

871—23.72(96) Governmental entity—elective coverage and liability.

23.72(1) Any governmental entity may elect to be a governmental contributory employer by filing a written application known as “Election to Pay Contributions as a Government Contributory Employer,” Form 68-0053, for elective coverage as a governmental contributory employer. The rules governing the selection of coverage status for governmental entities shall apply to Indian tribes. Any governmental entity failing to file such an election will be considered as a governmental reimbursable employer. The Form 68-0053 must be signed by a duly constituted governmental official. The election shall be approved if the department finds that:

- a. It is an application for all employees of the entity.
- b. The applicant is a “governmental entity.”
- c. It sets forth the name and address of the entity.

23.72(2) The effective date of an elective coverage agreement filed by a government entity is the first day of the calendar year in which the election was filed.

23.72(3) An agreement for elective coverage shall be continued in effect from period to period unless a written application for termination has been filed with the department 30 days before the beginning of the taxable year for which such termination shall first be effective following the initial one-year period of coverage.

23.72(4) An applicant may withdraw an application for elective coverage prior to final approval of the application. The department may, upon written request of the applicant, cancel an elective coverage agreement which has been finally approved if the applicant shows that the application was submitted through justifiable mistake, or error, or was submitted by a person not having proper authorization to bind the applicant.

23.72(5) If a governmental entity is succeeded in whole or in part by another governmental entity, the successor may elect to continue the elective coverage agreement of the predecessor or may elect to terminate the elective coverage agreement of the predecessor. If the successor governmental entity was, prior to the acquisition of the predecessor, a governmental entity under an approved elective coverage agreement, the elective coverage agreement of the predecessor shall be continued to the same extent as the elective coverage agreement of the successor. If the successor governmental entity was, prior to the acquisition of the predecessor, a governmental entity not under an approved elective coverage agreement, the successor shall meet the requirements of this section if it elects to continue the elective coverage agreement of the predecessor.

23.72(6) The contribution rate of a governmental contributory employer shall be determined by the ranking of the governmental contributory employer’s percentage of excess when compared to all other governmental contributory employers’ percentage of excesses and the rate assigned to each rank as determined by the base rate of all governmental contributory employers. The base rate is determined by adding or subtracting the difference between the benefits charged and the contributions paid by governmental contributory employers since January 1, 1980 (adjusted if necessary by excess contributions from calendar years 1978 and 1979), to or from the total benefits charged to governmental contributory employers during the preceding calendar year and dividing this sum by the total taxable wages reported by governmental contributory employers during the same calendar year. The contribution rate of a governmental contributory employer shall be payable on the taxable wages paid by the governmental contributory employer.

23.72(7) Liability upon the sale, transfer or discontinuance of a reimbursable governmental employer.

a. If a governmental reimbursable employer sells or otherwise transfers its enterprise, business, or operation to a subsequent employing unit, and the subsequent employing unit is determined to be a successor employer, the successor employer shall become liable to the department for the predecessor governmental reimbursable employer’s benefit charges that are unpaid as of the date of the sale or transfer in the event that the predecessor governmental reimbursable employer cannot meet this obligation. The successor employer shall also be liable to reimburse the department, whether or not the successor employer is reimbursable or is eligible to elect to become reimbursable, for benefits paid

after the date of the sale or transfer that are based on wages paid by the predecessor governmental reimbursable employer prior to the date of the sale or transfer.

b. If a reimbursable instrumentality of either a state or a political subdivision is discontinued other than by sale or transfer, the state or the political subdivision shall reimburse the department for the reimbursable instrumentality's benefit charges that are unpaid at the time the reimbursable instrumentality was discontinued. In addition, the state or the political subdivision shall be liable to reimburse the department for benefits paid after the discontinuance of the reimbursable instrumentality that are based on wages paid by the reimbursable instrumentality prior to the discontinuance.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 96.7(8).