

74-4917. Termination of employment; payment of accumulated contributions; certification of member contributions by participating employer; vesting of benefits, members as a result of a merger or consolidation; return to covered employment, condition, repayment of withdrawn accumulated contributions. (1) Upon termination of employment with a participating employer, not followed by employment with such participating employer or another participating employer within 30 days of such termination, the member shall be paid an amount equal to the member's accumulated contributions then on deposit with the system after making application in such form as may be prescribed by the board, except that the system shall have a reasonable time to process the application for withdrawal. The participating employer shall, upon giving a terminated employee a withdrawal application, certify to the system all member contributions which have not been reported previously. In the case of a death of an active member, the participating employer shall certify to the system all member contributions which have not been reported previously and remit such contributions if the participating employer has not submitted a monthly remittance for the terminating quarter. The participating employer shall be responsible to the system for any overpayment or underpayment of member contributions made by the system relating to a withdrawal of accumulated contributions or a death of an active member which is due to an inaccurate certification of all member contributions which have not been reported to the system as required by this section made by the participating employer. A leave of absence, a period of total disability or military service shall not be considered a termination of employment unless the member withdraws accumulated contributions.

(2) Except as otherwise provided by this subsection, if such member has completed 10 years of credited service at date of termination, or commencing July 1, 2009, if such member has completed five years of credited service at the date of termination, such member automatically shall be granted a vested retirement benefit in the system, except that at any time prior to the commencement of retirement benefit payments the member may withdraw accumulated contributions, whereupon no other benefits shall be payable for such member's prior and participating service credit. For purposes of this subsection, any employee of a local governmental unit which has its own pension plan who becomes an employee of a participating employer as a result of a merger or consolidation of services provided by local governmental units, which occurred on January 1, 1994, may count service with such local governmental unit in determining whether such employee has met the 10 years of credited service for vesting requirement contained in this subsection. Eligibility of such member for retirement benefits and procedures for making application for retirement benefits shall be in accordance with K.S.A. 74-4914, and amendments thereto. Such member shall make application for retirement in such form as may be prescribed by the board and retirement benefits shall accrue from the first day of the month following receipt of such application. The amount of the retirement benefit shall be determined as provided in K.S.A. 74-4915, and amendments thereto.

(3) Termination of employment of a member, followed by employment with a participating employer within five years after such termination, does not constitute a break in continuous employment if such member has not withdrawn accumulated contributions. Such period while not employed shall not be credited.

(4) If, after the expiration of five years following the termination of employment, a former member becomes an employee of such former member's former participating employer, or another participating employer, such former member shall be deemed to be a new employee. If a member, who has a vested benefit again becomes an employee of a participating employer, any credited service such member subsequently accrues shall be added to that which had been vested by virtue of previous service. Eligibility of such member for retirement benefits and procedures for making application for retirement benefits shall be in accordance with K.S.A. 74-4914, and amendments thereto.

History: L. 1961, ch. 427, § 17; L. 1963, ch. 412, § 10; L. 1965, ch. 446, § 5; L. 1974, ch. 337, § 1; L. 1977, ch. 275, § 1; L. 1982, ch. 319, § 24; L. 1983, ch. 254, § 7; L. 1984, ch. 289, § 7; L. 1985, ch. 254, § 11; L. 1993, ch. 227, § 18; L. 1994, ch. 293, § 13; L. 1996, ch. 266, § 10; L. 1998, ch. 201, § 19; L. 2007, ch. 164, § 15; July 1, 2009.