

495—12.7(97B) Reemployment of retired members.

12.7(1) Effective July 1, 1998, the monthly benefit payments for a member under the age of 65 who has a bona fide retirement and is then reemployed in covered employment shall be reduced by 50 cents for each dollar the member earns in excess of the annual limit. Effective March 23, 2022, this reduction is not required until the member earns the amount of remuneration permitted for a calendar year as defined in Iowa Code section 97B.48A. The foregoing reduction shall apply only to IPERS benefits payable for the applicable year that the member has reemployment earnings and after the earnings limit has been reached. Said reductions shall be applied as provided in subrule 12.7(2).

Effective January 1, 1991, this earnings limitation does not apply to covered employment as an elected official. A member aged 65 or older who has completed at least four full calendar months of bona fide retirement and is later reemployed in covered employment shall not be subject to any wage-earning disqualification.

12.7(2) Beginning on or after July 1, 1996, the retirement allowance of a member subject to reduction pursuant to subrule 12.7(1) shall be reduced as follows:

a. A member's monthly retirement allowance in the following calendar year shall be reduced by the excess benefit paid in the preceding year after the excess benefit payment amount has been determined.

b. Employers shall be required to complete IPERS wage reporting forms for reemployed individuals which shall reflect the prior year's wage payments on a month-to-month basis. These reports shall be used by IPERS to determine the amount which must be recovered to offset overpayments in the prior calendar year due to reemployment wages.

c. The member's overpayment shall be collected as follows:

(1) IPERS will reduce the member's gross monthly benefit by 50 percent until the overpayment is repaid. If the 50 percent reduction will not recover the overpayment by the end of the current calendar year, IPERS will calculate the monthly reduction amount so that the overpayment will be recovered within the current calendar year. Other monthly reduction amounts may be made by an agreement in writing between the member and IPERS; or

(2) A member may elect to make repayments of the overpayment amounts out of pocket in lieu of having the member's monthly benefit reduced. An out-of-pocket repayment may be made in one check or in installments. However, an election to make repayment in installments must be agreed to in writing between the member and IPERS.

(3) If a member dies and the full amount of overpayment determined under this subrule has not been repaid, the remaining amounts shall be deducted from the payments to be made, if any, to the member's designated beneficiary or contingent annuitant. If the member has selected an option under which there are no remaining amounts to be paid, or the remaining amounts are insufficient, the unrecovered amounts shall be a charge on the member's estate.

(4) A member may elect in writing to have the member's monthly retirement allowance suspended in the month in which the member's remuneration exceeds the amount of remuneration permitted under this subrule in lieu of receiving a reduced retirement allowance under subparagraph (1). In order to become effective, the member's written election must be delivered to IPERS in person, by regular mail, email, facsimile or by private carrier. Oral elections shall not be accepted. The member's election to suspend benefit payments in the month when the member's remuneration exceeds the amount of reimbursement permitted under this subrule shall remain in effect for all subsequent calendar years until revoked by the member in writing. If the member's written election is not received in time to avoid overpayment, the overpayment must be recovered, to the extent possible, from monthly amounts beginning in January of the next calendar year or under one of the alternate arrangements permitted under this rule. Effective July 1, 2007, remuneration shall include those amounts as described in 495—subrule 6.3(13).

12.7(3) A member who is reemployed in covered employment after retirement may, after again retiring from employment, request a recomputation of benefits. The member's retirement benefit shall be increased, if possible, by the addition of a second annuity, which is based on years of reemployment service, reemployment covered wages and the benefit formula in place at the time of the recomputation.

A maximum of 30 years of service is creditable to an individual retired member. If a member's combined years of service exceed 30, a member's initial annuity may be reduced by a fraction of the years in excess of 30, divided by 30. The second retirement benefit will be treated as a separate annuity by IPERS.

Effective July 1, 1998, a member who is reemployed in covered employment after retirement may, after again terminating employment for at least 30 days, elect to receive a refund of the employee and employer contributions made during the period of reemployment in lieu of a second annuity. If a member requests a refund in lieu of a second annuity, the related service credit shall be forfeited.

Effective July 1, 2007, employer contributions described in 495—subrule 6.3(13) shall constitute “remuneration” for purposes of applying the reemployment earnings limit and determining reductions in the member's monthly benefits but shall not be considered covered wages for IPERS benefits calculations.

It is the member's responsibility to apply for the recomputation or lump sum by completing and submitting the form specified by IPERS.

12.7(4) In recomputing a retired member's monthly benefit, IPERS shall use the following assumptions.

a. The member cannot change the option or beneficiary with respect to the reemployment period.
b. If the member would only qualify for a money purchase benefit under rule 495—12.4(97B) based solely on the period of reemployment, then the money purchase formula shall be used to compute the additional benefit amount due to the reemployment.

c. If the member would qualify for a non-money purchase retirement allowance based solely on the period of reemployment, the benefit formula in effect as of the first month of entitlement (FME) for the reemployment period shall be used. If the FME is July 1998 or later, and the member has more than 30 years of service, including both original and reemployment service, the percentage multiplier for the reemployment period only will be at the applicable percentage (up to 65 percent) for the total years of service.

d. If a period of reemployment would increase the monthly benefit a member is entitled to receive, the member may elect between the increase and a refund of the employee and employer contributions without regard to reemployment FME.

e. If a member previously elected IPERS Option 1, is eligible for an increase in the Option 1 monthly benefits, and elects to receive the increase in the member's monthly benefits, the member's Option 1 death benefit shall also be increased if the investment is at least \$1,000. The amount of the increase shall be at least the same percentage of the maximum death benefit permitted with respect to the reemployment as the percentage of the maximum death benefit elected at the member's original retirement. In determining the increase in Option 1 death benefits, IPERS shall round up to the nearest \$1,000. For example, if a member's investment for a period of reemployment is \$1,900 and the member elected at the member's original retirement to receive 50 percent of the Option 1 maximum death benefit, the death benefit attributable to the reemployment shall be \$1,000 (50 percent times \$1,900, rounded up to the nearest \$1,000). Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the member's investment for the period of reemployment is less than \$1,000, the benefit formula for a member who originally elected new IPERS Option 1 shall be calculated under IPERS Option 3.

f. A retired reemployed member who requests a return of the employee and employer contributions made during a period of reemployment cannot repay the distribution and have the service credit for the period of reemployment restored.

g. If a retired reemployed member selected IPERS Option 5 at retirement, and after the period of reemployment requests an increase in the member's monthly allowance, at death all remaining guaranteed payments with respect to both periods of employment shall be paid in a commuted lump sum.

h. If a retired reemployed member selected IPERS Option 2 at retirement, and after the period of reemployment requests an increase in the member's monthly allowance, at death the member's monthly payments following the increase shall be prorated between the member's two annuities to determine the amount of the member's remaining accumulated contributions that may be paid as a death benefit.

i. A retired reemployed member who has attained the age of 70 may take an actuarial equivalent (AE) payment. However, such a member must terminate covered employment for at least 30 days before taking an additional AE payment.

12.7(5) Mandatory distribution of active wages. If a retired reemployed member whose annual benefit would be increased by less than \$600 does not request a second annuity or a lump sum payment of reemployment accruals by the end of the fourth quarter after the last quarter in which the member had covered wages, IPERS shall proceed to pay the member the applicable lump sum amount. The member shall have 60 days after the postmark date of the mandatory payment to return the payment and request a benefit increase.

[**ARC 8601B**, IAB 3/10/10, effective 4/14/10; **ARC 0017C**, IAB 2/22/12, effective 3/28/12; **ARC 1887C**, IAB 2/18/15, effective 3/25/15; **ARC 2981C**, IAB 3/15/17, effective 4/19/17; **ARC 5027C**, IAB 4/8/20, effective 5/13/20; **ARC 5489C**, IAB 3/10/21, effective 4/14/21; **ARC 6949C**, IAB 3/8/23, effective 4/12/23]