1.1	2019 OMNIBUS RETIREMENT BILL
1.2	AS OF MARCH 19, 2019
1.3	moves to amend H.F. No; S.F. No, as follows:
1.4	Delete everything after the enacting clause and insert:
1.5	"ARTICLE 1
1.6 1.7	MINNESOTA STATE RETIREMENT SYSTEM ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS
1.8	Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 3A.02, is amended by adding a subdivision
1.9	to read:
1.10	Subd. 7. Application procedure. The application for a benefit or refund made under
1.11	this chapter must comply with section 352.115, subdivision 7a.
1.12	EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective the day following final enactment.
1.13	Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 352.03, subdivision 1, is amended to read:
1.14	Subdivision 1. Membership of board; election; term. (a) The policy-making function
1.15	of the system is vested in a board of 11 members known as the board of directors. This
1.16	board shall consist of:
1.17	(1) three members appointed by the governor, one of whom must be a constitutional
1.18	officer or appointed state official and two of whom must be public members knowledgeable
1.19	in pension matters;
1.20	(2) four state employees elected by active members and former inactive vested members
1.21	eligible for a deferred annuity from of the general state employees retirement plan and
1.22	members with an account balance in the unclassified employees retirement program,

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2.1	excluding employees and deferred annuitants inactive vested members for whom a board
2.2	member is designated under clause (3);

- (3) one employee of the Metropolitan Council's transit operations or its successor agency designated by the executive committee of the labor organization that is the exclusive bargaining agent representing employees of the transit division;
- (4) one employee who is a member of the State Patrol retirement plan elected by active members and former inactive vested members eligible for a deferred annuity from of that plan;
 - (5) one employee who is a member of the correctional state employees retirement plan established under this chapter elected by active members and former inactive vested members eligible for a deferred annuity from of that plan; and
 - (6) one retired employee of a plan included in the system, elected by disabled and retired employees of the plans administered by the system at a time and in a manner determined by the board.
 - (b) The terms of the four elected state employees under paragraph (a), clause (2), must be staggered, with two of the state employee board positions elected each biennium, whose terms of office begin on the first Monday in May after their election. Elected members and the appointed member of the Metropolitan Council's transit operations hold office for a term of four years and until their successors are elected or appointed, and have qualified.
 - (c) An employee or former employee of the system is not eligible for membership on the board of directors. A state employee on leave of absence is not eligible for election or reelection to membership on the board of directors.
- (d) The term of any board member who is on leave for more than six months automatically ends on expiration of the term of office.
- 2.25 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.
- Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 352.03, subdivision 1b, is amended to read:
- Subd. 1b. **Membership voting limitations.** (a) Active members and former inactive

 vested members eligible for a deferred annuity from of a plan under this chapter or, chapter

 352B, or chapter 352D are eligible to vote in board elections as further specified and restricted in this section.
 - (b) Retired members and disabilitants from a plan in the system may vote only for the retired member position under subdivision 1, paragraph (a), clause (6).

3.1	(c) If a former an inactive vested member eligible for a deferred annuity from of a plan
3.2	under this chapter or, chapter 352B, or chapter 352D is a deferred annuitant from an inactive
3.3	vested member of more than one plan covered by the system, that person is eligible to vote
3.4	only in elections applicable for deferred annuitants from inactive vested members of the
3.5	plan in the system from which the person last received allowable service.
3.6	(d) If a person is an active member of a plan in the system and is a deferred annuitant
3.7	an inactive vested member or a retiree from another plan or plans in the system, the person
3.8	is only eligible to vote in board elections applicable due to the active member plan
3.9	membership.
3.10	(e) If a person is a deferred annuitant an inactive vested member from a plan in the
3.11	system and is also a retiree from another plan in the system, the person is only eligible to
3.12	vote in elections applicable due to the retiree status.
3.13	EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective the day following final enactment.
3.14	Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 352.113, subdivision 2, is amended to read:
3.15	Subd. 2. Application; accrual of benefits. (a) An employee making claim for a total
3.16	and permanent disability benefit, or someone acting on behalf of the employee upon proof
3.17	of authority satisfactory to the director, shall file a written application for benefits in the
3.18	office of the system on or before the deadline specified in subdivision 4, paragraph (g).
3.19	(b) The application must be in a form and manner prescribed by the executive director
3.20	and include the medical reports required by subdivision 4, paragraph (b).
3.21	(c) The benefit shall begin to accrue the day following the start of disability or the day
3.22	following the last day paid, whichever is later, but not earlier than 180 days before the date
3.23	the application is filed with the director in an office of the system.
3.24	EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective the day following final enactment.
3.25	Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 352.115, subdivision 7, is amended to read:
3.26	Subd. 7. Application for annuity. Application for annuity or optional annuity payment
3.27	may be made by the employee at time of retirement, or by someone acting in on behalf of
3.28	the employee, upon proof of authority satisfactory to the director.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective the day following final enactment.

4.1	Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 352.115, is amended by adding a subdivision to
4.2	read:
4.3	Subd. 7a. Application procedure. (a) The filing of an application of an annuity, refund,
4.4	disability benefit, survivor benefit, death benefit, or other monthly benefit authorized by
4.5	this chapter, chapters 3A, 352B, 352D, or 490 must comply with this subdivision.
4.6	(b) Filing of an application under paragraph (a) is not complete until an original
4.7	application and supporting documents are received in an office of the system or received
4.8	by a person authorized by the director. An original application may not be an electronic
4.9	copy or facsimile copy and if received in an office of the system, must be delivered by
4.10	personal service or mail.
4.11	(c) In this subdivision, "supporting documents" are:
4.12	(1) documents sufficient to verify birth;
4.13	(2) documents sufficient to verify marital status or establish the terms of a divorce, if
4.14	applicable;
4.15	(3) the acknowledgment required by section 356.46, subdivision 3, paragraph (b).
4.16	Supporting documents are not required to be original documents except as determined
4.17	by the director.
4.18	EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective the day following final enactment.
4.19	Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 352.23, is amended to read:
4.20	352.23 TERMINATION OF RIGHTS; REPAYMENT OF REFUND.
4.21	(a) When any employee accepts a refund as provided in section 352.22, all existing
4.22	allowable service credits and all rights and benefits to which the employee was entitled
4.23	before accepting the refund terminate.
4.24	(b) Terminated service credits and rights must not again be restored until the former
4.25	employee acquires at least six months of allowable service credit after taking the last refund
4.26	and repays all refunds previously taken from the retirement fund with interest as provided
4.27	in paragraph (d). If an employee repays only part of a refund or repays a refund in partial
4.28	payments as permitted under paragraph (d), service credit will be restored in accordance
4.29	with section 356.44. An employee will not be considered as entitled to any other benefit,
4.30	including benefits for which the employee may be eligible because of the employee's original
4.31	hire date into public employment, until full repayment of all refunds has been made.

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(c) Repayment of refunds entitles the employee only to credit for service covered by (1)
salary deductions; (2) payments previously made in lieu of salary deductions as permitted
under law in effect when the payment in lieu of deductions was made; (3) payments made
to obtain credit for service as permitted by laws in effect when payment was made; and (4)
allowable service previously credited while receiving temporary workers' compensation as
provided in section 352.01, subdivision 11, paragraph (a), clause (3).

(d) Payments under this section for repayment of refunds are to be paid with interest at the applicable annual rate or rates specified in section 356.59, subdivision 2, compounded annually, from the date the refund was taken until the date the refund is repaid. Repayment may be made in partial payments consistent with section 356.44 during employment or in a lump sum up to six months after termination from service.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective the day following final enactment.

Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 352.85, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

Subd. 4. **Election of coverage.** To be covered by this section 352.85, any employee of the Department of Military Affairs, described in subdivision 1, must file a notice with the executive director of the system on a form prescribed by the executive director stating whether or not that the employee elects to be covered. Notice must be filed within 90 days of employment. Elected coverage is effective retroactively as of the first day of employment. Amounts that would have been deducted from the employee's salary starting with the first day of employment but were not deducted because the employee had not yet filed the election must be deducted from the employee's future salary in accordance with a schedule of deductions determined by the executive director and the Department of Military Affairs. Elections are irrevocable during any period of covered employment. A failure to file a timely notice is deemed a waiver of coverage by this section.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective the day following final enactment.

Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 352.87, subdivision 8, is amended to read:

Subd. 8. **Election of coverage.** To be covered by this section, an employee of the Department of Public Safety described in subdivision 1 who is employed in a position described in that subdivision must file a notice with the executive director of the Minnesota State Retirement system on a form prescribed by the executive director stating whether or not that the employee elects to be covered by this section. Notice must be filed within 90 days of employment. Elected coverage is effective retroactively as of the first day of employment. Amounts that would have been deducted from the employee's salary starting

6.1	with the first day of employment but were not deducted because the employee had not yet
6.2	filed the election must be deducted from the employee's future salary in accordance with a
6.3	schedule of deductions determined by the executive director and the Department of Public
6.4	Safety. Elections are irrevocable during any period of covered employment. A failure to
6.5	file a timely notice is deemed a waiver of coverage by this section.
6.6	EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective the day following final enactment.
6.7	Sec. 10. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 352B.08, is amended by adding a subdivision
6.8	to read:
6.9	Subd. 1a. Application procedure. The application for a benefit or refund made under
6.10	this chapter must comply with section 352.115, subdivision 7a.
6.11	EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective the day following final enactment.
6.12	Sec. 11. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 352D.05, subdivision 3, is amended to read:
6.13	Subd. 3. Full or partial withdrawal. After termination of covered employment or at
6.14	any time thereafter, a participant is entitled, upon application, to withdraw the cash value
6.15	of the participant's total shares or leave such shares on deposit with the supplemental
6.16	retirement fund. The account is valued at the end of the most recent United States investment
6.17	market day following receipt of the application for withdrawal. The application for
6.18	withdrawal must be an original application, not an electronic or facsimile copy and must
6.19	be received in an office of the system or by a person authorized by the executive director.
6.20	Shares not withdrawn remain on deposit with the supplemental retirement fund until the
6.21	former participant becomes at least 55 years old, and applies for an annuity under section
6.22	352D.06, subdivision 1.
6.23	EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective the day following final enactment.
6.24	Sec. 12. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 352F.04, subdivision 1, is amended to read:
6.25	Subdivision 1. Enhanced augmentation rates. The deferred annuity of a terminated
6.26	hospital employee is subject to augmentation under Minnesota Statutes 1994, section 352.72
6.27	subdivision 2, except that the rate of augmentation to be applied each January 1 is set by
6.28	this subdivision. For augmentation through December 31, 2018, the rate of augmentation
6.29	is set under Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 352.04, subdivision 1. For augmentation
6.30	beginning January 1, 2019, the rate of augmentation is the following:

7.1	January 1, 2019	4.5 percent
7.2	January 1, 2020	3.75 percent
7.3	January 1, 2021	3.0 percent
7.4	January 1, 2022	2.25 percent
7.5	January 1, 2023	1.5 percent
7.6	January 1, 2024	0.75 percent

- After December 31, 2024, the deferred annuity must not be augmented. 7.7
- 7.8 Augmentation for each year is effective as of January 1 of that year.
- **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment. 7.9

Sec. 13. [356.97] INFORMATION SERVICES AND TECHNOLOGY. 7.10

- 7.11 The executive directors subject to the standard of fiduciary conduct under chapter 356A and the boards to which they report are exempt from the requirements of chapter 16E. An 7.12 executive director or board may use services provided by the Office of MN.IT Services. 7.13
- **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment. 7.14
- Sec. 14. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 490.126, subdivision 3, is amended to read: 7.15
- Subd. 3. Application for annuity or refund. An application for an annuity or a refund 7.16 under this chapter may be made by the potential annuitant or by someone authorized to act 7.17 for the potential annuitant. Every application for an annuity or refund, accompanied by a 7.18 proof of age and by a record of years of service when required, must be submitted to the 7.19 executive director of the Minnesota State Retirement System in a form prescribed by the 7.20 director. Except as provided for in this chapter, the application for an annuity, benefit, or 7.21 refund under this chapter must comply with the filing procedures in section 352.115, 7.22 subdivision 7a. 7.23
- 7.24 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.
- Sec. 15. REPEALER. 7.25
- Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 352F.06, is repealed. 7.26
- **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment. 7.27

8.1	ARTICLE 2
8.2	PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION PROVISIONS
8.3	Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 353.371, subdivision 1, is amended to read:
8.4	Subdivision 1. Eligibility. (a) This section applies to a basic or coordinated member of
8.5	the general employees retirement plan of the Public Employees Retirement Association
8.6	who:
8.7	(1) for at least the five years immediately preceding separation under clause (2), was
8.8	regularly scheduled to work 1,044 or more hours per year in a position covered by the
8.9	general employees retirement plan of the Public Employees Retirement Association not
8.10	including positions that are elected offices;
8.11	(2) terminates membership as defined under section 353.01, subdivision 11b;
8.12	(3) at the time of termination under clause (2), was at least age 62 and met the age and
8.13	service requirements necessary to receive a retirement annuity from the plan and satisfied
8.14	requirements for the commencement of the retirement annuity in the month following
8.15	termination;
8.16	(4) agrees to accept a postretirement option position accepts a phased retirement
8.17	agreement to continue employment with the same or a different governmental subdivision,
8.18	working a reduced schedule that is both:
8.19	(i) a reduction of at least 25 percent from the employee's number of previously regularly
8.20	scheduled work hours; and
8.21	(ii) 1,044 hours or less in public service; and
8.22	(5) is not eligible for participation in the state employee postretirement option program
8.23	under section 43A.346.
8.24	(b) For purposes of this section, the length of separation requirement and termination
8.25	of <u>public</u> service requirement prohibiting return to work agreements under section 353.01,
8.26	subdivisions 11a and 28, are not applicable except as specified in subdivision 7, paragraph
8.27	<u>(a)</u> .
8.28	EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective July 1, 2019.
8.29	Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 353.371, subdivision 2, is amended to read:
8.30	Subd. 2. Annuity reduction not applicable. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary,
8.31	The provisions of section 353.37 governing annuities of reemployed annuitants do not apply

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for the duration of a terminated member's to employment in a postretirement option position 9.1 under a phased retirement agreement. 9.2

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective July 1, 2019.

- Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 353.371, subdivision 3, is amended to read:
- Subd. 3. Governing body Governmental subdivision discretion. The governing body of the governmental subdivision has sole discretion to determine if and the extent to which a postretirement option phased retirement position under this section is available to a terminated member an employee. Any offer of such a position must be made in writing to the person employee by the governing body's designee governmental subdivision in a manner prescribed by the executive director. 9.10
 - **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2019.
- Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 353.371, subdivision 4, is amended to read: 9.12
 - Subd. 4. **Duration.** Postretirement option employment may be for an initial period The term of employment under a phased retirement agreement must not to exceed one year five years. At the end of the initial period, If the term of a phased retirement agreement is less than five years, the agreement may be renewed for a period not to exceed a combined total of five years. The governing body governmental subdivision has sole discretion to determine if the offer of a postretirement option position a phased retirement agreement will be renewed, renewed with modifications, or terminated. Postretirement option employment may be renewed annually, but no more than four renewals may occur.
 - **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2019.
- Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 353.371, subdivision 5, is amended to read: 9.22
 - Subd. 5. Copy to fund. The appointing authority governmental subdivision shall provide the Public Employees Retirement Association executive director with documentation, as prescribed by the executive director, of the terms of any agreement entered into with a member an employee who accepts continuing employment with the appointing authority governmental subdivision under the terms of this section, and any subsequent renewal agreement. The documentation must be provided before the employee's termination of membership.
 - **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2019.

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Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 353.371, subdivision 6, is amended to read:

Subd. 6. **No service credit.** (a) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, a person may not earn <u>allowable</u> service <u>credit</u> in the general employees retirement plan of the Public Employees Retirement Association for employment covered under this section, and employer contributions and payroll deductions for the retirement fund must not be made based on earnings of a person working under an agreement covered by this section. No change may be made to a monthly annuity or retirement allowance based on employment under this section.

- (b) The governmental subdivision shall report to the executive director the salary earned by an employee in a phased retirement position. The report must include the number of compensated hours the employee worked and must be made on a pay period basis in a manner prescribed by the executive director. Reports must be submitted no later than 14 calendar days following the last day of each pay period.
- **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2019.
- Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 353.371, subdivision 7, is amended to read:
 - Subd. 7. <u>Termination and subsequent employment.</u> (a) Upon termination of employment under a phased retirement agreement, the governmental subdivision and employee must inform the executive director, in a manner prescribed by the executive director, of the effective date of the employee's termination of public service. The termination from public service must meet the termination and length of separation requirements under section 353.01, subdivisions 11a and 28.
 - (b) If a person has been in a postretirement option position and previously employed under a phased retirement agreement subsequently accepts employment with any other position in public service beyond the period of time for which the person participated in the postretirement option provided under this section governmental subdivision, the person may not earn allowable service eredit in the general employees retirement plan of the Public Employees Retirement Association, no employer contributions or payroll deductions for the retirement fund may be made, and the provisions of section 353.37 apply to the subsequent employment.
- 10.30 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2019.

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Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 353.665, subdivision 8, is amended to read:

Subd. 8. **Member and employer contributions.** (a) Except as provided in paragraph (b), (c), or (d), the employee contribution rate for merged former consolidation account active members is the rate specified in section 353.65, subdivision 2, and the regular municipal contribution rate on behalf of merged former consolidation account active members is the rate specified in section 353.65, subdivision 3.

- (b) With respect to active members of the merged former Minneapolis Firefighters Relief Association and the merged former Minneapolis Police Relief Association, there are no employee contributions payable and the employer contribution on behalf of those active members is at the rate specified in section 353.65, subdivision 3, applied to the active member's salary. In addition, an additional municipal contribution is payable by the city of Minneapolis annually on July 15, set at the amount calculated as of December 30, 2011, as sufficient to amortize, on a level annual dollar basis by December 31, 2031, the unfunded present value figure calculated as required by Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 353.667, subdivision 6, paragraph (a), and Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 353.668, subdivision 6, paragraph (a). If the postretirement or preretirement interest rate actuarial assumption applicable to the public employees police and fire retirement plan under section 356.215, subdivision 8, is modified from the rates specified in Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 356.215, subdivision 8, the remainder present value of future benefits amount calculation under Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 353.667, subdivision 6, and Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 353.668, subdivision 6, paragraph (a), updated for the passage of time, must be revised and the amortization contribution by the city of Minneapolis for the balance of the amortization period must be redetermined by the actuary retained under section 356.214 and certified by the executive director to the city of Minneapolis.
- (c) If there are assets of the former Fairmont Police Relief Association in excess of the present value of future benefits as of June 29, 2012, these assets must be credited to an interest-bearing suspense account within the public employees police and fire retirement fund, must be used to offset any amount payable under paragraph (a) until June 30, 2015, and, after June 30, 2015, must be paid to the city of Fairmont. The suspense account must be credited with the same rate of investment return as the public employees police and fire retirement fund. If, after June 29, 2012, the postretirement or preretirement interest rate actuarial assumption applicable to the public employees police and fire retirement plan under section 356.215, subdivision 8, is modified from the rates specified in Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 356.215, subdivision 8, the remainder present value of future benefits amount calculation under paragraph (a), updated for the passage of time, must be revised

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and the amortization contribution by the city of Fairmont for the balance of the amortization period must be redetermined by the actuary retained under section 356.214 and certified by the executive director to the city of Fairmont.

(d) If there was a remainder present value of future benefits amounts under Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 353.6691, subdivision 5, paragraph (a), the city of Virginia shall pay an additional municipal contribution annually on or before December 31 sufficient to amortize on a level annual dollar basis by December 31, 2020, that remainder present value of future benefits amounts of the former Virginia fire department consolidation account. If, after June 29, 2012, the postretirement or preretirement interest rate actuarial assumption applicable to the public employees police and fire retirement plan under section 356.215, subdivision 8, is modified from the rates specified in Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 356.215, subdivision 8, the remainder present value of future benefits amount calculation under paragraph (a), updated for the passage of time, must be revised and any amortization contribution by the city of Virginia for the balance of the amortization period must be redetermined by the actuary retained under section 356.214 and certified by the executive director to the city of Virginia.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective the day following final enactment.

- Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 353.665, is amended by adding a subdivision to 12.18 read: 12.19
- Subd. 8a. City of Minneapolis contribution for firefighters and police. (a) Until July 12.20 15, 2018, the city of Minneapolis shall make a contribution annually to the public employees 12.21 police and fire retirement plan on July 15, set at the amount calculated as of December 30, 12.22 2011, as sufficient to amortize, on a level annual dollar basis by December 31, 2031, the 12.23 unfunded present value figure calculated as required by Minnesota Statutes 2012, sections 12.24 353.667, subdivision 6, paragraph (a), and 353.668, subdivision 6, paragraph (a).
- (b) Beginning July 15, 2019, and every July 15 thereafter until and including July 15, 12.26 2031, the city of Minneapolis shall make a contribution annually to the public employees 12.27 police and fire retirement plan equal to \$3,188,735, attributable to the former Minneapolis 12.28 Firefighters Relief Association, and \$4,489,837, attributable to the former Minneapolis 12.29 12.30 Police Relief Association.
- **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment. 12.31

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Sec. 10. REPEALE I	LER	ΑJ	E.	EΡ	R	0.	1	Sec.	
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Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 353.371, subdivision 8, is repealed.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective July 1, 2019.

ARTICLE 3

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER RELIEF ASSOCIATION PROVISIONS

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 69.051, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Financial report and audit.** (a) The board of the Bloomington Fire Department Relief Association and each volunteer firefighters relief association as defined in section 424A.001, subdivision 4, with assets of at least \$500,000 or liabilities of at least \$500,000 in the prior year or in any previous year, according to the applicable actuarial valuation or according to the financial report if no valuation is required, shall prepare a financial report covering the special and general funds of the relief association for the preceding fiscal year, file the financial report, and submit financial statements.

- (b) The financial report must contain financial statements and disclosures which present the true financial condition of the relief association and the results of relief association operations in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles and in compliance with the regulatory, financing and funding provisions of this chapter and any other applicable laws. The financial report must be countersigned by:
- (1) the municipal clerk or clerk-treasurer of the municipality in which the relief association is located if the relief association is a firefighters relief association which is directly associated with a municipal fire department; or
- (2) by the municipal clerk or clerk-treasurer of the largest municipality in population which contracts with the independent nonprofit firefighting corporation if the volunteer firefighter relief association is a subsidiary of an independent nonprofit firefighting corporation; or
- (3) by the chief financial official of the county in which the volunteer firefighter relief association is located or primarily located if the relief association is associated with a fire department that is not located in or associated with an organized municipality.
- (c) The financial report must be retained in its office for public inspection and must be filed with the governing body of the government subdivision in which the associated fire department is located after the close of the fiscal year. One copy of the financial report must be furnished to the state auditor after the close of the fiscal year.

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(d) Audited financial statements must be attested to by a certified public accountant or
by the state auditor and must be filed with the state auditor within 180 days after the close
of the fiscal year. Audits must be conducted in compliance with generally accepted
governmental auditing standards and section 6.65 governing audit procedures. The state
auditor may accept this report in lieu of the report required in paragraph (c).
EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective the day following final enactment.

EFFECTIVE DATE. Inis section is effective the day following final enactment.

Sec. 2. [353G.18] TERMINATION OF PARTICIPATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF BENEFITS.

- Subdivision 1. **Application.** This section provides the procedures that apply if an entity wishes to terminate its participation in the retirement plan and authorize the distribution of all assets credited to the entity's account in the retirement fund held for the benefit of the entity's former firefighters. If this section conflicts with another section of this chapter, this section controls.
- 14.14 <u>Subd. 2.</u> **Definitions.** (a) For purposes of this section, the terms defined in this subdivision
 14.15 have the meanings given them unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.
- 14.16 (b) "Departing entity" means the entity seeking to terminate its participation in the

 14.17 retirement plan and the coverage of its departing firefighters by the retirement plan.
 - (c) "Departing firefighter" means each former firefighter of the departing entity who:
- (1) is credited with one or more years of service under the retirement plan or under the relief association previously affiliated with the departing entity;
- (2) has not yet received a distribution of the firefighter's pension benefit; and
- 14.22 (3) is entitled to a distribution of a pension benefit under this section.
- (d) "Direct rollover" means a payment described under section 356.635, subdivisions 3

 to 7. Consistent with the definition of "distributee" under section 356.635, subdivision 7, a

 departing firefighter is a distributee for purpose of direct rollover election.
- (e) "Distribution date" means the date as of which all assets in the entity's account are
 to be distributed in the form of a payment to each departing firefighter or the survivor of
 each deceased departing firefighter or as a direct rollover, if elected under section 356.635,
 subdivisions 3 to 7.
- (f) "Entity" means a municipality, an independent nonprofit firefighting corporation, or
 a joint powers entity that operates or had operated a fire department with firefighters who
 are covered by the retirement plan.

15.1	(g) "Entity's account" means the pension plan that is a component of the retirement plan
15.2	and under which the departing firefighters have accrued lump sum pension benefits and
15.3	with which the departing entity is affiliated.
15.4	(h) "Executive director" means the executive director of the Public Employees Retirement
15.5	Association.
15.6	(i) "Termination date" means the effective date of the termination of the pension plan
15.7	that is the entity's account. The termination date shall precede the distribution date.
15.8	(j) "Year of service" means a year of good time service credit certified by the departing
15.9	entity's fire chief under section 353G.07. For purposes of determining the amount of a
15.10	departing firefighter's pension benefit under this section, year of service includes any service
15.11	credit earned by the departing firefighter under the relief association previously affiliated
15.12	with the departing entity, which must be certified under section 424A.003 beginning January
15.13	1, 2019. Good time service credit ends when the departing firefighter's active service ends,
15.14	notwithstanding a later termination date as defined in paragraph (j).
15.15	Subd. 3. Eligibility. An entity is eligible to terminate its participation in the retirement
15.16	plan under this section if the entity satisfies the following conditions:
15.17	(1) the entity has eliminated its fire department or, if its fire department is ongoing, the
15.18	fire department has ceased using the services of all departing firefighters and any other
15.19	noncareer or volunteer firefighters; and
15.20	(2) the entity's account has assets sufficient to cover all liabilities, after taking into
15.21	account the requirement to fully vest all departing firefighters and pay administrative
15.22	expenses determined under subdivision 4, paragraph (c), clause (3).
15.23	Subd. 4. Termination procedures. (a) The participation of a departing entity in the
15.24	retirement plan and the coverage of the departing firefighters by the retirement plan shall
15.25	cease as of the date the requirements in this subdivision are completed and all assets credited
15.26	to the entity's account are distributed.
15.27	(b) The governing board of the departing entity shall adopt the resolutions under
15.28	subdivision 5 and deliver the resolutions to the executive director.
15.29	(c) The executive director shall:
15.30	(1) fully vest all departing firefighters as of the termination date and consider each
15.31	departing firefighter 100 percent vested in the pension benefit accrued by the departing
15.32	firefighter under the entity's account as of the termination date;

(2) determine the present value of each departing firefighter's accrued benefit as of t
termination date, taking into account the benefit level under section 353G.11 or otherwise
in effect for the departing firefighter as determined by the executive director;
(3) determine, as of the termination date, the value of accrued liabilities, including
administrative expenses incurred or reasonably anticipated to be incurred through the
distribution date, and the value of assets attributable to the entity's account; and
(4) to the extent necessary to minimize the risk of investment losses between the
termination date and the distribution date, reinvest the assets credited to the entity's account
in low risk investments.
(d) If the entity's account has assets in excess of accrued liabilities, the executive direct
shall allocate the excess among all departing firefighters in the same proportion that the
present value of the accrued benefit for each departing firefighter bears to the total present
value of the accrued benefits of all departing firefighters, and each departing firefighter
benefit, as determined under paragraph (c), clause (2), shall be increased by the departing
firefighter's share of the excess.
(e) The executive director shall, as soon as practicable after the termination date, distribution
to each departing firefighter, regardless of whether the departing firefighter has attained
age 50, the firefighter's benefit as calculated by the executive director under paragraphs
nd (d). The distribution shall be made in a lump sum, either as a payment to the departi
irefighter or as a direct rollover, if elected by the firefighter. If the departing firefighter
deceased, then the firefighter's benefit shall be paid to the firefighter's survivor under section
353G.12 or as a direct rollover, if elected by the survivor.
(f) The executive director shall pay supplemental benefits under section 424A.10, but
only to the extent that the executive director will be reimbursed under section 424A.10,
subdivision 3.
Subd. 5. Entity board resolutions. If an entity wishes to cease its participation in the
retirement plan and end the coverage of its former firefighters by the retirement plan, the
entity's governing board shall approve the following resolutions in a form satisfactory to
the executive director:
(1) a statement of intent to terminate participation in the retirement plan and cease the
coverage by the retirement plan of the entity's former firefighters; and
(2) the proposed termination date, which must be the last day of a month and at least
days after the date the resolutions are to be delivered to the executive director.

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EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective the day following final enactment.

Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 356.219, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

- Subd. 3. **Content of reports.** (a) The report required by subdivision 1 must include a written statement of the investment policy. Following that initial report, subsequent reports must include investment policy changes and the effective date of each policy change rather than a complete statement of investment policy, unless the state auditor requests submission of a complete current statement. The report must also include the information required by the following paragraphs, as applicable.
- (b) If, after four years of reporting under this paragraph, the total portfolio time weighted rate of return, net of all investment related costs and fees, provided by the public pension plan differs by no more than 0.1 percent from the comparable return for the plan calculated by the Office of the State Auditor, and if a public pension plan has a total market value of \$25,000,000 \$50,000,000 or more as of the beginning of the calendar year, and if the public pension plan's annual audit is performed by the state auditor or by the legislative auditor, the report required by subdivision 1 must include the market value of the total portfolio and the market value of each asset class included in the pension fund as of the beginning of the calendar year and as of the end of the calendar year. At the discretion of the state auditor, the public pension plan may be required to submit the market value of the total portfolio and the market value of each investment account, investment portfolio, or asset class included in the pension fund for each month, and the amount and date of each injection and withdrawal to the total portfolio and to each investment account, investment portfolio, or asset class. If the market value of a public pension plan's fund drops below \$25,000,000 \$50,000,000 in a subsequent year, it must continue reporting under this paragraph for any subsequent year in which the public pension plan is not fully invested as specified in subdivision 1, paragraph (b), except that if the public pension plan's annual audit is not performed by the state auditor or legislative auditor, paragraph (c) applies.
- (c) If paragraph (b) would apply if the annual audit were provided by the state auditor or legislative auditor, the report required by subdivision 1 must include the market value of the total portfolio and the market value of each asset class included in the pension fund as of the beginning of the calendar year and for each month, and the amount and date of each injection and withdrawal to the total portfolio and to each investment account, investment portfolio, or asset class.
- (d) For public pension plans to which paragraph (b) or (c) applies, the report required by subdivision 1 must also include a calculation of the total time-weighted rate of return

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available from index-matching investments assuming the asset class performance targets and target asset mix indicated in the written statement of investment policy. The provided information must include a description of indices used in the analyses and an explanation of why those indices are appropriate. This paragraph does not apply to any fully invested plan, as defined by subdivision 1, paragraph (b). Reporting by the State Board of Investment under this paragraph is limited to information on the Minnesota public pension plans required to be invested by the State Board of Investment under section 11A.23.

- (e) If a public pension plan has a total market value of less than \$25,000,000 \$50,000,000 as of the beginning of the calendar year and was never required to file under paragraph (b) or (c), the report required by subdivision 1 must include the amount and date of each total portfolio injection and withdrawal. In addition, the report must include the market value of the total portfolio as of the beginning of the calendar year and for each quarter.
- (f) Any public pension plan reporting under paragraph (b) or (c) must include computed time-weighted rates of return with the report, in addition to all other required information, as applicable. The chief administrative officer of the public pension plan submitting the returns must certify, on a form prescribed by the state auditor, that the returns have been computed by the pension plan's investment performance consultant or custodial bank. The chief administrative officer of the public pension plan submitting the returns also must certify that the returns are net of all costs and fees, including investment management fees, and that the procedures used to compute the returns are consistent with Bank Administration Institute studies of investment performance measurement and presentation standards set by the CFA Institute. If the certifications required under this paragraph are not provided, the reporting requirements of paragraph (c) apply.
- (g) For public pension plans reporting under paragraph (e), the public pension plan must retain supporting information specifying the date and amount of each injection and withdrawal to each investment account and investment portfolio. The public pension plan must also retain the market value of each investment account and investment portfolio at the beginning of the calendar year and for each quarter. Information that is required to be collected and retained for any given year or years under this paragraph must be submitted to the Office of the State Auditor if the Office of the State Auditor requests in writing that the information be submitted by a public pension plan or plans, or be submitted by the State Board of Investment for any plan or plans for which the State Board of Investment is the investment authority under this section. If the state auditor requests information under this subdivision, and the public plan fails to comply, the pension plan is subject to penalties under subdivision 5, unless penalties are waived by the state auditor under that subdivision.

EFFECTIVE DATE.	 This section 	is effective Januar	ry 1, 2020.
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- Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 424A.001, is amended by adding a subdivision
- 19.3 to read:

- 19.4 Subd. 9a. Break in service. "Break in service" means temporarily ceasing all of the
- 19.5 <u>following with a particular fire department:</u>
- 19.6 (1) performing fire suppression duties;
- 19.7 (2) performing fire prevention duties;
- 19.8 (3) supervising fire suppression duties; and
- 19.9 (4) supervising fire prevention duties.
- 19.10 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 1, 2020.
- 19.11 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 424A.01, subdivision 6, is amended to read:
- Subd. 6. Return to active firefighting after break in service. (a) This subdivision 19.12 governs the service pension calculation requirements of a firefighter who returns to active 19.13 service after a break in service and applies to all breaks in service, except that the resumption 19.14 service requirements of this subdivision do not apply to leaves of absence made available 19.15 by federal statute, such as the Family Medical Leave Act, United States Code, title 29, 19.16 section 2691, and the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, 19.17 United States Code, title 38, section 4301, and do not apply to leaves of absence made 19.18 available by state statute, such as the Parental Leave Act, section 181.941; the Leave for 19.19
- Organ Donation Act, section 181.9456; the Leave for Civil Air Patrol Service Act, section
- 19.21 181.946; the Leave for Immediate Family Members of Military Personnel Injured or Killed
- in Active Service Act, section 181.947; or the Protection of Jurors' Employment Act, section
- 19.23 593.50.
- (b)(1) If a firefighter who has ceased to perform or supervise fire suppression and fire
- 19.25 prevention duties for at least 60 days a break in service of any duration resumes performing
- active firefighting with the fire department associated with the relief association, <u>and</u> if the
- bylaws of the relief association so permit, the firefighter may again become an active member
- 19.28 of the relief association. A firefighter who returns to active service and membership is
- 19.29 subject to, subject to the requirements of this paragraph and the service pension calculation
- 19.30 requirements under this section.

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- (2) A firefighter who has been paid a service pension or disability benefit must wait at least 60 days following receipt of the pension or benefit before resuming active firefighting with the fire department and active membership in the relief association.
- (2) (3) A firefighter who has been granted an approved leave of absence not exceeding one year by the fire department or by the relief association is exempt from the minimum period of resumption service requirement of this section.
- (3) (4) A person who has a break in service not exceeding one year but has not been granted an approved leave of absence and who has not received a service pension or disability benefit may be made exempt from the minimum period of resumption service requirement of this section by the relief association bylaws.
- (4) (5) If the bylaws so provide, a firefighter who returns to active relief association membership under this paragraph after a break in service of any duration may continue to collect a monthly service pension from the relief association, notwithstanding the service pension eligibility requirements requirement under chapter 424A section 424A.02, subdivision 1, that the firefighter has separated from active service.
- (c) If a former firefighter who has received been paid a service pension or disability benefit returns to active relief association membership under paragraph (b), the firefighter may qualify for the receipt of a service pension from the relief association for the resumption service period if the firefighter meets the service requirements of section 424A.016, subdivision 3, or 424A.02, subdivision 2, as applicable, or meets the resumption minimum service requirements specified in the relief association's bylaws. No firefighter may be paid a service pension more than once for the same period of service.
- (d) If a former firefighter who has not received been paid a service pension or disability benefit returns to active relief association membership under paragraph (b), the firefighter may qualify for the receipt of a service pension from the relief association for the original and resumption service periods if the firefighter meets the service requirements of section 424A.016, subdivision 3, or 424A.02, subdivision 2, based on the original and resumption years of service credit.
- (e) A firefighter who returns to active lump-sum relief association membership under paragraph (b) and who qualifies for a service pension under paragraph (c) must have, upon a subsequent cessation of duties, any service pension for the resumption service period calculated as a separate benefit. If a lump-sum service pension had been paid to the firefighter upon the firefighter's previous cessation of duties, a second lump-sum service pension for the resumption service period must be calculated by applying the service pension amount

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in effect on the date of the firefighter's termination of the resumption service for all years of the resumption service.

- (f) A firefighter who had not been paid a lump-sum service pension returns to active relief association membership under paragraph (b), who did not meet the minimum period of resumption service requirement specified in the relief association's bylaws, but who does meet the minimum service requirement of section 424A.02, subdivision 2, based on the firefighter's original and resumption years of active service, must have, upon a subsequent cessation of duties, a service pension for the original and resumption service periods calculated by applying the service pension amount in effect on the date of the firefighter's termination of the resumption service, or, if the bylaws so provide, based on the service pension amount in effect on the date of the firefighter's previous cessation of duties. The service pension for a firefighter who returns to active lump-sum relief association membership under this paragraph, but who had met the minimum period of resumption service requirement specified in the relief association's bylaws, must be calculated by applying the service pension amount in effect on the date of the firefighter's termination of the resumption service.
- (g) If a firefighter receiving a monthly benefit service pension returns to active monthly benefit relief association membership under paragraph (b), and if the relief association bylaws do not allow for the firefighter to continue collecting a monthly service pension, any monthly benefit service pension payable to the firefighter is suspended as of the first day of the month next following the date on which the firefighter returns to active membership. If the firefighter was receiving a monthly benefit service pension, and qualifies for a service pension under paragraph (c), the firefighter is entitled to an additional monthly benefit service pension upon a subsequent cessation of duties calculated based on the resumption service credit and the service pension accrual amount in effect on the date of the termination of the resumption service. A suspended initial service pension resumes as of the first of the month next following the termination of the resumption service. If the firefighter was not receiving a monthly benefit service pension and meets the minimum service requirement of section 424A.02, subdivision 2, a service pension must be calculated by applying the service pension amount in effect on the date of the firefighter's termination of the resumption service for all years of service credit.
- (h) A firefighter who was not receiving a monthly benefit service pension returns to active relief association membership under paragraph (b), who did not meet the minimum period of resumption service requirement specified in the relief association's bylaws, but who does meet the minimum service requirement of section 424A.02, subdivision 2, based on the firefighter's original and resumption years of active service, must have, upon a

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subsequent cessation of duties, a service pension for the original and resumption service periods calculated by applying the service pension amount in effect on the date of the firefighter's termination of the resumption service, or, if the bylaws so provide, based on the service pension amount in effect on the date of the firefighter's previous cessation of duties. The service pension for a firefighter who returns to active relief association membership under this paragraph, but who had met the minimum period of resumption service requirement specified in the relief association's bylaws, must be calculated by applying the service pension amount in effect on the date of the firefighter's termination of the resumption service.

- (i) For defined contribution plans, a firefighter who returns to active relief association membership under paragraph (b) and who qualifies for a service pension under paragraph (c) or (d) must have, upon a subsequent cessation of duties, any service pension for the resumption service period calculated as a separate benefit. If a service pension had been paid to the firefighter upon the firefighter's previous cessation of duties, and if the firefighter meets the minimum service requirement of section 424A.016, subdivision 3, or meets the resumption minimum service requirements specified in the relief association's bylaws, as applicable, based on the resumption years of service, a second service pension for the resumption service period must be calculated to include allocations credited to the firefighter's individual account during the resumption period of service and deductions for administrative expenses, if applicable.
- (j) For defined contribution plans, if a firefighter who had not been paid a service pension returns to active relief association membership under paragraph (b), and who meets the minimum service requirement of section 424A.016, subdivision 3, based on the firefighter's original and resumption years of service, must have, upon a subsequent cessation of duties, a service pension for the original and resumption service periods calculated to include allocations credited to the firefighter's individual account during the original and resumption periods of service and deductions for administrative expenses, if applicable, less any amounts previously forfeited under section 424A.016, subdivision 4.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective January 1, 2020.

Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 424A.015, subdivision 6, is amended to read:

Subd. 6. **Governing benefit plan provisions.** A service pension or ancillary benefit payable under this chapter is governed by and must be calculated under the general statute, special law, relief association articles of incorporation, and or relief association bylaw provisions applicable on the earlier of the following dates:

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(1) the date on which the member separated separates from active service with the fire department and active membership in the relief association-; or

(2) the date on which the member begins a break in service with the fire department that continues until the member separates from active service with the fire department and active membership in the relief association.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective January 1, 2020.

Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 424A.016, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

Subd. 3. Reduced Vesting schedule. If the articles of incorporation or bylaws of a defined contribution relief association so provide, a relief association may pay a reduced service pension not to exceed the nonforfeitable percentage of the account balance to a retiring member who has completed fewer than 20 years of service. The reduced service pension may be paid when the retiring member meets the minimum age and service requirements of subdivision 2. The nonforfeitable percentage of pension amounts are as follows: a vesting schedule that satisfies the requirements of this subdivision, the relief association may pay a reduced service pension to a retiring member. For purposes of this section, "vests," "vesting," or "vested" means a nonforfeitable, unconditional, or legally enforceable right. A member vests in the member's account in accordance with the vesting schedule set forth in the relief association's articles of incorporation or bylaws. Provided a member meets the minimum age and service requirements of subdivision 2, the member is entitled to a service pension equal to the member's account, but only to the extent vested as provided in the vesting schedule set forth in the articles of incorporation or bylaws. In no event may the articles of incorporation or bylaws:

(1) require that a member have more than 20 years of active service to become 100 percent vested in the member's account; or

(2) provide for a larger vesting percentage than is provided in the following schedule with respect to the completed number of years of active service indicated in the schedule:

23.27 23.28	Completed Years of <u>Active Service</u>	Nonforfeitable Vested Percentage of Pension Amount
23.29	5	40 percent
23.30	6	52 percent
23.31	7	64 percent
23.32	8	76 percent
23.33	9	88 percent
23.34	10 and thereafter or more	100 percent

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EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective January 1, 2020.

Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 424A.016, subdivision 6, is amended to read:

- Subd. 6. **Deferred service pensions.** (a) A member of a relief association is entitled to a deferred service pension if the member separates from active service and membership and has completed the minimum service and membership requirements in subdivision 2. The requirement that a member separate from active service and membership is waived for persons who have discontinued their volunteer firefighter duties and who are employed on a full-time basis under section 424A.015, subdivision 1.
- (b) The deferred service pension is payable when the former member reaches at least age 50, or at least the minimum age specified in the bylaws governing the relief association if that age is greater than age 50, and when the former member makes a valid written application.
- (c) A defined contribution relief association may, if its governing bylaws so provide, credit interest or additional investment performance on the deferred lump-sum service pension during the period of deferral. If provided for in the bylaws, the interest must be paid credited:
- (1) at the investment performance rate actually earned on that portion of the assets if the deferred benefit amount is invested by the relief association in a separate account established and maintained by the relief association;
- (2) at the investment performance rate actually earned on that portion of the assets if the deferred benefit amount is invested in a separate investment vehicle held by the relief association; or
- (3) at the investment return on the assets of the special fund of the defined contribution volunteer firefighters relief association in proportion to the share of the assets of the special fund to the credit of each individual deferred member account through the accounting date on which the investment return is recognized by and credited to the special fund.
- (d) Unless the bylaws of a relief association that has elected to pay interest or additional investment performance on deferred lump-sum service pensions under paragraph (c) specifies a different interest or additional investment performance method, including the interest or additional investment performance period starting date and ending date, the interest or additional investment performance on a deferred service pension is creditable as follows:
- (1) for a relief association that has elected to <u>pay credit</u> interest or additional investment performance under paragraph (c), clause (1) or (3), beginning on the date that the member

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separates from active service and membership and ending on the accounting date immediately before the deferred member commences receipt of the deferred service pension; or

(2) for a relief association that has elected to pay credit interest or additional investment performance under paragraph (c), clause (2), beginning on the date that the member separates from active service and membership and ending on the date that the separate investment vehicle is valued immediately before the date on which the deferred member commences receipt of the deferred service pension.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective January 1, 2020.

- Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 424A.02, subdivision 2, is amended to read:
- Subd. 2. Nonforfeitable portion of service pension Vesting schedule. (a) If the articles of incorporation or bylaws of a defined benefit relief association so provide, the relief association may pay a reduced service pension to a retiring member who has completed fewer than 20 years of service. The reduced service pension may be paid when the retiring member meets the minimum age and service requirements of subdivision 1. a vesting schedule that satisfies the requirements of this subdivision, the relief association may pay a reduced service pension to a retiring member. For purposes of this section, "vests," "vesting," or "vested" means a nonforfeitable, unconditional, or legally enforceable right. A member vests in the member's accrued service pension in accordance with the vesting schedule set forth in the relief association's articles of incorporation or bylaws. Provided a member meets the minimum age and service requirements of subdivision 1, the member is entitled to the member's accrued service pension, but only to the extent vested as provided in the vesting schedule set forth in the articles of incorporation or bylaws. In no event may the articles of incorporation or bylaws:
- (b) The amount of the reduced service pension may not exceed the amount calculated by multiplying the service pension appropriate for the completed years of service as specified in the bylaws multiplied by the applicable nonforfeitable percentage of pension.
- (c) For a defined benefit volunteer firefighters relief association that pays a lump-sum service pension, a monthly benefit service pension, or a lump-sum service pension or a monthly benefit service pension as alternative benefit forms, the nonforfeitable percentage of pension amounts are as follows:
- 25.31 (1) require that a member have more than 20 years of active service to become 100 percent vested in the member's accrued service pension; or

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(2) provide for a larger vesting percentage than is provided in the following schedule with respect to the completed number of years of active service indicated in the schedule:

26.3 26.4	Completed Years of <u>Active Service</u>	Nonforfeitable Vested Percentage of Pension Amount
26.5	5	40 percent
26.6	6	44 <u>52</u> percent
26.7	7	48 <u>64</u> percent
26.8	8	52 <u>76</u> percent
26.9	9	56 <u>88</u> percent
26.10	10	60 percent
26.11	11	64 percent
26.12	12	68 percent
26.13	13	72 percent
26.14	14	76 percent
26.15	15	80 percent
26.16	16	84 percent
26.17	17	88 percent
26.18	18	92 percent
26.19	19	96 percent
26.20	20 10 and thereafter or more	100 percent

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective January 1, 2020.

Sec. 10. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 424A.02, subdivision 7, is amended to read:

Subd. 7. **Deferred service pensions.** (a) A member of a defined benefit relief association is entitled to a deferred service pension if the member separates from active service and membership and has completed the minimum service and membership requirements in subdivision 1. The requirement that a member separate from active service and membership is waived for persons who have discontinued their volunteer firefighter duties and who are employed on a full-time basis under section 424A.015, subdivision 1.

- (b) The deferred service pension is payable when the former member reaches at least age 50, or at least the minimum age specified in the bylaws governing the relief association if that age is greater than age 50, and when the former member makes a valid written application.
- (c) A defined benefit relief association that provides a lump-sum service pension governed 26.33 by subdivision 3 may, when its governing bylaws so provide, pay credit interest on the 26.34

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- deferred lump-sum service pension during the period of deferral. If provided for in the bylaws, interest must be paid credited in one of the following manners:
- (1) at the investment performance rate actually earned on that portion of the assets if the deferred benefit amount is invested by the relief association in a separate account established and maintained by the relief association;
- (2) at the investment performance rate actually earned on that portion of the assets if the deferred benefit amount is invested in a separate investment vehicle held by the relief association; or
- 27.9 (3) at an interest rate of up to five percent, compounded annually, as set by the board of trustees.
- (d) Any change in the interest rate set by the board of trustees under paragraph (c), clause (3), must be ratified by the governing body of the municipality or joint powers entity served by the fire department to which the relief association is directly associated, or by the independent nonprofit firefighting corporation, as applicable.
 - (e) Interest under paragraph (c), clause (3), is payable <u>credited</u> beginning on the January 1 next following the date on which the deferred service pension interest rate as set by the board of trustees was ratified by the governing body of the municipality or joint powers entity served by the fire department to which the relief association is directly associated, or by the independent nonprofit firefighting corporation, as applicable.
 - (f) Unless the bylaws of a relief association that has elected to pay credit interest or additional investment performance on deferred lump-sum service pensions under paragraph (c) specifies a different interest or additional investment performance method, including the interest or additional investment performance period starting date and ending date, the interest or additional investment performance on a deferred service pension is creditable as follows:
 - (1) for a relief association that has elected to pay <u>credit</u> interest or additional investment performance under paragraph (c), clause (1) or (3), beginning on the first day of the month next following the date on which the member separates from active service and membership and ending on the last day of the month immediately before the month in which the deferred member commences receipt of the deferred service pension; or
 - (2) for a relief association that has elected to <u>pay credit</u> interest or additional investment performance under paragraph (c), clause (2), beginning on the date that the member separates from active service and membership and ending on the date that the separate investment

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vehicle is valued immediately before the date on which the deferred member commences receipt of the deferred service pension.

(g) For a deferred service pension that is transferred to a separate account established and maintained by the relief association or separate investment vehicle held by the relief association, the deferred member bears the full investment risk subsequent to transfer and in calculating the accrued liability of the volunteer firefighters relief association that pays a lump-sum service pension, the accrued liability for deferred service pensions is equal to the separate relief association account balance or the fair market value of the separate investment vehicle held by the relief association.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective January 1, 2020.

Sec. 11. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 424A.02, subdivision 9, is amended to read:

Subd. 9. **Limitation on ancillary benefits.** A defined benefit relief association, including any volunteer firefighters relief association governed by Laws 2013, chapter 111, article 5, sections 31 to 42, or any volunteer firefighters division of a relief association governed by chapter 424, may only pay ancillary benefits which would constitute an authorized disbursement as specified in section 424A.05 subject to the following requirements or limitations:

- (1) with respect to a defined benefit relief association in which governing bylaws provide solely for a lump-sum service pension to a retiring member, or provide a retiring member the choice of either a lump-sum service pension or a monthly service pension and the lump-sum service pension was chosen, no ancillary benefit may be paid to any former member or paid to any person on behalf of any former member after the former member (i) terminates active service with the fire department and active membership in the relief association; and (ii) commences receipt of a service pension as authorized under this section; and
- (2) with respect to any defined benefit relief association, no ancillary benefit paid or payable to any member, to any former member, or to any person on behalf of any member or former member, may exceed in amount the total earned service pension of the member or former member. The total earned service pension must be calculated by multiplying the service pension amount specified in the bylaws of the relief association at the time of death or disability, whichever applies, by the years of service credited to the member or former member. The years of service must be determined as of (i) the date the member or former member became entitled to the ancillary benefit; or (ii) the date the member or former member died entitling a survivor or the estate of the member or former member to an

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ancillary benefit. The ancillary benefit must be calculated without regard to whether the	he
member had attained the minimum amount of service and membership credit specified	d in
the governing bylaws. For active members, the amount of a permanent disability benef	fit or
a survivor benefit must be equal to the member's total earned service pension except the	hat
the bylaws of a defined benefit relief association may provide for the payment of a surv	vivor
benefit in an amount not to exceed five times the yearly service pension amount speci	fied
in the bylaws on behalf of any member who dies before having performed five years of	of
active service in the fire department with which the relief association is affiliated. For	
deferred members, the amount of a permanent disability benefit or a survivor benefit r	must
be calculated using the service pension amount in effect on the date specified in section	<u>)n</u>
424A.015, subdivision 6, unless the bylaws of the relief association specify a different	<u>t</u>
service pension amount to be used for the calculation.	

- 29.13 (3)(i) If a lump sum survivor or death benefit is payable under the articles of incorporation or bylaws, the benefit must be paid:
- 29.15 (A) as a survivor benefit to the surviving spouse of the deceased firefighter;
- 29.16 (B) as a survivor benefit to the surviving children of the deceased firefighter if no surviving spouse;
- 29.18 (C) as a survivor benefit to a designated beneficiary of the deceased firefighter if no surviving spouse or surviving children; or
 - (D) as a death benefit to the estate of the deceased active or deferred firefighter if no surviving children and no beneficiary designated.
- 29.22 (ii) If there are no surviving children, the surviving spouse may waive, in writing, wholly or partially, the spouse's entitlement to a survivor benefit.
- 29.24 (4)(i) If a monthly benefit survivor or death benefit is payable under the articles of incorporation or bylaws, the benefit must be paid:
- 29.26 (A) as a survivor benefit to the surviving spouse of the deceased firefighter;
- 29.27 (B) as a survivor benefit to the surviving children of the deceased firefighter if no surviving spouse;
- 29.29 (C) as a survivor benefit to a designated beneficiary of the deceased firefighter if no surviving spouse or surviving children; or
- 29.31 (D) as a death benefit to the estate of the deceased active or deferred firefighter if no surviving spouse, no surviving children, and no beneficiary designated.

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- (ii) If there are no surviving children, the surviving spouse may waive, in writing, wholly or partially, the spouse's entitlement to a survivor benefit.
- (iii) For purposes of this clause, if the relief association bylaws authorize a monthly survivor benefit payable to a designated beneficiary, the relief association bylaws may limit the total survivor benefit amount payable.
- (5) For purposes of this section, for a monthly benefit volunteer fire relief association or for a combination lump-sum and monthly benefit volunteer fire relief association where a monthly benefit service pension has been elected by or a monthly benefit is payable with respect to a firefighter, a designated beneficiary must be a natural person. For purposes of this section, for a lump-sum volunteer fire relief association or for a combination lump-sum and monthly benefit volunteer fire relief association where a lump-sum service pension has been elected by or a lump-sum benefit is payable with respect to a firefighter, a trust created under chapter 501C may be a designated beneficiary. If a trust is payable to the surviving children organized under chapter 501C as authorized by this section and there is no surviving spouse, the survivor benefit may be paid to the trust, notwithstanding a requirement of this section to the contrary.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective January 1, 2020.

Sec. 12. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 424A.02, subdivision 10, is amended to read:

Subd. 10. **Local approval of bylaw amendments; filing requirements.** (a) Each defined benefit relief association to which this section applies must file a revised copy of its governing bylaws with the state auditor upon the adoption of any amendment to its governing bylaws by the relief association or upon the approval of any amendment to its governing bylaws granted by the governing body of each the municipality served by the fire department to which the relief association is directly associated or by the independent nonprofit firefighting corporation, as applicable. Failure of the relief association to file a copy of the bylaws or any bylaw amendments with the state auditor disqualifies the municipality from the distribution of any future fire state aid until this filing requirement has been completed.

(b) If the special fund of the relief association does not have a surplus over full funding under section 424A.092, subdivision 3, paragraph (c), clause (5), or 424A.093, subdivision 4, and if the municipality is required to provide financial support to the special fund of the relief association under section 424A.092 or 424A.093, no bylaw amendment which would affect the amount of, the manner of payment of, or the conditions for qualification for service pensions or ancillary benefits or disbursements other than administrative expenses authorized under section 69.80 payable from the special fund of the relief association is effective until

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it has been ratified as required under section 424A.092, subdivision 6, or 424A.093, subdivision 6. If the special fund of the relief association has a surplus over full funding under section 424A.092, subdivision 3, or 424A.093, subdivision 4, and if the municipality is not required to provide financial support to the special fund under this section, the relief association may adopt or amend without municipal ratification its articles of incorporation or bylaws which increase or otherwise affect the service pensions or ancillary benefits payable from the special fund if authorized under section 424A.092, subdivision 6, or 424A.093, subdivision 6.

(c) If the relief association pays only a lump-sum pension, the financial requirements are to be determined by the board of trustees following the preparation of an estimate of the expected increase in the accrued liability and annual accruing liability of the relief association attributable to the change. If the relief association pays a monthly benefit service pension, the financial requirements are to be determined by the board of trustees following either an updated actuarial valuation including the proposed change or an estimate of the expected actuarial impact of the proposed change prepared by the actuary of the relief association. If a relief association adopts or amends its articles of incorporation or bylaws without municipal ratification under this subdivision, and, subsequent to the amendment or adoption, the financial requirements of the special fund under this section are such so as to require financial support from the municipality, the provision which was implemented without municipal ratification is no longer effective without municipal ratification, and any service pensions or ancillary benefits payable after that date must be paid only in accordance with the articles of incorporation or bylaws as amended or adopted with municipal ratification.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective January 1, 2020.

- Sec. 13. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 424A.10, subdivision 1, is amended to read:
- Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** For purposes of this section:
 - (1) "qualified recipient" means a volunteer firefighter who receives a lump-sum distribution of pension or retirement benefits from a volunteer firefighters relief association or from the voluntary statewide lump-sum volunteer firefighter retirement plan;
 - (2) "survivor of a deceased active or deferred volunteer firefighter" means the surviving spouse of a deceased active or deferred volunteer firefighter or, if none, the surviving child or children of a deceased active or deferred volunteer firefighter, or, if none, the designated beneficiary of the deceased active or deferred volunteer firefighter, or, if no beneficiary has been designated, the estate of the deceased active or deferred volunteer firefighter;

32.1	(3) "active volunteer firefighter" means a person who:
32.2	(i) regularly renders fire suppression service, the performance or supervision of authorized
32.3	fire prevention duties, or the performance or supervision of authorized emergency medical
32.4	response activities for a fire department;
32.5	(ii) has met the statutory and other requirements for relief association membership; and
32.6	(iii) is deemed by the relief association under law and its bylaws to be a fully qualified
32.7	member of the relief association or from the voluntary statewide lump-sum volunteer
32.8	firefighter retirement plan for at least one month;
32.9	(4) "deferred volunteer firefighter" means a former active volunteer firefighter who:
32.10	(i) terminated active firefighting service, the performance or supervision of authorized
32.11	fire prevention duties, or the performance or supervision of authorized emergency medical
32.12	response activities; and
32.13	(ii) has sufficient service credit from the applicable relief association or from the voluntary
32.14	statewide lump-sum volunteer firefighter retirement plan to be entitled to a service pension
32.15	under the bylaws of the relief association, but has not applied for or has not received the
32.16	service pension; and
32.17	(5) "volunteer firefighter" includes an individual whose services were utilized to perform
32.18	or supervise fire prevention duties if authorized under section 424A.01, subdivision 5, and
32.19	individuals whose services were used to perform emergency medical response duties or
32.20	supervise emergency medical response activities if authorized under section 424A.01,
32.21	subdivision 5a.
32.22	EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective January 1, 2020, and applies to
32.23	supplemental benefits paid by a relief association in 2019 and thereafter for the death of an
32.24	active or deferred volunteer firefighter that occurred on or after January 1, 2019.
32.25	Sec. 14. Laws 2018, chapter 211, article 14, section 26, is amended to read:
32.26	Sec. 26. CITY OF AUSTIN; ALLOCATION OF FIRE STATE AID FOR
32.27	FIREFIGHTERS.
32.28	(a) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the city of Austin must annually:

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(1) determine the amount of state aid required under the bylaws of the Austin Parttime

Firefighters Relief Association to fund the volunteer firefighters' service pensions;

33.1	(2) transmit to the Austin Parttime Firefighters Relief Association any supplemental
33.2	state aid received under Minnesota Statutes, section 423A.022;
33.3	(3) transmit to the Austin Parttime Firefighters Relief Association an amount of fire
33.4	state aid under Minnesota Statutes, sections 69.011 to 69.051, equal to the difference between
33.5	the amount determined under clause (1) and the amount transmitted under clause (2); and
33.6	(4) transmit the remaining balance of fire state aid under Minnesota Statutes, sections
33.7	69.011 to 69.051, for the payment of the employer contribution requirements for firefighters
33.8	covered by the public employees police and fire retirement plan under Minnesota Statutes,
33.9	section 353.65, subdivision 3.
33.10	(b) Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section 69.031, subdivision 5, the city of Austin
33.11	has no liability to the relief association related to payments it made or will make to the
33.12	public employees police and fire retirement plan from fire state aid for 2013, 2014, 2015,
33.13	2016, 2017, and 2018, and 2019.
33.14	(c) This section Paragraph (a) expires July 1, 2019 2020.
33.15	EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective the day after the governing body of the
33.16	city of Austin and its chief clerical officer comply with Minnesota Statutes, section 645.021,
33.17	subdivisions 2 and 3.
33.18	Sec. 15. GRANDFATHERING PREVIOUSLY APPROVED TERMINATIONS.
33.19	For any entity with a governing board that approved resolutions to terminate participation
33.20	in the statewide volunteer firefighter plan established by chapter 353G before the effective
33.21	date of this act, the termination date is September 30, 2019, and the termination process
33.22	and disposition of assets set forth in the resolutions shall control, notwithstanding the
33.23	provisions of this act.
33.24	EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective the day following final enactment.
33.25	Sec. 16. REPEALER.
33.26	Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 353G.15, is repealed.
33.27	EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective the day following final enactment."

Amend the title accordingly