by the University of Minnesota in the management, operation, or maintenance of its heating plant facilities, whose employment transfers to an employer assuming operation of the heating plant facilities, so long as the person is employed at the University of Minnesota heating plant by that employer or by its successor organization; and

(16) seasonal help in the classified service employed by the Department of Revenue.

(b) Employees specified in paragraph (a), clause (15), are included employees under paragraph (a) if employer and employee contributions are made in a timely manner in the amounts required by section 352.04. Employee contributions must be deducted from salary. Employer contributions are the sole obligation of the employer assuming operation of the University of Minnesota heating plant facilities or any successor organizations to that employer.

Subd. 2b. Excluded employees. "State employee" does not include:

(1) students employed by the University of Minnesota, or the state colleges and universities, unless approved for coverage by the Board of Regents or the Board of Trustees of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, as the case may be;

(2) employees who are eligible for membership in the state Teachers Retirement Association, except employees of the Department of Education who have chosen or may choose to be covered by the general state employees retirement plan of the Minnesota State Retirement System instead of the Teachers Retirement Association;

(3) employees of the University of Minnesota who are excluded from coverage by action of the Board of Regents;

(4) officers and enlisted personnel in the National Guard and the naval militia who are assigned to permanent peacetime duty and who under federal law are or are required to be members of a federal retirement system;

(5) election officers;

(6) persons who are engaged in public work for the state but who are employed by contractors when the performance of the contract is authorized by the legislature or other competent authority;

(7) officers and employees of the senate, or of the house of representatives, or of a legislative committee or commission who are temporarily employed;

(8) receivers, jurors, notaries public, and court employees who are not in the judicial branch as defined in section 43A.02, subdivision 25, except referees and adjusters employed by the Department of Labor and Industry;

(9) patient and inmate help in state charitable, penal, and correctional institutions including the Minnesota Veterans Home;

(10) persons who are employed for professional services where the service is incidental to their regular professional duties and whose compensation is paid on a per diem basis;

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- (11) employees of the Sibley House Association;
- (12) the members of any state board or commission who serve the state intermittently and are paid on a per diem basis; the secretary, secretary-treasurer, and treasurer of those boards if their compensation is \$5,000 or less per year, or, if they are legally prohibited from serving more than three years; and the board of managers of the State Agricultural Society and its treasurer unless the treasurer is also its full-time secretary;
- (13) state troopers;
- (14) temporary employees of the Minnesota State Fair who are employed on or after July 1 for a period not to extend beyond October 15 of that year; and persons who are employed at any time by the state fair administration for special events held on the fairgrounds;
- (15) emergency employees who are in the classified service; except that if an emergency employee, within the same pay period, becomes a provisional or probationary employee on other than a temporary basis, the employee shall be considered a "state employee" retroactively to the beginning of the pay period;
- (16) persons who are described in section 352B.01, subdivision 2, clauses (2) to (6);
- (17) temporary employees in the classified service, and temporary employees in the unclassified service who are appointed for a definite period of not more than six months and who are employed less than six months in any one-year period;
- (18) trainee employees, except those listed in subdivision 2a, clause (10);
- (19) persons whose compensation is paid on a fee basis;
- (20) state employees who are employed by the Board of Trustees of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities in unclassified positions enumerated in section 43A.08, subdivision 1, clause (9);
- (21) state employees who in any year have credit for 12 months service as teachers in the public schools of the state and as teachers are members of the Teachers Retirement Association or a retirement system in St. Paul, Minneapolis, or Duluth;
- (22) employees of the adjutant general who are employed on an unlimited intermittent or temporary basis in the classified or unclassified service for the support of Army and Air National Guard training facilities;
- (23) chaplains and nuns who are excluded from coverage under the federal Old Age, Survivors, Disability, and Health Insurance Program for the performance of service as specified in United States Code, title 42, section 410(a)(8)(A), as amended, if no irrevocable election of coverage has been made under section 3121(r) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended through December 31, 1992;
- (24) examination monitors who are employed by departments, agencies, commissions, and boards to conduct examinations required by law;
- (25) persons who are appointed to serve as members of fact-finding commissions or adjustment panels, arbitrators, or labor referees under chapter 179;
- (26) temporary employees who are employed for limited periods under any state or federal program for training or rehabilitation, including persons who are employed for limited periods from areas of economic distress, but not including skilled and supervisory personnel and persons having civil service status covered by the system;
- (27) full-time students who are employed by the Minnesota Historical Society intermittently during part of the year and full-time during the summer months;
- (28) temporary employees who are appointed for not more than six months, of the Metropolitan Council and of any of its statutory boards, if the board members are appointed by the Metropolitan Council;
- (29) persons who are employed in positions designated by the Department of Employee Relations as student workers;
- (30) members of trades who are employed by the successor to the Metropolitan Waste Control Commission, who have trade union pension plan coverage under a collective bargaining agreement, and who are first employed after June 1, 1977;
- (31) persons who are employed in subsidized on-the-job training, work experience, or public service employment as enrollees under the federal Comprehensive Employ-

ment and Training Act after March 30, 1978, unless the person has as of the later of March 30, 1978, or the date of employment sufficient service credit in the retirement system to meet the minimum vesting requirements for a deferred annuity, or the employer agrees in writing on forms prescribed by the director to make the required employer contributions, including any employer additional contributions, on account of that person from revenue sources other than funds provided under the federal Comprehensive Employment and Training Act, or the person agrees in writing on forms prescribed by the director to make the required employer contribution in addition to the required employee contribution;

(32) off-duty peace officers while employed by the Metropolitan Council;

(33) persons who are employed as full-time police officers by the Metropolitan Council and as police officers are members of the public employees police and fire fund;

(34) persons who are employed as full-time firefighters by the Department of Military Affairs and as firefighters are members of the public employees police and fire fund;

(35) foreign citizens with a work permit of less than three years, or an H-1b/JV visa valid for less than three years of employment, unless notice of extension is supplied which allows them to work for three or more years as of the date the extension is granted, in which case they are eligible for coverage from the date extended; and

(36) persons who are employed by the Board of Trustees of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities and who elect to remain members of the Public Employees Retirement Association or the Minneapolis Employees Retirement Fund, whichever applies, under section 136C.75.

Subd. 3. Head of department. "Head of department" means the head of any department, institution, or branch of the state service that directly pays salaries out of its income or that prepares, approves, and submits salary abstracts of its employees to the commissioner of finance.

Subd. 4. Accumulated contributions. "Accumulated contributions" means the total, exclusive of interest, of (1) the sums deducted from the salary of an employee, (2) the amount of payments, including assessments, paid by the employee in lieu of salary deductions and all other payments made under Laws 1929, chapter 191, as amended, and credited to the employee's individual account in the retirement fund.

Subd. 5. Retirement fund. "The retirement fund" includes the aggregate of accumulated contributions of employees, and all other funds paid into the state treasury or received by the director under Laws 1929, chapter 191, as amended, together with all income and profits from the money and interest on it, including contributions on the part of the federal government, the state, and state departments.

Subd. 6. [Repealed, Ex1967 c 57 s 29]

Subd. 7. [Repealed, 1993 c 307 art 7 s 1]

Subd. 8. [Repealed, 1957 c 928 s 33]

Subd. 9. [Repealed, 1957 c 928 s 33]

Subd. 10. [Repealed, 1963 c 383 s 59]

Subd. 11. Allowable service. "Allowable service" means:

(1) Service by an employee for which on or before July 1, 1957, the employee was entitled to allowable service credit on the records of the system by reason of employee contributions in the form of salary deductions, payments in lieu of salary deductions, or in any other manner authorized by Minnesota Statutes 1953, chapter 352, as amended by Laws 1955, chapter 239.

(2) Service by an employee for which on or before July 1, 1961, the employee chose to obtain credit for service by making payments to the fund under Minnesota Statutes 1961, section 352.24.

(3) Except as provided in clauses (8) and (9), service by an employee after July 1, 1957, for any calendar month in which the employee is paid salary from which deductions are made, deposited, and credited in the fund, including deductions made, deposited, and credited as provided in section 352.041.

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(4) Except as provided in clauses (8) and (9), service by an employee after July 1, 1957, for any calendar month for which payments in lieu of salary deductions are made, deposited, and credited in the fund, as provided in section 352.27 and Minnesota Statutes 1957, section 352.021, subdivision 4.

For purposes of clauses (3) and (4), except as provided in clauses (8) and (9), any salary paid for a fractional part of any calendar month, including the month of separation from state service, is deemed the compensation for the entire calendar month.

(5) The period of absence from their duties by employees who are temporarily disabled because of injuries incurred in the performance of duties and for which disability the state is liable under the workers' compensation law until the date authorized by the director for the commencement of payments of a total and permanent disability benefit from the retirement fund.

(6) Service covered by a refund repaid as provided in section 352.23 or 352D.05, subdivision 4, except service rendered as an employee of the adjutant general for which the person has credit with the federal civil service retirement system.

(7) Service before July 1, 1978, by an employee of the transit operating division of the Metropolitan Transit Commission or by an employee on an authorized leave of absence from the Transit Operating Division of the Metropolitan Transit Commission who is employed by the labor organization which is the exclusive bargaining agent representing employees of the Transit Operating Division, which was credited by the Metropolitan Transit Commission-Transit Operating Division employees retirement fund or any of its predecessor plans or funds as past, intermediate, future, continuous, or allowable service as defined in the Metropolitan Transit Commission-Transit Operating Division employees retirement fund plan document in effect on December 31, 1977.

(8) Service after July 1, 1983, by an employee who is employed on a part-time basis for less than 50 percent of full time, for which the employee is paid salary from which deductions are made, deposited, and credited in the fund, including deductions made, deposited, and credited as provided in section 352.041 or for which payments in lieu of salary deductions are made, deposited, and credited in the fund as provided in section 352.27 shall be credited on a fractional basis either by pay period, monthly, or annually based on the relationship that the percentage of salary earned bears to a full-time salary, with any salary paid for the fractional service credited on the basis of the rate of salary applicable for a full-time pay period, month, or a full-time year. For periods of part-time service that is duplicated service credit, section 356.30, subdivision 1, clauses (i) and (j), govern.

Allowable service determined and credited on a fractional basis shall be used in calculating the amount of benefits payable, but service as determined on a fractional basis must not be used in determining the length of service required for eligibility for benefits.

(9) Any period of authorized leave of absence without pay that does not exceed one year and for which the employee obtained credit by payment to the fund in lieu of salary deductions. To obtain credit, the employee shall pay an amount equal to the employee and employer contribution rate in section 352.04, subdivisions 2 and 3, multiplied by the employee's hourly rate of salary on the date of return from leave of absence and by the days and months of the leave of absence without pay for which the employee wants allowable service credit. The employing department, at its option, may pay the employer amount on behalf of its employees. Payments made under this clause must include interest at an annual rate of 8.5 percent compounded annually from the date of termination of the leave of absence to the date payment is made unless payment is completed within one year of the return from leave of absence.

(10) MS 2002 [Expired]

(11) [Expired, 2002 c 392 art 2 s 4]

Subd. 12. **Actuarial equivalent.** "Actuarial equivalent" means the condition of one annuity or benefit having an equal actuarial present value as another annuity or benefit,

determined as of a given date at a specified age with each actuarial present value based on the appropriate mortality table adopted by the board of directors based on the experience of the fund as recommended by the actuary retained by the Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement and using the applicable preretirement or postretirement interest rate assumption specified in section 356.215, subdivision 8.

Subd. 13. **Salary.** (a) "Salary" means wages, or other periodic compensation, paid to an employee before deductions for deferred compensation, supplemental retirement plans, or other voluntary salary reduction programs.

(b) "Salary" does not include:

- (1) lump sum sick leave payments;
- (2) severance payments;
- (3) lump sum annual leave payments and overtime payments made at the time of separation from state service;
- (4) payments in lieu of any employer-paid group insurance coverage, including the difference between single and family rates that may be paid to an employee with single coverage;
- (5) payments made as an employer-paid fringe benefit;
- (6) workers' compensation payments;
- (7) employer contributions to a deferred compensation or tax sheltered annuity program; and
- (8) amounts contributed under a benevolent vacation and sick leave donation program.

(c) Amounts provided to an employee by the employer through a grievance proceeding or a legal settlement are salary only if the settlement is reviewed by the executive director and the amounts are determined by the executive director to be consistent with paragraph (a) and prior determinations.

Subd. 13a. **Reduced salary during period of workers' compensation.** An employee on leave of absence receiving temporary workers' compensation payments and a reduced salary or no salary from the employer who is entitled to allowable service credit for the period of absence, may make payment to the fund for the difference between salary received, if any, and the salary the employee would normally receive if not on leave of absence during the period. The employee shall pay an amount equal to the employee and employer contribution rate under section 352.04, subdivisions 2 and 3, on the differential salary amount for the period of the leave of absence.

The employing department, at its option, may pay the employer amount on behalf of its employees. Payment made under this subdivision must include interest at the rate of 8.5 percent per year, and must be completed within one year of the return from leave of absence.

Subd. 14. [Repealed, 1963 c 383 s 59]

Subd. 15. **Approved actuary.** "Approved actuary" means any actuary who is either a fellow of the society of actuaries or who has at least 15 years of service to major public employee funds, or any firm retaining an approved actuary on its staff.

Subd. 16. **Year of allowable service.** "Year of allowable service" means any 12 calendar months not necessarily consecutive in which an employee is entitled to allowable service credit. It also means 12 months credit each calendar year for teachers in the state universities and state institutions who may or may not receive compensation in every month in the calendar year.

Subd. 17. **Total and permanent disability.** "Total and permanent disability" means the inability to engage in any substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment that has existed or is expected to continue for a period of at least one year.

Subd. 18. **"Annuity" and "benefit" synonymous.** The words "annuity" and "benefit," wherever they appear in this chapter, are synonymous.

Subd. 19. **Retirement.** "Retirement" means the time after a state employee is entitled to an accrued annuity, as defined in subdivision 21, payable under an

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application for annuity filed in the office of the system as provided in section 352.115, subdivision 8 or, in the case of an employee who has received a disability benefit, when that employee reaches normal retirement age.

Subd. 20. **Retired employee.** "Retired employee" means an employee who has retirement status as defined in subdivision 19.

Subd. 21. **Accrued annuities.** In this chapter and chapters 3A, 352B, 352C, and 490, "accrued annuity" means an annuity that had become payable to a retired employee in the lifetime of the employee. An annuity or benefit authorized as provided in this chapter and chapters 3A, 352B, 352C, and 490 becomes payable on the first day of each calendar month for that calendar month and is to be paid on the first day of each calendar month beginning with benefits payable on and after December 1, 1977.

Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in this chapter and chapters 3A, 352B, 352C, and 490, benefit payment authorized as "payable for life" is payable for the entire month in which death occurs, and the benefit payment for the month of death is payable to the surviving spouse or other beneficiary only if the annuitant dies before negotiating the check.

Subd. 22. **Disabled employee.** "Disabled employee" means an employee who is totally and permanently disabled as defined in subdivision 17, and who as a result of the disability is entitled to receive a disability benefit as provided in section 352.113.

Subd. 23. **Coverage or covered by the system.** "Coverage" or "covered by the system" means that state employees who serve the state of Minnesota and make the required employee contributions to the retirement fund will by reason of these contributions become entitled to either (1) a retirement annuity, or (2) a disability benefit, or (3) a refund of accumulated contributions, as provided in this chapter.

Subd. 24. **System.** "System" means the Minnesota State Retirement System.

Subd. 25. **Normal retirement age.** "Normal retirement age" means age 65 for a person who first became a covered employee or a member of a pension fund listed in section 356.30, subdivision 3, before July 1, 1989. For a person who first becomes a covered employee after June 30, 1989, normal retirement age means the higher of age 65 or "retirement age," as defined in United States Code, title 42, section 416(l), as amended, but not to exceed age 66.

Subd. 26. **Dependent child.** "Dependent child" means a biological or adopted child of a deceased employee who has not reached the age of 20 and is dependent upon the employee for more than one-half of the child's support at the time of the employee's death. It also means a child of the member conceived during the member's lifetime and born after the member's death.

History: (254-1) 1929 c 191 s 1; 1931 c 351 s 1; 1933 c 326 s 1; 1935 c 238 s 1; 1939 c 432 s 1; 1941 c 391 s 1; 1943 c 622 s 1; 1945 c 38 s 1; 1945 c 284 s 1,2; 1947 c 631 s 2-6; 1949 c 644 s 2,3; 1951 c 441 s 2-8; 1953 c 320 s 1; 1955 c 239 s 1-3; 1957 c 576 s 1,2; 1957 c 928 s 1-6,34; Ex1959 c 6 s 1-3; 1961 c 560 s 31; Ex1961 c 67 s 1,2; 1963 c 383 s 1-8; 1965 c 230 s 1,2; 1965 c 590 s 1; 1965 c 698 s 3; 1967 c 148 s 2; Ex1967 c 1 s 6; Ex1967 c 57 s 1-7; 1969 c 6 s 45; 1971 c 12 s 1,2; 1973 c 178 s 20; 1973 c 221 s 1,2; 1973 c 349 s 2; 1973 c 492 s 14; 1973 c 507 s 45; 1973 c 582 s 3; 1975 c 271 s 6; 1975 c 321 s 2; 1975 c 359 s 23; 1975 c 368 s 13; 1976 c 134 s 78; 1976 c 329 s 2; 1977 c 98 s 1; 1977 c 388 s 1; 1978 c 538 s 1,2; 1978 c 672 s 11,12; 1978 c 720 s 3; 1980 c 342 s 1,2; 1980 c 614 s 135; 1980 c 617 s 47; 1981 c 37 s 2; 1981 c 224 s 41-44; 1983 c 128 s 1-3; 1983 c 247 s 137; 1983 c 286 s 3; 1984 c 654 art 3 s 100; 1985 c 248 s 54; 1Sp1985 c 7 s 4; 1Sp1985 c 13 s 317; 1986 c 444; 1987 c 83 s 1; 1987 c 229 art 6 s 1; art 11 s 1; 1987 c 259 s 12; 1987 c 372 art 1 s 2; 1987 c 384 art 2 s 1; 1989 c 209 art 2 s 35; 1989 c 319 art 1 s 2; art 13 s 1,2; 1989 c 335 art 3 s 4; 1990 c 426 art 1 s 41; 1990 c 570 art 1 s 2; art 10 s 1; art 12 s 2; 1992 c 432 art 1 s 1; 1992 c 598 art 1 s 2; 1993 c 307 art 1 s 3,4; art 3 s 1; 1993 c 336 art 6 s 1; 1993 c 375 art 8 s 14; 1994 c 528 art 1 s 2,3; 1994 c 572 s 4; 1994 c 628 art 3 s 26,27; 1995 c 54 s 26; 1995 c 186 s 70; 1995 c 195 art 2 s 1; 1995 c 212 art 4 s 64; 1995 c 262 art 1 s 3; 1Sp1995 c 3 art 16 s 13; 1997 c 183 art 3 s 38; 1997 c 233 art 1 s 16; 1997 c 241 art 8 s 3,4; 2000 c 457 s 6; 1Sp2001 c 10 art 3 s 4,5; art 6 s 1,21; art 8 s 1; 2002 c 392 art 2 s 1; art 11 s 52; 2003 c 112 art 2 s 50; 2003 c 130 s 12; 1Sp2003 c 12 art 6 s 5; 2004 c 267 art 2 s 1

352.015 [Repealed, 1951 c 441 s 1; 1957 c 928 s 33]

352.02 [Repealed, 1957 c 928 s 33]

352.021 MINNESOTA STATE RETIREMENT SYSTEM.

Subdivision 1. **Establishment.** There is established the Minnesota State Retirement System for state employees. The system is a continuation of the State Employees Retirement Association. Any person who was a member of the state employees retirement association on June 30, 1967, is covered by the system and is entitled to all benefits provided by the system upon fulfilling the age, service, contribution, and other requirements of this chapter.

Subd. 2. **State employees covered.** Every person who is a state employee, as defined in section 352.01, on July 1, 1967, or becomes a state employee after that date is covered by the system. Acceptance of state employment or continuance in state service is deemed consent to have deductions made from salary for deposit to the credit of the account of the state employee in the retirement fund.

Subd. 3. **Optional exemptions.** Any person who is appointed by the governor or lieutenant governor may request exemption from coverage under this chapter if the appointee is not so covered at the date of appointment. To qualify for this exemption request must be made within 90 days from the date of entering upon the duties of the position to which appointed. After the request, a person requesting exemption is not entitled to coverage while employed in the position that entitled that person to exemption from coverage.

Subd. 4. MS 1957 [Repealed, Ex1959 c 6 s 34]

Subd. 4. **Reentering service after refund.** When a former employee who has withdrawn accumulated contributions reenters employment in a position entitled to coverage under the system, the employee shall be covered by the system on the same basis as a new employee and is not entitled to credit for any former service. The annuity rights forfeited when taking a refund can only be restored as provided in this chapter.

Subd. 5. [Repealed, 1995 c 262 art 1 s 26]

History: 1957 c 928 s 7; Ex1959 c 6 s 5,6; 1963 c 383 s 9; Ex1967 c 57 s 8; 1973 c 221 s 3; 1983 c 128 s 4; 1986 c 444; 1987 c 229 art 6 s 1; 1989 c 319 art 1 s 3; 1990 c 570 art 10 s 2

352.022 [Repealed, 1984 c 564 s 51]

352.028 COVERAGE TERMINATION.

Coverage of any person under the system ends when the person ceases to be a state employee.

History: 1963 c 383 s 10; Ex1967 c 57 s 9; 1986 c 444; 1987 c 229 art 6 s 1

352.029 COVERAGE FOR EMPLOYEES OF LABOR ORGANIZATIONS.

Subdivision 1. **Qualifications.** Unless specifically excluded under section 352.01, subdivision 2b, a state employee on leave of absence without pay to provide service as an employee or officer of a labor organization that is an exclusive bargaining agent representing state employees may elect under subdivision 2 to be covered by the general state employees retirement plan of the Minnesota State Retirement System for service with the labor organization, subject to the limitations set forth in subdivisions 2a and 2b.

Subd. 2. **Election.** A person described in subdivision 1 shall be covered by the system if written election to be covered is delivered to the executive director before December 31, 1992, within 90 days of being employed by the labor organization, or within 90 days of starting the first leave of absence with an exclusive bargaining agent, whichever is later.

Subd. 2a. **Limitations on salary for benefits and contributions.** (a) The covered salary for a labor organization employee who qualifies for membership under this section or section 352.75 is limited to the lesser of:

- (1) the employee's actual salary as defined under section 352.01, subdivision 13; or
- (2) 75 percent of the salary of the governor as set under section 15A.082.

(b) The limited covered salary determined under this subdivision must be used in determining employee, employer, and employer additional contributions under section 352.04, subdivisions 2 and 3, and in determining retirement annuities and other benefits under this chapter and chapter 356.

Subd. 2b. **Earning restrictions apply.** A retirement annuity is only payable, if the person has met any other applicable requirements, upon the termination by the person who elected coverage under subdivision 1 of employment by the labor organization. The reemployed annuitant earnings limitation set forth in section 352.115, subdivision 10, applies in the event that the person who elected coverage under subdivision 1 retires and is subsequently reemployed while an annuitant by the labor organization or by any other entity employing persons who are covered by the Minnesota State Retirement System by virtue of that employment.

Subd. 3. **Contributions.** The employee and employer contributions required by section 352.04, or by section 352.92 for employees covered by section 352.91, are the obligation of the employee who chooses coverage under this section. However, the employing labor organization may pay the employer contributions. Contributions made by the employee must be made by salary deduction. The employing labor organization shall pay all contributions to the system as required by section 352.04, or by section 352.92 for employees covered by section 352.91.

Subd. 4. [Repealed, 1992 c 432 art 1 s 11]

Subd. 5. **Board membership excluded.** Employees of a labor organization who become members of the system under this section are not eligible for election to the board of directors.

History: 1977 c 429 s 13; 1981 c 224 s 45; 1Sp1985 c 7 s 5; 1987 c 229 art 6 s 1; 1990 c 570 art 10 s 3; 1992 c 432 art 1 s 2,3; 1994 c 528 art 4 s 1-3

352.03 BOARD OF DIRECTORS; EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

Subdivision 1. **Membership of board; election; term.** The policy-making function of the system is vested in a board of 11 members known as the board of directors. This board shall consist of three members appointed by the governor, one of whom must be a constitutional officer or appointed state official and two of whom must be public members knowledgeable in pension matters, four state employees elected by state employees covered by the system excluding employees in categories specifically authorized to designate or elect a member by this subdivision, one employee of the Metropolitan Council's transit operations or its successor agency designated by the executive committee of the labor organization that is the exclusive bargaining agent representing employees of the transit division, one member of the State Patrol retirement fund elected by members of that fund at a time and in a manner fixed by the board, one employee covered by the correctional employees plan elected by employees covered by that plan, and one retired employee elected by disabled and retired employees of all plans administered by the system at a time and in a manner to be fixed by the board. Two state employee members, whose terms of office begin on the first Monday in May after their election, must be elected biennially. Elected members and the appointed member of the Metropolitan Council's transit operations hold office for a term of four years and until their successors are elected or appointed, and have qualified. An employee of the system is not eligible for membership on the board of directors. A state employee on leave of absence is not eligible for election or reelection to membership on the board of directors. The term of any board member who is on leave for more than six months automatically ends on expiration of the term of office.

Subd. 1a. **Terms; compensation; removal; vacancies; public members.** The membership terms, compensation, removal of members, and filling of vacancies for the public members on the board are as provided in section 15.0575.

Subd. 2. **Vacancy.** Any vacancy of a state employee or retired employee in the board caused by death, resignation, or removal of any member so elected must be filled by the board for the unexpired portion of the term in which the vacancy occurs. Any vacancy of the employee of the transit operating division member of the board caused by death, resignation, or removal must be filled by the governing board of the labor organization that is the exclusive bargaining agent representing employees of the Transit Operating Division.

Subd. 3. [Repealed, 1976 c 134 s 79]

Subd. 4. **Duties and powers of board of directors.** The board shall:

- (1) elect a chair;
- (2) appoint an executive director;
- (3) establish rules to administer this chapter and chapters 3A, 352B, 352C, 352D, and 490 and transact the business of the system, subject to the limitations of law;
- (4) consider and dispose of, or take any other action the board of directors deems appropriate concerning denials of applications for annuities or disability benefits under this chapter, and complaints of employees and others pertaining to the retirement of employees and the operation of the system;
- (5) advise the director on any matters relating to the system and carrying out functions and purposes of this chapter. The board's advice shall control; and
- (6) oversee the administration of the state deferred compensation plan established in section 352.96.

The director and assistant director must be in the unclassified service but appointees may be selected from civil service lists if desired. The salary of the executive director must be as provided by section 15A.0815. The salary of the assistant director must be set in accordance with section 43A.18, subdivision 3.

Subd. 4a. **Additional duties of the board.** The board may consider, review, and make recommendations regarding the financial and other needs of retired employees and may disseminate appropriate retirement information to the retired employee. Notwithstanding laws to the contrary, the board, at its discretion, may supply the names and addresses of retirees who were employed by the University of Minnesota at the time of termination to the University of Minnesota and state agencies for retirees who were employed by the specific state agency at the time of termination. The board, at its discretion, may supply names and addresses of state and university retirees to an organization that has been in existence for at least ten years and represents over 5,000 retired state and university employees. The names and addresses of each retiree can only be given to this organization once within 60 days of the effective date of the annuity. The board shall require the retiree organization, University of Minnesota, or applicable state agency to reimburse the fund for any administrative expense of providing the list. The list remains the property of the Minnesota State Retirement System and may not be subsequently sold, conveyed, given, or otherwise transferred by the retiree organization, the University of Minnesota, or the state agency to a third party. Periodically, retirees must be given an opportunity to specify that their name and address not be distributed under this section.

Subd. 5. **Executive director.** The executive director, in this chapter called the director, of the system must be appointed by the board on the basis of fitness, experience in the retirement field, and leadership ability. The director must have had at least five years' experience on the administrative staff of a major retirement system.

Subd. 6. **Duties and powers of executive director.** The management of the system is vested in the director, who is the executive and administrative head of the system. The director shall be advisor to the board on matters pertaining to the system and shall also act as the secretary of the board. The director shall:

- (1) attend meetings of the board;

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(2) prepare and recommend to the board appropriate rules to carry out this chapter;

(3) establish and maintain an adequate system of records and accounts following recognized accounting principles and controls;

(4) designate an assistant director with the approval of the board;

(5) appoint any employees, both permanent and temporary, that are necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter;

(6) organize the work of the system as the director deems necessary to fulfill the functions of the system, and define the duties of its employees and delegate to them any powers or duties, subject to the control of the director and under conditions the director may prescribe. Appointments to exercise delegated power must be by written order and shall be filed with the secretary of state;

(7) with the advice and consent of the board, contract for the services of an approved actuary, professional management services, and any other consulting services as necessary and fix the compensation for those services. The contracts are not subject to competitive bidding under chapter 16C. Any approved actuary retained by the executive director shall function as the actuarial advisor of the board and the executive director, and may perform actuarial valuations and experience studies to supplement those performed by the actuary retained under section 356.214. Any supplemental actuarial valuations or experience studies shall be filed with the executive director of the Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement. Professional management services may not be contracted for more often than once in six years. Copies of professional management survey reports must be transmitted to the secretary of the senate, the chief clerk of the house of representatives, and the Legislative Reference Library as provided by section 3.195, and to the executive director of the commission at the time as reports are furnished to the board. Only management firms experienced in conducting management surveys of federal, state, or local public retirement systems are qualified to contract with the director;

(8) with the advice and consent of the board provide in-service training for the employees of the system;

(9) make refunds of accumulated contributions to former state employees and to the designated beneficiary, surviving spouse, legal representative, or next of kin of deceased state employees or deceased former state employees, as provided in this chapter;

(10) determine the amount of the annuities and disability benefits of employees covered by the system and authorize payment of the annuities and benefits beginning as of the dates on which the annuities and benefits begin to accrue, in accordance with the provisions of this chapter;

(11) pay annuities, refunds, survivor benefits, salaries, and necessary operating expenses of the system;

(12) certify funds available for investment to the State Board of Investment;

(13) with the advice and approval of the board request the State Board of Investment to sell securities when the director determines that funds are needed for the system;

(14) prepare and submit to the board and the legislature an annual financial report covering the operation of the system, as required by section 356.20;

(15) prepare and submit biennial and annual budgets to the board and with the approval of the board submit the budgets to the Department of Finance; and

(16) with the approval of the board, perform other duties required to administer the retirement and other provisions of this chapter and to do its business.

Subd. 7. Directors' fiduciary obligation. The board and the director shall undertake their activities consistent with chapter 356A.

Subd. 8. Medical adviser. The state commissioner of health or other licensed physician on the staff of the commissioner as the commissioner may designate shall be the medical adviser of the director.

Subd. 9. **Duties of the medical adviser.** The medical adviser shall designate licensed physicians to examine applicants for disability benefits. The medical adviser shall pass upon medical reports based upon examinations required to determine whether a state employee is totally and permanently disabled as defined in section 352.01, subdivision 17, shall investigate health and medical statements and certificates by or on behalf of a state employee in connection with a disability benefit, and shall report in writing to the director conclusions and recommendations on matters referred for advice.

Subd. 10. **Power to determine employee's status.** Except as otherwise specifically provided in this chapter, the final power to determine the status of any individual in the employ of the state for the purposes of this chapter is vested in the board and its decision is final.

Subd. 11. **Legal adviser, attorney general.** The attorney general shall be the legal adviser of the board and of the director. The board may sue or be sued or petitioned under this section in the name of the board of directors of the system. In actions brought by it or against it, the board shall be represented by the attorney general and, except as provided in section 352.031, subdivision 9, venue of actions shall be in the Ramsey County District Court.

Subd. 12. **Department of Employee Relations, duties.** Upon request of the director, the Department of Employee Relations shall furnish information about the status of state employees as required by the director or the board in the performance of their duties.

Subd. 13. [Repealed, 1989 c 319 art 1 s 17]

Subd. 14. **Departmental information.** Under the direction of the director the head of each department shall give information and keep records the director or the board needs for their duties.

Subd. 15. **Calendar year basis optional.** For all purposes except quarterly and biennial budgets the system may operate on a calendar rather than a fiscal year basis.

Subd. 16. **Data processing services.** Notwithstanding chapter 16B or 16C or any law to the contrary, the executive director of the system may use the services of the Department of Administration, Information Services Division, for electronic data processing and related services or may contract for all or a part of the services.

History: (254-3) 1929 c 191 s 3; 1931 c 351 s 3; 1935 c 238 s 3; 1941 c 391 s 3; 1947 c 631 s 9; 1949 c 644 s 8; Ex1959 c 6 s 4; 1963 c 383 s 11; 1965 c 691 s 1; Ex1967 c 1 s 6; Ex1967 c 57 s 10; 1973 c 35 s 52; 1973 c 492 s 14; 1973 c 507 s 45; 1973 c 653 s 24,25; 1975 c 368 s 15-17; 1976 c 134 s 66,67; 1977 c 305 s 45; 1977 c 429 s 10-12; 1978 c 538 s 3,4; 1980 c 617 s 47; 1981 c 224 s 46; 1983 c 63 s 1; 1983 c 299 s 28; 1985 c 248 s 70; 1986 c 444; 1987 c 229 art 6 s 1; art 1 s 1; 1987 c 259 s 13; 1989 c 319 art 1 s 4; art 8 s 10; 1990 c 570 art 10 s 4; 1993 c 13 art 1 s 38; 1993 c 307 art 1 s 5; art 2 s 2; art 3 s 2; 1994 c 628 art 3 s 28; 2Sp1997 c 3 s 18; 1998 c 386 art 2 s 85,86; 1999 c 99 s 15; 1999 c 222 art 9 s 3; 2004 c 223 s 1

352.031 APPEALS PROCEDURE.

Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** Unless the language or context clearly indicates that a different meaning is intended, for the purpose of this section, the following terms have the meanings given them.

(a) "Board" means the board of directors of the Minnesota State Retirement System.

(b) "Documentation" includes, but is not limited to:

- (1) sworn and notarized affidavits made on the personal knowledge of any person;
- (2) official letters or documents;
- (3) documents from the file of the petitioner; and
- (4) other relevant documents that are admissible as evidence in a court of law.

(c) "Executive director" means the executive director of the Minnesota State Retirement System.

(d) "Person" includes any state agency or other governmental unit that employs persons covered under statutes listed in subdivision 2.

(c) "Record" means the petition and the documentation that the petitioners submit with the petition; the executive director's answer to the petition and documentation submitted with it; and any documentation the board allows to be submitted at or after the meeting at which the petition is considered.

Subd. 2. Notice of termination or denial. If the executive director terminates a benefit or denies an application or a written request of any person claiming a right under chapter 352, other than sections 352.96 and 352.97; chapters 3A, 352B, 352C, and 352D; sections 490.121 to 490.133; or the applicable sections of chapters 355 and 356, the executive director shall serve upon that person written notice containing:

(1) the reasons for the termination or denial;

(2) notice that the person may petition the board for a review of the termination or denial and that the petition for review must be filed within 60 days of the receipt of the written notice;

(3) a statement that relevant documentation submitted by the petitioner to the executive director must be received in the office of the Minnesota State Retirement System at least 30 days before the meeting prescribed in subdivision 4;

(4) a statement that failure to petition the board within 60 days will preclude the person from contesting in any other court procedure or administrative hearing, the issues determined by the executive director; and

(5) a copy of this section.

Subd. 3. Petition for review. A person who claims a right under subdivision 2 and whose benefit has been terminated or whose application or written request has been denied may petition for a review of that decision by the board. A petition under this section must be served upon the executive director personally, or by mail postmarked no later than 60 days after the petitioner received the notice required by subdivision 2. The petition must include the sworn, notarized statement of the reasons the petitioner believes the decision of the executive director should be reversed or modified and may include relevant documentation. Relevant documentation submitted by the petitioner to the executive director must be received in the office of the Minnesota State Retirement System at least 30 days before the meeting prescribed in subdivision 4.

Subd. 4. Answer; record for hearing. Within a reasonable time after receiving a petition, the executive director must serve the petitioner with an answer to the petition with all relevant documentation and with notice of the time and place of the regular or special board meeting at which the board will consider the petition. The documentation need not duplicate the documentation submitted by the petitioner. Not later than ten days before the board meeting at which the petition will be heard, the executive director must, personally or by mail, deliver a copy of the relevant documentation to each board member. Each board member who participates in the decision on the petition must be familiar with all relevant documentation.

Subd. 5. Hearing. The board shall hold a timely hearing on a petition for review. The board shall make its decision on a petition solely on the relevant documentation as submitted and the proceedings of the hearing. At the hearing, the petitioner, the petitioner's attorney, and the executive director may state and discuss with the board their positions with respect to the petition. The board may allow further documentation to be placed in the record at or subsequent to the board meeting at which the petition is considered. If the board allows additional documentation into the record at or subsequent to the board meeting, it may make a final determination on the petition at that board meeting only upon the agreement of both the petitioner and the executive director.

Subd. 5a. Executive director's order. Notwithstanding subdivisions 4 and 5, if the executive director determines with respect to a petition that no relevant facts are in dispute, the executive director shall inform the board of that determination, and the board may issue findings of fact, a decision, reasons for the decision, and a final order

and serve it upon the petitioner as provided in subdivision 8. If a petitioner receives an adverse decision, the petitioner may appeal the board's final order under subdivision 9.

Subd. 6. Termination of benefits. If the executive director proposes to terminate a benefit that is being paid to any person, before terminating the benefit, the executive director must, in addition to the other procedures prescribed herein, give the person written or oral notice of the proposed termination. The notice must explain the reason for the proposed termination. The person must be given an opportunity, verbally or in writing, to explain why the benefit should not be terminated: if the executive director is unable to contact the person and the executive director determines that a failure to terminate the benefit might result in unauthorized payment by the association, the executive director may terminate the benefit with only a written notice containing the information required by subdivision 2, mailed to the address to which the benefit was last sent and, if that address is a financial institution, to the last known address of the person.

Subd. 7. Medical adviser action. If a person petitions the board to reverse or modify a determination by the executive director finding that the petitioner, for medical reasons, does not or has ceased to qualify for a disability benefit, the board may resubmit the matter to the medical adviser for reconsideration, with or without instructions to obtain further medical examinations. The board may make a determination contrary to the recommendation of the medical adviser only if there is expert medical evidence in the record to support its contrary decision. If there is no medical opinion contrary to the opinion of the medical adviser in the record and the medical adviser asserts that the decision was made in accordance with the disability standard in section 352.01, subdivision 17; 352B.10; or 490.121, subdivision 13, the board must follow the determination of the medical adviser. The board may make a determination different from the recommendation of the medical adviser on issues that do not involve a medical opinion.

Subd. 8. Board findings. After the board has made a decision on a petition, the executive director must prepare findings of fact, the board's reasons for its conclusions, and the board's final order for the signature of the chair or other board member as the board, by resolution, may designate. The executive director shall serve the findings, conclusions, and order on the petitioner by certified mail.

Subd. 9. Appeals. Within 30 days of receipt of the findings, conclusions, and final order, the petitioner may appeal the board's decision by writ of certiorari to the Court of Appeals. Failure to appeal to that court within the 30 days precludes the petitioner from later raising, in any court procedure or administrative hearing, those substantive and procedural issues that reasonably should have been raised upon appeal.

Subd. 10. Referral for administrative hearing. Notwithstanding sections 14.03; 14.06; and 14.57 to 14.69, a challenge to a determination of the executive director must be conducted exclusively under the procedures in this section. The board in its sole discretion may refer a petition brought under this section to the Office of Administrative Hearings for a contested case hearing under sections 14.57 to 14.69.

Subd. 11. Petitions without notice. A person who is not entitled to a review under this section may nevertheless receive review of the decision of the executive director which affects the person's rights by petitioning the board under this section within 60 days of the time the person knew or should have known of the disputed decision.

History: 1989 c 319 art 1 s 5; 1990 c 570 art 12 s 3-5

352.04 STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT FUND, CONTRIBUTIONS BY EMPLOYEE AND EMPLOYER.

Subdivision 1. Fund created. (a) There is created a special fund to be known as the state employees retirement fund. In that fund there shall be deposited employees contributions, employers contributions, and other amounts authorized by law.

(b) Effective July 1, 1969, the Minnesota State Retirement System shall participate in the Minnesota postretirement investment fund. In that fund there shall be deposited the amounts provided in section 352.119.

Subd. 2. **Employee contributions.** The employee contribution to the fund must be equal to 4.0 percent of salary. These contributions must be made by deduction from salary as provided in subdivision 4.

Subd. 3. **Employer contributions.** The employer contribution to the fund must be equal to 4.0 percent of salary.

Subd. 4. **Payroll deductions.** The head of each department shall have employee contributions deducted from the salary of each employee covered by the system on every payroll abstract and shall approve one voucher payable to the commissioner of finance for the aggregate amount deducted on the payroll abstract. Deductions from salaries of employees paid direct by any department, institution, or agency of the state must be made by the officer or employee authorized by law to pay the salaries. The head of any department or agency having authority to appoint any employee who receives fees as compensation or who receives compensation on federal payrolls shall collect as the required employee contribution the applicable amounts required in subdivision 2. Deductions from salary and amounts collected must be remitted to the director with a statement showing the amount of earnings or fees, and in the case of fees, the number of transactions, and the amount of each of the deductions and collections and the names of the employees on whose account they have been made.

Subd. 5. **Payment of employer contributions.** The head of each department or agency shall have employer contributions made to the fund on a payroll abstract at the time an employee is paid salary in the amounts required by subdivision 3. These contributions must be charged as administrative costs. Each department shall pay these amounts from accounts and funds from which the department or agency receives its revenue, including appropriations from the general fund and from any other fund for the payment of salaries and in the same proportion as it pays the amounts of salaries.

Subd. 6. **Quasi-state agencies; employer contributions.** For those of their employees who are covered by the system, the State Horticultural Society, the Disabled American Veterans, Department of Minnesota, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Minnesota, the Minnesota Crop Improvement Association, the Minnesota Historical Society, the Armory Building Commission, the Minnesota Safety Council, the Metropolitan Council and any of its statutory boards, the employer of persons described in section 352.01, subdivision 2a, paragraph (a), clause (15), and any other agency employing employees covered by this system, respectively, shall also pay into the retirement fund the amount required by subdivision 3.

Subd. 7. [Repealed, 1973 c 221 s 11]

Subd. 8. **Department required to pay omitted salary deductions.** (a) If a department fails to take deductions past due for a period of 60 days or less from an employee's salary as provided in this section, those deductions must be taken on later payroll abstracts.

(b) If a department fails to take deductions past due for a period in excess of 60 days from an employee's salary as provided in this section, the department, and not the employee, must pay on later payroll abstracts the employee and employer contributions and an amount equivalent to 8.5 percent of the total amount due in lieu of interest, or if the delay in payment exceeds one year, 8.5 percent compound annual interest.

(c) If a department fails to take deductions past due for a period of 60 days or less and the employee is no longer in state service so that the required deductions cannot be taken from the salary of the employee, the department must nevertheless pay the required employer contributions. If any department fails to take deductions past due for a period in excess of 60 days and the employee is no longer in state service, the omitted contributions must be recovered under paragraph (b).

(d) If an employee from whose salary required deductions were past due for a period of 60 days or less leaves state service before the payment of the omitted deductions and subsequently returns to state service, the unpaid amount is considered the equivalent of a refund. The employee accrues no right by reason of the unpaid amount, except that the employee may pay the amount of omitted deductions as provided in section 352.23.

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Subd. 9. **Erroneous deductions, canceled warrants.** (a) Deductions taken from the salary of an employee for the retirement fund in error must, upon discovery and verification by the department making the deduction, be refunded to the employee.

(b) If a deduction for the retirement fund is taken from a salary warrant or check, and the check is canceled or the amount of the warrant or check returned to the funds of the department making the payment, the sum deducted, or the part of it required to adjust the deductions, must be refunded to the department or institution if the department applies for the refund on a form furnished by the director. The department's payments must likewise be refunded to the department.

(c) Employee deductions and employer contributions taken in error may be directly transferred, without interest, to another Minnesota public employee retirement plan by which the employee is actually covered.

For purposes of this subdivision, a Minnesota public pension plan means a plan specified in section 356.30, subdivision 3, or the plan governed by chapter 354B.

Subd. 10. [Repealed, 2Sp1981 c 1 s 8]

Subd. 11. **Gifts and bequests.** The director may credit to the retirement fund any money received in the form of donations, gifts, appropriations, bequests, or otherwise, or derived from it.

Subd. 12. **Fund disbursement restricted.** The state employees retirement fund and the participation in the Minnesota postretirement investment fund must be disbursed only for the purposes provided by law. The expenses of the system and any benefits provided by law, other than benefits payable from the Minnesota postretirement investment fund, must be paid from the state employees retirement fund. The retirement allowances, retirement annuities, and disability benefits, as well as refunds of any sum remaining to the credit of a deceased retired employee or a disabled employee must be paid only from the state employees retirement fund after the needs have been certified and the amounts withdrawn from the participation in the Minnesota postretirement investment fund under section 11A.18. The amounts necessary to make the payments from the state employees retirement fund and the participation in the Minnesota postretirement investment fund are annually appropriated from these funds for those purposes.

History: (254-4) 1929 c 191 s 4; 1931 c 351 s 4; 1933 c 326 s 4; 1935 c 238 s 4; 1939 c 432 s 2; 1941 c 391 s 4; 1943 c 622 s 3; 1945 c 284 s 5-7; 1945 c 603 s 1; 1947 c 631 s 10,11; 1949 c 644 s 9,10; 1951 c 441 s 13,14; 1955 c 239 s 7,8; 1957 c 928 s 8,33; 1961 c 633 s 1; Ex1961 c 67 s 3-6; 1963 c 383 s 12-19; 1965 c 861 s 1; 1967 c 571 s 1; Ex1967 c 57 s 11; 1969 c 399 s 1; 1969 c 893 s 3-5; 1971 c 194 s 1; 1973 c 492 s 14; 1973 c 653 s 26,27; 1980 c 607 art 14 s 45 subd 2; s 46; 1980 c 614 s 136; 3Sp1981 c 2 art 1 s 64,65; 1982 c 578 art 1 s 2; 1982 c 641 art 1 s 9,10; 1984 c 564 s 4,5; 1986 c 444; 1987 c 229 art 6 s 1; 1989 c 319 art 13 s 3,4; 1990 c 591 art 2 s 1,2; 1992 c 513 art 4 s 38,39; 1992 c 598 art 1 s 3; 1993 c 307 art 1 s 6,7; 1994 c 508 art 1 s 1; 1994 c 528 art 1 s 4,5; 1996 c 438 art 2 s 1; 1997 c 233 art 1 s 17,18; 2003 c 112 art 2 s 50

352.041 LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR EMPLOYMENT BY POLITICAL SUBDIVISION.

Subdivision 1. **Allowable service credit.** Any employee covered by the system who is given a leave of absence for employment by a political subdivision of the state shall continue to pay into the state employees retirement fund for the period of leave. Upon payment the employee must be given allowable service credit as a state employee on the records of the system as though the employee had received salary from the state during the leave. Payments into the retirement fund shall be at the rate required in section 352.04, subdivision 2, and must be based upon the salary received from the political subdivision subject to the maximum amount, if any.

Subd. 2. **Employee contributions, procedure.** The officer or employee authorized by law to pay salaries to employees of the political subdivision employing a state employee shall have employee contributions deducted from the salary of each employ-

ee who is on leave of absence from state service on each payroll abstract and shall pay the sum to the director each pay period.

Subd. 3. **Employer contributions, procedure.** The officer or employee authorized by law to pay salaries to employees of the political subdivision employing a state employee covered by the system shall also have employer contributions made to the state employees retirement fund on each payroll abstract in the amount required by section 352.04, subdivision 3. These contributions are to be charged as an administrative cost.

Subd. 4. [Repealed, 1963 c 383 s 59]

Subd. 5. **Employer contributions, leaves of absence; tax levies.** Every political subdivision employing a state employee covered by the system on leave of absence from state service for employment by a political subdivision of the state shall pay into the state employees retirement fund the amount of the employer contribution required by law for state employees covered by the system. Employing political subdivisions, except school districts, may levy taxes necessary for the payment of employer contributions without limitation as to rate or amount. The levy of the taxes does not reduce the amount of other taxes to be levied by political subdivisions, except school districts, which are subject to any limitation.

Subd. 6. [Repealed, 1983 c 128 s 36]

Subd. 7. [Repealed, 1963 c 383 s 59]

History: 1959 c 647 s 1; 1963 c 383 s 20,21; Ex1967 c 57 s 12; Ex1971 c 31 art 20 s 10; 1986 c 444; 1987 c 229 art 6 s 1

352.05 COMMISSIONER OF FINANCE TO BE TREASURER OF SYSTEM.

The commissioner of finance is ex officio treasurer of the retirement funds of the system. The general bond to the state shall cover all liability for actions as treasurer of these funds. Funds of the system received by the commissioner of finance must be set aside in the state treasury to the credit of the proper fund. The commissioner of finance shall deliver to the director copies of all payroll abstracts of the state together with the commissioner of finance's warrants covering the deductions made on these payroll abstracts for the retirement fund. The director shall have a list made of the commissioner of finance's warrants. These warrants must then be credited to the retirement fund. The commissioner of finance shall pay out of this fund only upon abstracts signed by the director, or by the finance officer designated by the director during the disability or the absence of the director from the city of St. Paul, Minnesota. Abstracts for investments may be signed by the executive director of the State Board of Investment.

History: (254-5) 1929 c 191 s 5; 1931 c 351 s 5; 1935 c 238 s 5; 1941 c 391 s 5; 1945 c 284 s 8; 1957 c 928 s 28; Ex1961 c 67 s 7; Ex1967 c 57 c 13; 1973 c 492 s 14; 1986 c 444; 1987 c 229 art 6 s 1; 2003 c 112 art 2 s 39

352.06 [Repealed, 1967 c 404 s 8]

352.061 INVESTMENT BOARD TO INVEST FUNDS.

The director shall, from time to time, certify to the State Board of Investment any portions of the state employees retirement fund that in the judgment of the director are not required for immediate use. Assets from the state employees retirement fund must be transferred to the Minnesota postretirement investment fund as provided in section 11A.18. The State Board of Investment shall invest and reinvest sums so transferred, or certified, in securities that are duly authorized legal investments under section 11A.24.

History: 1967 c 404 s 7; Ex1967 c 57 s 14; 1969 c 893 s 6; 1980 c 607 art 14 s 45 subd 2; s 46; 1986 c 444; 1987 c 229 art 6 s 1

352.07 [Repealed, 1963 c 383 s 59]

352.08 [Repealed, 1963 c 383 s 59]

352.09 [Repealed, 1957 c 928 s 33]

352.10 [Repealed, 1945 c 284 s 1]

352.103 Subdivision 1. [Repealed, 1963 c 383 s 59]

Subd. 2. [Repealed, 1963 c 383 s 59; 1965 c 230 s 18]

352.11 [Repealed, 1957 c 928 s 33]

352.113 PERMANENT DISABILITY BENEFITS.

Subdivision 1. **Age and service requirements.** An employee covered by the system, who is less than normal retirement age and who becomes totally and permanently disabled after three or more years of allowable service, is entitled to a disability benefit in an amount provided in subdivision 3. If the disabled employee's state service has terminated at any time, the employee must have at least two years of allowable service after last becoming a state employee covered by the system. Refunds may be repaid under section 352.23 before the effective accrual date of the disability benefit under subdivision 2.

Subd. 2. **Application; accrual of benefits.** An employee making claim for a total and permanent disability benefit, or someone acting on behalf of the employee upon proof of authority satisfactory to the director, shall file a written application for benefits in the office of the system. The application must be in a form and manner prescribed by the executive director. The benefit shall begin to accrue the day following the start of disability or the day following the last day paid, whichever is later, but not earlier than 180 days before the date the application is filed with the director.

Subd. 3. **Computation of benefits.** The total and permanent disability benefit must be computed in the manner provided in section 352.115. The disability benefit shall be the normal annuity without reduction for each month the employee is under normal retirement age at the time of becoming disabled. A disabled employee may choose to receive the normal disability benefit or an optional annuity as provided in section 352.116, subdivision 3. This choice must be made before the start of payment of the disability benefit and is effective the date on which the disability begins to accrue as provided in subdivision 2.

Subd. 4. **Medical or psychological examinations; authorization for payment of benefit.** (a) An applicant shall provide medical, chiropractic, or psychological evidence to support an application for total and permanent disability.

(b) The director shall have the employee examined by at least one additional licensed chiropractor, physician, or psychologist designated by the medical adviser. The chiropractors, physicians, or psychologists shall make written reports to the director concerning the employee's disability including expert opinions as to whether the employee is permanently and totally disabled within the meaning of section 352.01, subdivision 17.

(c) The director shall also obtain written certification from the employer stating whether the employment has ceased or whether the employee is on sick leave of absence because of a disability that will prevent further service to the employer and as a consequence the employee is not entitled to compensation from the employer.

(d) The medical adviser shall consider the reports of the physicians, psychologists, and chiropractors and any other evidence supplied by the employee or other interested parties. If the medical adviser finds the employee totally and permanently disabled, the adviser shall make appropriate recommendation to the director in writing together with the date from which the employee has been totally disabled. The director shall then determine if the disability occurred within 180 days of filing the application, while still in the employment of the state, and the propriety of authorizing payment of a disability benefit as provided in this section.

(e) A terminated employee may apply for a disability benefit within 180 days of termination as long as the disability occurred while in the employment of the state. The fact that an employee is placed on leave of absence without compensation because of disability does not bar that employee from receiving a disability benefit.

(f) Unless the payment of a disability benefit has terminated because the employee is no longer totally disabled, or because the employee has reached normal retirement age as provided in this section, the disability benefit must cease with the last payment received by the disabled employee or which had accrued during the lifetime of the employee unless there is a spouse surviving. In that event, the surviving spouse is entitled to the disability benefit for the calendar month in which the disabled employee died.

Subd. 5. [Repealed, 1Sp1985 c 7 s 36]

Subd. 6. **Regular medical or psychological examinations.** At least once each year during the first five years following the allowance of a disability benefit to any employee, and at least once in every three-year period thereafter, the director may require any disabled employee to undergo a medical, chiropractic, or psychological examination. The examination must be made at the place of residence of the employee, or at any place mutually agreed upon, by an expert or experts designated by the medical adviser and engaged by the director. If any examination indicates to the medical adviser that the employee is no longer permanently and totally disabled, or is engaged in or can engage in a gainful occupation, payments of the disability benefit by the fund must be discontinued. The payments must be discontinued as soon as the employee is reinstated to the payroll following sick leave, but in no case may payment be made for more than 60 days after the medical adviser finds that the employee is no longer permanently and totally disabled.

Subd. 7. **Partial reemployment.** If the disabled employee resumes a gainful occupation from which earnings are less than the employee's salary at the date of disability or the salary currently paid for similar positions, the director shall continue the disability benefit in an amount which when added to earnings does not exceed the salary at the date of disability, provided the disability benefit in this case does not exceed the disability benefit originally allowed. Deductions for the retirement fund must not be taken from the salary of a disabled employee who is receiving a disability benefit as provided in this subdivision.

Subd. 7a. **Temporary reemployment benefit reduction waiver.** A reduction in benefits under subdivision 7, or a termination of benefits due to the disabled employee resuming a gainful occupation from which earnings are equal to or more than the employee's salary at the date of disability or the salary currently paid for similar positions does not apply until six months after the individual returns to a gainful occupation.

Subd. 8. **Refusal of examination.** If a disabled employee refuses to submit to an expert examination as required, payments by the fund must be discontinued and the director shall revoke all rights of the employee in any disability benefit.

Subd. 9. **Return to state service.** Any employee receiving a disability benefit who is restored to active state service except employees receiving benefits as provided in subdivision 7, shall have deductions taken for the retirement fund and upon retirement have the payable retirement annuity based upon all allowable service including that upon which the disability benefits were based. No employee is entitled to receive disability benefits and a retirement annuity at the same time.

Subd. 10. **Employee again disabled after resuming employment.** If a disabled employee resumes gainful employment with the state and is not entitled to continued payment of a disability benefit as provided in subdivision 7, the right to a disability benefit ends when the employee has been employed for one year thereafter. If the employee again becomes totally and permanently disabled before reaching normal retirement age, application for a disability benefit may again be made. If the employee is entitled to a disability benefit it must be computed as provided in subdivision 9.

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Subd. 11. **Recomputation of benefit.** If an employee who has resumed employment as provided in subdivision 10 is reemployed for more than three months, but cannot continue for one year, the disability benefit must be recomputed allowing additional service credit for the period of reemployment. If the period of reemployment does not exceed three months, the deductions taken from salary after resuming employment must be returned to the employee. The employee is not entitled to service credit for the period covered by the returned deductions.

Subd. 12. **Retirement status at normal retirement age.** The disability benefit paid to a disabled employee under this section ends when the employee reaches normal retirement age. If the disabled employee is still totally and permanently disabled when the employee reaches normal retirement age, the employee shall be considered to be a retired employee. If the employee had chosen an optional annuity under subdivision 3, the employee shall receive an annuity in accordance with the terms of the optional annuity previously chosen. If the employee had not chosen an optional annuity pursuant to subdivision 3, the employee may then choose to receive either a normal retirement annuity equal in amount to the disability benefit paid before the employee reached normal retirement age or an optional annuity as provided in section 352.116, subdivision 3. The choice of an optional annuity must be made before reaching normal retirement age. If an optional annuity is chosen, the choice is effective on the date the employee attains normal retirement age and the optional annuity shall begin to accrue the first of the month following the month in which the employee attains this age.

History: 1951 c 441 s 21; 1955 c 239 s 15; 1957 c 928 s 13; Ex1959 c 6 s 13; Ex1961 c 67 s 9; 1963 c 383 s 22-25; Ex1967 c 57 s 15; 1971 c 12 s 3; 1971 c 194 s 2; 1975 c 359 s 23; 1975 c 368 s 18-20; 1981 c 68 s 10,11; 1981 c 224 s 47; 1983 c 128 s 5-7; 1984 c 564 s 6,7; 1984 c 574 s 5,6; 1986 c 444; 1987 c 229 art 6 s 1; art 11 s 1; 1987 c 372 art 9 s 1; 1989 c 319 art 13 s 5,6; 1992 c 432 art 1 s 4-7; 1993 c 307 art 1 s 8-10; 1Sp2001 c 10 art 3 s 6,7; 2004 c 267 art 8 s 1-4

NOTE: Subdivision 7a, as added by Laws 2004, chapter 267, article 8, section 3, is repealed effective July 1, 2006. Laws 2004, chapter 267, article 8, section 41.

352.115 RETIREMENT ANNUITY.

Subdivision 1. **Age and service requirements.** After separation from state service, any employee (1) who has attained the age of at least 55 years and who is entitled to credit for at least three years allowable service, or (2) who has received credit for at least 30 years allowable service regardless of age, is entitled upon application to a retirement annuity.

Subd. 2. **Average salary.** The retirement annuity hereunder payable at normal retirement age or thereafter must be computed in accordance with the applicable provisions of the formula stated in subdivision 3, on the basis of the employee's average salary for the period of allowable service. This retirement annuity is known as the "normal" retirement annuity.

For each year of allowable service, "average salary" of an employee in determining a retirement annuity means the average of the highest five successive years of salary upon which the employee has made contributions to the retirement fund by payroll deductions. Average salary must be based upon all allowable service if this service is less than five years.

"Average salary" does not include the payment of accrued unused annual leave or overtime paid at time of final separation from state service if paid in a lump sum nor does it include the reduced salary, if any, paid during the period the employee is entitled to workers' compensation benefit payments for temporary disability.

Subd. 3. **Retirement annuity formula.** (a) This paragraph, in conjunction with section 352.116, subdivision 1, applies to a person who became a covered employee or a member of a pension fund listed in section 356.30, subdivision 3, before July 1, 1989, unless paragraph (b), in conjunction with section 352.116, subdivision 1a, produces a higher annuity amount, in which case paragraph (b) will apply. The employee's average salary, as defined in subdivision 2, multiplied by the percent specified in section

356.315, subdivision 1, per year of allowable service for the first ten years and the percent specified in section 356.315, subdivision 2, for each later year of allowable service and pro rata for completed months less than a full year shall determine the amount of the retirement annuity to which the employee is entitled.

(b) This paragraph applies to a person who has become at least 55 years old and first became a covered employee after June 30, 1989, and to any other covered employee who has become at least 55 years old and whose annuity amount, when calculated under this paragraph and in conjunction with section 352.116, subdivision 1a, is higher than it is when calculated under paragraph (a), in conjunction with section 352.116, subdivision 1. The employee's average salary, as defined in subdivision 2, multiplied by the percent specified in section 356.315, subdivision 2, for each year of allowable service and pro rata for months less than a full year shall determine the amount of the retirement annuity to which the employee is entitled.

Subd. 4. [Repealed, 1983 c 128 s 36]

Subd. 5. [Repealed, 1983 c 128 s 36]

Subd. 6. [Repealed, 1965 c 230 s 18]

Subd. 7. **Application for annuity.** Application for annuity or optional annuity payment may be made by the employee at time of retirement, or by someone acting in behalf of the employee, upon proof of authority satisfactory to the director.

Subd. 8. **Accrual of annuity.** State employees shall apply for an annuity. The application must not be made more than 90 days before the time the employee is eligible to retire by reason of both age and service requirements. If the director determines an applicant for annuity has fulfilled the legal requirements for an annuity, the director shall authorize the annuity payment in accordance with this chapter and payment must be made as authorized. An annuity shall begin to accrue no earlier than 180 days before the date the application is filed with the director, but not before the day following the termination of state service or before the day the employee is eligible to retire by reason of both age and service requirements. The retirement annuity shall cease with the last payment which had accrued during the lifetime of the retired employee unless an optional annuity provided in section 352.116, subdivision 3, had been selected and had become payable. The joint and last survivor annuity shall cease with the last payment received by the survivor during the lifetime of the survivor. If a retired employee had not selected an optional annuity, or a survivor annuity is not payable under the option, and a spouse survives, the spouse is entitled only to the annuity for the calendar month in which the retired employee died. If an optional annuity is payable after the death of the retired employee, the survivor is entitled to the annuity for the calendar month in which the retired employee died.

Subd. 9. **Annuities payable monthly.** All annuities, and disability benefits authorized by this chapter, must be paid in equal monthly installments and must not be increased, decreased, or revoked except as provided in this chapter.

Subd. 10. **Reemployment of annuitant.** (a) If any retired employee again becomes entitled to receive salary or wages from the state, or any employer who employs state employees as that term is defined in section 352.01, subdivision 2, other than salary or wages received as a temporary employee of the legislature during a legislative session, the annuity or retirement allowance shall cease when the retired employee has earned an amount equal to the annual maximum earnings allowable for that age for the continued receipt of full benefit amounts monthly under the federal old age, survivors, and disability insurance program as set by the secretary of health and human services under United States Code, title 42, section 403, in any calendar year. If the retired employee has not yet reached the minimum age for the receipt of Social Security benefits, the maximum earnings for the retired employee shall be equal to the annual maximum earnings allowable for the minimum age for the receipt of Social Security benefits.

(b) The balance of the annual retirement annuity after cessation must be handled or disposed of as provided in section 356.47.

(c) The annuity must be resumed when state service ends, or, if the retired employee is still employed at the beginning of the next calendar year, at the beginning of that calendar year, and payment must again end when the retired employee has earned the applicable reemployment earnings maximum specified in this subdivision. If the retired employee is granted a sick leave without pay, but not otherwise, the annuity or retirement allowance must be resumed during the period of sick leave.

(d) No payroll deductions for the retirement fund may be made from the earnings of a reemployed retired employee.

(e) No change shall be made in the monthly amount of an annuity or retirement allowance because of the reemployment of an annuitant.

Subd. 11. Accrued annuity at death. Any annuity accrued before the death of a retired employee, and any disability benefit accrued before the death of a disabled employee shall be paid to the beneficiary whom the retired employee or the disabled employee had last designated. If (1) no beneficiary has been so designated, or (2) the designated beneficiary dies before making claim for payment of an annuity or benefit, payment must be made to the surviving spouse, or, if none, to the employee's surviving children in equal shares or, if none, to the employee's surviving parents in equal shares or, if none, to the legal representative of the retired employee or disabled employee. If the designated beneficiary, surviving spouse, or legal representative entitled to the annuity does not apply for payment within five years from the date of death of the retired employee or disabled employee, the annuity or disability benefit which had accrued at the time of death must be credited to and become a part of the retirement fund.

Subd. 12. Death, return of warrants. If at the time of death a retired employee, a disabled employee, or a survivor has in possession commissioner of finance's warrants covering a retirement annuity, disability benefit or survivor benefit from the retirement fund, in the absence of probate proceedings, and upon the return of the warrants for cancellation, payment of the accrued annuity or benefit, shall be made as provided in subdivision 11, or 352.12, subdivision 4. Payments made under this subdivision shall be a bar to recovery by any other person or persons.

Subd. 13. [Repealed, 1981 c 224 s 276]

History: 1957 c 928 s 9; Ex1959 c 6 s 7,9,20; Ex1961 c 67 s 10; 1963 c 383 s 26-32; 1963 c 814 s 1; 1965 c 230 s 3-6; Ex1967 c 57 s 16; 1969 c 893 s 7; 1971 c 12 s 4; 1973 c 35 s 53; 1973 c 221 s 4; 1973 c 492 s 14; 1973 c 653 s 28-30; 1975 c 271 s 6; 1975 c 359 s 23; 1975 c 368 s 21-23; 1976 c 134 s 78; 1980 c 342 s 3; 1980 c 607 art 14 s 33; 1981 c 224 s 48; 1983 c 128 s 8; 1984 c 564 s 8,9; 1984 c 574 s 7; 1986 c 444; 1987 c 229 art 6 s 1; 1987 c 372 art 9 s 2; 1989 c 319 art 13 s 7-9; 1990 c 570 art 10 s 5; art 12 s 6; 1993 c 307 art 1 s 11; 1997 c 233 art 1 s 19; 2000 c 461 art 2 s 2; 2002 c 392 art 11 s 52

352.1155 NO ANNUITY REDUCTION.

Subdivision 1. **Eligibility.** Except as indicated in subdivision 4, the annuity reduction provisions of section 352.115, subdivision 10, do not apply to a person who:

(1) retires from the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system with at least ten years of combined service credit in a system under the jurisdiction of the Board of Trustees of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities;

(2) was employed on a full-time basis immediately preceding retirement as a faculty member or as an unclassified administrator in that system;

(3) begins drawing an annuity from the general state employees retirement plan of the Minnesota State Retirement System; and

(4) returns to work on not less than a one-third time basis and not more than a two-thirds time basis in the system from which the person retired under an agreement in which the person may not earn a salary of more than \$46,000 in a calendar year from employment after retirement in the system from which the person retired.

Subd. 2. Approval requirements. Initial participation, the amount of time worked, and the duration of participation under this section must be mutually agreed upon by

the president of the institution where the person returns to work and the employee. The president may require up to one-year notice of intent to participate in the program as a condition of participation under this section. The president shall determine the time of year the employee shall work. The employer or the president may not require a person to waive any rights under a collective bargaining agreement as a condition of participation under this section.

Subd. 3. **Service credit prohibition.** Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, a person eligible under this section may not, based on employment to which the waiver in this section applies, earn further service credit in a Minnesota public defined benefit plan and is not eligible to participate in a Minnesota public defined contribution plan, other than a volunteer fire plan governed by chapter 424A. No employer or employee contribution to any of these plans may be made on behalf of such a person.

Subd. 4. **Exemption limit.** For a person eligible under this section who earns more than \$46,000 in a calendar year from reemployment in the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system following retirement, the annuity reduction provisions of section 352.115, subdivision 10, apply only to income over \$46,000.

Subd. 5. **Continuing rights.** A person who returns to work under this section is a member of the appropriate bargaining unit and is covered by the appropriate collective bargaining contract. Except as provided in this section, the person's coverage is subject to any part of the contract limiting rights of part-time employees.

History: 1999 c 222 art 19 s 3; 2000 c 461 art 2 s 3,4

352.116 ANNUITIES UPON RETIREMENT.

Subdivision 1. **Reduced annuity before normal retirement age.** This subdivision applies only to a person who first became a covered employee or a member of a pension fund listed in section 356.30, subdivision 3, before July 1, 1989, and whose annuity is higher when calculated under section 352.115, subdivision 3, paragraph (a), in conjunction with this subdivision than when calculated under section 352.115, subdivision 3, paragraph (b), in conjunction with subdivision 1a.

(a) Any employee who is eligible for a retirement annuity under section 352.115, subdivision 1, and who retires before normal retirement age with credit for at least three but less than 30 years of allowable service shall be paid the normal retirement annuity provided in section 352.115, subdivisions 2 and 3, paragraph (a), reduced by one-quarter of one percent for each month that the employee is under normal retirement age at the time of retirement. An employee who is eligible for a retirement annuity under section 352.115, subdivision 1, and who retires prior to age 62 with credit for at least 30 years of allowable service shall be paid the normal retirement annuity provided in section 352.115, subdivisions 2 and 3, paragraph (a), reduced by one-quarter of one percent for each month that the employee is under age 62 at the time of retirement.

(b) Any person whose attained age plus credited allowable service totals 90 years is entitled, upon application, to a retirement annuity in an amount equal to the normal annuity provided in section 352.115, subdivisions 2 and 3, paragraph (a), without any reduction by reason of early retirement.

Subd. 1a. **Actuarial reduction for early retirement.** This subdivision applies to a person who has become at least 55 years old and first became a covered employee after June 30, 1989, and to any other covered employee who has become at least 55 years old and whose annuity is higher when calculated under section 352.115, subdivision 3, paragraph (b), in conjunction with this subdivision than when calculated under section 352.115, subdivision 3, paragraph (a), in conjunction with subdivision 1. A covered employee who retires before the normal retirement age shall be paid the normal retirement annuity provided in section 352.115, subdivisions 2 and 3, paragraph (b), reduced so that the reduced annuity is the actuarial equivalent of the annuity that would be payable to the employee if the employee deferred receipt of the annuity and the annuity amount were augmented at an annual rate of three percent compounded annually from the day the annuity begins to accrue until the normal retirement age.

Subd. 2. **Normal annuity at normal retirement age.** Any employee who retires after reaching normal retirement age shall be paid the annuity provided in section 352.115.

Subd. 3. **Optional annuities.** The board shall establish an optional retirement annuity in the form of a joint and survivor annuity. The board may also establish an optional annuity in the form of an annuity payable for a period certain and for life thereafter. In addition, the board may also establish an optional annuity that takes the form of an annuity calculated on the basis of the age of the retired employee at retirement and payable for the period before the retired employee becomes eligible for Social Security old age retirement benefits in a greater amount than the amount of the annuity calculated under subdivision 2 on the basis of the age of the retired employee at retirement. For each year that the retiring employee is under age 62, up to five percent of the total single life annuity required reserves may be used to accelerate the optional retirement annuity. This greater amount shall be paid until the end of the month in which the retired employee reaches age 62, at which time the annuity shall be reduced. Except as provided in subdivision 3a, the optional forms must be actuarially equivalent to the normal single life annuity forms provided in sections 352.115 and 352.116, whichever applies.

Subd. 3a. **Bounce-back annuity.** (a) If a retired employee or disabilitant selects a joint and survivor annuity option under subdivision 3, the retired employee or disabilitant must receive a normal single-life annuity if the designated optional annuity beneficiary dies before the retired employee or disabilitant. Under this option, no reduction may be made in the annuity to provide for restoration of the normal single-life annuity in the event of the death of the designated optional annuity beneficiary.

(b) A retired employee or disabilitant who selected an optional joint and survivor annuity before July 1, 1989, but did not choose an option that provides that the normal single-life annuity is payable to the retired employee or the disabilitant if the designated optional annuity beneficiary dies first, is eligible for restoration of the normal single-life annuity if the designated optional annuity beneficiary dies first, without further actuarial reduction of the person's annuity. A retired employee or disabilitant who selected an optional joint and survivor annuity, but whose designated optional annuity beneficiary died before July 1, 1989, shall receive a normal single-life annuity after that date, but shall not receive retroactive payments for periods before that date.

(c) A retired employee or disabilitant who took a further actuarial reduction to elect an optional joint and survivor annuity that provides that the normal annuity is payable to the retired employee or disabilitant if the designated optional beneficiary died before July 1, 1989, shall have the annuity increased as of July 1, 1989, to the amount the person would have received if, at the time of retirement or disability, the person had selected only optional survivor coverage that would not have provided for restoration of the normal annuity upon the death of the designated optional annuity beneficiary. Any annuity or benefit increase under this paragraph is effective only for payments made after June 30, 1989, and is not retroactive for payments made before July 1, 1989.

Subd. 3b. **Bounce-back annuity.** (a) The board of directors must provide a joint and survivor annuity option to members of the correctional employees and State Patrol retirement funds. Under this option, a former member or disabilitant must receive a normal single life annuity if the designated optional annuity beneficiary dies before the former member or disabilitant. Under this option, no reduction may be made in the person's annuity to provide for restoration of the normal single life annuity in the event of the death of the designated optional annuity beneficiary.

(b) A former member or disabilitant of the correctional or State Patrol fund who selected an optional joint and survivor annuity before July 1, 1989, but did not choose an option that provides that the normal single life annuity is payable to the former member or the disabilitant if the designated optional annuity beneficiary dies first, is eligible for restoration of the normal single life annuity if the designated optional

annuity beneficiary dies first, without further actuarial reduction of the person's annuity. A former member or disabilitant who selected an optional joint and survivor annuity, but whose designated optional annuity beneficiary died before July 1, 1989, shall receive a normal single life annuity after that date, but shall not receive retroactive payments for periods before that date.

(c) A former member or disabilitant who took a further actuarial reduction to elect an optional joint and survivor annuity that provides that the normal annuity is payable to the former member or disabilitant if the designated optional beneficiary died before July 1, 1989, shall have their annuity increased as of July 1, 1989, to the amount the person would have received if, at the time of retirement or disability, the person had selected only optional survivor coverage that would not have provided for restoration of the normal annuity upon the death of the designated optional annuity beneficiary. Any annuity or benefit increase under this paragraph is effective only for payments made after June 30, 1989, and is not retroactive for payments made before July 1, 1989.

Subd. 3c. **Effective date of bounce-back annuity.** In the event of the death of the designated optional annuity beneficiary before the retired employee or disabilitant, the restoration of the normal single life annuity under subdivision 3a or 3b will take effect as of the first of the month following the date of death of the designated optional annuity beneficiary or on the first of the month following one year before the date on which a certified copy of the death record of the designated optional annuity beneficiary is received in the Office of the Minnesota State Retirement System, whichever date is later.

Subd. 4. **Determining actuarial equivalency.** In establishing the procedure for determining the actuarial equivalency of early retirement annuities as required under subdivision 1a or in establishing actuarial equivalent optional retirement annuity forms as required under subdivision 3, the board shall obtain the written recommendation of the commission-retained actuary. The recommendations shall be a part of the permanent records of the board.

History: 1957 c 928 s 10; Ex1959 c 6 s 11; Ex1961 c 67 s 11; 1963 c 383 s 33-35; Ex1967 c 57 s 17; 1969 c 37 s 1; 1971 c 274 s 1; 1973 c 653 s 31; 1978 c 781 s 1; 1980 c 509 s 130; 1981 c 224 s 49; 1987 c 229 art 6 s 1; art 11 s 1; 1987 c 259 s 14-16; 1989 c 319 art 1 s 6; art 13 s 10; art 17 s 1; 1990 c 570 art 12 s 7-9; 1992 c 464 art 1 s 39; 1Sp2001 c 9 art 15 s 32

352.117 Subdivision 1. [Repealed, 1963 c 383 s 59]

Subd. 2. [Repealed, 1963 c 383 s 59]

Subd. 3. [Repealed, 1959 c 162 s 3]

352.118 [Repealed, 1983 c 128 s 36]

352.1181 [Repealed, 1981 c 224 s 276]

352.119 PARTICIPATION IN POSTRETIREMENT INVESTMENT FUND.

Subdivision 1. **Adjustable fixed benefit annuity.** Adjustable fixed benefit annuity means the payments made from the participation in the fund to an annuitant after retirement in accordance with this section. It also means that the payments made to the persons receiving benefits must never be less than the amount originally determined on the date of retirement or on July 1, 1969, whichever is later.

Subd. 2. **Valuation of assets; adjustment of benefits.** (a) The required reserves for retirement annuities or disability benefits under this chapter as determined in accordance with the appropriate mortality table adopted by the board of directors based on experience of the fund as recommended by the commission-retained actuary and using the interest assumption specified in section 356.215, subdivision 8, must be transferred to the Minnesota postretirement investment fund as of the last business day of the month in which the retirement annuity or disability benefit begins.

(b) Annuity and benefit payments must be adjusted in accordance with section 11A.18.

Subd. 3. **Increases made automatically.** Notwithstanding section 356.18, increases in benefit payments under this section will be made automatically unless the intended recipient files written notice with the system requesting that the increase not be made.

Subd. 4. **Determining applicable law.** The annuity is computed under the law in effect as of the last day for which the employee receives pay, or if on medical leave, the day the leave terminates. However, if the employee has returned to covered employment following a termination, the employee must have earned at least six months of allowable service following their return to qualify for improved benefits resulting from any law change enacted subsequent to that termination.

History: 1969 c 893 s 9; 1971 c 12 s 5; 1971 c 414 s 7; 1973 c 653 s 33; 1980 c 607 art 14 s 45 subd 2; s 46; 1987 c 229 art 6 s 1; art 11 s 1; 1987 c 259 s 17; 1994 c 465 art 2 s 19; 1994 c 528 art 1 s 6; 2002 c 392 art 11 s 52

352.1191 [Repealed, 1983 c 128 s 36]

352.12 REFUND AFTER DEATH.

Subdivision 1. **Death before termination of service.** If an employee dies before state service has terminated and neither a survivor annuity nor a reversionary annuity is payable on behalf of the employee, or if a former employee who has sufficient service credit to be entitled to an annuity dies before the annuity has become payable, a refund with interest is payable upon filing a written application on a form prescribed by the executive director. The refund is payable to the last designated beneficiary or, if there is none, to the surviving spouse or, if none, to the employee's surviving children in equal shares or, if none, to the employee's surviving parents in equal shares or, if none, to the representative of the estate. Interest must be computed as provided in section 352.22, subdivision 2. Upon the death of an employee who has received a refund that was later repaid in full, interest must be paid on the repaid refund only from the date of the repayment. If the repayment was made in installments, interest must be paid only from the date on which the installment payments began. The designated beneficiary, the surviving spouse, or the representative of the estate of an employee who had received a disability benefit is not entitled to the payment of interest upon any balance remaining to the decedent's credit in the fund at the time of death, unless the death occurred before any payment could be negotiated.

Subd. 2. **Surviving spouse benefit.** (a) If an employee or former employee has credit for at least three years allowable service and dies before an annuity or disability benefit has become payable, notwithstanding any designation of beneficiary to the contrary, the surviving spouse of the employee may elect to receive, in lieu of the refund with interest under subdivision 1, an annuity equal to the joint and 100 percent survivor annuity which the employee or former employee could have qualified for on the date of death.

(b) If the employee was under age 55 and has credit for at least 30 years of allowable service on the date of death, the surviving spouse may elect to receive a 100 percent joint and survivor annuity based on the age of the employee and surviving spouse on the date of death. The annuity is payable using the full early retirement reduction under section 352.116, subdivision 1, paragraph (a), to age 55 and one-half of the early retirement reduction from age 55 to the age payment begins.

(c) If the employee was under age 55 and has credit for at least three years of allowable service credit on the date of death but did not yet qualify for retirement, the surviving spouse may elect to receive a 100 percent joint and survivor annuity based on the age of the employee and surviving spouse at the time of death. The annuity is payable using the full early retirement reduction under section 352.116, subdivision 1 or 1a, to age 55 and one-half of the early retirement reduction from age 55 to the age payment begins.

The surviving spouse eligible for benefits under paragraph (a) may apply for the annuity at any time after the date on which the employee or former employee would have attained the required age for retirement based on the allowable service earned. The surviving spouse eligible for surviving spouse benefits under paragraph (b) or (c) may apply for the annuity at any time after the employee's death. The annuity must be computed under sections 352.115, subdivisions 1, 2, and 3, and 352.116, subdivisions 1, 1a, and 3. Sections 352.22, subdivision 3, and 352.72, subdivision 2, apply to a deferred annuity or surviving spouse benefit payable under this subdivision. The annuity must cease with the last payment received by the surviving spouse in the lifetime of the surviving spouse, or upon expiration of a term certain benefit payment to a surviving spouse under subdivision 2a. An amount equal to the excess, if any, of the accumulated contributions credited to the account of the deceased employee in excess of the total of the benefits paid and payable to the surviving spouse must be paid to the deceased employee's or former employee's last designated beneficiary or, if none, as specified under subdivision 1.

Any employee or former employee may request in writing that this subdivision not apply and that payment be made only to a designated beneficiary as otherwise provided by this chapter.

Subd. 2a. **Surviving spouse coverage term certain.** In lieu of the 100 percent optional annuity under subdivision 2, or refund under subdivision 1, the surviving spouse of a deceased employee or former employee may elect to receive survivor coverage in a term certain of five, ten, 15, or 20 years, but monthly payments must not exceed 75 percent of the average high-five monthly salary of the deceased employee or former employee. The monthly term certain annuity must be actuarially equivalent to the 100 percent optional annuity under subdivision 2.

If a survivor elects a term certain annuity and dies before the expiration of the specified term certain period, the commuted value of the remaining annuity payments must be paid in a lump sum to the survivor's estate.

Subd. 2b. **Dependent child survivor coverage.** If there is no surviving spouse eligible for benefits under subdivision 2, a dependent child or children as defined in section 352.01, subdivision 26, is eligible for monthly payments. Payments to a dependent child must be paid from the date of the employee's death to the date the dependent child attains age 20 if the child is under age 15. If the child is 15 years or older on the date of death, payment must be made for five years. The payment to a dependent child is an amount actuarially equivalent to the value of a 100 percent optional annuity under subdivision 2 using the age of the employee and age of the dependent child at the date of death in lieu of the age of the surviving spouse. If there is more than one dependent child, each dependent child shall receive a proportionate share of the actuarial value of the employee's account.

Subd. 3. **Refund of \$3,000 or less.** If a state employee or former state employee dies without having designated a beneficiary, or if the beneficiary should die before applying for refund of the sum to the credit of the deceased employee or former employee, and there is no surviving spouse, and the amount of the refund does not exceed \$3,000 exclusive of interest, the director may refund the amount to the deceased or former employee's next of kin. The amount may be refunded 90 days after the date of death of the employee or former employee in the absence of probate proceedings, and upon proper application. The next of kin must be determined by the director with the concurrence of the board, to be entitled to the refund consistent with the laws of descent. A determination and payment without notice are conclusive and final and are a bar against claims of all other persons.

Subd. 4. **Refund to minor beneficiary.** If an employee or former employee dies having named as a beneficiary a person who is a minor at the time of the application for refund, and the amount of the refund does not exceed \$3,000, exclusive of interest, the director in the absence of guardianship or probate proceedings may make payment to the natural guardian having custody of the minor beneficiary, for the benefit of the child. Any annuity, retirement allowance, or disability benefit accrued at the time of

death of a disabled or retired employee, payable to a minor beneficiary, may similarly be paid. Payment is a bar to recovery by any other person or persons.

Subd. 5. [Repealed, 1993 c 307 art 7 s 1]

Subd. 6. **Death after service termination.** Except as provided in subdivision 1, if a former employee covered by the system who has not received an annuity, a retirement allowance, or a disability benefit dies, a refund is payable to the last designated beneficiary or, if there is none, to the surviving spouse or, if none, to the employee's surviving children in equal shares or, if none, to the employee's surviving parents in equal shares or, if none, to the representative of the estate in an amount equal to accumulated employee contributions plus interest. The interest on the refund must be computed as provided in section 352.22, subdivision 2.

Subd. 7. **Absence of optional or reversionary annuity.** Upon the death of a retired employee who selected neither an optional annuity or a reversionary annuity, a refund must be paid in an amount equal to the excess, if any, of the accumulated contributions to the credit of the retired employee immediately before retirement in excess of the sum of (1) all annuities, retirement allowances, and disability benefits that had been received and had accrued in the lifetime of the decedent, and (2) the annuity, retirement allowance, or disability benefit if not negotiated, payable to the surviving spouse under section 352.115, subdivision 8, or 352.113, subdivision 4, for the calendar month in which the retired employee died. The refund must be paid to the named beneficiary or, if there be none, to the surviving spouse or, if none, to the employee's surviving children in equal shares or, if none, to the employee's surviving parents in equal shares or, if none, to the representative of the estate.

Subd. 8. **Optional or reversionary annuity.** If the last eligible recipient of an optional annuity dies and the total amounts paid under it are less than the accumulated contributions to the credit of the retired employee immediately before retirement, the balance of accumulated contributions must be paid to the person designated by the retired employee in writing to receive payment. If no designation has been made by the retired employee, the remaining balance of accumulated contributions must be paid to the surviving children of the deceased recipient of the optional annuity in equal shares. If there are no surviving children, payment must be made to the deceased recipient's parents or, if none, to the representative of the deceased recipient's estate.

Subd. 9. **Beneficiary designation.** The designation of a beneficiary or person to receive any accumulated contributions remaining to the credit of an employee, a former employee, or a retired employee, at the time of death, as provided in this section, must be in writing and must be filed with the director before the death of the employee, former employee, or retired employee.

Subd. 10. **Death of beneficiary before refund.** If the last designated beneficiary or beneficiaries and the surviving spouse of a (1) deceased employee, (2) former employee, or (3) retired employee, dies before receiving a refund of the sum to the credit of the deceased employee, former employee, or retired employee at the time of death, the refund must be made to the estate of the deceased employee or as provided in subdivision 3 if the amount of the refund does not exceed \$3,000 exclusive of interest.

Subd. 11. **Death of disability annuitant.** If an employee who has received a disability benefit dies, a payment must be made of an amount equal to the excess, if any, of the accumulated contributions to the credit of the employee at the time the disability benefit began to accrue over and above the aggregate of (1) all disability benefits received and which had accrued during life, and (2) the benefit for the month in which the disabled employee died, payable, if applicable, to the surviving spouse under section 352.113, subdivision 4. The payment must be paid to the last designated beneficiary or, if there be none, to the surviving spouse, or if none, to the employee's surviving children in equal shares or, if none, to the employee's surviving parents in equal shares or, if none, to the representative of the estate.

Subd. 12. **Refund, failure to request.** If the last designated beneficiary, surviving spouse, legal representative, or next of kin, as determined by the director with the concurrence of the board, fails to claim the refund as provided in this section (1) within

five years from the date of death of a retired employee or disabled employee, or (2) within five years after the last deduction was taken from the salary of a deceased employee or deceased former employee, the accumulated contributions of the deceased employee, former employee, retired employee, or disabled employee must be credited to the retirement fund. However, if claim to refund is made within ten years after the transfer of accumulated contributions to the fund or within ten years after the date of death, whichever is later, and the amount transferred to the fund is over \$25, the sum must be restored to the account of the deceased employee, former employee, retired employee, or disabled employee. The refund must then be made to the surviving spouse or, if none, to the legal representative of the estate irrespective of any designation of beneficiary made by the deceased employee, former employee, retired employee, or disabled employee.

Subd. 13. **Refund, beneficiary.** If upon death a former employee has in possession a commissioner of finance's warrant which does not exceed \$1,000 covering a refund of accumulated contributions in the retirement fund, in the absence of probate proceedings the commissioner of finance's warrant may be returned for cancellation, and then upon application made by the last designated beneficiary of the deceased former employee, refund of the accumulated contributions must be paid to the last designated beneficiary. Payments made under this subdivision are a bar to recovery by any other person or persons.

History: (254-11) 1929 c 191 s 14; 1933 c 326 s 1; 1935 c 238 s 12; 1941 c 391 s 11; 1947 c 631 s 15; 1949 c 644 s 15; 1951 c 441 s 22-24; 1957 c 928 s 12; 1959 c 162 s 1,2; 1963 c 383 s 36-45; 1965 c 230 s 7-9; Ex1967 c 57 s 18; 1969 c 188 s 1; 1969 c 893 s 10; 1971 c 12 s 6; 1971 c 194 s 3,4; 1973 c 221 s 5-7; 1973 c 492 s 14; 1975 c 368 s 24-29; 1981 c 224 s 50; 1983 c 128 s 9-11; 1984 c 564 s 10,11; 1986 c 444; 1986 c 458 s 4; 1987 c 229 art 6 s 1; 1987 c 284 art 4 s 1; 1987 c 372 art 9 s 3; 1989 c 319 art 13 s 11-13; 1992 c 432 art 1 s 8; 1993 c 307 art 1 s 12-17; art 6 s 1; 1993 c 336 art 6 s 2-4; 1995 c 141 art 3 s 1-4; 2004 c 267 art 9 s 2,3

352.13 [Repealed, 1963 c 383 s 59]

352.14 [Repealed, 1963 c 383 s 59]

352.15 EXEMPTION FROM PROCESS AND TAXATION.

Subdivision 1. **Exemption; exceptions.** None of the money, annuities, or other benefits mentioned in this chapter is assignable either in law or in equity or subject to execution, levy, attachment, garnishment, or other legal process, except as provided in subdivision 1a or section 518.58, 518.581, or 518.6111.

Subd. 1a. **Automatic deposits.** The executive director may remit, through an automatic deposit system, annuity, benefit, or refund payments only to a financial institution associated with the National Automated Clearinghouse Association or a comparable successor organization that is trustee for a person eligible to receive the annuity, benefit, or refund. Upon the request of the retiree, disabilitant, survivor, or former employee, the executive director may remit the annuity, benefit, or refund check to the applicable financial institution for deposit in the person's account or joint account. The board of directors may prescribe the conditions under which payments will be made.

Subd. 2. [Repealed, 1994 c 528 art 1 s 15]

Subd. 3. **Deducting health or dental insurance premiums.** The board may direct, at its discretion, the deduction of a retiree's health or dental insurance premiums and transfer of the amounts to a health or dental insurance carrier covering state employees. The insurance carrier must certify that the retired employee has signed an authorization for the deduction and provide a computer readable roster of covered retirees and amounts. The health or dental insurance carrier must refund deductions withheld from a retiree's check in error directly to the retiree. The board shall require the insurance carrier to reimburse the fund for the administrative expense of withhold-

ing the premium amounts. The insurance carrier shall assume liability for any failure of the system to properly withhold the premium amounts.

Subd. 4. **Direct transfer of refunds.** Direct transfer of account refunds may be made to individual retirement savings accounts or qualified retirement plans upon application for transfer by a former employee, on forms acceptable to the executive director.

History: (254-17) 1929 c 191 s 17; 1931 c 351; 1933 c 326; 1935 c 238 s 15; 1941 c 391 s 14; Ex1959 c 6 s 21; 1971 c 789 s 4; 1975 c 368 s 30; 1979 c 303 art 3 s 28; 1983 c 128 s 12; 1984 c 547 s 4; 1986 c 444; 1987 c 157 s 2; 1987 c 229 art 6 s 1; 1993 c 307 art 1 s 18; art 3 s 3,4; 1995 c 254 art 1 s 89; 1997 c 203 art 6 s 92; 2000 c 461 art 3 s 1; 2003 c 127 art 3 s 18

352.16 INSURANCE LAWS NOT TO APPLY.

None of the laws of this state regulating insurance or insurance companies apply to the Minnesota State Retirement System or any of its funds.

History: (254-18) 1929 c 191 s 18; 1933 c 326; 1935 c 238 s 16; 1941 c 391 s 15; Ex1967 c 57 s 19; 1987 c 229 art 6 s 1

352.17 [Repealed, 1963 c 383 s 59]

352.18 [Repealed, 1963 c 383 s 59]

352.22 REFUND OR DEFERRED ANNUITIES.

Subdivision 1. **Service termination.** Any employee who ceases to be a state employee by reason of termination of state service or layoff is entitled to a refund provided in subdivision 2 or a deferred retirement annuity as provided in subdivision 3. Application for a refund may be made after the termination of state service or layoff if the applicant has not again become a state employee required to be covered by the system.

Subd. 2. **Amount of refund.** Except as provided in subdivision 3, the refund payable to a person who ceased to be a state employee by reason of a termination of state service is an amount equal to employee accumulated contributions plus interest at the rate of six percent per year compounded daily from the date that the contribution was made until the date on which the refund is paid. Included with the refund is any interest paid as part of repayment of a past refund, plus interest thereon from the date of repayment.

Subd. 2a. **Certain refund repayments prohibited.** No refunds of contributions made to the metropolitan transit commission-transit operating division employees retirement fund received before July 1, 1978, or for service rendered before July 1, 1978, may be repaid.

Subd. 3. **Deferred annuity.** (a) An employee who has at least three years of allowable service when termination occurs may elect to leave the accumulated contributions in the fund and thereby be entitled to a deferred retirement annuity. The annuity must be computed under the law in effect when state service terminated, on the basis of the allowable service credited to the person before the termination of service.

(b) An employee on layoff or on leave of absence without pay, except a leave of absence for health reasons, and who does not return to state service must have an annuity, deferred annuity, or other benefit to which the employee may become entitled computed under the law in effect on the employee's last working day.

(c) No application for a deferred annuity may be made more than 60 days before the time the former employee reaches the required age for entitlement to the payment of the annuity. The deferred annuity begins to accrue no earlier than 60 days before the date the application is filed in the office of the system, but not (1) before the date on which the employee reaches the required age for entitlement to the annuity nor (2) before the day following the termination of state service in a position which is not covered by the retirement system.

(d) Application for the accumulated contributions left on deposit with the fund may be made at any time following the date of the termination of service.

Subd. 4. [Repealed, 1983 c 128 s 36]

Subd. 5. **Refund generally unlimited.** The right of refund provided in this section is not restricted as to time unless specifically provided and the statute of limitation does not apply to it.

Subd. 6. [Repealed, 1965 c 230 s 18]

Subd. 7. [Repealed, Ex1967 c 57 so 20]

Subd. 8. **Refund specifically limited.** If a former employee covered by the system does not apply for refund within five years after the last deduction was taken from salary for the retirement fund, and does not have enough service to qualify for a deferred annuity, accumulated contributions must be credited to and become a part of the retirement fund. If the former employee returns to state service and becomes a state employee covered by the system, the amount credited to the retirement fund, if more than \$25, must be restored to the individual account. If the amount credited to the fund is over \$25 and the former employee applies for refund or an annuity under section 352.72, the amount must be restored to the former employee's individual account and a refund made or an annuity paid, whichever applies.

Subd. 9. [Repealed, 1993 c 307 art 7 s 1]

Subd. 10. **Other refunds.** Former employees covered by the system are entitled to apply for refunds if they are or become members of the State Patrol retirement fund, the state Teachers Retirement Association, or employees of the University of Minnesota excluded from coverage under the system by action of the Board of Regents; or labor service employees, excluded from coverage under section 352.01, subdivision 2b, clause (25); or employees of the adjutant general who under federal law effectually elect membership in a federal retirement system; or officers or employees of the senate or house of representatives, excluded from coverage under section 352.01, subdivision 2b, clause (8). The refunds must include accumulated contributions plus interest as provided in subdivision 2. These employees may apply 30 days or more after their coverage ceases, even if they continue in state service but in positions not covered by this chapter.

Subd. 11. [Repealed, 1980 c 342 s 21]

History: 1957 c 928 s 14; Ex1959 c 6 s 14,15; Ex1961 c 67 s 13,14; 1963 c 383 s 46-52; 1965 c 230 s 10-13; Ex1967 c 57 s 20; 1969 c 31 s 1; 1969 c 188 s 2; 1969 c 893 s 11; 1971 c 12 s 7,8; 1971 c 194 s 5; 1973 c 221 s 8; 1973 c 653 s 35,36; 1975 c 368 s 31,32; 1978 c 538 s 5; 1980 c 342 s 4,5; 1981 c 37 s 2; 1981 c 224 s 51-53; 1Sp1981 c 4 art 1 s 163; 1983 c 128 s 13; 1984 c 564 s 12; 1984 c 654 art 5 s 58; 1Sp1985 c 7 s 6; 1986 c 444; 1987 c 229 art 6 s 1; 1987 c 372 art 9 s 4; 1989 c 319 art 1 s 7,8; art 13 s 14,15; 1992 c 432 art 1 s 9; 1993 c 307 art 2 s 3,4; 1994 c 528 art 1 s 7; 1995 c 54 s 27; 1Sp2001 c 10 art 3 s 8; 2004 c 267 art 9 s 4,5

352.23 TERMINATION OF RIGHTS.

When any employee accepts a refund as provided in section 352.22, all existing service credits and all rights and benefits to which the employee was entitled before accepting the refund terminate. They must not again be restored until the former employee acquires at least six months of allowable service credit after taking the last refund. In that event, the employee may repay all refunds previously taken from the retirement fund. Repayment of refunds entitles the employee only to credit for service covered by (1) salary deductions; (2) payments made in lieu of salary deductions; (3) payments made to obtain credit for service as permitted by laws in effect when payment was made; and (4) allowable service once credited while receiving temporary workers' compensation as provided in section 352.01, subdivision 11, clause (5). Payments under this section for repayment of refunds are to be paid with interest at an annual rate of 8.5 percent compounded annually. They may be paid in a lump sum or by payroll

deduction in the manner provided in section 352.04. Payment may be made in a lump sum up to six months after termination from service.

History: 1957 c 928 s 15; Ex1959 c 6 s 22; 1965 c 230 s 14; Ex1967 c 57 s 21; 1969 c 1083 s 1; 1973 c 653 s 37; 1980 c 607 art 14 s 34; 1986 c 444; 1987 c 229 art 6 s 1; 1992 c 598 art 1 s 4; 1993 c 307 art 2 s 5

352.24 [Repealed, 1963 c 383 s 59]

352.241 [Repealed, 1963 c 383 s 59]

352.25 [Repealed, 1963 c 383 s 59]

352.26 [Repealed, 1963 c 383 s 59]

352.27 CREDIT FOR BREAK IN SERVICE TO PROVIDE UNIFORMED SERVICE.

(a) An employee who is absent from employment by reason of service in the uniformed services, as defined in United States Code, title 38, section 4303(13), and who returns to state service upon discharge from service in the uniformed service within the time frames required in United States Code, title 38, section 4312(e), may obtain service credit for the period of the uniformed service as further specified in this section, provided that the employee did not separate from uniformed service with a dishonorable or bad conduct discharge or under other than honorable conditions.

(b) The employee may obtain credit by paying into the fund an equivalent employee contribution based upon the contribution rate or rates in effect at the time that the uniformed service was performed multiplied by the full and fractional years being purchased and applied to the annual salary rate. The annual salary rate is the average annual salary during the purchase period that the employee would have received if the employee had continued to be employed in covered employment rather than to provide uniformed service, or, if the determination of that rate is not reasonably certain, the annual salary rate is the employee's average salary rate during the 12-month period of covered employment rendered immediately preceding the period of the uniformed service.

(c) The equivalent employer contribution and, if applicable, the equivalent additional employer contribution provided in section 352.04 must be paid by the department employing the employee from funds available to the department at the time and in the manner provided in section 352.04, using the employer and additional employer contribution rate or rates in effect at the time that the uniformed service was performed, applied to the same annual salary rate or rates used to compute the equivalent employee contribution.

(d) If the employee equivalent contributions provided in this section are not paid in full, the employee's allowable service credit must be prorated by multiplying the full and fractional number of years of uniformed service eligible for purchase by the ratio obtained by dividing the total employee contribution received by the total employee contribution otherwise required under this section.

(e) To receive service credit under this section, the contributions specified in this section must be transmitted to the Minnesota State Retirement System during the period which begins with the date on which the individual returns to state service and which has a duration of three times the length of the uniformed service period, but not to exceed five years. If the determined payment period is less than one year, the contributions required under this section to receive service credit may be made within one year of the discharge date.

(f) The amount of service credit obtainable under this section may not exceed five years unless a longer purchase period is required under United States Code, title 38, section 4312.

(g) The employing unit shall pay interest on all equivalent employee and employer contribution amounts payable under this section. Interest must be computed at a rate

of 8.5 percent compounded annually from the end of each fiscal year of the leave or the break in service to the end of the month in which the payment is received.

History: 1957 c 928 s 20; Ex1959 c 6 s 25; 1963 c 383 s 53; 1965 c 230 s 15; Ex1967 c 57 s 22; 1969 c 188 s 3; 1973 c 653 s 38; 1986 c 444; 1987 c 229 art 6 s 1; 1992 c 598 art 1 s 5; 2004 c 267 art 3 s 1

352.271 METROPOLITAN TRANSIT COMMISSION-TRANSIT OPERATING DIVISION EMPLOYEES; CREDIT FOR MILITARY SERVICE.

Any employee of the Metropolitan Transit Commission Operating Division who was on a leave of absence to enter military service on July 1, 1978, who has not taken a refund of employee contributions as authorized by article 12 of the Metropolitan Transit Commission-Transit Operating Division employees retirement fund document or section 352.22, subdivision 2a, and who returns to service as an employee of the Metropolitan Transit Commission-Transit Operating Division upon discharge from military service as provided in section 192.262 is entitled to allowable service credit for the period of military service. If an employee has taken a refund of employee contributions, and would otherwise be entitled to allowable service credit under this section, the employee is entitled to allowable service credit for the period of military service upon repayment to the executive director of the system of the amount refunded plus interest at an annual rate of 8.5 percent compounded annually from the date on which the refund was taken to the date of repayment. No employee is entitled to allowable service credit for any voluntary extensions of military service at the instance of the employee beyond any initial period of enlistment, induction, or call to active duty.

History: 1980 c 342 s 19; 1987 c 229 art 6 s 1; 1992 c 598 art 1 s 6

352.275 UNCREDITED MILITARY SERVICE CREDIT PURCHASE.

Subdivision 1. **Service credit purchase authorized.** A state employee who has at least three years of allowable service with the Minnesota State Retirement System and who performed service in the United States armed forces before becoming a state employee, or who failed to obtain service credit for a military leave of absence under section 352.27, is entitled to purchase allowable service credit for the initial period of enlistment, induction, or call to active duty without any voluntary extension by making payment under section 356.55 if the employee has not purchased service credit from any other Minnesota defined benefit public employee pension plan for the same period of service.

Subd. 2. **Application and documentation.** An employee who desires to purchase service credit under subdivision 1 must apply with the executive director to make the purchase. The application must include all necessary documentation of the employee's qualifications to make the purchase, signed written permission to allow the executive director to request and receive necessary verification of applicable facts and eligibility requirements, and any other relevant information that the executive director may require.

Subd. 3. **Service credit grant.** Allowable service credit for the purchase period must be granted by the Minnesota State Retirement System to the purchasing employee upon receipt of the purchase payment amount. Payment must be made before the employee's effective date of retirement.

History: 2000 c 461 art 4 s 1; 2004 c 267 art 17 s 1

NOTE: This section, as added by Laws 2000, chapter 461, article 4, section 1, is repealed effective May 16, 2006. Laws 2000, chapter 461, article 4, section 4, paragraph (b); as amended by Laws 2003, First Special Session chapter 12, article 6, section 3; and Laws 2004, chapter 267, article 17, section 7.

352.28 Subdivision 1. [Repealed, 1975 c 368 s 51]

Subd. 2. [Repealed, 1975 c 368 s 51]

Subd. 3. [Repealed, Ex1967 c 57 s 29]

Subd. 4. [Repealed, 1975 c 368 s 51]

Subd. 5. [Repealed, 1963 c 383 s 59]

Subd. 6. [Repealed, 1963 c 383 s 59]

Subd. 7. [Repealed, 1975 c 368 s 51]

Subd. 8. [Repealed, 1975 c 368 s 51]

352.29 [Repealed, 1963 c 383 s 59]

352.30 [Repealed, Ex1959 c 6 s 34]

352.31 [Repealed, 1963 c 383 s 59]

352.32 [Repealed, 1975 c 368 s 51]

352.33 [Repealed, 1963 c 383 s 59]

352.34 [Repealed, 1963 c 383 s 59]

352.35 [Repealed, 1963 c 383 s 59]

352.36 [Repealed, 1963 c 383 s 59]

352.37 [Repealed, 1963 c 383 s 59]

352.38 Subdivision 1. [Repealed, 1975 c 368 s 51]

Subd. 2. [Repealed, 1963 c 383 s 59]

Subd. 3. [Repealed, 1975 c 368 s 51]

352.61 [Repealed, 1963 c 383 s 59]

352.62 Subdivision 1. [Repealed, 1963 c 383 s 59]

Subd. 2. [Repealed, 1963 c 383 s 59]

Subd. 3. [Repealed, Ex1961 c 67 s 23]

352.63 [Repealed, 1963 c 383 s 59]

352.64 [Repealed, 1963 c 383 s 59]

352.65 [Repealed, 1963 c 383 s 59]

352.651 [Repealed, 1963 c 383 s 59]

352.66 Subdivision 1. [Repealed, 1959 c 162 s 3]

Subd. 2. [Repealed, 1959 c 162 s 3]

Subd. 3. [Repealed, 1963 c 383 s 59]

352.67 [Repealed, 1963 c 383 s 59]

352.68 [Repealed, 1963 c 383 s 59]

352.69 [Repealed, 1963 c 383 s 59]

352.71 [Repealed, 1983 c 128 s 36]

352.715 [Repealed, 1975 c 368 s 51]

352.72 COVERAGE BY MORE THAN ONE RETIREMENT SYSTEM.

Subdivision 1. **Entitlement to annuity.** (a) Any person who has been an employee covered by a retirement system listed in paragraph (b) is entitled when qualified to an annuity from each fund if total allowable service in all funds or in any two of these funds totals three or more years.

(b) This section applies to the Minnesota State Retirement System, the Public Employees Retirement Association including the Public Employees Retirement Association police and fire fund, the Teachers Retirement Association, the State Patrol

Retirement Association, or any other public employee retirement system in the state with a similar provision, except as noted in paragraph (c).

(c) This section does not apply to other funds providing benefits for police officers or firefighters.

(d) No portion of the allowable service upon which the retirement annuity from one fund is based shall be again used in the computation for benefits from another fund. No refund may have been taken from any one of these funds since service entitling the employee to coverage under the system or the employee's membership in any of the associations last terminated. The annuity from each fund must be determined by the appropriate provisions of the law except that the requirement that a person must have at least three years allowable service in the respective system or association does not apply for the purposes of this section if the combined service in two or more of these funds equals three or more years.

Subd. 2. Computation of deferred annuity. (a) The deferred annuity, if any, accruing under subdivision 1, or section 352.22, subdivision 3, must be computed as provided in section 352.22, subdivision 3, on the basis of allowable service before termination of state service and augmented as provided herein. The required reserves applicable to a deferred annuity or to an annuity for which a former employee was eligible but had not applied or to any deferred segment of an annuity must be determined as of the date the benefit begins to accrue and augmented by interest compounded annually from the first day of the month following the month in which the employee ceased to be a state employee, or July 1, 1971, whichever is later, to the first day of the month in which the annuity begins to accrue. The rates of interest used for this purpose must be five percent compounded annually until January 1, 1981, and three percent compounded annually thereafter until January 1 of the year following the year in which the former employee attains age 55. From that date to the effective date of retirement, the rate is five percent compounded annually. If a person has more than one period of uninterrupted service, the required reserves related to each period must be augmented by interest under this subdivision. The sum of the augmented required reserves so determined is the present value of the annuity. "Uninterrupted service" for the purpose of this subdivision means periods of covered employment during which the employee has not been separated from state service for more than two years. If a person repays a refund, the service restored by the repayment must be considered continuous with the next period of service for which the employee has credit with this system. The formula percentages used for each period of uninterrupted service must be those applicable to a new employee. The mortality table and interest assumption used to compute the annuity must be those in effect when the employee files application for annuity. This section does not reduce the annuity otherwise payable under this chapter.

(b) The retirement annuity or disability benefit of, or the survivor benefit payable on behalf of, a former state employee who terminated service before July 1, 1997, which is not first payable until after June 30, 1997, must be increased on an actuarial equivalent basis to reflect the change in the postretirement interest rate actuarial assumption under section 356.215, subdivision 8, from five percent to six percent under a calculation procedure and the tables adopted by the board and approved by the actuary retained by the Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement.

Subd. 3. [Repealed, 1971 c 274 s 4]

Subd. 4. Refund repayment. Any person who has received a refund from the state employees retirement fund, and who is a member of a public retirement system included in subdivision 1, may repay the refund with interest to the state employees retirement fund. If a refund is repaid to the fund and more than one refund has been received from the fund, all refunds must be repaid. Repayment must be made as provided in section 352.23, and under terms and conditions consistent with that section as agreed upon with the director.

Subd. 5. Early retirement. The requirements and provisions for retirement before normal retirement age in sections 352.115, subdivision 1, and 352.116 also apply to an

employee fulfilling the requirements with a combination of service as provided in subdivision 1.

History: *Ex1961 c 67 s 22; 1963 c 383 s 57; 1965 c 230 s 17; Ex1967 c 57 s 28; 1969 c 188 s 4; 1971 c 274 s 2,3; 1973 c 221 s 9,10; 1975 c 368 s 33,34; 1977 c 429 s 63; 1978 c 796 s 10; 1981 c 37 s 2; 1981 c 224 s 54,55; 1986 c 444; 1987 c 229 art 6 s 1; 1987 c 372 art 9 s 5; 1989 c 319 art 13 s 16-18; 1990 c 426 art 1 s 42; 1997 c 233 art 1 s 20; 2002 c 392 art 11 s 52*

352.73 [Repealed, 1993 c 307 art 7 s 1]

352.75 TRANSFER OF PENSION COVERAGE SAVINGS CLAUSE; INCREASE IN EXISTING ANNUITIES AND BENEFITS.

Subdivision 1. **Existing employees.** Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, as of July 1, 1978, all active employees of the Transit Operating Division of the former Metropolitan Transit Commission and all employees on authorized leaves of absence from the Transit Operating Division who are employed on July 1, 1978, by a labor organization which is the exclusive bargaining agent representing employees of the Transit Operating Division shall cease to be members of the former Metropolitan Transit Commission-Transit Operating employees retirement fund and shall cease to have any accrual of service credit, rights, or benefits under that retirement fund. After July 1, 1978, those employees become members of the Minnesota State Retirement System, are considered state employees for purposes of this chapter, unless specifically excluded by section 352.01, subdivision 2b, and shall have past service with the Transit Operating Division of the former Metropolitan Transit Commission credited by the Minnesota State Retirement System in accordance with section 352.01, subdivision 11, clause (10). Any employees on authorized leaves of absence from the Transit Operating Division of the former Metropolitan Transit Commission who become employed by the labor organization which is the exclusive bargaining agent representing employees of the Transit Operating Division after July 1, 1978, shall be entitled to be members of the Minnesota State Retirement System under section 352.029.

Subd. 2. **New employees.** All persons first employed by the former Metropolitan Transit Commission as employees of the Transit Operating Division on or after July 1, 1978, are members of the Minnesota State Retirement System and are considered state employees for purposes of this chapter unless specifically excluded under section 352.01, subdivision 2b.

Subd. 3. **Existing retired members and benefit recipients.** As of July 1, 1978, the liability for all retirement annuities, disability benefits, survivorship annuities, and survivor of deceased active employee benefits paid or payable by the former Metropolitan Transit Commission-Transit Operating Division employees retirement fund is transferred to the Minnesota State Retirement System, and is no longer the liability of the former Metropolitan Transit Commission-Transit Operating Division employees retirement fund. The required reserves for retirement annuities, disability benefits, and optional joint and survivor annuities in effect on June 30, 1978, and the required reserves for the increase in annuities and benefits provided under subdivision 6 must be determined using a five percent interest assumption and the applicable Minnesota State Retirement System mortality table and shall be transferred by the Minnesota State Retirement System to the Minnesota postretirement investment fund on July 1, 1978, but shall be considered transferred as of June 30, 1978. The annuity or benefit amount in effect on July 1, 1978, including the increase granted under subdivision 6, must be used for adjustments made under section 11A.18. For persons receiving benefits as survivors of deceased former retirement annuitants, the benefits must be considered as having commenced on the date on which the retirement annuitant began receiving the retirement annuity.

Subd. 4. **Existing deferred retirees.** Any former member of the former Metropolitan Transit Commission-Transit Operating Division employees retirement fund is entitled to a retirement annuity from the Minnesota State Retirement System if the employee:

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(1) is not an active employee of the Transit Operating Division of the former Metropolitan Transit Commission on July 1, 1978; (2) has at least ten years of active continuous service with the Transit Operating Division of the former Metropolitan Transit Commission as defined by the former Metropolitan Transit Commission-Transit Operating Division employees retirement plan document in effect on December 31, 1977; (3) has not received a refund of contributions; (4) has not retired or begun receiving an annuity or benefit from the former Metropolitan Transit Commission-Transit Operating Division employees retirement fund; (5) is at least 55 years old; and (6) submits a valid application for a retirement annuity to the executive director of the Minnesota State Retirement System.

The person is entitled to a retirement annuity in an amount equal to the normal old age retirement allowance calculated under the former Metropolitan Transit Commission-Transit Operating Division employees retirement fund plan document in effect on December 31, 1977, subject to an early retirement reduction or adjustment in amount on account of retirement before the normal retirement age specified in that former Metropolitan Transit Commission-Transit Operating Division employees retirement fund plan document.

The deferred retirement annuity of any person to whom this subdivision applies must be augmented. The required reserves applicable to the deferred retirement annuity, determined as of the date the allowance begins to accrue using an appropriate mortality table and an interest assumption of five percent, must be augmented by interest at the rate of five percent per year compounded annually from January 1, 1978, to January 1, 1981, and three percent per year compounded annually from January 1, 1981, to the first day of the month in which the annuity begins to accrue. Upon the commencement of the retirement annuity, the required reserves for the annuity must be transferred to the Minnesota postretirement investment fund in accordance with subdivision 2 and section 352.119. On applying for a retirement annuity under this subdivision, the person is entitled to elect a joint and survivor optional annuity under section 352.116, subdivision 3.

Subd. 5. Savings clause for certain existing employees. Any person who is a member of the former Metropolitan Transit Commission-Transit Operating Division employees retirement fund on July 1, 1978, is entitled to retain past and prospective rights under the retirement benefit formula, normal retirement age, and early reduced retirement age provisions of the former Metropolitan Transit Commission-Transit Operating Division employees retirement fund plan document in effect on July 1, 1978, in lieu of the provisions in sections 352.115; 352.116; 352.22, subdivisions 3 to 11; and 356.30.

Subd. 6. Increase in existing annuities and benefits. All persons receiving retirement allowances or annuities, disability benefits, survivorship annuities and survivor of deceased active employee benefits from the former Metropolitan Transit Commission-Transit Operating Division employees retirement fund on December 31, 1977, and on July 1, 1978, are entitled to have the allowances, annuities, or benefits increased by an amount equal to \$20 per month. Increases in payments under this subdivision must be made automatically unless the intended recipient files written notice with the executive director of the Minnesota State Retirement System requesting that the increase not be made. If any actuarial reduction or adjustment was applied to the retirement allowance or annuity, disability benefit, survivorship annuity, or survivor of deceased active employee benefit, the increase specified in this subdivision must be similarly reduced or adjusted. Upon the death of any person receiving an annuity or benefit if the person elected a joint and survivor optional annuity the survivor is entitled to the continued receipt of the increase provided for under this subdivision, but the increase must be reduced or adjusted in accordance with the optional annuity election.

History: 1978 c 538 s 8-10; 1980 c 607 art 14 s 35,45 subd 2; 1981 c 224 s 56; 1987 c 229 art 6 s 1; 1994 c 628 art 3 s 29; 1996 c 305 art 1 s 75

352.76 GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

This chapter governs where not inconsistent with Laws 1978, chapter 538.

History: 1978 c 538 s 17; 1987 c 229 art 6 s 1

SPECIAL COVERAGE**352.85 MILITARY AFFAIRS PERSONNEL.**

Subdivision 1. **Eligibility; retirement annuity.** Any person who is employed by the Department of Military Affairs other than as a full-time firefighter, who is covered by the general employee retirement plan of the system as provided in section 352.01, subdivision 23, who is ordered to active duty under section 190.08, subdivision 3, who elects this special retirement coverage under subdivision 4, who is required to retire from federal military status at an age earlier than normal retirement age by applicable federal laws or regulations, and who terminates employment as a state employee upon attaining that mandatory retirement age is entitled, upon application, to a retirement annuity computed in accordance with section 352.115, subdivisions 2 and 3, without any reduction for early retirement under section 352.116, subdivision 1 or 1a.

Subd. 2. **Disability benefit.** An employee described in subdivision 1, who is less than the applicable federal military status mandatory retirement age and who becomes disabled and physically or mentally unfit to perform occupational duties due to injury, sickness, or other disability, and who is found disqualified for retention on active duty as a result of a physical examination required by applicable federal laws or regulations, is entitled upon application to disability benefits computed in the manner specified in section 352.113. Disability benefits are otherwise governed by section 352.113, except that the age for the termination of the disability benefit is the applicable federal military status mandatory retirement age.

Subd. 3. **Additional contributions.** The special retirement annuities and disability benefits authorized by this section shall be financed by an employee contribution from the covered Department of Military Affairs employee of 1.6 percent and an employer contribution from the Department of Military Affairs of 1.6 percent. These contributions are in addition to the contributions required by section 352.04, subdivisions 2 and 3. They must be made as provided in section 352.04, subdivisions 4, 5, and 6.

Subd. 4. **Election of coverage.** To be covered by section 352.85, any employee of the Department of Military Affairs, described in subdivision 1, must file a notice with the executive director of the system on a form prescribed by the executive director stating whether or not the employee elects to be covered. Notice must be filed within 90 days of employment. Elections are irrevocable during any period of covered employment.

Subd. 5. **Restriction on coverage.** Nothing in this section applies to the adjutant general.

Subd. 6. [Repealed, 1991 c 269 art 3 s 21]

History: 1980 c 607 art 15 s 22; 1981 c 224 s 57; 1982 c 575 s 1,2; 1Sp1985 c 7 s 35; 1986 c 444; 1987 c 229 art 6 s 1; 1987 c 259 s 18; 1987 c 372 art 1 s 3; 1988 c 709 art 9 s 1,2; 1989 c 319 art 13 s 19; 1993 c 307 art 1 s 19

352.86 TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT PILOTS.

Subdivision 1. **Eligibility; retirement annuity.** A person who is employed by the Department of Transportation in the civil service employment classification of aircraft pilot or chief pilot who is covered by the general employee retirement plan of the system under section 352.01, subdivision 23, who elects this special retirement coverage under subdivision 3, who is prohibited from performing the duties of aircraft pilot or chief pilot after reaching age 65 by a policy adopted by the commissioner of transportation, and who terminates employment as a state employee on or after age 62 but prior to normal retirement age is entitled, upon application, to a retirement annuity

computed under section 352.115, subdivisions 2 and 3, without any reduction for early retirement under section 352.116, subdivision 1.

Subd. 1a. **Disability benefits.** An employee described in subdivision 1, who is less than 62 years of age and who becomes disabled and physically or mentally unfit to perform occupational duties due to injury, sickness, or other disability, and who is found disqualified for retention as chief pilot or pilot as a result of a physical examination required by applicable federal laws or regulations, is entitled upon application to disability benefits for a maximum of five years in the amount of 75 percent of current monthly salary, to be paid by the appointing authority from the state airports fund. Disability benefits must not continue after the employee reaches age 62. These benefits are in lieu of all other state benefits for the disability, including, but not limited to, workers' compensation benefits.

Subd. 2. **Additional contributions.** The special retirement annuity authorized by subdivision 1 shall be financed by an employee contribution from the covered aircraft pilot or chief pilot of 1.6 percent and an employer contribution from the Department of Transportation of 1.6 percent. These contributions are in addition to the contributions required by section 352.04, subdivisions 2 and 3. They must be made in the manner provided for in section 352.04, subdivisions 4, 5, and 6.

Subd. 3. **Election of coverage.** To be covered by this section, an employee of the Department of Transportation described in subdivision 1 who is employed in the described position on July 1, 1982, or after must file a notice with the executive director of the Minnesota State Retirement System on a form prescribed by the executive director stating whether or not the employee elects to be covered by this special plan. Notice must be filed by August 1, 1982, or within 90 days of employment, whichever is later. Elections are irrevocable during any period of covered employment.

Subd. 4. [Repealed, 1991 c 269 art 3 s 21]

History: 1982 c 575 s 3; 1983 c 293 s 98,99; 1985 c 248 s 70; ISp1985 c 7 s 35; 1986 c 444; 1987 c 229 art 6 s 1; art 11 s 1; 1987 c 259 s 19; 2004 c 267 art 7 s 1

352.87 STATE FIRE MARSHAL DIVISION EMPLOYEES.

Subdivision 1. **Eligibility.** A member of the general plan who is employed by the Department of Public Safety, State Fire Marshal Division, as a deputy state fire marshal, fire/arson investigator, who elects special benefit coverage under subdivision 8, is entitled to retirement benefits or disability benefits, as applicable, as stated in this section for eligible service under this section rendered after July 1, 1999, for which allowable service credit is received. The covered member must be at least age 55 to qualify for the retirement annuity specified in subdivision 3.

Subd. 2. **Retirement annuity eligibility.** A person specified in subdivision 1 who meets all eligibility requirements specified in this chapter applicable to general plan members is eligible for retirement benefits as specified in subdivision 3.

Subd. 3. **Retirement annuity formula.** A person specified in subdivision 1 will have a retirement annuity applicable for allowable service credit under this section calculated by multiplying the employee's average salary, as defined in section 352.115, subdivision 2, by the percent specified in section 356.315, subdivision 2a, for each year or portions of a year of allowable service credit. No reduction for retirement prior to normal retirement age, as specified in section 352.01, subdivision 25, applies to service to which this section applies.

Subd. 4. **Non-job-related disability benefits.** An eligible member described in subdivision 1 who becomes disabled and physically or mentally unfit to perform the duties of the position because of sickness or injury while not engaged in covered employment is entitled to a disability benefit amount equivalent to an annuity computed under subdivision 3 assuming the member has 15 years of service qualifying under this section and waiving the minimum age requirement. If the eligible member becomes disabled under this subdivision with more than 15 years of service covered under this section, the eligible member is entitled to a disability benefit amount

equivalent to an annuity computed under subdivision 3 based on all years of service credited under this section and waiving the minimum age requirement.

Subd. 5. **Job-related disability benefits.** An eligible member defined in subdivision 1 who becomes disabled and physically or mentally unfit to perform the duties of the position because of sickness or injury while engaged in covered employment is entitled to a disability benefit amount equivalent to an annuity computed under subdivision 3 assuming the member has 20 years of service qualifying under this section and waiving the minimum age requirement. An eligible member who becomes disabled under this subdivision with more than 20 years of service credited under this section is entitled to a disability benefit amount equivalent to an annuity computed under subdivision 3 based on all years of service credited under this section and waiving the age requirement.

Subd. 6. **Disability benefit coordination.** If the eligible employee is entitled to receive a disability benefit as provided in subdivision 4 or 5 and has allowable service credit under this section for less service than the length of service upon which the disability benefit in subdivision 4 or 5 is based, and also has allowable service in the general plan not includable in this section, the employee is entitled to a disability benefit or deferred retirement annuity based on the general plan service not includable in this section only for the service that, when combined with the service includable in this section, exceeds the number of years on which the disability benefit provided in subdivision 4 or 5 is based. The benefit recipient under subdivision 4 or 5 who also has credit for regular plan service must in all respects qualify under section 352.113 to be entitled to receive a disability benefit based on the general plan service not includable in this section, except that the service may be combined to satisfy length of service requirements. Any deferred annuity to which the employee may be entitled based on general plan service not includable in this section must be augmented as provided in section 352.72, subdivision 2, while the employee is receiving a disability benefit under this section.

Subd. 7. **Additional contributions.** The special retirement annuity and disability coverage under this section must be financed by an employee contribution of 2.78 percent of covered salary and an employer contribution of 4.20 percent of covered salary. These contributions are in addition to the contributions required by section 352.04, subdivisions 2 and 3, and must be made in the manner provided for in section 352.04, subdivisions 4, 5, and 6.

Subd. 8. **Election of coverage.** To be covered by this section, an employee of the Department of Public Safety described in subdivision 1 who is employed in a position described in that subdivision on or after July 1, 1999, must file a notice with the executive director of the Minnesota State Retirement System on a form prescribed by the executive director stating whether or not the employee elects to be covered by this section. Notice must be filed by September 1, 1999, or within 90 days of employment, whichever is later. Elections are irrevocable during any period of covered employment. A failure to file a timely notice shall be deemed a waiver of coverage by this section.

History: 1999 c 222 art 15 s 1; 1Sp2001 c 10 art 3 s 9,10; 2002 c 392 art 11 s 52

CORRECTIONAL EMPLOYEES

352.90 POLICY.

It is the policy of the legislature to provide special retirement benefits and contributions for certain correctional employees who may be required to retire at an early age because they lose the mental or physical capacity required to maintain the safety, security, discipline, and custody of inmates at state correctional facilities or of patients at the Minnesota Security Hospital or at the Minnesota Sexual Psychopathic Personality Treatment Center or of patients in the Minnesota extended treatment options on-campus program at the Cambridge Regional Human Services Center.

History: 1973 c 653 s 39; 1980 c 600 s 2; 1981 c 224 s 58; 1987 c 229 art 6 s 1; 1996 c 408 art 8 s 9; 1999 c 222 art 13 s 1

352.91 COVERED CORRECTIONAL SERVICE.

Subdivision 1. **Qualifying jobs.** "Covered correctional service" means service performed by a state employee, as defined in section 352.01, employed at a state correctional facility, the Minnesota Security Hospital, or the Minnesota Sexual Psychopathic Personality Treatment Center as:

- (1) a corrections officer 1;
- (2) a corrections officer 2;
- (3) a corrections officer 3;
- (4) a corrections officer supervisor;
- (5) a corrections officer 4;
- (6) a corrections captain;
- (7) a security counselor; or
- (8) a security counselor lead.

Subd. 2. **Maintenance and trades.** "Covered correctional service" also means service rendered at any time by state employees as maintenance personnel and members of trades certified by the commissioner of employee relations as being regularly engaged in rehabilitation, treatment, custody, or supervision of inmates at a Minnesota correctional facility, or of patients at the Minnesota Security Hospital or at the Minnesota Sexual Psychopathic Personality Treatment Center.

Subd. 2a. **Special teachers.** "Covered correctional service" also means service rendered by a state employee as a special teacher employed by the Department of Corrections or by the Department of Human Services at a security unit, provided that at least 75 percent of the employee's working time is spent in direct contact with inmates or patients and the fact of this direct contact is certified to the executive director by the appropriate commissioner, unless the person elects to retain the current retirement coverage under Laws 1996, chapter 408, article 8, section 21.

Subd. 3. [Repealed, 1996 c 408 art 8 s 29]

Subd. 3a. **Security guards.** "Covered correctional service" also means service rendered before January 1, 1981, in the classification of security guard by any employee employed in a covered correctional position on January 1, 1981.

Subd. 3b. **Older employees formerly excluded.** "Covered correctional service" also means service performed by certain state employees in positions usually covered by this section who: (1) were excluded by law from coverage between July 1973 and July 1980; (2) were age 45 or over when hired; (3) were state employees on March 26, 1986; and (4) who elected coverage before July 1, 1986. An employee who did not elect coverage before July 1, 1986, is not covered by the correctional retirement plan, even if the employee's employment classification may be considered to be covered correctional service under another subdivision of this section.

Subd. 3c. **Nursing personnel.** (a) "Covered correctional service" means service by a state employee in one of the employment positions at a correctional facility or at the Minnesota Security Hospital specified in paragraph (b), provided that at least 75 percent of the employee's working time is spent in direct contact with inmates or patients and the fact of this direct contact is certified to the executive director by the appropriate commissioner, unless the person elects to retain the current retirement coverage under Laws 1996, chapter 408, article 8, section 21.

(b) The employment positions are as follows:

- (1) registered nurse - senior;
- (2) registered nurse;
- (3) registered nurse - principal;
- (4) licensed practical nurse 2; and
- (5) registered nurse practitioner.

Subd. 3d. **Other correctional personnel.** (a) "Covered correctional service" means service by a state employee in one of the employment positions at a correctional facility

or at the Minnesota Security Hospital specified in paragraph (b), provided that at least 75 percent of the employee's working time is spent in direct contact with inmates or patients and the fact of this direct contact is certified to the executive director by the appropriate commissioner, unless the person elects to retain the current retirement coverage under Laws 1996, chapter 408, article 8, section 21.

(b) The employment positions are as follows: baker, chemical dependency counselor supervisor, chief cook, cook, cook coordinator, corrections behavior therapist, corrections behavior therapist specialist, corrections parent education coordinator, corrections security caseworker, corrections security caseworker career, corrections teaching assistant, dentist, electrician supervisor, general repair worker, library/information research services specialist, library/information research services specialist senior, plumber supervisor, psychologist 3, recreation therapist, recreation therapist coordinator, recreation program assistant, recreation therapist senior, stores clerk senior, water treatment plant operator, work therapy technician, work therapy assistant, work therapy program coordinator.

(c) "Covered correctional service" also means service as the director or as an assistant group supervisor of the Phoenix/Pomiga treatment/behavior change program of the Department of Corrections.

Subd. 3e. **Minnesota extended treatment options program; Cambridge.** "Covered correctional service" means service by a state employee in one of the following employment positions with the Minnesota extended treatment options on-campus program at the Cambridge Regional Human Services Center if at least 75 percent of the employee's working time is spent in direct contact with patients who are in the Minnesota extended treatment options program and if service in such a position is certified to the executive director by the commissioner of human services, unless the person elects to retain current retirement coverage under section 6:

- (1) behavior analyst I;
- (2) human services support specialist;
- (3) mental retardation residential program lead;
- (4) psychologist 2;
- (5) recreation program assistant;
- (6) recreation therapist senior;
- (7) registered nurse senior;
- (8) skills development specialist; and
- (9) social worker senior.

Subd. 3f. **Additional Department of Human Services personnel.** (a) "Covered correctional service" means service by a state employee in one of the employment positions specified in paragraph (b) at the Minnesota Security Hospital or the Minnesota Sexual Psychopathic Personality Treatment Center, provided that at least 75 percent of the employee's working time is spent in direct contact with patients and the fact of this direct contact is certified to the executive director by the commissioner of human services.

- (b) The employment positions are:
- (1) behavior analyst 2;
 - (2) licensed practical nurse 1;
 - (3) office and administrative specialist senior;
 - (4) psychologist 2;
 - (5) social worker specialist;
 - (6) behavior analyst 3; and
 - (7) social worker senior.

Subd. 3g. **Additional Corrections Department personnel.** (a) "Covered correctional service" means service by a state employee in one of the employment positions at the designated Minnesota correctional facility specified in paragraph (b) if at least 75

percent of the employee's working time is spent in direct contact with inmates and the fact of this direct contact is certified to the executive director by the commissioner of corrections.

(b) The qualifying employment positions and the designated correctional facilities are:

(1) corrections discipline unit supervisor, at the Minnesota Correctional Facility-Faribault, the Minnesota Correctional Facility-Lino Lakes, the Minnesota Correctional Facility-Oak Park Heights, the Minnesota Correctional Facility-Rush City, and the Minnesota Correctional Facility-St. Cloud;

(2) dental assistant registered, at the Minnesota Correctional Facility-Faribault, the Minnesota Correctional Facility-Lino Lakes, the Minnesota Correctional Facility-Moose Lake, the Minnesota Correctional Facility-Oak Park Heights, and the Minnesota Correctional Facility-Red Wing;

(3) dental hygienist, at the Minnesota Correctional Facility-Shakopee and the Minnesota Correctional Facility-Rush City;

(4) psychologist 2, at the Minnesota Correctional Facility-Faribault, the Minnesota Correctional Facility-Lino Lakes, the Minnesota Correctional Facility-Moose Lake, the Minnesota Correctional Facility-Oak Park Heights, the Minnesota Correctional Facility-Red Wing, the Minnesota Correctional Facility-Rush City, the Minnesota Correctional Facility-St. Cloud, the Minnesota Correctional Facility-Shakopee, and the Minnesota Correctional Facility-Stillwater; or

(5) sentencing to service crew leader involved with the inmate community work crew program, at the Minnesota Correctional Facility-Faribault and the Minnesota Correctional Facility-Lino Lakes.

Subd. 4. [Repealed, 2000 c 461 art 6 s 6]

Subd. 5. **Correction of errors.** (a) If it is determined that an employee should have been covered by the correctional retirement plan but was placed in the general employees retirement plan or Teachers Retirement Association in error, the commissioner of corrections or the commissioner of human services must report the error to the executive director of the Minnesota State Retirement System. The service must be properly credited under the correctional employees retirement plan for a period of not to exceed five years before the date on which the commissioner of corrections or human services notifies the executive director of the Minnesota State Retirement System in writing or five years from the date on which an employee requests, in writing, the applicable department to determine if the person has appropriate retirement plan coverage, whichever is earlier. If the error covers more than a five-year period, the service before the five-year period must remain under the plan originally credited the service. The employee shall pay the difference between the employee contributions actually paid during the five-year period and what should have been paid under the correctional employees retirement plan. The department making the error shall pay to the correctional employees retirement plan an amount equal to the difference in the present value of accrued retirement benefits caused by the change in coverage after subtracting the amount paid by the employee. Calculation of this amount must be made by the executive director of the Minnesota State Retirement System using the applicable preretirement interest rate specified in section 356.215, subdivision 8, and the mortality table adopted for the Minnesota State Retirement System. The calculation must assume continuous future service in the correctional employees retirement plan until the employee would reach the age eligible for normal retirement. The calculation must also assume a future salary history that includes annual salary increases at the salary increase rate or rates specified in section 356.215, subdivision 8.

(b) If an employee was covered under the correctional employees retirement plan, but it is determined that the person should have been covered under the general employees retirement plan, the error must be corrected if written notification is provided to the employee and the executive director of the Minnesota State Retirement System within three years of the date on which the coverage was improperly started. The difference in employee and employer contributions actually paid to the

correctional employees retirement plan in excess of the amount that should have been paid to the general employees retirement plan must be refunded to the employee and the employer paying the additional contributions.

History: 1973 c 653 s 40; 1974 c 520 s 1; 1975 c 368 s 35; 1978 c 781 s 2; 1980 c 600 s 3-5; 1980 c 617 s 47; 1981 c 224 s 59; 1981 c 297 s 3; 1984 c 654 art 5 s 58; 1986 c 444; 1986 c 458 s 31; 1987 c 229 art 6 s 1; art 11 s 1; 1987 c 372 art 1 s 4; 1996 c 408 art 8 s 10-17; 1999 c 222 art 13 s 2; 2000 c 461 art 6 s 1-4; 2002 c 392 art 11 s 52; 2004 c 267 art 1 s 1

352.911 CORRECTIONAL EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT FUND.

Subdivision 1. **Fund created.** There is created a special fund to be known as the correctional employees retirement fund.

Subd. 2. **Revenue sources.** Employee contributions under section 352.92, subdivision 1, and employer contributions under section 352.92, subdivision 2, and other amounts, including any investment income on invested fund assets as authorized by law, shall be deposited in the fund.

Subd. 3. **Investment.** The correctional employees retirement fund shall participate in the Minnesota postretirement investment fund and in that fund there shall be deposited the amounts provided in section 352.119. The balance of any assets of the fund shall be deposited in the Minnesota combined investment funds as provided in section 11A.14, if applicable, or otherwise under section 11A.23.

Subd. 4. **Collection of contributions.** The collection of employee and employer contributions shall be governed by the applicable procedures set forth in section 352.04, subdivisions 4, 5, 6, 8, and 9.

Subd. 5. **Fund disbursement restricted.** The correctional employees retirement fund and its share of participation in the Minnesota postretirement investment fund shall be disbursed only for the purposes provided for in the applicable provisions in this chapter. The proportional share of the expenses of the system and any benefits provided in sections 352.90 to 352.951, other than benefits payable from the Minnesota postretirement investment fund, shall be paid from the correctional employees retirement fund. The retirement allowances, retirement annuities, the disability benefits, the survivorship benefits, and any refunds of accumulated deductions shall be paid only from the correctional employees retirement fund after those needs have been certified by the executive director and the amounts withdrawn from the share of participation in the Minnesota postretirement fund under section 11A.18. The amounts necessary to make the payments from the correctional employees retirement fund and the participation in the Minnesota postretirement investment fund are annually appropriated from those funds for those purposes.

History: 1987 c 259 s 20

352.92 CORRECTIONAL EMPLOYEE CONTRIBUTIONS.

Subdivision 1. **Employee contributions.** Employee contributions of covered correctional employees must be in an amount equal to 5.69 percent of salary.

Subd. 2. **Employer contributions.** The employer shall contribute for covered correctional employees an amount equal to 7.98 percent of salary.

Subd. 3. **Plan administration.** The Minnesota State Retirement System shall administer the correctional employees retirement plan established by sections 352.90 to 352.951 in accordance with this chapter and chapters 356 and 356A.

History: 1973 c 653 s 41; 3Sp1981 c 2 art 1 s 66,67; 1982 c 641 art 1 s 11,12; 1984 c 564 s 13; 1987 c 229 art 6 s 1; 1989 c 319 art 8 s 11; 1990 c 591 art 2 s 3; 1996 c 408 art 8 s 18; 1997 c 233 art 1 s 21,22; 1999 c 222 art 13 s 3,4

352.93 RETIREMENT ANNUITY.

Subdivision 1. **Basis of annuity; when to apply.** After separation from state service, an employee covered under section 352.91 who has reached age 55 years and has credit

for at least three years of covered correctional service and regular Minnesota State Retirement System service is entitled upon application to a retirement annuity under this section based only on covered correctional employees' service. Application may be made no earlier than 60 days before the date the employee is eligible to retire by reason of both age and service requirements.

In this section, "average salary" means the average of the monthly salary during the employee's highest five successive years of salary as an employee covered by the Minnesota State Retirement System. Average salary must be based upon all allowable service if this service is less than five years.

Subd. 2. Calculating monthly annuity. The monthly annuity under this section must be determined by multiplying the average monthly salary by the number of years, or completed months, of covered correctional service by the percent specified in section 356.315, subdivision 5.

Subd. 2a. Early retirement. Any covered correctional employee who becomes at least 50 years old and who has at least three years of allowable service is entitled upon application to a reduced retirement annuity equal to the annuity calculated under subdivision 2, reduced by two-tenths of one percent for each month that the correctional employee is under age 55 at the time of retirement.

Subd. 3. Annuity accrual. The annuity under this section must begin to accrue as provided in section 352.115, subdivision 8.

Subd. 3a. Optional annuities. The board may establish optional annuity forms to pay a higher amount from the date of retirement until an employee is first eligible to draw Social Security benefits or up to the age the employee is eligible to receive unreduced Social Security benefits, at which time the monthly benefits must be reduced. The optional annuity forms must be actuarially equivalent to the normal single life annuity form provided in subdivision 2. The optional annuity forms must be approved by the actuary retained by the Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement.

Subd. 4. Employee with regular and correctional service. A former employee who has both regular and correctional service shall, if qualified, receive an annuity based on both periods of service under applicable sections of law but no period of service shall be used more than once in calculating the annuity.

Subd. 5. [Repealed, 1983 c 128 s 36]

Subd. 6. [Repealed, 1983 c 128 s 36]

History: 1973 c 653 s 42; 1975 c 368 s 36; 1980 c 607 art 14 s 46; 1983 c 128 s 14; 1984 c 564 s 14,15; 1986 c 444; 1987 c 229 art 6 s 1; 1987 c 372 art 9 s 6; 1989 c 319 art 1 s 9; art 13 s 20,21; art 17 s 2,3; 1990 c 570 art 12 s 11,12; 1993 c 307 art 1 s 20; 1994 c 528 art 1 s 8; 1997 c 233 art 1 s 23-25; 1999 c 222 art 13 s 5; 2002 c 392 art 11 s 52

352.931 SURVIVOR BENEFITS.

Subdivision 1. Surviving spouse benefit. (a) If the correctional employee was at least age 50, has credit for at least three years of allowable service, and dies before an annuity or disability benefit has become payable, notwithstanding any designation of beneficiary to the contrary, the surviving spouse of the employee may elect to receive, in lieu of the refund under section 352.12, subdivision 1, an annuity for life equal to the joint and 100 percent survivor annuity which the employee could have qualified for had the employee terminated service on the date of death. The election may be made at any time after the date of death of the employee. The surviving spouse benefit begins to accrue as of the first of the month next following the date on which the application for the benefit was filed.

(b) If the employee was under age 50, dies, and had credit for at least three years of allowable service credit on the date of death but did not yet qualify for retirement, the surviving spouse may elect to receive a 100 percent joint and survivor annuity based on the age of the employee and surviving spouse at the time of death. The annuity is payable using the early retirement reduction under section 352.93, subdivision 2a, to

age 50, and one-half of the early retirement reduction from age 50 to the age payment begins. The surviving spouse eligible for surviving spouse benefits under this paragraph may apply for the annuity at any time after the employee's death. Sections 352.22, subdivision 3, and 352.72, subdivision 2, apply to a deferred annuity or surviving spouse benefit payable under this subdivision.

(c) The annuity must cease with the last payment received by the surviving spouse in the lifetime of the surviving spouse. Any employee may request in writing that this subdivision not apply and that payment be made only to a designated beneficiary as otherwise provided by this chapter.

Subd. 2. Surviving spouse coverage; term certain. In lieu of the 100 percent optional annuity under subdivision 1, the surviving spouse of a deceased employee may elect to receive survivor coverage in a term certain of ten, 15, or 20 years. The monthly term certain annuity must be actuarially equivalent to the 100 percent optional annuity under subdivision 1 and must be approved by the actuary retained by the Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement. The optional annuity ceases upon the expiration of the term certain period. If a survivor elects a term certain annuity and dies before the expiration of the specified term certain period, the commuted value of the remaining annuity payments must be paid in a lump sum to the survivor's estate.

Subd. 3. Dependent child survivor coverage. If there is no surviving spouse eligible for benefits under subdivision 1, a dependent child as defined in section 352.01, subdivision 26, is eligible for a dependent child survivor benefit. Benefits to a dependent child must be paid from the date of the employee's death to the date the dependent child attains age 20 if the child is under age 15 on the date of death. If the child is 15 years or older on the date of death, the benefit is payable for five years. The payment to a dependent child is an amount actuarially equivalent to the value of a 100 percent joint and survivor optional annuity using the age of the employee and age of the dependent child at the date of death in lieu of the age of the surviving spouse. If there is more than one dependent child, each dependent child shall receive a proportionate share of the actuarial value of the employee's account, with the amount of the benefit payable to each child to be determined based on the portion of the total eligibility period that each child is eligible. The process for calculating the dependent child survivor benefit must be approved by the actuary retained by the Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement.

Subd. 4. Death refund. An amount equal to the excess, if any, of the accumulated contributions credited to the account of the deceased employee in excess of the total of the benefits paid to the surviving spouse and surviving child or children must be paid to the deceased employee's last designated beneficiary or, if none, as specified under section 352.12, subdivision 1.

Subd. 5. Application. The benefit elections under this section must be made on an application form prescribed by the executive director and must be filed with the executive director.

History: 1997 c 233 art 1 s 26

352.94 AUGMENTATION FOR EMPLOYEES WITH GENERAL AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICE.

An employee who becomes covered by the correctional plan after serving as a general plan covered employee, or becomes covered by the general plan after serving as a correctional plan covered employee, is covered under section 352.72, subdivision 2.

History: 1973 c 653 s 43; 1986 c 444; 1987 c 229 art 6 s 1; 1993 c 307 art 1 s 21

352.95 DISABILITY BENEFITS.

Subdivision 1. Job-related disability. A covered correctional employee who becomes disabled and who is expected to be physically or mentally unfit to perform the duties of the position for at least one year as a direct result of an injury, sickness, or other disability that incurred in or arose out of any act of duty that makes the employee physically or mentally unable to perform the duties is entitled to a disability benefit.

The disability benefit may be based on covered correctional service only. The benefit amount is 50 percent of the average salary defined in section 352.93, plus an additional percent equal to that specified in section 356.315, subdivision 5, for each year of covered correctional service in excess of 20 years, ten months, prorated for completed months.

Subd. 1a. Optional annuity election. A disabled correctional employee may elect the normal disability benefit or an optional annuity as provided in section 352.116, subdivision 3. The election of an optional annuity must be made before commencement of payment of the disability benefit and becomes effective the date on which the disability benefit begins to accrue as provided in subdivision 3. Upon becoming effective, the optional annuity shall begin to accrue on the same date as provided for the disability benefit.

Subd. 2. Non-job-related disability. A covered correctional employee who, after rendering at least one year of covered correctional service, becomes disabled and who is expected to be physically or mentally unfit to perform the duties of the position for at least one year because of sickness or injury that occurred while not engaged in covered employment is entitled to a disability benefit based on covered correctional service only. The disability benefit must be computed as provided in section 352.93, subdivisions 1 and 2, and must be computed as though the employee had at least 15 years of covered correctional service.

Subd. 3. Applying for benefits; accrual. No application for disability benefits shall be made until after the last day physically on the job. The disability benefit shall begin to accrue the day following the last day for which the employee is paid sick leave or annual leave but not earlier than 180 days before the date the application is filed.

Subd. 4. Medical or psychological evidence. (a) An applicant shall provide medical, chiropractic, or psychological evidence to support an application for disability benefits. The director shall have the employee examined by at least one additional licensed physician, chiropractor, or psychologist who is designated by the medical adviser. The physicians, chiropractors, or psychologists with respect to a mental impairment, shall make written reports to the director concerning the question of the employee's disability, including their expert opinions as to whether the employee is disabled within the meaning of this section. The director shall also obtain written certification from the employer stating whether or not the employee is on sick leave of absence because of a disability that will prevent further service to the employer, and as a consequence, the employee is not entitled to compensation from the employer.

(b) If, on considering the reports by the physicians, chiropractors, or psychologists and any other evidence supplied by the employee or others, the medical adviser finds the employee disabled within the meaning of this section, the advisor shall make the appropriate recommendation to the director, in writing, together with the date from which the employee has been disabled. The director shall then determine the propriety of authorizing payment of a disability benefit as provided in this section.

(c) Unless the payment of a disability benefit has terminated because the employee is no longer disabled, or because the employee has reached either age 65 or the five-year anniversary of the effective date of the disability benefit, whichever is later, the disability benefit must cease with the last payment which was received by the disabled employee or which had accrued during the employee's lifetime. While disability benefits are paid, the director has the right, at reasonable times, to require the disabled employee to submit proof of the continuance of the disability claimed. If any examination indicates to the medical adviser that the employee is no longer disabled, the disability payment must be discontinued upon the person's reinstatement to state service or within 60 days of the finding, whichever is sooner.

Subd. 5. Retirement status at normal retirement age. The disability benefit paid to a disabled correctional employee under this section shall terminate at the end of the month in which the employee reaches age 65, or the five-year anniversary of the effective date of the disability benefit, whichever is later. If the disabled correctional employee is still disabled when the employee reaches age 65, or the five-year

anniversary of the effective date of the disability benefit, whichever is later, the employee shall be deemed to be a retired employee. If the employee had elected an optional annuity under subdivision 1a, the employee shall receive an annuity in accordance with the terms of the optional annuity previously elected. If the employee had not elected an optional annuity under subdivision 1a, the employee may within 90 days of attaining age 65 or reaching the five-year anniversary of the effective date of the disability benefit, whichever is later, either elect to receive a normal retirement annuity computed in the manner provided in section 352.93 or elect to receive an optional annuity as provided in section 352.116, subdivision 3, based on the same length of service as used in the calculation of the disability benefit. Election of an optional annuity must be made within 90 days before attaining age 65 or reaching the five-year anniversary of the effective date of the disability benefit, whichever is later. If an optional annuity is elected, the optional annuity shall begin to accrue on the first of the month following the month in which the employee reaches age 65 or the five-year anniversary of the effective date of the disability benefit, whichever is later.

Subd. 6. Disability benefit for certain employees with regular plan service. If the employee is entitled to receive a disability benefit as provided in subdivision 1 or 2 and has credit for less covered correctional service than the length of service upon which the correctional disability benefit is based, and also has credit for regular plan service, the employee is entitled to a disability benefit or deferred retirement annuity based on the regular plan service only for that service which when combined with the correctional service exceeds number of years on which the correctional disability benefit is based. The disabled employee who also has credit for regular plan service must in all respects qualify under section 352.113 for a disability benefit based on the regular plan service, except that the service may be combined to satisfy length of service requirements. Any deferred annuity to which the employee is entitled based on regular plan service must be augmented as provided in section 352.72 while the employee is receiving a disability benefit under this section.

Subd. 7. Resumption of employment. If the disabled employee resumes gainful work, the disability benefit must be continued in an amount which when added to current earnings and workers' compensation benefits does not exceed the salary rate of the disabled employee at the date of disability as adjusted by the same percentage increase in United States average wages used by Social Security in calculating average indexed monthly earnings for the same period.

History: 1973 c 653 s 44; 1980 c 342 s 6; 1981 c 68 s 12,13; 1983 c 128 s 15,16; 1984 c 564 s 16; 1984 c 574 s 9; 1Sp1985 c 7 s 7; 1986 c 444; 1987 c 229 art 6 s 1; 1989 c 319 art 13 s 22,23; art 17 s 4,5; 1993 c 307 art 1 s 22; art 2 s 6-8; 1994 c 465 art 3 s 30; 1996 c 438 art 2 s 2; 1997 c 233 art 1 s 27,28; 1Sp2001 c 10 art 3 s 11-13; 2002 c 392 art 11 s 52; 2004 c 267 art 8 s 5-7

352.951 APPLICABILITY OF GENERAL LAW.

Except as otherwise provided, this chapter applies to covered correctional employees, military affairs personnel covered under section 352.85, and transportation department pilots covered under section 352.86.

History: 1981 c 224 s 60; 1987 c 229 art 6 s 1; 1993 c 307 art 1 s 23

DEFERRED COMPENSATION

352.96 DEFERRED COMPENSATION.

Subdivision 1. Entitlement to defer compensation. At the request of an officer or employee of the state, an officer or employee of a political subdivision, or an employee covered by a retirement fund in section 356.20, subdivision 2, the appointing authority shall by payroll deduction defer the payment of part of the compensation of the officer or employee. The amount to be deferred must be as provided in a written agreement between the officer or employee and the employing unit. The agreement must be in a form specified by the executive director of the Minnesota State Retirement System in

such a manner as will qualify the deferred amount for benefits under federal and state tax laws, rules, and rulings.

Subd. 1a. **Failure to implement plan.** Implementation of the deferred compensation plan by the employing unit must be completed within 30 days of the request as provided in subdivision 1. If the employing unit fails to implement the deferred compensation plan, the employing unit may not defer compensation under any existing or new deferred compensation plan from the date of the request until the date on which the deferred compensation plan provided for in this section is implemented. The executive director of the Minnesota State Retirement System may order any employing unit that fails to implement the deferred compensation plan provided for in this section upon a valid request to undertake that implementation and may enforce that order in appropriate legal proceedings.

Subd. 2. **Purchase of shares.** The amount of compensation so deferred may be used to purchase:

- (1) shares in the Minnesota Supplemental Investment Fund established in section 11A.17 that are selected to be offered under the plan by the State Board of Investment;
- (2) saving accounts in federally insured financial institutions;
- (3) life insurance contracts, fixed annuity and variable annuity contracts from companies that are subject to regulation by the commissioner of commerce;
- (4) investment options from open-end investment companies registered under the federal Investment Company Act of 1940, United States Code, title 15, sections 80a-1 to 80a-64;
- (5) investment options from a firm that is a registered investment advisor under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, United States Code, title 15, section 80b-1 to 80b-21;
- (6) investment options of a bank as defined in United States Code, title 15, section 80b-2, subsection (a), paragraph (2), or a bank holding company as defined in the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, United States Code, title 12, section 1841, subsection (a), paragraph (1); or
- (7) a combination of clause (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), or (6), as provided by the plan as specified by the participant.

All amounts contributed to the deferred compensation plan and all earnings on those amounts will be held for the exclusive benefit of the plan participants and beneficiaries. These amounts will be held in trust, in custodial accounts, or in qualifying annuity contracts as required by federal law and in accordance with section 356A.06, subdivision 1. This subdivision does not authorize an employer contribution, except as authorized in section 356.24, subdivision 1, paragraph (a), clause (5). The state, political subdivision, or other employing unit is not responsible for any loss that may result from investment of the deferred compensation.

Subd. 3. **Executive director to administer section.** This section must be administered by the executive director of the system with the advice and consent of the board of directors under subdivision 4. Fiduciary activities of the deferred compensation plan must be undertaken in a manner consistent with chapter 356A. If the State Board of Investment so elects, it may solicit bids for options under subdivision 2, clauses (2), (3), (4), (5), and (6). The State Board of Investment may retain consulting services to assist it in soliciting and evaluating bids and in the periodic review of companies offering options under subdivision 2, clauses (3), (4), (5), and (6). The periodic review must occur at least every two years. The State Board of Investment may annually establish a budget for its costs in the soliciting, evaluating, and periodic review processes. The State Board of Investment may charge a proportional share of all costs related to the periodic review to each company currently under contract and may charge a proportional share of all costs related to soliciting and evaluating bids to each company selected by the state board. All contracts must be approved before execution by the State Board of Investment. Contracts must provide that all options in subdivision 2 must: be presented in an unbiased manner and in a manner that conforms to rules adopted by the executive director, be reported on a periodic basis to all employees

participating in the deferred compensation program, and not be the subject of unreasonable solicitation of state employees to participate in the program. The contract may not call for any person to jeopardize the tax-deferred status of money invested by state employees under this section. All costs or fees in relation to the options provided under subdivision 2, clauses (3), (4), (5), and (6), must be paid by the companies ultimately selected by the State Board of Investment.

Subd. 4. **Executive director to establish rules.** The executive director of the system with the advice and consent of the board of directors shall establish rules and procedures to carry out this section including allocation of administrative costs of the plan to participants. Fees cannot be charged on contributions and investment returns attributable to contributions made to the Minnesota supplemental investment funds before July 1, 1992. Annual total fees charged for plan administration for the Minnesota supplemental investment funds cannot exceed 40/100 of one percent of the contributions and investment returns attributable to contributions made on or after July 1, 1992. The rules established by the executive director must conform to federal and state tax laws, regulations, and rulings, and are not subject to the Administrative Procedure Act. Except for the marketing rules, rules relating to the options provided under subdivision 2, clauses (2) and (3), must be approved by the State Board of Investment.

Subd. 5. **Other laws not applicable.** No provision of this chapter or other law specifically referring to this chapter applies to this section unless this section is specifically mentioned.

Subd. 6. **Exemption from process.** No amount of deferred compensation is assignable or subject to execution, levy, attachment, garnishment, or other legal process, except as provided in section 518.58, 518.581, or 518.6111.

History: 1975 c 273 s 1; 1977 c 300 s 1-3; 1980 c 607 art 14 s 45 subd 1; s 46; 1981 c 208 s 10; 1983 c 289 s 114 subd 1; 1984 c 655 art 1 s 92; 1985 c 248 s 70; 1986 c 356 s 8; 1987 c 157 s 3; 1987 c 229 art 6 s 1; art 11 s 1; 1987 c 284 art 4 s 2,3; 1988 c 605 s 8; 1989 c 319 art 8 s 12; 1990 c 570 art 10 s 6; 1993 c 192 s 87; 1993 c 300 s 11; 1993 c 307 art 2 s 9,10; 1994 c 528 art 1 s 9; 1997 c 203 art 6 s 92; 1997 c 241 art 3 s 1-3; 1997 c 251 s 1; 1998 c 390 art 2 s 6; 1Sp2003 c 12 art 2 s 2

352.97 PRIOR DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLANS; CONSTRUCTION.

Sections 352.96 and 352.97 do not preempt, prohibit, ratify, or approve any other deferred compensation plan established before or after June 3, 1975.

History: 1975 c 273 s 2; 1987 c 229 art 6 s 1

POSTRETIREMENT HEALTH CARE SAVINGS PLAN

352.98 HEALTH CARE SAVINGS PLAN.

Subdivision 1. **Plan created.** The Minnesota State Retirement System shall establish a plan or plans, known as health care savings plans, through which public employers and employees may save to cover health care costs. The Minnesota State Retirement System shall make available one or more trusts, including a governmental trust or governmental trusts, authorized under the Internal Revenue Code to be eligible for tax-preferred or tax-free treatment through which employers and employees can save to cover health care costs.

Subd. 2. **Contracting authorized.** The Minnesota State Retirement System is authorized to administer the plan and to contract with public and private entities to provide investment services, record keeping, benefit payments, and other functions necessary for the administration of the plan. If allowed by the Minnesota State Board of Investment, the Minnesota State Board of Investment supplemental investment funds may be offered as investment options under the health care savings plan or plans.

Subd. 3. **Contributions.** (a) Contributions to the plan must be determined through a personnel policy or in a collective bargaining agreement of a public employer with the

exclusive representative of the covered employees in an appropriate unit. The Minnesota State Retirement System may offer different types of trusts permitted under the Internal Revenue Code to best meet the needs of different employee units.

(b) Contributions to the plan by or on behalf of the employee must be held in trust for reimbursement of employee and dependent health-related expenses following retirement from public employment or during active employment. The Minnesota State Retirement System shall maintain a separate account of the contributions made by or on behalf of each participant and the earnings thereon. The Minnesota State Retirement System shall make available a limited range of investment options, and each employee may direct the investment of the accumulations in the employee's account among the investment options made available by the Minnesota State Retirement System. At the request of a participating employer and employee group, the Minnesota State Retirement System may determine how the assets of the affected employer and employee group should be invested.

(c) This section does not obligate a public employer to meet and negotiate in good faith with the exclusive bargaining representative of any public employee group regarding an employer contribution to a postretirement or active employee health care savings plan authorized by this section and section 356.24, subdivision 1, clause (7). It is not the intent of the legislature to authorize the state to incur new funding obligations for the costs of retiree health care or the costs of administering retiree health care plans or accounts.

Subd. 4. **Reimbursement for health-related expenses.** The Minnesota State Retirement System shall reimburse employees at least quarterly for submitted health-related expenses, as required by federal and state law, until the employee exhausts the accumulation in the employee's account. If an employee dies prior to exhausting the employee's account balance, the employee's spouse or dependents are eligible to be reimbursed for health care expenses from the account until the account balance is exhausted. If an account balance remains after the death of a participant and all of the participant's legal dependents, the remainder of the account must be paid to the employee's beneficiaries or, if none, to the employee's estate.

Subd. 5. **Fees.** The Minnesota state retirement plan is authorized to charge uniform fees to participants to cover the ongoing cost of operating the plan. Any fees not needed must revert to participant accounts or be used to reduce plan fees the following year.

Subd. 6. **Advisory committee.** (a) The Minnesota State Retirement System shall establish a participant advisory committee for the health care savings plan, made up of one representative appointed by each employee unit participating in the plan. Each participating unit shall be responsible for the expenses of its own representative.

(b) The advisory committee shall meet at least twice per year and shall be consulted on plan offerings and vendor selection. By October 1 of each year, the Minnesota State Retirement System shall give the advisory committee a statement of fees collected and the use of the fees.

Subd. 7. **Contracting with private entities.** Nothing in this section prohibits employers from contracting with private entities to provide for health care reimbursement plans.

History: *1Sp2001 c 10 art 7 s 1; 2004 c 267 art 11 s 1*