

CHAPTER 353D

PUBLIC EMPLOYEES DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN

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353D.01 PUBLIC EMPLOYEES DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN.

Subdivision 1. **Establishment.** The public employees defined contribution plan is administered by the Public Employees Retirement Association under supervision of the association board of trustees.

Subd. 2. **Eligibility.** (a) Eligibility to participate in the defined contribution plan is available to:

(1) elected local government officials of a governmental subdivision who elect to participate in the plan under section 353D.02, subdivision 1, and who, for the elected service rendered to a governmental subdivision, are not members of the Public Employees Retirement Association within the meaning of section 353.01, subdivision 7;

(2) physicians who, if they did not elect to participate in the plan under section 353D.02, subdivision 2, would meet the definition of member under section 353.01, subdivision 7;

(3) basic and advanced life-support emergency medical service personnel who are employed by any public ambulance service that elects to participate under section 353D.02, subdivision 3;

(4) members of a municipal rescue squad associated with the city of Litchfield in Meeker County, or of a county rescue squad associated with Kandiyohi County, if an independent nonprofit rescue squad corporation, incorporated under chapter 317A, performing emergency management services, and if not affiliated with a fire department or ambulance service and if its members are not eligible for membership in that fire department's or ambulance service's relief association or comparable pension plan;

(5) employees of the Port Authority of the city of St. Paul who elect to participate in the plan under section 353D.02, subdivision 5, and who are not members of the Public Employees Retirement Association under section 353.01, subdivision 7;

(6) city managers who elected to be excluded from the general employees retirement plan of the Public Employees Retirement Association under section 353.028 and who elected to participate in the public employees defined contribution plan under section 353.028, subdivision 3, paragraph (b);

(7) volunteer or emergency on-call firefighters serving in a municipal fire department or an independent nonprofit firefighting corporation who are not covered by the public employees police and fire retirement plan and who are not covered by a volunteer firefighters relief association and who elect to participate in the public employees defined contribution plan;

(8) elected county sheriffs who are former members of the police and fire plan and who are receiving a retirement annuity as provided under section 353.651; and

(9) persons who are excluded from membership under section 353.01, subdivision 2b, paragraph (a), clause (23).

(b) For purposes of this chapter, an elected local government official includes a person appointed to fill a vacancy in an elective office. Service as an elected local government official only includes service for the governmental subdivision for which the official was elected by the public at large. Service as an elected local government official ceases and eligibility to participate terminates when the person ceases to be an elected official. An elected local government official does not include an elected county sheriff who must be a member of the police and fire plan as provided under chapter 353.

(c) Individuals otherwise eligible to participate in the plan under this subdivision who are currently covered by a public or private pension plan because of their employment or provision of services are not eligible to participate in the public employees defined contribution plan.

(d) A former participant is a person who has terminated eligible employment or service and has not withdrawn the value of the person's individual account.

History: 1987 c 372 art 5 s 1; 1990 c 570 art 8 s 2; 1991 c 291 art 19 s 2,11; 1991 c 341 s 35; 1992 c 432 art 2 s 36; 1996 c 438 art 6 s 1; 1999 c 222 art 21 s 1; 1Sp2003 c 12 art 4 s 4; 2006 c 271 art 3 s 30; 2007 c 133 art 2 s 12; 2010 c 359 art 5 s 13

353D.02 ELECTION OF COVERAGE.

Subdivision 1. **Elected local government officials.** Eligible elected local government officials may elect to participate in the defined contribution plan after being elected or appointed to elective public office by filing a membership application on a form prescribed by the executive director of the association authorizing contributions to be deducted from the elected official's salary. Participation begins on the first day of the pay period for which the contributions were deducted or, if pay period coverage dates are not provided, the date on which the membership application or contributions are received in the office of the association, whichever is received first, provided further that the membership application is received by the association within 60 days of the receipt of the contributions. An election to participate in the plan is revocable during incumbency.

Subd. 2. **Eligible physician.** Eligible physicians may elect to participate in the defined contribution plan within 90 days of commencing employment with a government subdivision under section 353.01, subdivision 6, by filing a membership application on a form prescribed by the executive director of the association authorizing contributions to be deducted from the physician's salary. Participation begins on the first day of the pay period for which the contributions were deducted. An election to participate in the defined contribution plan is irrevocable.

Subd. 3. **Eligible ambulance service personnel.** Each public ambulance service with eligible personnel may elect to participate in the plan. If a service elects to participate, its eligible personnel may elect to participate or to decline to participate. An individual's election must be made within 30 days of the service's election to participate or 30 days of the date on which the individual was employed by the service or began to provide service for it, whichever date is later. An election by a service or an individual is revocable.

Subd. 4. **Eligible rescue squad personnel.** The municipality or county, as applicable, associated with a rescue squad under section 353D.01, subdivision 2, paragraph (a), clause (4), may elect to participate in the plan. If the municipality or county, as applicable, elects to participate, the eligible personnel may elect to participate or decline to participate. An eligible individual's election must be made within 30 days of the service's election to participate or 30 days of the date on which the individual begins to provide service to the rescue squad, whichever is later. Elections under this subdivision by a government unit or individual are irrevocable. The municipality or county, as applicable, must specify by resolution eligibility requirements

for rescue squad personnel which must be satisfied if the individual is to be authorized to make the election under this subdivision.

Subd. 5. St. Paul Port Authority personnel. Employees of the Port Authority of the city of St. Paul who do not elect to participate in the general employees retirement plan may elect to participate in the plan by filing a membership application on a form prescribed by the executive director of the association authorizing contributions to be deducted from the employee's salary. Participation begins on the first day of the pay period for which the contributions were deducted or, if pay period coverage dates are not provided, the date on which the membership application or the contributions are received in the office of the association, whichever is received first, if the membership application is received by the association within 60 days of the receipt of the contributions. An election to participate in the plan is irrevocable.

Subd. 6. City managers. City managers who elected to be excluded from the general employees retirement plan of the Public Employees Retirement Association under section 353.028, and who elected to participate in the plan under section 353.028, subdivision 3, paragraph (b), shall file that election with the executive director. Participation begins on the first day of the pay period next following the date of the coverage election. An election to participate by a city manager is revocable.

Subd. 7. Certain volunteer firefighters. Volunteer or emergency on-call firefighters who are serving as members of a municipal fire department or an independent nonprofit firefighting corporation and who are not covered for that firefighting service by the public employees police and fire retirement plan under sections 353.63 to 353.68 or by the applicable volunteer firefighters relief association under chapter 424A may elect to participate in the plan. An eligible firefighter's election is irrevocable. No employer contribution is payable by the fire department or the firefighting corporation unless the municipal governing body or the firefighting corporation governing body, whichever applies, ratifies the election.

History: 1987 c 372 art 5 s 2; 1990 c 570 art 8 s 3; 1991 c 291 art 19 s 3,11; 1991 c 341 s 36; 1992 c 432 art 2 s 37; 1993 c 307 art 4 s 47; 1996 c 438 art 6 s 2; 1999 c 222 art 21 s 2; 1Sp2003 c 12 art 4 s 5; 2006 c 271 art 3 s 31-33

353D.021 [Never effective, 1991 c 291 art 19 s 4,11]

353D.03 FUNDING OF PLAN.

Subdivision 1. Contributions for eligible participants. (a) The following classes of eligible participants who elect to participate in the public employees defined contribution plan under section 353D.02 shall contribute an amount equal to five percent of salary as defined in section 353.01, subdivision 10:

- (1) elected local government officials;
 - (2) physicians; and
 - (3) persons who are excluded from membership under section 353.01, subdivision 2b, paragraph (a), clause (23).
- (b) A participant's governmental subdivision shall contribute a matching amount.

Subd. 2. [Repealed, 2010 c 359 art 5 s 28]

Subd. 3. Ambulance service, rescue squad personnel contribution. (a) A public ambulance service that elects to participate in the plan shall fund benefits for its qualified personnel who individually elect to participate.

(b) Personnel who are paid for their services may elect to make member contributions in an amount not to exceed the service's contribution on their behalf.

(c) Ambulance service contributions on behalf of salaried employees must be a fixed percentage of salary.

(d) An ambulance service making contributions for volunteer or largely uncompensated personnel, or a municipality or county making contributions on behalf of rescue squad members who are volunteers or largely uncompensated personnel, may assign a unit value for each call or each period of alert duty for the purpose of calculating ambulance service or rescue squad service contributions, as applicable.

Subd. 4. [Repealed, 2015 c 68 art 12 s 42]

Subd. 5. **City managers.** A city manager who elects to participate in the plan shall contribute an amount equal to the contribution under section 353.27, subdivision 2. The applicable city shall make a contribution equal to the contribution required under section 353.27, subdivision 3.

Subd. 6. **Volunteer firefighters.** (a) Unless paragraph (b) applies, a volunteer or emergency on-call firefighter who elects to participate in the plan shall contribute at least 7.5 percent of any compensation received for firefighting services.

(b) If the municipality or the independent nonprofit firefighting corporation ratified the election of plan coverage under section 353D.02, subdivision 6, the volunteer firefighter and the employing unit shall contribute in total an amount equal at least to 7.5 percent of any compensation received for firefighting services.

History: 1987 c 372 art 5 s 3; 1990 c 570 art 8 s 4; 1991 c 291 art 19 s 5,11; 1992 c 432 art 2 s 38; 1996 c 438 art 6 s 3; 1999 c 222 art 21 s 3; 2006 c 271 art 3 s 34,35; 2010 c 359 art 5 s 14; 2014 c 275 art 2 s 11; 2015 c 68 art 12 s 24

353D.031 [Never effective, 1991 c 291 art 19 s 6,11]

353D.04 CONTRIBUTIONS AND DEDUCTIONS IN ERROR.

Subdivision 1. **Crediting of contributions to participant accounts.** (a) Contributions made by or on behalf of a participant under section 353D.03, subdivisions 1, 5, and 6, paragraph (a), must be remitted to the Public Employees Retirement Association and credited to the individual account established for the participant.

(b) Contributions as provided under section 353D.03, subdivisions 3 and 6, paragraph (b), must be remitted on a regular basis to the association together with any member contributions paid or withheld. Those contributions must be credited to the individual account of each participating member.

Subd. 2. **Authority to adopt policies correcting erroneous contributions.** The executive director may adopt policies and procedures regarding deductions taken totally or partially in error by the employer from the salary of an elected official.

History: 1987 c 372 art 5 s 4; 1990 c 570 art 8 s 5; 1991 c 341 s 37; 1992 c 432 art 2 s 39; 1993 c 307 art 4 s 48; 1996 c 438 art 6 s 4; 2010 c 359 art 5 s 15,16

353D.05 INVESTMENT OF FUNDS.

Subdivision 1. **Investment.** As further specified under this section, employing unit contributions, after the deduction of an amount for administrative expenses, and individual participant contributions must be invested in the participant's account or accounts in investment products authorized by the association that are made available for this purpose by the State Board of Investment under section 356.645.

Subd. 1a. **Participant selection of investments.** (a) A plan participant may elect to allocate contributions, made by and on behalf of the participant, in one or more of the investment products authorized by the association to be made available under the plan, by specifying the percentage of the participant's contributions to be used to purchase shares in the authorized products.

(b) If contributions are received before the participant has made an allocation election, or if the participant fails to specify an allocation, the executive director shall, on behalf of that participant, purchase shares in a default investment alternative. The investment option must be specified by the Public Employees Retirement Association board of trustees from the designated available investment options authorized under this section.

(c) A participant may revise the investment allocation for subsequent purchase of shares, and a participant or former participant may also change the investment options selected for all or a portion of shares previously purchased.

(d) Any investment allocation selection authorized under this subdivision, whether relating to subsequent purchases of new shares or reallocating the existing portfolio, must be conducted at times and under procedures prescribed by the executive director.

Subd. 2. [Repealed, 2014 c 296 art 13 s 28]

Subd. 3. **Administrative expenses.** The executive director of the association with the advice and consent of the board shall annually set an amount to recover the costs of the association in administering the public employees defined contribution plan.

History: 1987 c 372 art 5 s 5; 1988 c 453 s 11; 1988 c 709 art 5 s 34; 1990 c 570 art 8 s 6,7; 1991 c 291 art 19 s 7,11; 1991 c 341 s 38; 1992 c 432 art 2 s 40,41; 1992 c 539 s 13,14; 1993 c 307 art 4 s 49; 1994 c 465 art 3 s 57; 1994 c 604 art 1 s 14; 1998 c 390 art 2 s 8; 2008 c 349 art 5 s 24; 2014 c 296 art 13 s 15,16

353D.051 [Never effective, 1991 c 291 art 19 s 8,11]

353D.06 REPORTING.

The executive director of the public employees retirement association shall prescribe the reporting forms required from employing units and the election forms required from participants. Reporting forms must contain names, identification numbers, amount of contribution by and on behalf of each participant, and such other data as is required to keep an accurate record of the account value of each participant.

History: 1987 c 372 art 5 s 6; 1990 c 570 art 8 s 8; 1991 c 291 art 19 s 9,11

353D.07 BENEFITS.

Subdivision 1. **Type of plan; uniformity.** (a) The plan is a defined contribution plan. A participant's benefit is equal to the value of the individual account established for the participant under section 353D.04, taking into account all contributions credited to the account plus a proportionate share of investment income of the fund credited to the account.

(b) In the case of ambulance service personnel, eligibility standards must be uniform among all ambulance service personnel of an ambulance service electing to participate.

Subd. 2. Payment of benefits. (a) A participant is entitled to receive a distribution of the participant's benefit after termination of service for any reason, disability, or death, or on or after attaining age 65 if still employed by a public employer.

(b) Unless the distribution is required under section 353D.071, no distribution shall be made unless the participant has submitted an application requesting a distribution; a direct rollover; a transfer as permitted under subdivision 3, paragraph (b); or installments as permitted under subdivision 4. If the distribution is an eligible rollover distribution as defined in section 356.635, subdivision 4, the executive director shall provide notice to the participant or beneficiary, as applicable, of the right to elect a direct rollover.

Subd. 3. Form of benefit. (a) Except as provided in subdivision 4 or 6, distribution of a participant's benefit shall be available in the form of a lump sum equal to the value of the participant's account at the date of distribution.

(b) The participant may elect to (1) receive the lump sum directly, (2) have the lump sum distributed in a direct rollover as described in section 356.635, subdivision 3, or (3) have the lump sum transferred for the purchase of an annuity payable at a designated age to an insurance company of the participant's choice that is licensed to do business in the state.

Subd. 4. Disability of participant. If a participant becomes permanently and totally disabled as defined in section 353.01, subdivision 19, the participant may elect distribution of the participant's benefit in a lump sum equal to the value of the participant's account or in equal monthly installments in an amount designated by the participant in increments of \$100. Payments may begin as early as the first day of the month following the month in which the disability occurred or on a later date if elected by the participant. Payments end when the participant's disabled status ends or the account balance is exhausted, whichever occurs first.

Subd. 5. MS 1987 Supp [Repealed, 1988 c 709 art 5 s 42]

Subd. 5. Death of a participant. If a participant dies while employed or before the participant's account is distributed in its entirety, the account must be paid in a lump sum to the designated beneficiary or, if none, the heirs at law of the decedent. If the distribution is an eligible rollover distribution as defined in section 356.635, subdivision 4, the executive director shall provide an election form and notice of the right to elect a direct rollover.

Subd. 6. Distributions while employed. If a participant is employed by a public employer and is at least age 65, the participant may elect a distribution of all or a portion of the participant's account, subject to the application and notice requirements in subdivision 2, paragraph (b). The participant may elect a distribution under this subdivision no more frequently than once each calendar year. The minimum amount of a distribution under this subdivision is \$5,000.

History: 1987 c 372 art 5 s 7; 1988 c 709 art 5 s 35-37; 1990 c 570 art 8 s 9; 1991 c 341 s 39,40; 1992 c 432 art 2 s 42,43; 1993 c 307 art 4 s 50; 2018 c 211 art 16 s 3

353D.071 FEDERAL COMPLIANCE.

Subdivision 1. Definitions. (a) For purposes of this section, the following terms have the meanings given them.

(b) "Designated beneficiary" means the person designated as the beneficiary under section 353D.07, subdivision 5, and who is the designated beneficiary under section 401(a)(9) of the Internal Revenue Code and section 1.401 (a)(9)-1, Q&A-4 of the Treasury regulations.

(c) "Distribution calendar year" means a calendar year for which a minimum distribution is required. For distributions beginning before the participant's death, the first distribution calendar year is the calendar year immediately preceding the calendar year which contains the participant's required beginning date. For distributions beginning after the participant's death, the first distribution calendar year is the calendar year in which distributions are required to begin under subdivision 2, paragraph (c). The required minimum distribution for the participant's first distribution calendar year shall be made on or before the participant's required beginning date.

(d) "Participant's account balance" means the account balance as of the last valuation date in the valuation calendar year increased by the amount of any contributions made and allocated to the account balance as of dates in the valuation calendar year after the valuation date and decreased by distributions made in the valuation calendar year after the valuation date. The account balance for the valuation calendar year includes any amounts rolled over or transferred to the plan either in the valuation calendar year or in the distribution calendar year if distributed or transferred in the valuation calendar year.

(e) "Required beginning date" means the date a participant's retirement benefit must begin under section 356.635, subdivision 1, paragraph (a).

(f) "Valuation calendar year" means the calendar year immediately preceding the distribution calendar year.

Subd. 2. Required minimum distributions. (a) The provisions of this subdivision apply for purposes of determining required minimum distributions for calendar years and must take precedence over any inconsistent provisions of the plan. All distributions required under this section must be determined and made in accordance with the treasury regulations under section 401(a)(9) of the Internal Revenue Code, including regulations providing special rules for governmental plans, as defined under section 414(d) of the Internal Revenue Code, that comply with a reasonable good faith interpretation of the minimum distribution requirements.

(b) The participant's entire interest must be distributed or begin to be distributed no later than the participant's required beginning date.

(c) If the participant dies before the required minimum distribution is made or begins, the participant's account must be distributed in a lump sum no later than as follows:

(1) if the participant's surviving spouse is the participant's sole designated beneficiary, the distribution must be made by December 31 of the calendar year immediately following the calendar year in which the participant died, or by December 31 of the calendar year in which the participant would have attained the participant's required beginning date, whichever is later;

(2) if the participant's surviving spouse is not the participant's sole beneficiary, or if there is no designated beneficiary as of September 30 of the year following the year of the participant's death, the participant's account must be distributed by December 31 of the calendar year containing the fifth anniversary of the participant's death as directed under section 353D.07, subdivision 5; or

(3) if the participant's surviving spouse is the participant's sole designated beneficiary and the surviving spouse dies after the participant, but before the account balance is distributed to the surviving spouse, paragraph (c), clause (2), must apply as if the surviving spouse were the participant.

(d) For purposes of paragraph (c), unless clause (3) applies, distributions are considered to be made on the participant's required beginning date. If paragraph (c), clause (3), applies, distributions are considered to be made on the date distributions must be made to the surviving spouse under paragraph (c), clause (1).

History: 2008 c 349 art 5 s 25; 2015 c 68 art 13 s 25; 2021 c 22 art 3 s 11,12

353D.08 PORTABILITY.

Participating ambulance service personnel who change employment or membership among participating ambulance services shall continue participation in the plan if termination from one participating ambulance service and commencement in another participating ambulance service occurs within 30 days.

History: 1987 c 372 art 5 s 8; 1988 c 709 art 5 s 38; 1990 c 570 art 8 s 10

353D.09 TAX QUALIFICATION.

The Public Employees Retirement Association shall adopt rules necessary for administration of the plan. The proposed plan shall be formulated and adopted in accordance with applicable restrictions and standards of the Internal Revenue Code and rulings and regulations of the Internal Revenue Service in order to assure the tax-exempt status of the plan as a qualified pension plan. Contributions may be accepted only after approval by the Internal Revenue Service.

History: 1987 c 372 art 5 s 9; 1990 c 570 art 8 s 11

353D.091 [Never effective, 1991 c 291 art 19 s 10,11]

353D.10 NOT CONSIDERED A LOCAL PLAN.

The plan is not a local governmental pension plan or fund for purposes of section 356.25.

History: 1987 c 372 art 5 s 10

353D.11 [Repealed, 1996 c 438 art 6 s 7]

353D.12 [Repealed, 2010 c 359 art 5 s 28 para (c)]