

424A.001 DEFINITIONS.

Subdivision 1. **Terms defined.** Unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, as used in this chapter, the terms defined in this section have the meanings given.

Subd. 1a. **Ancillary benefit.** "Ancillary benefit" means a benefit payable from the special fund of the relief association other than a service pension that is permitted by law and that is provided for in the relief association bylaws.

Subd. 1b. **Defined benefit relief association.** "Defined benefit relief association" means a volunteer firefighters relief association that provides a lump-sum service pension, provides a monthly benefit service pension, or provides a lump-sum service pension as an alternative to the monthly benefit service pension.

Subd. 1c. **Defined contribution relief association.** "Defined contribution relief association" means a volunteer firefighters relief association that provides a service pension based solely on an individual account balance rather than a specified annual lump-sum or monthly benefit service pension amount.

Subd. 2. **Fire department.** "Fire department" includes a municipal fire department, an independent nonprofit firefighting corporation, and a fire department established as or operated by a joint powers entity under section 471.59.

Subd. 2a. **Municipal.** "Municipal" means of a city or township.

Subd. 3. **Municipality.** "Municipality" means a city or township which has established a fire department with which the relief association is directly associated, a city or township which has entered into a contract with the independent nonprofit firefighting corporation of which the relief association is directly associated, or a city or township that has entered into a contract with a joint powers entity established under section 471.59 of which the relief association is directly associated.

Subd. 4. **Relief association.** (a) "Relief association" or "volunteer firefighters relief association" means a volunteer firefighters relief association or a volunteer firefighters division or account of a partially salaried and partially volunteer firefighters relief association that is:

(1) organized and incorporated as a nonprofit corporation to provide retirement benefits to volunteer firefighters under chapter 317A and any laws of the state;

(2) governed by this chapter and sections 424A.091 to 424A.095; and

(3) directly associated with:

(i) a fire department established by municipal ordinance;

(ii) an independent nonprofit firefighting corporation that is organized under the provisions of chapter 317A and that operates primarily for firefighting purposes; or

(iii) a fire department operated as or by a joint powers entity that operates primarily for firefighting purposes.

(b) "Relief association" or "volunteer firefighters relief association" does not mean:

(1) the Bloomington Fire Department Relief Association governed by Laws 2013, chapter 111, article 5, sections 31 to 42; Minnesota Statutes 2000, chapter 424; and Laws 1965, chapter 446, as amended; or

(2) the statewide lump-sum volunteer firefighter plan governed by chapter 353G.

(c) A relief association or volunteer firefighters relief association is a governmental entity that receives and manages public money to provide retirement benefits for individuals providing the governmental services of firefighting and emergency first response.

Subd. 5. **Special fund.** "Special fund" means the special fund of a volunteer firefighters relief association or the account for volunteer firefighters within the special fund of a partially salaried and partially volunteer firefighters relief association.

Subd. 6. [Repealed, 2010 c 359 art 13 s 13]

Subd. 7. [Repealed, 2009 c 169 art 10 s 58]

Subd. 8. **Firefighting service.** "Firefighting service," if the applicable municipality approves for a fire department that is a municipal department, or if the applicable contracting municipality or municipalities approve for a fire department that is an independent nonprofit firefighting corporation, includes fire department service rendered by fire prevention personnel.

Subd. 9. **Separate from active service.** "Separate from active service" means that a firefighter permanently ceases to perform fire suppression duties with a particular volunteer fire department, permanently ceases to perform fire prevention duties, permanently ceases to supervise fire suppression duties, and permanently ceases to supervise fire prevention duties.

Subd. 9a. **Break in service.** "Break in service" means temporarily ceasing all of the following with a particular fire department:

- (1) performing fire suppression duties;
- (2) performing fire prevention duties;
- (3) supervising fire suppression duties; and
- (4) supervising fire prevention duties.

Subd. 10. **Volunteer firefighter.** "Volunteer firefighter" means a person who is a member of the applicable fire department or the independent nonprofit firefighting corporation and is eligible for membership in the applicable relief association and:

(i) is engaged in providing emergency response services or delivering fire education or prevention services as a member of a fire department;

(ii) is trained in or is qualified to provide fire suppression duties or to provide fire prevention duties under subdivision 8; and

(iii) meets any other minimum firefighter and service standards established by the fire department or specified in the articles of incorporation or bylaws of the relief association.

Subd. 11. **Fiscal year.** The fiscal year for a volunteer firefighter relief association begins on January 1 of each calendar year and ends on December 31 of the same calendar year.

Subd. 12. **Membership start date.** Membership in a volunteer firefighter relief association begins upon the date of hire by a municipality, a joint powers board, or an independent nonprofit firefighting corporation

with which the relief association is directly associated, unless otherwise specified in the relief association bylaws.

History: 1983 c 219 s 4; 1986 c 359 s 18,19; 1Sp1986 c 3 art 2 s 40; 1989 c 304 s 137; 1989 c 319 art 8 s 26; 1996 c 438 art 8 s 1,2; 2000 c 461 art 15 s 4; 2006 c 271 art 13 s 2,7; 2008 c 349 art 14 s 6,7; 2009 c 169 art 10 s 8-19; 2012 c 286 art 12 s 9; 2013 c 111 art 5 s 77,80; art 6 s 4; 2015 c 68 art 9 s 3; art 13 s 63; 2018 c 211 art 14 s 2-5; 1Sp2019 c 8 art 4 s 2; 2020 c 108 art 7 s 9