

Minnesota Session Laws 2009, Regular Session

CHAPTER 169, ARTICLE 9
VOLUNTARY STATEWIDE LUMP SUM
VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER RETIREMENT PLAN

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 11A.17, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Purpose; accounts; continuation.** (a) The purpose of the supplemental investment fund is to provide an investment vehicle for the assets of various public retirement plans and funds.

(b) The fund consists of ~~seven~~ eight investment accounts: an income share account, a growth share account, an international share account, a money market account, a fixed interest account, a bond market account, ~~and a common stock index account, and a~~ volunteer firefighter account.

(c) The supplemental investment fund is a continuation of the supplemental retirement fund in existence on January 1, 1980.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 11A.17, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. **Assets.** (a) The assets of the supplemental investment fund ~~shall~~ consist of the money certified and transmitted to the state board from the participating public retirement plans and funds ~~or from the board of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities under section 136F.45 and from the voluntary statewide lump-sum volunteer firefighter retirement plan under section 353G.08.~~

(b) With the exception of the assets of the voluntary statewide lump-sum volunteer firefighter retirement fund, the assets must be used to purchase investment shares in the investment accounts as specified by the plan or fund. The assets of the voluntary statewide lump-sum volunteer firefighter retirement fund must be invested in the volunteer firefighter account.

(c) These accounts must be valued at least on a monthly basis but may be valued more frequently as determined by the State Board of Investment.

Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 69.011, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** Unless the language or context clearly indicates that a different meaning is intended, the following words and terms ~~shall~~, for the purposes of this chapter and chapters 423, 423A, 424 and 424A, have the meanings ascribed to them:

(a) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of revenue.

(b) "Municipality" means:

(1) a home rule charter or statutory city;

(2) an organized town;

(3) a park district subject to chapter 398;

(4) the University of Minnesota;

(5) for purposes of the fire state aid program only, an American Indian tribal government entity located within a federally recognized American Indian reservation;

(6) for purposes of the police state aid program only, an American Indian tribal government with a tribal police department which exercises state arrest powers under

section 626.90, 626.91, 626.92, or 626.93;

(7) for purposes of the police state aid program only, the Metropolitan Airports Commission with respect to peace officers covered under chapter 422A; and

(8) for purposes of the police state aid program only, the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Public Safety with respect to peace officers covered under chapter 352B.

(c) "Minnesota Firetown Premium Report" means a form prescribed by the commissioner containing space for reporting by insurers of fire, lightning, sprinkler leakage and extended coverage premiums received upon risks located or to be performed in this state less return premiums and dividends.

(d) "Firetown" means the area serviced by any municipality having a qualified fire department or a qualified incorporated fire department having a subsidiary volunteer firefighters' relief association.

(e) "Market value" means latest available market value of all property in a taxing jurisdiction, whether the property is subject to taxation, or exempt from ad valorem taxation obtained from information which appears on abstracts filed with the commissioner of revenue or equalized by the State Board of Equalization.

(f) "Minnesota Aid to Police Premium Report" means a form prescribed by the commissioner for reporting by each fire and casualty insurer of all premiums received upon direct business received by it in this state, or by its agents for it, in cash or otherwise, during the preceding calendar year, with reference to insurance written for insuring against the perils contained in auto insurance coverages as reported in the Minnesota business schedule of the annual financial statement which each insurer is required to file with the commissioner in accordance with the governing laws or rules less return premiums and dividends.

(g) "Peace officer" means any person:

(1) whose primary source of income derived from wages is from direct employment by a municipality or county as a law enforcement officer on a full-time basis of not less than 30 hours per week;

(2) who has been employed for a minimum of six months prior to December 31 preceding the date of the current year's certification under subdivision 2, clause (b);

(3) who is sworn to enforce the general criminal laws of the state and local ordinances;

(4) who is licensed by the Peace Officers Standards and Training Board and is authorized to arrest with a warrant; and

(5) who is a member of a local police relief association to which section 69.77 applies, the State Patrol retirement plan, the public employees police and fire fund, or the Minneapolis Employees Retirement Fund.

(h) "Full-time equivalent number of peace officers providing contract service" means the integral or fractional number of peace officers which would be necessary to provide the contract service if all peace officers providing service were employed on a full-time basis as defined by the employing unit and the municipality receiving the contract service.

(i) "Retirement benefits other than a service pension" means any disbursement authorized under section 424A.05, subdivision 3, clauses (2) and (3).

(j) "Municipal clerk, municipal clerk-treasurer, or county auditor" means the person

who was elected or appointed to the specified position or, in the absence of the person, another person who is designated by the applicable governing body. In a park district, the clerk is the secretary of the board of park district commissioners. In the case of the University of Minnesota, the clerk is that official designated by the Board of Regents. For the Metropolitan Airports Commission, the clerk is the person designated by the commission. For the Department of Natural Resources or the Department of Public Safety, the clerk is the respective commissioner. For a tribal police department which exercises state arrest powers under section 626.90, 626.91, 626.92, or 626.93, the clerk is the person designated by the applicable American Indian tribal government.

(k) "Voluntary statewide lump-sum volunteer firefighter retirement plan" means the retirement plan established by chapter 353G.

Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 69.011, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. **Qualification for fire or police state aid.** (a) Unless retirement coverage is provided by the voluntary statewide lump-sum volunteer firefighter retirement plan, in order to qualify to receive fire state aid, on or before March 15 annually, in conjunction with the financial report required pursuant to section 69.051, the clerk of each municipality having a duly organized fire department as provided in subdivision 4, or the secretary of each independent nonprofit firefighting corporation having a subsidiary incorporated firefighters' relief association whichever is applicable, and the fire chief, shall jointly certify the existence of the municipal fire department or of the independent nonprofit firefighting corporation, whichever is applicable, which meets the minimum qualification requirements set forth in this subdivision, and the fire personnel and equipment of the municipal fire department or the independent nonprofit firefighting corporation as of the preceding December 31.

(b) Where retirement coverage is provided by the voluntary statewide lump-sum volunteer firefighter retirement plan, the executive director of the Public Employees Retirement Association shall certify the existence of that coverage for each municipality and the municipal clerk or independent nonprofit firefighting corporation secretary, whichever applies, and the applicable fire chief shall certify the fire personnel and fire department equipment as of the preceding December 31.

(c) Certification shall must be made to the commissioner on a form prescribed by the commissioner and shall include any other facts the commissioner may require. The certification shall must be made to the commissioner in duplicate. Each copy of the certificate shall must be duly executed and is deemed to be an original. The commissioner shall forward one copy to the auditor of the county wherein the fire department is located and shall retain one copy.

~~(b)~~ (d) On or before March 15 annually the clerk of each municipality having a duly organized police department and having a duly incorporated relief association shall certify that fact to the county auditor of the county where the police department is located and to the commissioner on a form prescribed by the commissioner together with the other facts the commissioner or auditor may require.

(e) Except as provided in subdivision 2b, on or before March 15 annually, the clerk of each municipality and the auditor of each county employing one or more peace officers as defined in subdivision 1, clause (g), shall certify the number of such peace officers to

the commissioner on forms prescribed by the commissioner. Credit for officers employed less than a full year ~~shall~~ must be apportioned. Each full month of employment of a qualifying officer during the calendar year ~~shall entitle~~ entitles the employing municipality or county to credit for 1/12 of the payment for employment of a peace officer for the entire year. For purposes of sections 69.011 to 69.051, employment of a peace officer ~~shall commence~~ commences when the peace officer is entered on the payroll of the respective municipal police department or county sheriff's department. No peace officer ~~shall~~ may be included in the certification of the number of peace officers by more than one municipality or county for the same month.

Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 69.011, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

Subd. 4. **Qualification for state aid.** Any municipality in this state having for more than one year an organized fire department and officially established by the governing body of the municipality or an independent nonprofit fire fighting corporation created under the nonprofit corporation act of this state and operating exclusively for fire fighting purposes and providing retirement and relief benefits to its members ~~or~~, having a separate subsidiary incorporated firefighter's relief and pension association providing retirement and relief benefits, or participating in the voluntary statewide lump-sum volunteer firefighter retirement plan, may qualify to receive state aid if it meets the following minimum requirements or equivalent as determined by the state fire marshal by July 1, 1972:

- (a) ten paid or volunteer firefighters including a fire chief and assistant fire chief, and
- (b) regular scheduled meetings and frequent drills including instructions in fire fighting tactics and in the use, care, and operation of all fire apparatus and equipment, and
- (c) a motorized fire truck equipped with a motorized pump, 250 gallon or larger water tank, 300 feet of one inch or larger fire hose in two lines with combination spray and straight stream nozzles, five-gallon hand pumps--tank extinguisher or equivalent, dry chemical extinguisher or equivalent, ladders, extension ladders, pike poles, crow bars, axes, lanterns, fire coats, helmets, boots, and
- (d) apparatus suitably housed in a building of good construction with facilities for care of hose and equipment, and
- (e) a reliable and adequate method of receiving fire alarms by telephone or with electric siren and suitable means of sounding an alarm, and
- (f) if response is to be provided outside the corporate limits of the municipality wherein the fire department is located, the municipality has another piece of motorized apparatus to make the response, and
- (g) other requirements the commissioner establishes by rule.

Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 69.021, subdivision 7, is amended to read:

Subd. 7. **Apportionment of fire state aid to municipalities and relief associations.**

- (a) The commissioner shall apportion the fire state aid relative to the premiums reported on the Minnesota Firetown Premium Reports filed under this chapter to each municipality and/or firefighters relief association.
- (b) The commissioner shall calculate an initial fire state aid allocation amount for each municipality or fire department under paragraph (c) and a minimum fire state aid allocation amount for each municipality or fire department under paragraph (d). The

municipality or fire department must receive the larger fire state aid amount.

(c) The initial fire state aid allocation amount is the amount available for apportionment as fire state aid under subdivision 5, without inclusion of any additional funding amount to support a minimum fire state aid amount under section 423A.02, subdivision 3, allocated one-half in proportion to the population as shown in the last official statewide federal census for each fire town and one-half in proportion to the market value of each fire town, including (1) the market value of tax exempt property and (2) the market value of natural resources lands receiving in lieu payments under sections 477A.11 to 477A.14, but excluding the market value of minerals. In the case of incorporated or municipal fire departments furnishing fire protection to other cities, towns, or townships as evidenced by valid fire service contracts filed with the commissioner, the distribution must be adjusted proportionately to take into consideration the crossover fire protection service. Necessary adjustments shall must be made to subsequent apportionments. In the case of municipalities or independent fire departments qualifying for the aid, the commissioner shall calculate the state aid for the municipality or relief association on the basis of the population and the market value of the area furnished fire protection service by the fire department as evidenced by duly executed and valid fire service agreements filed with the commissioner. If one or more fire departments are furnishing contracted fire service to a city, town, or township, only the population and market value of the area served by each fire department may be considered in calculating the state aid and the fire departments furnishing service shall enter into an agreement apportioning among themselves the percent of the population and the market value of each service area. The agreement must be in writing and must be filed with the commissioner.

(d) The minimum fire state aid allocation amount is the amount in addition to the initial fire state allocation amount that is derived from any additional funding amount to support a minimum fire state aid amount under section 423A.02, subdivision 3, and allocated to municipalities with volunteer firefighters relief associations or covered by the voluntary statewide lump-sum volunteer firefighter retirement plan based on the number of active volunteer firefighters who are members of the relief association as reported in the annual financial reporting for the calendar year 1993 to the Office of the State Auditor, but not to exceed 30 active volunteer firefighters, so that all municipalities or fire departments with volunteer firefighters relief associations receive in total at least a minimum fire state aid amount per 1993 active volunteer firefighter to a maximum of 30 firefighters. If a relief association is established after calendar year 1993 and before calendar year 2000, the number of active volunteer firefighters who are members of the relief association as reported in the annual financial reporting for calendar year 1998 to the Office of the State Auditor, but not to exceed 30 active volunteer firefighters, shall be used in this determination. If a relief association is established after calendar year 1999, the number of active volunteer firefighters who are members of the relief association as reported in the first annual financial reporting submitted to the Office of the State Auditor, but not to exceed 20 active volunteer firefighters, must be used in this determination. If a relief association is terminated as a result of providing retirement coverage for volunteer firefighters by the voluntary statewide lump-sum volunteer firefighter retirement plan under chapter 353G, the number of active volunteer firefighters of the municipality covered by the statewide plan as certified by the executive director of

the Public Employees Retirement Association to the commissioner and the state auditor, but not to exceed 30 active firefighters, must be used in this determination.

(e) Unless the firefighters of the applicable fire department are members of the voluntary statewide lump-sum volunteer firefighter retirement plan, the fire state aid must be paid to the treasurer of the municipality where the fire department is located and the treasurer of the municipality shall, within 30 days of receipt of the fire state aid, transmit the aid to the relief association if the relief association has filed a financial report with the treasurer of the municipality and has met all other statutory provisions pertaining to the aid apportionment. If the firefighters of the applicable fire department are members of the voluntary statewide lump-sum volunteer firefighter retirement plan, the fire state aid must be paid to the executive director of the Public Employees Retirement Association and deposited in the voluntary statewide lump-sum volunteer firefighter retirement fund.

(f) The commissioner may make rules to permit the administration of the provisions of this section.

(g) Any adjustments needed to correct prior misallocations must be made to subsequent apportionments.

Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 69.021, subdivision 9, is amended to read:

Subd. 9. **Appeal.** In the event that ~~any~~ a municipality, a county, a fire relief association, or a police relief association, or the voluntary statewide lump-sum volunteer firefighter retirement plan, feels itself to be aggrieved, it may request the commissioner to review and adjust the apportionment of funds within the county in the case of police state aid, or within the state in the case of fire state aid. The decision of the commissioner is subject to appeal, review, and adjustment by the district court in the county in which the applicable municipality, fire department, or police department is located.

Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 69.031, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Commissioner of finance's warrant.** (a) The commissioner of finance shall issue to the Public Employees Retirement Association on behalf of a municipality or independent nonprofit firefighting corporation that is a member of the voluntary statewide lump-sum volunteer firefighter retirement plan under chapter 353G or to the county, municipality, or independent nonprofit firefighting corporation certified to the commissioner of finance by the commissioner a warrant for an amount equal to the amount of fire state aid or police state aid, whichever applies, certified for the applicable state aid recipient by the commissioner under section 69.021.

(b) The amount of state aid due and not paid by October 1 accrues interest at the rate of one percent for each month or part of a month the amount remains unpaid, beginning the preceding July 1.

Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 69.031, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

Subd. 5. **Deposit of state aid.** (a) If the municipality or the independent nonprofit firefighting corporation is covered by the voluntary statewide lump-sum volunteer firefighter retirement plan under chapter 353G, the executive director shall credit the fire state aid against future municipal contribution requirements under section 353G.08 and shall notify the municipality or independent nonprofit firefighting corporation of

the fire state aid so credited at least annually. If the municipality or the independent nonprofit firefighting corporation is not covered by the voluntary statewide lump-sum volunteer firefighter retirement plan, the municipal treasurer shall, within 30 days after receipt, transmit the fire state aid to the treasurer of the duly incorporated firefighters' relief association if there is one organized and the association has filed a financial report with the municipality. If the relief association has not filed a financial report with the municipality, the municipal treasurer shall delay transmission of the fire state aid to the relief association until the complete financial report is filed. If the municipality or independent nonprofit firefighting corporation is not covered by the voluntary statewide lump-sum volunteer firefighter retirement plan, if there is no relief association organized, or if the association has dissolved, or has been removed as trustees of state aid, then the treasurer of the municipality shall deposit the money in the municipal treasury as provided for in section 424A.08 and the money may be disbursed only for the purposes and in the manner set forth in that section.

(b) The municipal treasurer, upon receipt of the police state aid, shall disburse the police state aid in the following manner:

(1) For a municipality in which a local police relief association exists and all peace officers are members of the association, the total state aid must be transmitted to the treasurer of the relief association within 30 days of the date of receipt, and the treasurer of the relief association shall immediately deposit the total state aid in the special fund of the relief association;

(2) For a municipality in which police retirement coverage is provided by the public employees police and fire fund and all peace officers are members of the fund, including municipalities covered by section 353.665, the total state aid must be applied toward the municipality's employer contribution to the public employees police and fire fund under sections 353.65, subdivision 3, and 353.665, subdivision 8, paragraph (b), if applicable; or

(3) For a municipality other than a city of the first class with a population of more than 300,000 in which both a police relief association exists and police retirement coverage is provided in part by the public employees police and fire fund, the municipality may elect at its option to transmit the total state aid to the treasurer of the relief association as provided in clause (1), to use the total state aid to apply toward the municipality's employer contribution to the public employees police and fire fund subject to all the provisions set forth in clause (2), or to allot the total state aid proportionately to be transmitted to the police relief association as provided in this subdivision and to apply toward the municipality's employer contribution to the public employees police and fire fund subject to the provisions of clause (2) on the basis of the respective number of active full-time peace officers, as defined in section 69.011, subdivision 1, clause (g).

For a city of the first class with a population of more than 300,000, in addition, the city may elect to allot the appropriate portion of the total police state aid to apply toward the employer contribution of the city to the public employees police and fire fund based on the covered salary of police officers covered by the fund each payroll period and to transmit the balance to the police relief association; or

(4) For a municipality in which police retirement coverage is provided in part by the public employees police and fire fund and in part by a local police consolidation account governed by chapter 353A and established before March 2, 1999, for which the

municipality declined merger under section 353.665, subdivision 1, or established after March 1, 1999, the total police state aid must be applied towards the municipality's total employer contribution to the public employees police and fire fund and to the local police consolidation account under sections 353.65, subdivision 3, and 353A.09, subdivision 5.

(c) The county treasurer, upon receipt of the police state aid for the county, shall apply the total state aid toward the county's employer contribution to the public employees police and fire fund under section 353.65, subdivision 3.

(d) The designated Metropolitan Airports Commission official, upon receipt of the police state aid for the Metropolitan Airports Commission, shall apply the total police state aid first toward the commission's employer contribution for police officers to the Minneapolis Employees Retirement Fund under section 422A.101, subdivision 2a, and, if there is any amount of police state aid remaining, shall apply that remainder toward the commission's employer contribution for police officers to the public employees police and fire plan under section 353.65, subdivision 3.

(e) The police state aid apportioned to the Departments of Public Safety and Natural Resources under section 69.021, subdivision 7a, is appropriated to the commissioner of finance for transfer to the funds and accounts from which the salaries of peace officers certified under section 69.011, subdivision 2a, are paid. The commissioner of revenue shall certify to the commissioners of public safety, natural resources, and finance the amounts to be transferred from the appropriation for police state aid. The commissioners of public safety and natural resources shall certify to the commissioner of finance the amounts to be credited to each of the funds and accounts from which the peace officers employed by their respective departments are paid. Each commissioner ~~must~~ shall allocate the police state aid first for employer contributions for employees funded from the general fund and then for employer contributions for employees funded from other funds. For peace officers whose salaries are paid from the general fund, the amounts transferred from the appropriation for police state aid must be canceled to the general fund.

Sec. 10. [353G.01] DEFINITIONS.

Subdivision 1. **Scope.** For the purposes of this chapter, the words or terms defined in this section have the meanings given to them unless the context of the word or term clearly indicates otherwise.

Subd. 2. **Advisory board.** "Advisory board" means the board established by section 353G.03.

Subd. 3. **Board.** "Board" means the board of trustees of the Public Employees Retirement Association operating under section 353.03.

Subd. 4. **Commissioner of finance.** "Commissioner of finance" means the state official appointed and qualified under section 16A.01.

Subd. 5. **Executive director; director.** "Executive director" or "director" means the person appointed under section 353.03, subdivision 3a.

Subd. 6. **Fund.** "Fund" means the voluntary statewide lump-sum volunteer firefighter retirement fund established under section 353G.02, subdivision 3.

Subd. 7. **Good time service credit.** "Good time service credit" means the length of service credit for an active firefighter that is reported by the applicable fire chief based on the minimum firefighter activity standards of the fire department. The credit may be

recognized on an annual or monthly basis.

Subd. 8. **Member.** "Member" means a volunteer firefighter who provides active service to a municipal fire department or an independent nonprofit firefighting corporation where the applicable municipality or corporation has elected coverage by the retirement plan under section 353G.05, and which service is covered by the retirement plan.

Subd. 9. **Municipality.** "Municipality" means a governmental entity specified in section 69.011, subdivision 1, paragraph (b), clauses (1), (2), and (5).

Subd. 10. **Plan.** "Plan" means the retirement plan established by this chapter.

Subd. 11. **Retirement fund.** "Retirement fund" means the voluntary statewide lump-sum volunteer firefighter retirement fund established under section 353G.02, subdivision 3.

Subd. 12. **Retirement plan.** "Retirement plan" means the retirement plan established by this chapter.

Subd. 13. **Standards for actuarial work.** "Standards for actuarial work" means the standards adopted by the Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement under section 3.85, subdivision 10.

Subd. 14. **State Board of Investment.** "State Board of Investment" means the board created by article XI, section 8, of the Minnesota Constitution and governed by chapter 11A.

Subd. 15. **Volunteer firefighter.** "Volunteer firefighter" means a person who is an active member of a municipal fire department or independent nonprofit firefighting corporation and who, in that capacity, engages in fire suppression activities, provides emergency response services, or delivers fire education or prevention services on an on-call basis.

Sec. 11. **[353G.02] PLAN AND FUND CREATION.**

Subdivision 1. **Retirement plan.** The voluntary statewide lump-sum volunteer firefighter retirement plan is created.

Subd. 2. **Administration.** The policy-making, management, and administrative functions related to the voluntary statewide lump-sum volunteer firefighter retirement plan and fund are vested in the board of trustees and the executive director of the Public Employees Retirement Association. Their duties, authority, and responsibilities are as provided in section 353.03. Fiduciary activities of the plan and fund must be undertaken in a manner consistent with chapter 356A.

Subd. 3. **Retirement fund.** (a) The voluntary statewide lump-sum volunteer firefighter retirement fund is created. The fund contains the assets attributable to the voluntary statewide lump-sum volunteer firefighter retirement plan.

(b) The State Board of Investment shall invest those portions of the retirement fund not required for immediate purposes in the voluntary statewide lump-sum volunteer firefighter retirement plan in the statewide lump-sum volunteer firefighter account of the Minnesota supplemental investment fund under section 11A.17.

(c) The commissioner of finance is the ex officio treasurer of the voluntary statewide lump-sum volunteer firefighter retirement fund. The commissioner of finance's general bond to the state covers all liability for actions taken as the treasurer of the retirement fund.

(d) The revenues of the retirement plan beyond investment returns are governed by

section 353G.08 and must be deposited in the retirement fund. The disbursements of the retirement plan are governed by section 353G.08. The commissioner of finance shall transmit a detailed statement showing all credits to and disbursements from the retirement fund to the executive director monthly.

Subd. 4. **Audit; actuarial valuation.** (a) The legislative auditor shall periodically audit the voluntary statewide lump-sum volunteer firefighter retirement fund.
(b) An actuarial valuation of the voluntary statewide lump-sum volunteer firefighter retirement plan may be performed periodically as determined to be appropriate or useful by the board. An actuarial valuation must be performed by the approved actuary retained under section 356.214 and must conform with section 356.215 and the standards for actuarial work. An actuarial valuation must contain sufficient detail for each participating employing entity to ascertain the actuarial condition of its account in the fund and the contribution requirement towards its account.

Subd. 5. **Legal advisor; attorney general.** (a) The legal advisor of the board and the executive director with respect to the voluntary statewide lump-sum volunteer firefighter retirement plan is the attorney general.
(b) The board may sue, petition, be sued, or be petitioned under this chapter with respect to the plan or the fund in the name of the board.
(c) The attorney general shall represent the board in all actions by the board or against the board with respect to the plan or the fund.
(d) Venue of all actions related to the plan or fund is in the court for the first judicial district unless the action is an appeal to the Court of Appeals under section 356.96.

Sec. 12. [353G.03] VOLUNTARY STATEWIDE LUMP-SUM VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER RETIREMENT PLAN ADVISORY BOARD.

Subdivision 1. **Establishment.** A Voluntary Statewide Lump-Sum Volunteer Firefighter Retirement Plan Advisory Board is created.

Subd. 2. **Function; purpose.** The advisory board shall provide advice to the board of trustees of the Public Employees Retirement Association about the retirement coverage needs of volunteer firefighters who are members of the plan and about the legislative and administrative changes that would assist the retirement plan in accommodating volunteer firefighters who are not members of the plan.

Subd. 3. **Composition.** (a) The advisory board consists of seven members.
(b) The advisory board members are:
(1) one representative of Minnesota townships, appointed by the Minnesota Association of Townships;
(2) two representatives of Minnesota cities, appointed by the League of Minnesota Cities;
(3) one representative of Minnesota fire chiefs, who is a fire chief, appointed by the Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association;
(4) two representatives of Minnesota volunteer firefighters, who are active volunteer firefighters, appointed by the Minnesota State Fire Departments Association; and
(5) one representative of the Office of the State Auditor, designated by the state auditor.

Subd. 4. **Term.** (a) The initial terms on the advisory board for the Minnesota

townships representative and the Minnesota fire chiefs representative are one year. The initial terms on the advisory board for one of the Minnesota cities representatives and one of the Minnesota active volunteer firefighter representatives are two years. The initial terms on the advisory board for the other Minnesota cities representative and the other Minnesota active volunteer firefighter representative are three years. The term for the Office of the State Auditor representative is determined by the state auditor.

(b) Subsequent terms on the advisory board other than the Office of the State Auditor representative are three years.

Subd. 5. **Compensation of advisory board.** The compensation of members of the advisory board other than the Office of the State Auditor representative is governed by section 15.0575, subdivision 3.

Sec. 13. [353G.04] INFORMATION FROM MUNICIPALITIES AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS.

The chief executive officers of municipalities and fire departments with volunteer firefighters covered by the voluntary lump-sum volunteer firefighter retirement plan shall provide all relevant information and records requested by the board, the executive director, and the State Board of Investment as required to perform their duties.

Sec. 14. [353G.05] PLAN COVERAGE ELECTION.

Subdivision 1. **Coverage.** Any municipality or independent nonprofit firefighting corporation may elect to have its volunteer firefighters covered by the retirement plan.

Subd. 2. **Election of coverage.** (a) The process for electing coverage of volunteer firefighters by the retirement plan is initiated by a request to the executive director for a cost analysis of the prospective retirement coverage.

(b) If the volunteer firefighters are currently covered by a volunteer firefighters' relief association governed by chapter 424A, the cost analysis of the prospective retirement coverage must be requested jointly by the secretary of the volunteer firefighters' relief association, following approval of the request by the board of the volunteer firefighters' relief association, and the chief administrative officer of the entity associated with the relief association, following approval of the request by the governing body of the entity associated with the relief association. If the relief association is associated with more than one entity, the chief administrative officer of each associated entity must execute the request. If the volunteer firefighters are not currently covered by a volunteer firefighters' relief association, the cost analysis of the prospective retirement coverage must be requested by the chief administrative officer of the entity operating the fire department. The request must be made in writing and must be made on a form prescribed by the executive director.

(c) The cost analysis of the prospective retirement coverage by the statewide retirement plan must be based on the service pension amount under section 353G.11 closest to the service pension amount provided by the volunteer firefighters' relief association, if there is one, or to the lowest service pension amount under section 353G.11 if there is no volunteer firefighters' relief association, rounded up, and any other service pension amount designated by the requester or requesters. The cost analysis must be prepared using a mathematical procedure certified as accurate by an approved actuary

retained by the Public Employees Retirement Association.

(d) If a cost analysis is requested and a volunteer firefighters' relief association exists that has filed the information required under section 69.051 in a timely fashion, upon request by the executive director, the state auditor shall provide the most recent data available on the financial condition of the volunteer firefighters' relief association, the most recent firefighter demographic data available, and a copy of the current relief association bylaws. If a cost analysis is requested, but no volunteer firefighters' relief association exists, the chief administrative officer of the entity operating the fire department shall provide the demographic information on the volunteer firefighters serving as members of the fire department requested by the executive director.

(e) If a cost analysis is requested, the executive director of the State Board of Investment shall review the investment portfolio of the relief association, if applicable, for compliance with the applicable provisions of chapter 11A and for appropriateness for retention under the established investment objectives and investment policies of the State Board of Investment. If the prospective retirement coverage change is approved under paragraph (f), the State Board of Investment may require that the relief association liquidate any investment security or other asset which the executive director of the State Board of Investment has determined to be an ineligible or inappropriate investment for retention by the State Board of Investment. The security or asset liquidation must occur before the effective date of the transfer of retirement plan coverage. If requested to do so by the chief administrative officer of the relief association, the executive director of the State Board of Investment shall provide advice about the best means to conduct the liquidation.

(f) Upon receipt of the cost analysis, the governing body of the municipality or independent nonprofit firefighting corporation associated with the fire department shall approve or disapprove the retirement coverage change within 90 days. If the retirement coverage change is not acted upon within 90 days, it is deemed to be disapproved. If the retirement coverage change is approved by the applicable governing body, coverage by the voluntary statewide lump-sum volunteer firefighter retirement plan is effective on the next following January 1.

Sec. 15. [353G.06] DISESTABLISHMENT OF PRIOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS' RELIEF ASSOCIATION SPECIAL FUND UPON RETIREMENT COVERAGE CHANGE.

Subdivision 1. Special fund disestablishment. (a) On the date immediately prior to the effective date of the coverage change, the special fund of the applicable volunteer firefighters' relief association, if one exists, ceases to exist as a pension fund of the association and legal title to the assets of the special fund transfers to the State Board of Investment, with the beneficial title to the assets of the special fund remaining in the applicable volunteer firefighters.

(b) If the market value of the special fund of the volunteer firefighters' relief association for which retirement coverage changed under this chapter declines in the interval between the date of the most recent financial report or statement, and the special fund disestablishment date, the applicable municipality shall transfer an additional amount to the State Board of Investment equal to that decline. If more than one municipality is

responsible for the direct management of the fire department, the municipalities shall allocate the additional transfer amount among the various applicable municipalities one-half in proportion to the population of each municipality and one-half in proportion to the market value of each municipality.

Subd. 2. **Other relief association changes.** In addition to the transfer and disestablishment of the special fund under subdivision 1, notwithstanding any provisions of chapter 424A or 424B to the contrary, upon the effective date of the change in volunteer firefighter retirement coverage, if the relief association membership elects to retain the relief association after the benefit coverage election, the following changes must be implemented with respect to the applicable volunteer firefighters' relief association: (1) the relief association board of trustees membership is reduced to five, comprised of the fire chief of the fire department and four trustees elected by and from the relief association membership; (2) the relief association may only maintain a general fund, which continues to be governed by section 424A.06; (3) the relief association is not authorized to receive the proceeds of any state aid or to receive any municipal funds; and (4) the relief association may not pay any service pension or benefit that was not authorized as a general fund disbursement under the articles of incorporation or bylaws of the relief association in effect prior to the plan coverage election process.

Subd. 3. **Successor in interest.** Upon the disestablishment of the special fund of the volunteer firefighters' relief association under this section, the voluntary statewide lump-sum volunteer firefighter retirement plan is the successor in interest of the special fund of the volunteer firefighters' relief association for all claims against the special fund other than a claim against the special fund, the volunteer firefighters' relief association, the municipality, the fire department, or any person connected with the volunteer firefighters' relief association in a fiduciary capacity under chapter 356A or common law that was based on any act or acts which were not performed in good faith and which constituted a breach of a fiduciary obligation. As the successor in interest of the special fund of the volunteer firefighters' relief association, the voluntary statewide lump-sum volunteer firefighter retirement plan may assert any applicable defense in any judicial proceeding which the board of trustees of the volunteer firefighters' relief association or the municipality would have been entitled to assert.

Sec. 16. [353G.07] CERTIFICATION OF GOOD TIME SERVICE CREDIT.

(a) Annually, by March 31, the fire chief of the fire department with firefighters who are active members of the retirement plan shall certify to the executive director the good time service credit for the previous calendar year of each firefighter rendering active service with the fire department.

(b) The fire chief shall provide to each firefighter rendering active service with the fire department notification of the amount of good time service credit rendered by the firefighter for the calendar year. The good time service credit notification must be provided to the firefighter 60 days before its certification to the executive director of the Public Employees Retirement Association, along with an indication of the process for the firefighter to challenge the fire chief's determination of good time service credit. If the

good time service credit amount is challenged in a timely fashion, the fire chief shall hold a hearing on the challenge, accept and consider any additional pertinent information, and make a final determination of good time service credit. The final determination of good time service credit by the fire chief is not reviewable by the executive director of the Public Employees Retirement Association or by the board of trustees of the Public Employees Retirement Association.

(c) The good time service credit certification is an official public document. If a false good time service credit certification is filed or if false information regarding good time service credits is provided, section 353.19 applies.

(d) The good time service credit certification must be expressed as a percentage of a full year of service during which an active firefighter rendered at least the minimum level and quantity of fire suppression, emergency response, fire prevention, or fire education duties required by the fire department under the rules and regulations applicable to the fire department. No more than one year of good time service credit may be certified for a calendar year.

(e) If a firefighter covered by the retirement plan leaves active firefighting service to render active military service that is required to be covered by the federal Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, as amended, the person must be certified as providing a full year of good time service credit in each year of the military service, up to the applicable limit of the federal Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act. If the firefighter does not return from the military service in compliance with the federal Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, the good time service credits applicable to that military service credit period are forfeited and cancel at the end of the calendar year in which the federal law time limit occurs.

Sec. 17. [353G.08] RETIREMENT PLAN FUNDING; DISBURSEMENTS.

(a) Annually, the executive director shall determine the funding requirements of each account in the voluntary statewide lump-sum volunteer firefighter retirement plan on or before August 1. The funding requirements as directed under this section, must be determined using a mathematical procedure developed and certified as accurate by an approved actuary retained by the Public Employees Retirement Association and based on present value factors using a six percent interest rate, without any decrement assumptions. The funding requirements must be certified to the entity or entities associated with the fire department whose active firefighters are covered by the retirement plan.

(b) The overall funding balance of each account for the current calendar year must be determined in the following manner:

(1) The total accrued liability for all active and deferred members of the account as of December 31 of the current year must be calculated based on the good time service credit of active and deferred members as of that date.

(2) The total present assets of the account projected to December 31 of the current year, including receipts by and disbursements from the account anticipated to occur on or before December 31, must be calculated. To the extent possible, the market value of assets must be utilized in making this calculation.

(3) The amount of the total present assets calculated under clause (2) must be

subtracted from the amount of the total accrued liability calculated under clause (1). If the amount of total present assets exceeds the amount of the total accrued liability, then the account is considered to have a surplus over full funding. If the amount of the total present assets is less than the amount of the total accrued liability, then the account is considered to have a deficit from full funding. If the amount of total present assets is equal to the amount of the total accrued liability, then the special fund is considered to be fully funded.

(c) The financial requirements of each account for the following calendar year must be determined in the following manner:

(1) The total accrued liability for all active and deferred members of the account as of December 31 of the calendar year next following the current calendar year must be calculated based on the good time service used in the calculation under paragraph (b), clause (1), increased by one year.

(2) The increase in the total accrued liability of the account for the following calendar year over the total accrued liability of the account for the current year must be calculated.

(3) The amount of anticipated future administrative expenses of the account must be calculated by multiplying the dollar amount of the administrative expenses for the most recent prior calendar year by the factor of 1.035.

(4) If the account is fully funded, the financial requirement of the account for the following calendar year is the total of the amounts calculated under clauses (2) and (3).

(5) If the account has a deficit from full funding, the financial requirement of the account for the following calendar year is the total of the amounts calculated under clauses (2) and (3) plus an amount equal to one-tenth of the amount of the deficit from full funding of the account.

(6) If the account has a surplus over full funding, the financial requirement of the account for the following calendar year is the financial requirement of the account calculated as though the account was fully funded under clause (4) and, if the account has also had a surplus over full funding during the prior two years, additionally reduced by an amount equal to one-tenth of the amount of the surplus over full funding of the account.

(d) The required contribution of the entity or entities associated with the fire department whose active firefighters are covered by the retirement plan is the annual financial requirements of the account of the retirement plan under paragraph (c) reduced by the amount of any fire state aid payable under sections 69.011 to 69.051 reasonably anticipated to be received by the retirement plan attributable to the entity or entities during the following calendar year, and an amount of interest on the assets projected to be received during the following calendar year calculated at the rate of six percent per annum. The required contribution must be allocated between the entities if more than one entity is involved. A reasonable amount of anticipated fire state aid is an amount that does not exceed the fire state aid actually received in the prior year multiplied by the factor 1.035.

(e) The required contribution calculated in paragraph (d) must be paid to the retirement plan on or before December 31 of the year for which it was calculated. If the contribution is not received by the retirement plan by December 31, it is payable with interest at an annual compound rate of six percent from the date due until the date payment is received by the retirement plan. If the entity does not pay the full amount of the required contribution, the executive director shall collect the unpaid amount under section 353.28, subdivision 6.

- (f) The assets of the retirement fund may only be disbursed for:
- (1) the administrative expenses of the retirement plan;
 - (2) the investment expenses of the retirement fund;
 - (3) the service pensions payable under section 353G.10, 353G.11, 353G.14, or 353G.15; and
 - (4) the survivor benefits payable under section 353G.12.

Sec. 18. [353G.09] RETIREMENT BENEFIT ELIGIBILITY.

Subdivision 1. Entitlement. Except as provided in subdivision 3, an active member of the retirement plan is entitled to a lump-sum service pension from the retirement plan if the person:

- (1) has separated from active service with the fire department for at least 30 days;
- (2) has attained the age of at least 50 years;
- (3) has completed at least five years of good time service credit as a member of the retirement plan; and
- (4) applies in a manner prescribed by the executive director for the service pension.

Subd. 2. Vesting schedule; nonforfeitable portion of service pension. If an active member has completed less than 20 years of good time service credit, the person's entitlement is to the nonforfeitable percentage of the applicable service pension amount, as follows:

<u>Completed years of good time service credit</u>	<u>Nonforfeitable percentage of the service pension</u>
<u>5</u>	<u>40 percent</u>
<u>6</u>	<u>44 percent</u>
<u>7</u>	<u>48 percent</u>
<u>8</u>	<u>52 percent</u>
<u>9</u>	<u>56 percent</u>
<u>10</u>	<u>60 percent</u>
<u>11</u>	<u>64 percent</u>
<u>12</u>	<u>68 percent</u>
<u>13</u>	<u>72 percent</u>
<u>14</u>	<u>76 percent</u>
<u>15</u>	<u>80 percent</u>
<u>16</u>	<u>84 percent</u>
<u>17</u>	<u>88 percent</u>
<u>18</u>	<u>92 percent</u>
<u>19</u>	<u>96 percent</u>
<u>20 and thereafter</u>	<u>100 percent</u>

Subd. 3. Alternative pension eligibility and computation. (a) An active member of the retirement plan is entitled to an alternative lump-sum service pension from the retirement plan if the person:

- (1) has separated from active service with the fire department for at least 30 days;
- (2) has attained the age of at least 50 years or the age for receipt of a service pension under the benefit plan of the applicable former volunteer firefighters' relief association

as of the date immediately prior to the election of the retirement coverage change, whichever is later;

(3) has completed at least five years of active service with the fire department and at least five years in total as a member of the applicable former volunteer firefighters' relief association or of the retirement plan, but has not rendered at least five years of good time service credit as a member of the retirement plan; and

(4) applies in a manner prescribed by the executive director for the service pension.

(b) The alternative lump-sum service pension is the service pension amount specified in the bylaws of the applicable former volunteer firefighters' relief association either as of the date immediately prior to the election of the retirement coverage change or as of the date immediately before the termination of firefighting services, whichever is earlier, multiplied by the total number of years of service as a member of that volunteer firefighters' relief association and as a member of the retirement plan.

Sec. 19. [353G.10] DEFERRED SERVICE PENSION AMOUNT.

A person who was an active member of a fire department covered by the retirement plan who has separated from active firefighting service for at least 30 days and who has completed at least five years of good time service credit, but has not attained the age of 50 years, is entitled to a deferred service pension on or after attaining the age of 50 years and applying in a manner specified by the executive director for the service pension. The service pension payable is the nonforfeitable percentage of the service pension under section 353G.09, subdivision 2, and is payable without any interest over the period of deferral.

Sec. 20. [353G.11] SERVICE PENSION LEVELS.

Subdivision 1. Levels. The retirement plan provides the following levels of service pension amounts to be selected at the election of coverage, or, if fully funded, thereafter:

<u>Level A</u>	<u>\$500 per year of good time service credit</u>
<u>Level B</u>	<u>\$750 per year of good time service credit</u>
<u>Level C</u>	<u>\$1,000 per year of good time service credit</u>
<u>Level D</u>	<u>\$1,500 per year of good time service credit</u>
<u>Level E</u>	<u>\$2,000 per year of good time service credit</u>
<u>Level F</u>	<u>\$2,500 per year of good time service credit</u>
<u>Level G</u>	<u>\$3,000 per year of good time service credit</u>
<u>Level H</u>	<u>\$3,500 per year of good time service credit</u>
<u>Level I</u>	<u>\$4,000 per year of good time service credit</u>
<u>Level J</u>	<u>\$4,500 per year of good time service credit</u>
<u>Level K</u>	<u>\$5,000 per year of good time service credit</u>
<u>Level L</u>	<u>\$5,500 per year of good time service credit</u>
<u>Level M</u>	<u>\$6,000 per year of good time service credit</u>
<u>Level N</u>	<u>\$6,500 per year of good time service credit</u>
<u>Level O</u>	<u>\$7,000 per year of good time service credit</u>
<u>Level P</u>	<u>\$7,500 per year of good time service credit</u>

Subd. 2. **Level selection.** At the time of the election to transfer retirement coverage, or on April 30 thereafter, the governing body or bodies of the entity or entities operating the fire department whose firefighters are covered by the retirement plan may request a cost estimate from the executive director of an increase in the service pension level applicable to the active firefighters of the fire department. Within 90 days of the receipt of the cost estimate prepared by the executive director using a procedure certified as accurate by the approved actuary retained by the Public Employees Retirement Association, the governing body or bodies may approve the service pension level change, effective for the following calendar year. If not approved in a timely fashion, the service pension level change is considered to have been disapproved.

Subd. 3. **Supplemental benefit.** The retirement plan also shall pay a supplemental benefit as provided for in section 424A.10.

Subd. 4. **Ancillary benefits.** No disability, death, funeral, or other ancillary benefit beyond a service pension or a survivor benefit is payable from the retirement plan.

Sec. 21. **[353G.12] SURVIVOR BENEFIT.**

Subdivision 1. **Entitlement.** (a) A survivor of a deceased active member of the retirement plan or a deceased deferred member of the retirement plan, upon application as prescribed by the executive director, is entitled to receive a survivor benefit.

(b) A survivor is the spouse of the member, or if none, the minor child or children of the member, or if none, the estate of the member.

Subd. 2. **Survivor benefit amount.** The amount of the survivor benefit is the amount of the service pension that would have been payable to the member of the retirement plan on the date of death if the member had been age 50 or older on that date.

Sec. 22. **[353G.13] PORTABILITY.**

Subdivision 1. **Eligibility.** An active firefighter who is a member of the retirement plan who also renders firefighting service and has good time service credit in the retirement plan from another fire department, if the good time service credit in the plan from a combination of periods totals at least five years, is eligible, upon complying with the other requirements of section 353G.09, to receive a service pension upon filing an application in the manner prescribed by the executive director, computed as provided in subdivision 2.

Subd. 2. **Combined service pension computation.** The service pension payable to a firefighter who qualifies under subdivision 1 is the per year of good time service credit service pension amount in effect for each account in which the firefighter has good time service credit as of the date on which the firefighter terminated active service with the fire department associated with the applicable account, multiplied by the number of years of good time service credit that the firefighter has in the applicable account.

Subd. 3. **Payment.** A service pension under this section must be paid in a single payment, with the applicable portion of the total service pension payment amount deducted from each account.

Sec. 23. **[353G.14] PURCHASE OF ANNUITY CONTRACTS.**

The executive director may purchase an annuity contract on behalf of a retiring firefighter with a total premium payment in an amount equal to the lump-sum service pension payable under section 353G.09 if the purchase was requested by the retiring

firefighter in a manner prescribed by the executive director. The annuity contract must be purchased from an insurance carrier that is licensed to do business in this state. If purchased, the annuity contract is in lieu of any service pension or other benefit from the retirement plan. The annuity contract may be purchased at any time after the volunteer firefighter discontinues active service, but the annuity contract must stipulate that no annuity amounts are payable before the former volunteer firefighter attains the age of 50.

Sec. 24. [353G.15] INDIVIDUAL RETIREMENT ACCOUNT TRANSFER.
Upon receipt of a determination that the retirement plan is a qualified pension plan under section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, as amended, the executive director, upon request, shall transfer the service pension amount under sections 353G.08 and 353G.11 of a former volunteer firefighter who has terminated active firefighting services covered by the plan and who has attained the age of at least 50 years to the person's individual retirement account under section 408(a) of the federal Internal Revenue Code, as amended. The transfer request must be in a manner prescribed by the executive director and must be filed by the former volunteer firefighter who has sufficient service credit to be entitled to a service pension or, following the death of a participating active firefighter, must be filed by the deceased firefighter's surviving spouse.

Sec. 25. [353G.16] EXEMPTION FROM PROCESS.
The provisions of section 356.401 apply to the retirement plan.

Sec. 26. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 356.20, subdivision 2, is amended to read:
Subd. 2. **Covered public pension plans and funds.** This section applies to the following public pension plans:

- (1) the general state employees retirement plan of the Minnesota State Retirement System;
- (2) the general employees retirement plan of the Public Employees Retirement Association;
- (3) the Teachers Retirement Association;
- (4) the State Patrol retirement plan;
- (5) the St. Paul Teachers Retirement Fund Association;
- (6) the Duluth Teachers Retirement Fund Association;
- (7) the Minneapolis Employees Retirement Fund;
- (8) the University of Minnesota faculty retirement plan;
- (9) the University of Minnesota faculty supplemental retirement plan;
- (10) the judges retirement fund;
- (11) a police or firefighter's relief association specified or described in section 69.77, subdivision 1a ;
- (12) a volunteer firefighter relief association governed by section 69.771, subdivision 1 ;
- (13) the public employees police and fire plan of the Public Employees Retirement Association;
- (14) the correctional state employees retirement plan of the Minnesota State Retirement System; ~~and~~
- (15) the local government correctional service retirement plan of the Public

Employees Retirement Association; and
(16) the voluntary statewide lump-sum volunteer firefighter retirement plan.

Sec. 27. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 356.401, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

Subd. 3. **Covered retirement plans.** The provisions of this section apply to the following retirement plans:

- (1) the legislators retirement plan, established by chapter 3A;
 - (2) the general state employees retirement plan of the Minnesota State Retirement System, established by chapter 352;
 - (3) the correctional state employees retirement plan of the Minnesota State Retirement System, established by chapter 352;
 - (4) the State Patrol retirement plan, established by chapter 352B;
 - (5) the elective state officers retirement plan, established by chapter 352C;
 - (6) the unclassified state employees retirement program, established by chapter 352D;
 - (7) the general employees retirement plan of the Public Employees Retirement Association, established by chapter 353;
 - (8) the public employees police and fire plan of the Public Employees Retirement Association, established by chapter 353;
 - (9) the public employees defined contribution plan, established by chapter 353D;
 - (10) the local government correctional service retirement plan of the Public Employees Retirement Association, established by chapter 353E;
 - (11) the voluntary statewide lump-sum volunteer firefighter retirement plan, established by chapter 353G;
 - ~~(12)~~ (13) the Teachers Retirement Association, established by chapter 354;
 - ~~(13)~~ (14) the Duluth Teachers Retirement Fund Association, established by chapter 354A;
 - ~~(14)~~ (15) the Minneapolis Teachers Retirement Fund Association, established by chapter 354A;
 - (14) the St. Paul Teachers Retirement Fund Association, established by chapter 354A;
 - (15) the individual retirement account plan, established by chapter 354B;
 - (16) the higher education supplemental retirement plan, established by chapter 354C;
 - (17) the Minneapolis Employees Retirement Fund, established by chapter 422A;
 - (18) the Minneapolis Police Relief Association, established by chapter 423B;
 - (19) the Minneapolis Firefighters Relief Association, established by chapter 423C;
- and
- (20) the judges retirement fund, established by chapter 490.

Sec. 28. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 356.96, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** (a) Unless the language or context clearly indicates that a different meaning is intended, for the purpose of this section, the terms in paragraphs (b) to (e) have the meanings given them.

(b) "Chief administrative officer" means the executive director of a covered pension plan or the executive director's designee or representative.

(c) "Covered pension plan" means a plan enumerated in section 356.20,

subdivision 2, clauses (1) to (4), (10), and (13) to ~~(15)~~ (16), but does not mean the deferred compensation plan administered under sections 352.965 and 352.97 or to the postretirement health care savings plan administered under section 352.98.

(d) "Governing board" means the Board of Trustees of the Public Employees Retirement Association, the Board of Trustees of the Teachers Retirement Association, or the Board of Directors of the Minnesota State Retirement System.

(e) "Person" includes an active, retired, deferred, or nonvested inactive participant in a covered pension plan or a beneficiary of a participant, or an individual who has applied to be a participant or who is or may be a survivor of a participant, or a state agency or other governmental unit that employs active participants in a covered pension plan.

Sec. 29. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 424A.10, subdivision 1, is amended to read:
Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** For purposes of this section:

(1) "qualified recipient" means an individual who receives a lump-sum distribution of pension or retirement benefits from a firefighters' relief association or from the voluntary statewide lump-sum volunteer firefighter retirement plan for service that the individual has performed as a volunteer firefighter;

(2) "survivor of a deceased active or deferred volunteer firefighter" means the legally married spouse of a deceased volunteer firefighter, or, if none, the surviving minor child or minor children of a deceased volunteer firefighter;

(3) "active volunteer firefighter" means a person who regularly renders fire suppression service for a municipal fire department or an independent nonprofit firefighting corporation, who has met the statutory and other requirements for relief association membership, and who has been a fully qualified member of the relief association or from the voluntary statewide lump-sum volunteer firefighter retirement plan for at least one month; and

(4) "deferred volunteer firefighter" means a former active volunteer firefighter who terminated active firefighting service, has sufficient service credit from the applicable relief association or from the voluntary statewide lump-sum volunteer firefighter retirement plan to be entitled to a service pension, but has not applied for or has not received the service pension.

Sec. 30. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 424A.10, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. **Payment of supplemental benefit.** (a) Upon the payment by a firefighters' relief association or by the voluntary statewide lump-sum volunteer firefighter retirement plan of a lump-sum distribution to a qualified recipient, the association must pay a supplemental benefit to the qualified recipient. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the relief association must pay the supplemental benefit out of its special fund and the voluntary statewide lump-sum volunteer firefighter retirement plan must pay the supplemental benefit out of the voluntary statewide lump-sum volunteer firefighter retirement plan. The amount of this benefit equals ten percent of the regular lump-sum distribution that is paid on the basis of the recipient's service as a volunteer firefighter. In no case may the amount of the supplemental benefit exceed \$1,000. A supplemental benefit under this paragraph may not be paid to a survivor of a deceased active or deferred volunteer firefighter in that capacity.

(b) Upon the payment by a relief association or the retirement plan of a lump-sum

survivor benefit ~~or funeral benefit~~ to a survivor of a deceased active volunteer firefighter or of a deceased deferred volunteer firefighter, the association may pay a supplemental survivor benefit to the survivor of the deceased active or deferred volunteer firefighter from the special fund of the relief association if its articles of incorporation or bylaws so provide and the retirement plan may pay a supplemental survivor benefit to the survivor of the deceased active or deferred volunteer firefighter from the retirement fund if chapter 353G so provides. The amount of the supplemental survivor benefit is 20 percent of the survivor benefit ~~or funeral benefit~~, but not to exceed \$2,000.

(c) An individual may receive a supplemental benefit under paragraph (a) or under paragraph (b), but not under both paragraphs with respect to one lump-sum volunteer firefighter benefit.

Sec. 31. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 424A.10, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

Subd. 3. **State reimbursement.** (a) Each year, to be eligible for state reimbursement of the amount of supplemental benefits paid under subdivision 2 during the preceding calendar year, the relief association ~~must~~ or the voluntary statewide lump-sum volunteer firefighter retirement plan shall apply to the commissioner of revenue by February 15. By March 15, the commissioner shall reimburse the relief association for the amount of the supplemental benefits paid to qualified recipients and to survivors of deceased active or deferred volunteer firefighters.

(b) The commissioner of revenue shall prescribe the form of and supporting information that must be supplied as part of the application for state reimbursement. The commissioner of revenue shall reimburse the relief association by paying the reimbursement amount to the treasurer of the municipality where the association is located and shall reimburse the retirement plan by paying the reimbursement amount to the executive director of the Public Employees Retirement Association. Within 30 days after receipt, the municipal treasurer shall transmit the state reimbursement to the treasurer of the association if the association has filed a financial report with the municipality. If the relief association has not filed a financial report with the municipality, the municipal treasurer shall delay transmission of the reimbursement payment to the association until the complete financial report is filed. If the association has dissolved or has been removed as a trustee of state aid, the treasurer shall deposit the money in a special account in the municipal treasury, and the money may be disbursed only for the purposes and in the manner provided in section 424A.08. When paid to the association, the reimbursement payment must be deposited in the special fund of the relief association and when paid to the retirement plan, the reimbursement payment must be deposited in the retirement fund of the plan.

(c) A sum sufficient to make the payments is appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner of revenue.

Sec. 32. **EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Sections 1 to 31 are effective August 1, 2009.