

97B.42B Transfer to chapter 97A options for certain public safety employees.

1. Commencing July 1, 1994, a person who is newly hired in the following positions in the department of public safety shall be a member of the Iowa department of public safety peace officers' retirement, accident, and disability system established in chapter 97A:

a. Gaming enforcement officers employed by the division of criminal investigation for excursion boat gambling enforcement activities.

b. Fire prevention inspector peace officers.

c. Employees of the division of capitol police, except clerical workers.

2. Commencing July 1, 1994, notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, a member who is employed in a position specified in subsection 1 prior to July 1, 1994, may elect coverage under the Iowa department of public safety peace officers' retirement, accident, and disability system established in chapter 97A, in lieu of continuing contributions to the Iowa public employees' retirement system, or may remain a member of the Iowa public employees' retirement system. A member who is employed in a position specified in subsection 1 prior to July 1, 1994, must file an election for coverage under the Iowa department of public safety peace officers' retirement, accident, and disability system with the board of trustees established in section 97A.5 on or before July 1, 1995, or the employee shall remain a member under this chapter and shall not be eligible to elect to participate in the system established pursuant to chapter 97A at a later date pursuant to this section. The board of trustees established in section 97A.5 shall notify the system of elections received pursuant to this section, and the board of trustees and the system shall cooperate to facilitate the implementation of this section. Coverage under chapter 97A shall commence, and coverage as an active member under this chapter shall cease, when the election has been approved by the board of trustees established in section 97A.5.

3. If an employee elects coverage under chapter 97A as provided in subsection 2 and the election is approved by the board of trustees established in section 97A.5, membership in the Iowa public employees' retirement system shall cease, and the employee shall be transferred to membership in the Iowa department of public safety peace officers' retirement, accident, and disability system. The system shall transfer the accumulated contributions of these employees to the treasurer of state for deposit in the pension accumulation fund established in section 97A.8. However, employer contributions which were made with respect to the employees while the employees were members of the Iowa public employees' retirement system shall remain in the fund established in section 97B.7, and any costs pertaining to the payment of employer contributions to the system established in chapter 97A with respect to the period of time during which the employees were members of the Iowa public employees' retirement system, or any other costs related to the transfer, shall be borne by the system established in chapter 97A, notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary.

4. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, if the board of trustees established in section 97A.5 approves an election pursuant to subsection 2, the employees transferred from coverage under this chapter to coverage under the system established in chapter 97A shall receive credit for years of service under chapter 97A for those years of service during which the employees were members of the Iowa public employees' retirement system and employed in positions specified in subsection 1. In addition, notwithstanding the limitation on covered wages provided in section 97B.1A, subsection 26, compensation which was paid to an employee in a position specified in subsection 1 while the employee was a member pursuant to this chapter shall be included in determining the average final compensation of the employee pursuant to chapter 97A, if applicable. Employees whose membership is transferred pursuant to this section and the employer, the department of public safety, shall not be required to pay the difference in the employee and employer contributions in effect for the period of time in which the employees were members pursuant to this chapter, as compared to the employee and employer contributions then in effect for members of the system established in chapter 97A.

5. It is the intent of the general assembly that in administering the provisions of this section, the board of trustees established in section 97A.5 and the system shall interpret this section in a manner which provides that the employees whose membership is transferred shall not lose benefits which would have otherwise accrued had the employees been members of the system established in chapter 97A during the period of time in which the employees were actually members of the Iowa public employees' retirement system.

94 Acts, ch 1183, §26; 98 Acts, ch 1183, § 82; 2001 Acts, ch 68, §21, 24; 2003 Acts, ch 145, §286