

495—13.1(97B) Disability for persons retiring under Iowa Code section 97B.50(2).

13.1(1) For IPERS members retiring because of a disability:

a. The member must be awarded federal social security benefits due to a disability which existed on or before the member's first month of entitlement.

b. Effective July 1, 1990, the member may also qualify for the IPERS disability provision by being awarded, and commencing to receive, disability benefits through the federal Railroad Retirement Act, 45 U.S.C. Section 231 et seq., due to a disability which existed at the time of retirement.

c. The period for which up to 36 months of retroactive payments under Iowa Code section 97B.50(2) shall be paid is for up to 36 months preceding the month in which such completed application for IPERS disability is received by IPERS. In no event shall retroactive disability benefits payments under Iowa Code section 97B.50(2) precede the month the member actually receives the member's first social security or railroad retirement disability payment. The member shall provide IPERS with a copy of the Social Security Administration or railroad retirement award letter showing dates of eligibility.

d. Continued qualification monitoring.

(1) For a member retiring due to a disability under Iowa Code section 97B.50(2), on or after July 1, 2009, the member shall provide IPERS with proof of continuing eligibility for federal social security disability benefits or railroad retirement disability benefits by June 30 of each calendar year, in order to continue qualification for IPERS disability benefits.

IPERS shall suspend the disability benefits of any member if the records required are not timely provided.

(2) The annual certification of continued eligibility for federal social security disability benefits or railroad retirement disability benefits is not required as of the calendar year the member reaches normal retirement age as defined by Iowa Code section 97B.45, or for special service members aged 55, or sheriffs and deputies aged 50 with 22 years of service.

13.1(2) If a member returns to covered employment after achieving a bona fide retirement, the benefits being provided to the member under Iowa Code section 97B.50(2) "a" or "b" shall be suspended or reduced as follows. If the member has not attained the age of 55 upon reemployment, benefit payments shall be suspended in their entirety until the member subsequently terminates employment, applies for, and is approved to receive benefits under the provisions of Iowa Code chapter 97B. If the member has attained the age of 55 or older upon reemployment, the member shall continue to receive monthly benefits adjusted as follows. Monthly benefits shall be calculated under the same benefit option that was first selected, based on the member's age, years of service, and the applicable reductions for early retirement as of the month that the member returns to covered employment. The suspension or reduction of benefits for returning to covered employment no longer applies as of the calendar year the member reaches normal retirement age, as defined by Iowa Code section 97B.45, or for special service members aged 55, or sheriffs and deputies aged 50 with 22 years of service. The member's benefit shall also be subject to the applicable provisions of Iowa Code section 97B.48A pertaining to reemployed retired members.

13.1(3) Upon terminating a reemployment that resulted in the suspension of all or a portion of the member's disability retirement allowance, the member's benefits shall be recomputed under Iowa Code section 97B.48A and rule 495—12.8(97B). To requalify for a monthly retirement allowance under Iowa Code section 97B.50(2), the member must furnish a new or updated Social Security Administration disability award letter, or other acceptable documentation from the Social Security Administration, indicating that the member is currently eligible for social security disability benefits.

13.1(4) If a member whose IPERS disability benefits were suspended because of the member's return to covered employment provides proof acceptable to IPERS that the member remains eligible for federal social security disability benefits or railroad retirement disability benefits, IPERS shall reinstate the member's disability benefits, subject to the member's continued compliance with paragraph 13.1(1) "d." [ARC 1348C, IAB 2/19/14, effective 3/26/14; ARC 1887C, IAB 2/18/15, effective 3/25/15; ARC 5027C, IAB 4/8/20, effective 5/13/20; ARC 5489C, IAB 3/10/21, effective 4/14/21]