

2023 Kansas Statutes

74-4960. Disability benefits; procedures and reports. (1) If any active contributing member becomes totally and permanently disabled due to service-connected causes as defined in subsection (10) of K.S.A. 74-4952, and amendments thereto, such member shall be retired and the following benefits shall become payable and shall continue until the member's death or until the member recovers from the disability if: A report of the event in a form acceptable to the board is filed in the office of the executive director of the board within 220 days after the date of the event or act of duty causing such disability; and an application for such benefit, in such form and manner as the board prescribes, is filed by the member or the member's authorized representative in the office of the executive director of the board within two years of the date of disability, except the board may waive such two-year requirement if the board is presented with evidence that clearly warrants such a waiver:

(a) On and after July 1, 1993, the member shall receive a retirement benefit equal to 50% of the member's final average salary or, if the member has no dependents, as defined in subsection (1)(b), the retirement benefit the member would have been entitled to as provided under K.S.A. 74-4958, and amendments thereto, had the member retired, whichever is greater. Such benefit shall accrue from the day upon which the member ceases to draw compensation.

(b) Except as otherwise provided by this subsection, each of the member's children under the age of 18 years or each of the member's children under the age of 23 years who is a full-time student as provided in K.S.A. 74-49,117, and amendments thereto, shall receive an annual benefit equal to 10% of the member's final average salary. Such benefit shall accrue from the day upon which the member ceases to draw compensation and shall end on the last day of the month in which each such child or children shall attain the age of 18 years or die, whichever occurs earlier or in which such children attain the age of 23 years, if such child is a full-time student as provided in K.S.A. 74-49,117, and amendments thereto. Commencing on the effective date of this act, any child who was receiving benefits pursuant to this section and who had such benefits terminated by reason of such child's marriage, shall be entitled to once again receive benefits pursuant to this section subject to the limitations contained in this section, except that such child shall not be entitled to recover any benefits not received after the termination of benefits by reason of such child's marriage but before the effective date of this act. For a member who becomes totally and permanently disabled as provided in this section on and after July 1, 2001, only the member's children who were born, conceived or adopted prior to the commencement of the member's disability are entitled to the annual benefit as provided in this subsection.

(c) In no case shall the total of the benefits payable under paragraphs (a) and (b) of this subsection (1) be in excess of 75% of the member's final average salary. In no case shall a member who qualifies for a benefit payable under paragraph (b) of this subsection receive a total retirement benefit that would be less than the total benefit that the member would be entitled to if the member qualified for a benefit payable under subsection (a) of this subsection. Any deficiency caused by the fact that the member has a child or children shall be compensated by the percentage difference in the member's total retirement benefit.

(d) In the event a member who is retired under subsection (1) dies within two years after the date of such retirement and no benefits are payable under subsection (3) of K.S.A. 74-4958, and amendments thereto, then benefits may be payable under subsection (1) of K.S.A. 74-4959, and amendments thereto.

(e) In the event a member who is retired under subsection (1) dies more than two years after the date of such retirement, and the proximate cause of such death is the service-connected cause from which the disability resulted and no benefits are payable under subsection (3) of K.S.A. 74-4958, and amendments thereto, then benefits may be payable under subsection (1) of K.S.A. 74-4959, and amendments thereto. The provisions of this paragraph (e) of this subsection (1) shall apply in all cases of such members who die after June 30, 1978.

(f) In the event a member who is retired under subsection (1) dies after the date of

such retirement, and no benefits are payable under paragraphs (d) and (e) of subsection (1), nor under subsection (3) of K.S.A. 74-4958, and amendments thereto, the following benefits shall be payable:

- (i) To the member's spouse, if lawfully wedded to the member at the time of the member's death, a lump-sum benefit equal to 50% of the member's final average salary at the time of the member's retirement.
- (ii) To the member's spouse, if lawfully wedded to the member at the time of the member's death, an annual benefit equal to 50% of the member's retirement benefit payable in monthly installments, to accrue from the first day of the month following the member's date of death and ending on the last day of the month in which the spouse dies. Commencing on the effective date of this act, any surviving spouse, who was receiving benefits pursuant to this section and who had such benefits terminated by reason of such spouse's remarriage, shall be entitled to once again receive benefits pursuant to this section, except that such surviving spouse shall not be entitled to recover any benefits not received after the termination of benefits by reason of such surviving spouse's remarriage but before the effective date of this act. If there is no surviving spouse, or if after the death of the spouse there remain one or more children under the age of 18 years or one or more children under the age of 23 years who is a full-time student as provided in K.S.A. 74-49,117, and amendments thereto, the annual spouse's benefit shall be payable, subject to the provisions of K.S.A. 74-49,123, and amendments thereto, in equal shares to such children and each child's share shall end on the last day of the month in which such child attains the age of 18 years or dies, whichever occurs earlier or in which such child attains the age of 23 years, if such child is a full-time student as provided in K.S.A. 74-49,117, and amendments thereto. Commencing on the effective date of this act, any child who was receiving benefits pursuant to this section and who had such benefits terminated by reason of such child's marriage, shall be entitled to once again receive benefits pursuant to this section subject to the limitations contained in this section, except that such child shall not be entitled to recover any benefits not received after the termination of benefits by reason of such child's marriage but before the effective date of this act.

The provisions of paragraph (f) of subsection (1) shall apply in all cases of such members who die after December 1, 1984.

(2) (a) If any active contributing member, prior to such member's normal retirement, becomes totally and permanently disabled for a period of 180 days from causes not service-connected, and not as the result of a willfully negligent or intentional act of the member, such member shall be retired and the following benefit shall become payable and shall continue until the member's death or until the member recovers from such disability, whichever occurs first, if a report of the disability in a form acceptable to the board is filed in the office of the executive director of the board within 220 days after the date of the commencement of such disability and if an application for such benefit in such form and manner as the board shall prescribe is filed in the office of the executive director of the board within two years of the date of disability, except that the board may waive such two-year requirement, if the board is presented with evidence that clearly warrants such a waiver.

A retirement benefit equal to 2.5% of the member's final average salary multiplied by the number of years of credited service or the retirement benefit the member would have been entitled to as provided under K.S.A. 74-4958, and amendments thereto, had the member retired, whichever is greater, multiplied by the number of years of credited service except that such retirement benefit shall be at least equal to 25% of the member's final average salary but shall not exceed the amount of the retirement benefit provided in paragraph (a) of subsection (1). Such benefit shall not become payable until satisfactory evidence shall be presented to the board that the member is and has been totally and permanently disabled for a period of 180 days, but benefits shall accrue from the day upon which the member ceases to draw compensation.

(b) In the event a member who is retired under subsection (2) dies after the date of such retirement, the following benefits shall be payable:

- (i) Pursuant to the provisions of K.S.A. 74-49,128, and amendments thereto, to the member's spouse, if lawfully wedded to the member at the time of the member's death and if no benefits are payable under subsection (3) of K.S.A. 74-4958, and

amendments thereto, a lump-sum benefit equal to 50% of the member's final average salary at the time of the member's retirement.

(ii) To the member's spouse, if lawfully wedded to the member at the time of the member's death, an annual benefit equal to 50% of the member's retirement benefit payable in monthly installments, to accrue from the first day of the month following the member's date of death and ending on the last day of the month in which the spouse dies. Commencing on the effective date of this act, any surviving spouse, who was receiving benefits pursuant to this section and who had such benefits terminated by reason of such spouse's remarriage, shall be entitled to once again receive benefits pursuant to this section, except that such surviving spouse shall not be entitled to recover any benefits not received after the termination of benefits by reason of such surviving spouse's remarriage but before the effective date of this act. If there is no surviving spouse, or if after the death of the spouse there remain one or more children under the age of 18 years or one or more children under the age of 23 years who are full-time students as provided in K.S.A. 74-49,117, and amendments thereto, the spouse's benefit shall be payable, subject to the provisions of K.S.A. 74-49,123, and amendments thereto, in equal shares to such children and each child's share shall end on the last day of the month in which such child attains the age of 18 years or dies, whichever occurs earlier or in which such child attains the age of 23 years, if such child is a full-time student as provided in K.S.A. 74-49,117, and amendments thereto. Commencing on the effective date of this act, any child who was receiving benefits pursuant to this section and who had such benefits terminated by reason of such child's marriage, shall be entitled to once again receive benefits pursuant to this section subject to the limitations contained in this section, except that such child shall not be entitled to recover any benefits not received after the termination of benefits by reason of such child's marriage but before the effective date of this act. The provisions of paragraph (b) of subsection (2) shall apply in all cases of such members who die after July 1, 1989.

(3) Any member who was employed for compensation by an employer other than the member's participating employer and whose disability was incurred in the course of such other employment shall not be eligible for any of the benefits provided in subsection (2).

(4) If a member becomes totally and permanently disabled and no benefits are payable under subsection (1) or (2), the sum of the member's accumulated contributions shall be paid to the member.

(5) Any member receiving benefits under this section shall submit to medical examination, not more frequent than annually, by one or more physicians or any other practitioners of the healing arts holding a valid license issued by Kansas state board of healing arts, as the board of trustees may direct. If upon such medical examination, the examiner's report to the board states that the retirant is physically able and capable of resuming employment with the same or a different participating employer, the disability benefits shall terminate. A retirant who has been receiving benefits under the provisions of this section and who returns to employment, as defined in subsection (4) of K.S.A. 74-4952, and amendments thereto, of a participating employer shall immediately commence accruing service credit which shall be added to that which has been accrued by virtue of previous service.

(6) Any retirant who has been receiving benefits under the provisions of this section for a period of five years shall be deemed finally retired and shall not be subject to further medical examinations, except that if the board of trustees shall have reasonable grounds to question whether the retirant remains totally and permanently disabled, a further medical examination or examinations may be required.

(7) Refusal or neglect to submit to examination as provided in subsection (5) shall be sufficient cause for suspending or discontinuing benefit payments under this section and if such refusal or neglect shall continue for a period of one year, the member's rights in and to all benefits under this system may be revoked by the board.

(8) Any retirement benefits payable under the provisions of this section shall be in lieu of normal retirement benefits as provided in subsections (1) and (2) of K.S.A. 74-4958, and amendments thereto.

(9) Each member shall report to such member's participating employer any event or act of duty causing disability within 200 days after such event or act of duty. The

member's participating employer shall file in the office of the executive director of the board, in a form acceptable to the board, a report of the event or act of duty causing disability within 220 days after the event or act of duty.

(10) In any case of any event occurring prior to July 1, 1979, and after June 30, 1998, for which a report of the event was made by the participating employer to the director of workers compensation in accordance with K.S.A. 44-557, and amendments thereto, such report to the director of workers compensation shall satisfy the requirement under subsection (1) of this section to file a report of such event, in a form acceptable to the board within 220 days. No such report to the director of workers' compensation shall be deemed to satisfy such requirement with respect to events occurring on or after July 1, 1979, and prior to July 1, 1998.

(11) All payments due under this section to a minor shall be made to a legally appointed conservator of such minor.

(12) The provisions of this section shall apply only to members who were appointed or employed prior to July 1, 1989, and who did not make an election pursuant to K.S.A. 74-4955a, and amendments thereto.

(13) Any retirant who has been receiving benefits under the provisions of this section and who returns to employment with the same or different participating employer in the system shall be deemed no longer retired.

(14) Upon the death of a member after retirement, if no benefits are payable under the provisions of this section, the excess, if any, of the retirant's accumulated contributions over the sum of all benefits paid shall be paid to the member's beneficiary.

History: L. 1965, ch. 447, § 10; L. 1966, ch. 11, § 1 (Special Session); L. 1967, ch. 431, § 9; L. 1979, ch. 252, § 1; L. 1982, ch. 319, § 37; L. 1985, ch. 254, § 20; L. 1987, ch. 299, § 29; L. 1989, ch. 232, § 20; L. 1992, ch. 321, § 14; L. 1993, ch. 227, § 38; L. 1998, ch. 64, § 72; L. 1998, ch. 201, § 38; L. 2000, ch. 152, § 21; L. 2001, ch. 209, § 34; L. 2007, ch. 191, § 5; May 24.