

Municipal court judge's duties as presiding judge were neither temporary nor extracurricular. *Rokos v. State, Dept. of Treasury, Div. of Pensions, Public Employees' Retirement System*, 236 N.J.Super. 174, 564 A.2d 1217 (A.D.1989).

Municipal court judge's position as presiding judge even if temporary was not disqualification from pension creditability for presiding judge salary. *Rokos v. State, Dept. of Treasury, Div. of Pensions, Public Employees' Retirement System*, 236 N.J.Super. 174, 564 A.2d 1217 (A.D.1989).

Action of utilities authority and borough in creating positions, respectively, of general counsel and municipal prosecutor, and in appointing person to those positions, held not to constitute salary adjustments within the meaning of public employees' pension law excluding salary adjustments from compensation to be used as the basis for computing retirement pay. *Hiering v. Bd. of Trustees, Public Employees' Retirement System*, 197 N.J.Super. 14, 484 A.2d 20 (App.Div.1984).

Salary creditable; pension and veteran retirement benefits. *Berger v. Public Employees' Retirement System*, 94 N.J.A.R.2d (TYP) 187.

Termination of fixed term position does not constitute discontinuation from service through no fault of employee within meaning of statute providing for extension of membership in retirement system. *D'Alessio v. board of Trustees of the Public Employees' Retirement System*, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (TYP) 100.

Salary paid township counsel during three years before retirement was paid primarily in anticipation of retirement, and thus ineligible compensation for pension purposes. *Mangini v. Trustees of Public Employees' Retirement System*, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (TYP) 43.

Petitioner's claim for inclusion for pension calculation of salary received as town sewer attorney denied as services rendered were of the type usually rendered by an independent contractor rather than an employee: claim for inclusion for pension calculation of vouchered fees received as town sewer attorney denied as such fees are outside the statutory definition of compensation (Board's Final Decision). *Fasolo v. Bd. of Trustees, Public Employees' Retirement System*, 6 N.J.A.R. 4 (1980), affirmed in part and reversed in part and remanded 181 N.J.Super. 434, 438 A.2d 328 (App.Div.1981).

17:2-4.2 Leave with pay

(a) If a member is granted a leave of absence with sufficient salary to cover a full normal contribution, including any arrears or loan payments, the privilege of the member to obtain credit on the basis of such salary shall not extend beyond six months from the date of the leave.

(b) If the leave with pay extends beyond six months, the member will be required to make contributions only if the member is receiving 50 percent or more of regular base salary.

Amended by R.2000 d.26, effective January 18, 2000.

See: 31 N.J.R. 3229(a), 32 N.J.R. 304(a).

In (b), neutralized a gender reference.

Case Notes

Salary paid township counsel during three years before retirement was paid primarily in anticipation of retirement, and thus ineligible

compensation for pension purposes. *Mangini v. Trustees of Public Employees' Retirement System*, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (TYP) 43.

17:2-4.3 School year members; 10 and 12 months

(a) Ten month members who are employed and are compensated for employment for the full normal school year by the board of education are entitled to receive 12 months of service credit. Members will not receive service credit for months during the normal school year when they are not actively employed and did not receive salary.

(b) A 12 month member is presumed to work each month of the fiscal year.

(c) Not more than one year's service credit will be given during any period of 12 consecutive months.

(d) If a member terminates a position that requires less than 12 months to constitute one full year of service at the end of the normal academic school year and accepts a 12 month position with the same employer or another employer that participates in the Public Employees' Retirement System and begins employment on or before the date that was established by the previous year's contract position, such member will receive service credit within the Public Employees' Retirement System for the period between the end of the previous contract and the new 12 month position.

Amended by R.1989 d.423, effective August 7, 1989.

See: 21 N.J.R. 979(a), 21 N.J.R. 2300(a).

Reference to 10-month employment as a minimum deleted.

Amended by R.1993 d.296, effective June 21, 1993.

See: 25 N.J.R. 908(a), 25 N.J.R. 2701(a).

Amended by R.1994 d.162, effective April 4, 1994.

See: 26 N.J.R. 108(a), 26 N.J.R. 1537(c).

Amended by R.1995 d.61, effective February 21, 1995.

See: 26 N.J.R. 3823(a), 27 N.J.R. 754(b).

17:2-4.4 Loan tolerance

Interest will be calculated on a periodic basis on the unpaid loan balance. If scheduled payments are not paid timely, interest will be accrued and added to the remaining outstanding loan balance. If, at the end of the loan schedule, there is a balance of less than \$10.00, it will be written off. If the balance is equal to or greater than \$10.00, the member will be assessed.

New Rule, R.1987 d.511, effective December 7, 1987.

See: 19 N.J.R. 194(a), 19 N.J.R. 2303(d).

Old rule was loan revaluation.

17:2-4.5 (Reserved)

Repealed by R.2000 d.26, effective January 18, 2000.

See: 31 N.J.R. 3229(a), 32 N.J.R. 304(a).

Section was "Approved leave".

17:2-4.6 Minimum adjustment

In order to facilitate the reconciliation of a member's account, no rebates or additional contributions shall be made where an adjustment involves an amount of \$2.00 or less during a calendar quarter.

Amended by R.2000 d.26, effective January 18, 2000.

See: 31 N.J.R. 3229(a), 32 N.J.R. 304(a).

Substituted "\$2.00 or less during a calendar quarter" for "\$3.00 or less" at the end.

17:2-4.7 Part-time hourly, on-call or per diem salary

(a) Deductions from the salary of a member who is paid on a part-time hourly, on-call or per diem basis and who does not have an annual contractual base salary shall be calculated using actual creditable salary earned. If a member's actual creditable salary should drop below one-twelfth of the minimum threshold salary required for enrollment into the PERS for 12-month employees or one-tenth of the minimum threshold salary required for enrollment into the PERS for 10-month employees, pension contributions shall not be deducted from that member's creditable salary, and pension credit shall not be earned, for that month.

(b) A member's creditable salary shall be reviewed by the employer at the end of each calendar year. If the minimum threshold salary has not been met for the previous year, and is not expected to be met in the commencing year, the member's status shall become that of an inactive member.

As amended by R.1974 d.230, effective August 19, 1974.

See: 6 N.J.R. 32(a), 6 N.J.R. 361(a).

Amended by R.1999 d.433, effective December 20, 1999.

See: 31 N.J.R. 2297(a), 31 N.J.R. 4292(a).

Rewrote the section.

17:2-4.8 Military leave prior to August 1, 1974; employer contributions

(a) The following conditions apply to employer contributions for service during military leave prior to August 1, 1974:

1. Military leave contributions remitted by an employer on behalf of an employee, who does not return to the payroll for the minimum 90-day period required by N.J.S.A. 43:15A-41a, shall be retained by the System. Such contributions shall be transferred from the annuity savings fund to the contingent reserve fund.

2. Military leave contributions remitted by an employer shall be based on the employee's salary at the time the member entered military service.

3. Payroll as referred to above shall be interpreted to mean any public payroll in New Jersey, not necessarily the payroll of the employer where the member was employed when the member entered military service.

Amended by R.2000 d.26, effective January 18, 2000.

See: 31 N.J.R. 3229(a), 32 N.J.R. 304(a).

Rewrote the section.

17:2-4.9 Eligibility for loan

Only active contributing members of the System may exercise the privilege of obtaining a loan. The member's total outstanding loan balance shall not exceed 50 percent of the accumulated deductions posted to the member's account.

Amended by R.2000 d.26, effective January 18, 2000.

See: 31 N.J.R. 3229(a), 32 N.J.R. 304(a).

Rewrote the section.

17:2-4.10 Waiver of retirement benefits upon withdrawal

Any member, who makes application for withdrawal from the System, who may otherwise be eligible to make application for a retirement benefit, shall be required to execute and file a statement with the System setting forth the benefits the member is waiving in favor of withdrawal, before the member's application for withdrawal may be processed. If a member is eligible to begin receiving a monthly retirement allowance (age 60 or more, or 25 years or more of credited service), the Division shall inform the member of the estimated amount of the retirement allowance and shall require the member to sign a waiver of such benefits, should the member still wish to withdraw.

Amended by R.2000 d.26, effective January 18, 2000.

See: 31 N.J.R. 3229(a), 32 N.J.R. 304(a).

Rewrote the section.

17:2-4.11 Termination; withdrawal

(a) Under the terms of the statutes a member may withdraw from the System only if the member terminates all employment.

(b) No application shall be approved, if:

1. The member is on official leave of absence.
2. The member certifies that employment has not ended or that the member has taken another position subject to coverage.
3. The member has been dismissed or suspended from employment. In this event, such a member will be eligible to withdraw if the member has formally resigned from the position or there is no legal action contemplated or pending and the dismissal has been adjudged final.
4. A multiple member has not terminated employment in all covered positions.
5. The member has a claim pending for Workers' Compensation benefits.

As amended by R.1979 d.399, effective October 9, 1979.

See: 11 N.J.R. 411(a), 11 N.J.R. 596(b).

Amended by R.2000 d.26, effective January 18, 2000.

See: 31 N.J.R. 3229(a), 32 N.J.R. 304(a).

Neutralized gender references throughout.

Case Notes

Division of Unemployment and Disability Insurance Director held not to have surrendered his position in classified service when he was granted an unpaid leave of absence to serve an unclassified appointment as assistant commissioner, income security; demotion and layoff rules found not to adequately recognize rights inherent in a leave of absence; doctrine of incompatible offices held not to mandate loss of classified position, since there was no dual office holding. In re Viviani, 184 N.J.Super. 582, 446 A.2d 1239 (App.Div.1982), certification denied 91 N.J. 533, 453 A.2d 854 (1982).

Held that where State employee did not discontinue employment or terminate service until her resignation, which coincided with terminal date of her leave of absence, and where she was reemployed by State less than two consecutive years following her resignation, her membership in the State pension system never ceased. Blinn v. Bd. of Trustees, Public Employees' Retirement System, 173 N.J.Super. 277, 414 A.2d 263 (App.Div.1980).

Proceeds of group life insurance; deceased not active member of retirement system on date of death. Johnson v. Public Employees' Retirement System, 94 N.J.A.R.2d (TYP) 204.

Employee with two years of consecutive discontinued service was not a member of system entitled to ordinary disability retirement. Zakarias v. Retirement System, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (TYP) 308.

Reactivation of retirement account not warranted once membership expired two years after cessation of covered employment. Smartt v. Retirement System, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (TYP) 260.

No public employee retirement system life insurance benefits for widower of employee terminated from employment four months earlier. Estate of Stanton v. Board of Trustees, Public Employees' Retirement System, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (TYP) 220.

Former public employee voluntarily resigned from employment, and thus not entitled to extension of inactive membership in public employees' retirement system. Perlmutter v. Board of Trustees of the Public Employees' Retirement System, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (TYP) 140.

Application for veteran retirement benefits invalid as result of continued employment as municipal attorney, despite change in method of compensation. Mastro v. Board of Trustees, Public Employees' Retirement System, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (TYP) 123.

Former member of retirement system not eligible for ordinary disability retirement benefits more than two years after he discontinued his employment. Cartagena v. Public Employees' Retirement System, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (TYP) 12.

17:2-4.12 Deductions

(a) A full pension and contributory insurance deduction shall be taken for the Public Employees' Retirement System in any payroll period (monthly or biweekly) in which the member is paid a sufficient amount to make a full normal deduction, plus any other arrears or loan deductions then in effect.

(b) No deductions shall be taken, nor service credit given, in any pay period for employers who report on a biweekly basis or in any month, for employers who report on a monthly basis, in which the employee's salary is not sufficient to cover the required deductions for the Public Employees' Retirement System.

Amended by R.2000 d.26, effective January 18, 2000.
See: 31 N.J.R. 3229(a), 32 N.J.R. 304(a).

Rewrote the section.

Case Notes

Held that where State employee did not discontinue employment or terminate service until her resignation, which coincided with terminal date of her leave of absence, and where she was reemployed by State less than two consecutive years following her resignation, her membership in the State pension system never ceased. Blinn v. Bd. of Trustees, Public Employees' Retirement System, 173 N.J.Super. 277, 414 A.2d 263 (App.Div.1980).

17:2-4.13 Active employment; membership requirement

All employees, otherwise eligible, who are not actively employed on the date of their enrollment will not be covered by the group life insurance program until the day they return to service.

R.1974 d.230, effective August 19, 1974.

See: 6 N.J.R. 32(a), 6 N.J.R. 361(a).

Amended by R.2000 d.26, effective January 18, 2000.

See: 31 N.J.R. 3229(a), 32 N.J.R. 304(a).

Inserted "the day" following "until".

Case Notes

Held that no group life insurance death benefits were payable to deceased county employee's beneficiaries where employee was on leave without pay when PERS enrollment was to commence and employee died before going back on payroll. Burns v. Div. of Pensions, Public Employees' Retirement System, 180 N.J.Super. 1, 433 A.2d 778 (App. Div.1981).

17:2-4.14 Continuance of membership; transfer

Once an employee establishes membership in the retirement system, the member is eligible to continue such membership should the member be temporarily employed in a position covered by the system.

R.1979 d.399, effective October 9, 1979.

See: 11 N.J.R. 411(a), 11 N.J.R. 596(b).

Amended by R.2000 d.26, effective January 18, 2000.

See: 31 N.J.R. 3229(a), 32 N.J.R. 304(a).

Neutralized gender references throughout.

17:2-4.15 Ineligible service

(a) Members shall not be granted prior service or membership credit for the following employment:

1. Honorary positions, without salary;
2. Motor vehicle agents or as non-State employees of the agent; and
3. Licensing agent of the Division of Fish, Game and Shellfisheries or as non-State employees of the agent.

Recodified from N.J.A.C. 17:2-5.9 and amended by R.2000 d.26, effective January 18, 2000.

See: 31 N.J.R. 3229(a), 32 N.J.R. 304(a).

In (a), deleted a former 2, recodified former 3 and 4 as 2 and 3, and substituted references to non-State employees for references to employees in the new 2 and 3.

(d) Rules concerning the purchase and/or conversion of Class A credit include the following:

1. The cost of Class B service credit is based on the actuarial factors and such factors provide a retirement benefit which is one-sixth greater than service credited as Class A. If Class A credit is purchased, the cost will be six-sevenths of the amount computed for a Class B purchase. The computation is based on the member's present salary or highest fiscal year base salary multiplied by the actuarial purchase factor for the member's age at the time of purchase with regular interest.

2. If a Class A member converts to Class B, the member will contribute an additional one-sixth of the total contributions that would have been payable based on the member's full Class A contribution rate with regular interest.

Amended by R.1999 d.289, effective August 16, 1999.
See: 31 N.J.R. 1581(a), 31 N.J.R. 2368(a).

Rewrote the section.

Amended by R.2001 d.258, effective August 6, 2001.
See: 33 N.J.R. 1341(a), 33 N.J.R. 2677(a).

In (a), inserted "and" preceding "not the employer's"; in (a)1, substituted "in a New Jersey" for "with another"; in (a)(3), substituted "After the effective date of this amendment, continuous" for "Continuous" and deleted "with the same employer"; added (a)9.

Case Notes

Denial of application to purchase additional service credit due to insufficient evidence affirmed. *Webb v. Public Employees' Retirement System*, 97 N.J.A.R.2d (TYP) 83.

Retiree's request to cancel and obtain refund of previously purchased prior service credit in the retirement system denied. *Chmieloweic v. Public Employees' Retirement System*, 94 N.J.A.R.2d (TYP) 73.

17:2-5.6 Methods of payment

(a) Methods of payment include the following:

1. Lump sum;
2. Partial lump sum; balance by extra payroll deductions;
3. Extra deductions equal to at least one-half of the full regular pension deduction for a maximum period of 10 years;
4. Extra payroll deductions will include regular interest for the term of the installment.

Amended by R.1991 d.281, effective June 3, 1991.
See: 23 N.J.R. 685(b), 23 N.J.R. 1800(a).

Mandatory age requirement eliminated.

Amended by R.2001 d.422, effective November 19, 2001.
See: 33 N.J.R. 2609(a), 33 N.J.R. 3907(b).

In (a)2, deleted "of \$250.00 or more".

17:2-5.7 (Reserved)

Repealed by R.2000 d.26, effective January 18, 2000.
See: 31 N.J.R. 3229(a), 32 N.J.R. 304(a).

Section was "Military leave".

17:2-5.8 Per diem credit

For the purpose of granting prior service credit for service performed on a per diem, hourly, on-call, or as-needed basis, credit shall be prorated and granted on the basis of 10 days equal one month of credit.

Amended by R.2000 d.26, effective January 18, 2000.

See: 31 N.J.R. 3229(a), 32 N.J.R. 304(a).

Inserted a reference to hourly, on-call, or as needed basis, and substituted a reference to 10 days for a reference to 20 days.

17:2-5.9 (Reserved)

Recodified to N.J.A.C. 17:2-4.15 by R.2000 d.26, effective January 18, 2000.

See: 31 N.J.R. 3229(a), 32 N.J.R. 304(a).

17:2-5.10 (Reserved)

Recodified to N.J.A.C. 17:2-4.16 by R.2000 d.26, effective January 18, 2000.

See: 31 N.J.R. 3229(a), 32 N.J.R. 304(a).

17:2-5.11 Service ineligible for purchase

Service rendered outside of the United States, with the exception of eligible service rendered in certain instances in territories or possessions of the United States, Washington, DC and the Canal Zone, is not purchasable.

Amended by R.1999 d.289, effective August 16, 1999.

See: 31 N.J.R. 1581(a), 31 N.J.R. 2368(a).

Rewrote the section.

17:2-5.12 Correction of errors

Credit for all previous service established under the provisions of P.L. 1974, c.104, and payment therefor, shall be calculated on the basis of salaries received during the period of such service with applicable regular interest. The pension rate of contribution will be determined as of the member's compulsory date of enrollment.

Amended by R.2000 d.26, effective January 18, 2000.

See: 31 N.J.R. 3229(a), 32 N.J.R. 304(a).

Inserted "and payment therefor," preceding "shall be" and added "with applicable regular interest" at the end of the first sentence, and deleted a former third sentence.

17:2-5.13 Lump-sum purchases

If a purchase is paid in a lump sum, the member shall receive full credit for the amount of service covered by the purchase upon receipt of the lump-sum payment. The service may be used for any purpose for which it is authorized under the Public Employees' Retirement System Act (N.J.S.A. 43:15A-1 et seq.) and the rules of the Retirement System.

New Rule, R.1989 d.516, effective October 2, 1989.

See: 21 N.J.R. 1820(b), 21 N.J.R. 3176(b).

Amended by R.2000 d.26, effective January 18, 2000.

See: 31 N.J.R. 3229(a), 32 N.J.R. 304(a).

SUBCHAPTER 6. RETIREMENT

17:2-6.1 Applications

(a) Applications for retirement must be made on forms required by the System. Such forms must be completed in all respects and filed with the Division of Pensions and Benefits (Division) on or before the requested date of retirement. A member's retirement application becomes effective on the first of the month following receipt of application unless a future date is requested. Members enrolled at multiple PERS locations must retire from employment in all covered positions before a retirement shall become effective.

(b) In the event a member files an incomplete application, the deficiencies shall be brought to the member's attention and the member shall be required to file a completed application with the Division to enable processing.

(c) Before an application for retirement may be processed, the Division must receive proof of the member's age, if none is already in the member's record, proof of the beneficiary's age, if the member elected Option 2, 3 or 4, and a completed Certification of Service and Final Salary form from the employer setting forth the employment termination date, and the salaries reported for contributions in the member's final year of employment.

(d) In addition to the foregoing requirements, a member's application for disability retirement must be supported by at least two medical reports, one by the member's personal or attending physician and the other may be either hospital records supporting the disability or a report from a second physician.

(e) Retired members, who return to public employment, shall have their previous retirement allowances cancelled and be reenrolled in the System pursuant to N.J.S.A. 43:15A-44 for those who retired on disability retirements or N.J.S.A. 43:15A-57.2 for those who retired on early, service, veteran or deferred retirements. A member who ceases covered employment and retires again must file a new retirement application with the Division in accordance with (a) through (d) above in order to initiate payment of the retirement allowance. The previous retirement allowance shall then be reinstated, and the new retirement allowance, based on the member's subsequent covered employment, shall commence. The previous and subsequent retirement allowances shall then be combined and paid in one monthly benefit check. The retirement allowance shall become effective on the first of the month following receipt of the application unless a future date is requested.

Amended by R.1986 d.432, effective October 20, 1986.

See: 18 N.J.R. 1451(a), 18 N.J.R. 2135(b).

Deleted subsections (b) and (d) and recodified accordingly.

Administrative Correction to (a): Deleted text "at least one month".

Amended by R.2000 d.26, effective January 18, 2000.

See: 31 N.J.R. 3229(a), 32 N.J.R. 304(a).

Rewrote the section.

Amended by R.2001 d.131, effective May 7, 2001.

See: 33 N.J.R. 372(a), 33 N.J.R. 1398(a).

In (d), substituted "a member's" for "an" and inserted "medical" preceding "reports"; and added (e).

Case Notes

Employee who sustained back injury which, at most, contributed to progression of arthritic condition by aggravation, held not to have disability which was a direct result of a traumatic event so as to entitle the employee to disability retirement benefits. *Gerba v. Bd. of Trustees, Public Employees' Retirement System*, 83 N.J. 174, 416 A.2d 314 (1980).

To be eligible for accidental disability retirement benefits where disability involved combined effect of traumatic event and underlying disease, traumatic source must constitute the essential significant or substantial contributing cause of resultant disability; employee's slip and fall against automobile tailgate held a traumatic event: remand to Appellate Division to determine whether traumatic event was of such nature as to allow benefits eligibility under enunciated standard. *Korelnia v. Bd. of Trustees, Public Employees' Retirement System*, 83 N.J. 163, 416 A.2d 308 (1980).

Special education teacher who suffered from numerous and unrelated ailments which rendered her unable to perform duties associated with her job was entitled to ordinary disability retirement allowance. *Daniels v. Public Employees' Retirement System*, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (TYP) 292.

Tick bite was not traumatic event for purpose of awarding accidental disability benefits. *Ackerman v. PERS*, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (TYP) 42.

Retirement application had to be executed and filed prior to effective date of the retirement. *Knabner v. Public Employees' Retirement System*, 94 N.J.A.R.2d (TYP) 85.

Former member was without standing to refile application for accidental disability retirement allowance. *Coleman v. Retirement System*, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (TYP) 265.

Breach of duty by city employees did not qualify nurse for modification of retirement date. *Kuehner v. Public Employees' Retirement System*, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (TYP) 190.

Retirement application; effectiveness; arrival at New Jersey Public Employees' Retirement System. N.J.S.A. 43:15A-47. *Phillips v. Public Employees' Retirement System*, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (TYP) 163.

Employee with diminished mental capacity due to alcoholism not entitled to retroactive effective retirement date. *Young v. Public Employees' Retirement System*, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (TYP) 53.

Agreement with employer did not entitle employee to retroactive requested effective date of retirement. *Epps v. Public Employees' Retirement System*, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (TYP) 45.

Approval of tax assessor's application for service retirement rescinded where tax assessor's close corporation was awarded contracts for essentially the same tax assessment work. *Board of Trustees v. Atkinson*, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (TYP) 8.

Decedent's signing of application for retirement and filing of support documents prior to his death held to constitute substantial compliance with regulatory requirements, in light of Division's failure to act on documents' deficiency in a timely fashion; survivors held eligible for insurance benefits. *Giaconia v. Bd. of Trustees, Public Employees' Retirement System*, 2 N.J.A.R. 304 (1980).

17:2-6.2 Effective date

A member's retirement allowance shall not become due and payable until 30 days after the date the Board approved the application for retirement or 30 days after the date of the retirement, whichever is later.

New Rule, R.2000 d.26, effective January 18, 2000.

See: 31 N.J.R. 3229(a), 32 N.J.R. 304(a).

Former N.J.A.C. 17:2-6.2, Effective dates; change, recodified to N.J.A.C. 17:2-6.3.

17:2-6.3 Effective dates; change

(a) A member shall have the right to withdraw, cancel or change an application for retirement at any time before the member's retirement allowance becomes due and payable by sending a written request signed by the member. Thereafter the retirement shall stand as approved by the Board.

(b) Except in the event of deferred retirement, if a member requests a change of retirement date or option selection before the member's retirement allowance be-

comes due and payable, said change will require approval of the Board and the revised retirement allowance shall not become due and payable until 30 days have elapsed following the effective date or the date the Board met and approved the change in the member's retirement application, whichever is later.

(c) A deferred retirement shall become effective on the first of the month following the member's 60th birthday. At the election of a member, if the member's 60th birthday falls on the first of a month, the retirement shall become effective on that date, provided the member files a timely retirement application pursuant to N.J.S.A. 43:15A-38(b) and requests that date as the retirement date.

(d) In the case of deferred retirement, if an applicant desires to amend the retirement application, the amended application must be filed with the Division a minimum of one month prior to the effective date of retirement.

(e) Should the member continue to receive a salary beyond the effective date of retirement after approval of the retirement by the Board of Trustees, no retirement benefits shall be paid for the period where the member received salary and no salary or service credit shall be provided for the service rendered after the approved effective date of retirement.

Amended by R.1974 d.230, effective August 19, 1974.

See: 6 N.J.R. 32(a), 6 N.J.R. 361(a).

Amended by R.1979 d.399, effective October 9, 1979.

See: 11 N.J.R. 411(a), 11 N.J.R. 596(b).

Amended by R.1981 d.274, effective August 6, 1981.

See: 13 N.J.R. 244(f), 13 N.J.R. 525(b).

(f) added.

Recodified from N.J.A.C. 17:2-6.2 and amended by R.2000 d.26, effective January 18, 2000.

See: 31 N.J.R. 3229(a), 32 N.J.R. 304(a).

Rewrote the section. Former N.J.A.C. 17:2-6.3, Effective date; death prior thereto, repealed.

Case Notes

Reversal and remand of denial of veteran's retirement benefits was warranted where initial approval of application was rescinded without notice. *Galvano v. Board of Trustees of Public Employees' Retirement System*, 225 N.J.Super. 388, 542 A.2d 926 (A.D.1988).

Retirement allowance was available only for those months after filing application for retirement. *Kamin v. Retirement System*, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (TYP) 249.

Employee with diminished mental capacity due to alcoholism not entitled to retroactive effective retirement date. *Young v. Public Employees' Retirement System*. 93 N.J.A.R.2d (TYP) 53.

Agreement with employer did not entitle employee to retroactive requested effective date of retirement. *Epps v. Public Employees' Retirement System*. 93 N.J.A.R.2d (TYP) 45.

Applicant not entitled to change effective date of service retirement so as to qualify for early retirement incentive program with effective date after her retirement. *Pykon v. Board of Trustees of the Public Employees' Retirement System*. 92 N.J.A.R.2d (TYP) 144.

Absent a showing of a decedent's incompetence, mutual mistake, fraud or other compelling equitable considerations, a retirement application shall not be reformed; petition to change pension payment option denied. *Schaeffer v. Bd. of Trustees, Public Employees' Retirement System*, 8 N.J.A.R. 427 (1984).

17:2-6.4 Outstanding loan

(a) A member who has an outstanding loan balance at the time of retirement may repay the loan balance, with interest, as follows:

1. In full before the retirement allowance becomes due and payable as provided in N.J.A.C. 17:2-6.3;
2. By retention of retirement benefit payments, excluding authorized deductions, by the Retirement System until the loan balance, with interest, is repaid.

i. Authorized deductions include Federal tax liens, health benefit premiums, and Federal and State income tax withholding; or

3. By deductions from retirement benefit payments of the same monthly amount deducted from the member's compensation immediately preceding retirement until the loan balance, with interest, is repaid as authorized by P.L. 1999, c.132. If the member does not request repayment in full, repayment is by deductions in the same monthly amount deducted from the member's compensation immediately preceding retirement.

(b) If a retirant dies before the loan balance, with interest, is repaid, the remaining balance is paid first from the group life insurance proceeds, and then from the proceeds of any other benefits payable on account of the retirant in the form of monthly payments or the balance of the Option I reserves or the balance of the retirant's accumulated deductions and regular interest that are due to the beneficiary or estate. If the retirant designated multiple beneficiaries to receive these benefits, each beneficiary shares in repaying the remaining balance in the same proportion in which they are entitled to the benefits.

Amended by R.1999 d.409, effective December 6, 1999.

See: 31 N.J.R. 2519(a), 31 N.J.R. 4119(a).

In (a), rewrote 2i, and added 3; deleted former (b) and (c); and recodified former (d) as (b).

17:2-6.5 Willful negligence

(a) Willful negligence is defined as:

1. Deliberate act or deliberate failure to act; or,
2. Such conduct as evidences reckless indifference to safety; or,
3. Intoxication, operating as the proximate cause of injury.

17:2-6.6 Retirement credit

(a) A member shall receive credit toward retirement for any month or biweekly pay period in which a full normal deduction is received by the system.

(b) A member who appeals the suspension or termination of the member's employment and is awarded back pay for all or a portion of that employment for the period of such suspension or termination shall receive retirement credit for the period covered by the award, regardless of the amount of the back pay awarded, provided a full normal pension contribution is received from the member or deducted from the value of the award. The amount of the pension contribution will be determined by the provisions of the award. If the member receives full back pay, including normal salary increases, then the contribution will be computed on the base salaries that the employee would have earned for the reinstated suspended or terminated period. When the settlement is less than the full back pay, the pension contribution will be based upon the salary that the member was receiving

for pension purposes prior to the suspension or termination of employment. In the event that the amount of back payment is insufficient to deduct the value of the normal pension contributions due, such contribution shall be paid by the member.

(c) It is the responsibility of the certifying officer to provide a letter attesting to the base salary or salaries to be used to compute pension contributions and to provide a copy of the resolution or legal document that details the terms of the settlement.

As amended, R.1974 d.230, effective August 19, 1974.
See: 6 N.J.R. 32(a), 6 N.J.R. 361(a).

As amended, R.1981 d.274, effective August 6, 1981.
See: 13 N.J.R. 244(f), 13 N.J.R. 525(b).

(b) added.

Amended by R.1991 d.98, effective February 19, 1991.
See: 22 N.J.R. 3321(a), 23 N.J.R. 417(a).

Amount of pension contribution clarified.

Amended by R.2000 d.26, effective January 18, 2000.
See: 31 N.J.R. 3229(a), 32 N.J.R. 304(a).

Case Notes

Conviction for crime involving continuing course of conduct and breach of public trust defeats application for service credit during time crime committed. *De Angelo v. Public Employee's Retirement System*, 97 N.J.A.R.2d (TYP) 34.

Pension credit; time of dishonorable employment with county. *Cavaliere v. Board of Trustees of the Public Employees' Retirement System*, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (TYP) 178.

17:2-6.7 Disability determination

(a) A member for whom an application for accidental disability retirement allowance has been filed by the member, by his employer, or by one acting in behalf of the member, will be retired on an ordinary disability retirement allowance if the Board finds that:

1. The applicant was considered a member at the time of filing the application for a disability retirement allowance or is covered by the provisions of N.J.A.C. 17:2-6.15;
2. The member is physically or mentally incapacitated for the performance of duty; and
3. The member is not eligible for accidental disability since the incapacity is not a direct result of a traumatic event occurring during and as a result of the performance of the member's regular or assigned duties; and
4. The member meets the service requirement for ordinary disability.

Amended by R.2000 d.26, effective January 18, 2000.
See: 31 N.J.R. 3229(a), 32 N.J.R. 304(a).

In (a), rewrote 1, and neutralized a gender reference in 3.

Case Notes

To be eligible for accidental disability retirement benefits where disability involved combined effect of traumatic event and underlying disease, traumatic source must constitute the essential significant or substantial contributing cause of resultant disability; employee's slip and fall against automobile tailgate held a traumatic event; remand to Appellate Division to determine whether traumatic event was of such nature as to allow benefits eligibility under enunciated standard (citing former rule). *Korelnia v. Bd. of Trustees, Public Employees Retirement System*, 83 N.J. 163, 416 A.2d 308 (1980).

Nurse entitled to accidental disability pension due to traumatic injury at work. *Mullen v. Board of Trustees of the Public Employees' Retirement System*, 97 N.J.A.R.2d (TYP) 110.

Incident's lack of traumatic event defeats application for accidental disability retirement benefits. *Ming v. Board of Trustees, Public Employees' Retirement System*, 97 N.J.A.R.2d (TYP) 90.

Denial of accidental disability benefits due to employee's failure to establish total and permanent disability affirmed. *Oliver v. Board of Trustees of the Public Employees' Retirement System*, 97 N.J.A.R.2d (TYP) 77.

Electrical installer suffering personal injury from falling air conditioner unit entitled to accidental disability pension. *Zillante v. Board of Trustees of the Public Employee's Retirement System*, 97 N.J.A.R.2d (TYP) 44.

Permanent injuries not arising from great rush of force or uncontrollable power fail to meet test to receive accidental disability benefits. *DiBlashi v. Public Employee's Retirement System*, 97 N.J.A.R.2d (TYP) 36.

Failure to prove great rush of force or uncontrollable power defeats claim for accidental disability benefits. *Pino v. Public Employee's Retirement System*, 97 N.J.A.R.2d (TYP) 21.

Ordinary disability retirement benefits granted bus driver who sustained shoulder injury after fall in parking lot. *Hessler v. Public Employees' Retirement System*, 97 N.J.A.R.2d (TYP) 13.

Bus driver who sustained lower back injury when stack of tires fell on him did not suffer traumatic event and thus was not entitled to accidental disability retirement benefits. *Pino v. Public Employees' Retirement System*, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (TYP) 298.

Motor vehicle operator who sustained arm and shoulder injuries when van door malfunctioned, and who later reinjured her arm while maneuvering client's wheelchair, was not entitled to accidental disability retirement benefits; neither incident constituted qualifying traumatic event. *McDaniel v. Public Employees' Retirement System*, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (TYP) 284.

Survivors of maintenance worker whose blood alcohol level was in excess of legal limit at time he died in work-related automobile collision could not recover accidental death benefits; employee who drives automobile while intoxicated is willfully negligent and thus ineligible to receive such benefits. *Komiskey v. Public Employees' Retirement System*, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (TYP) 271.

Housing inspector who experienced chest pains after climbing eight flights of stairs did not suffer traumatic event, and thus was not eligible for accidental disability retirement benefits. *Cartagena v. Public Employees' Retirement System*, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (TYP) 266.

Clerk who tripped and fell down flight of stairs failed to establish that injuries she suffered rendered her unable to perform her regular employment duties, and thus she was not eligible for accidental disability retirement benefits. *Bonomo v. Public Employees' Retirement System*, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (TYP) 261.

Injuries sustained by clerk stenographer when she fell over several boxes after being frightened by rat in workplace lunchroom were not caused by requisite "great rush of force or uncontrollable power," and thus clerk was not entitled to accidental disability retirement benefits. *Hunter v. Public Employees' Retirement System*, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (TYP) 252.

Laborer who injured himself while attempting to lower entire man-hole casing by himself was not entitled to accidental disability retirement benefits; injury was not caused by requisite "great rush of force or uncontrollable power." *Tomasi v. Public Employees' Retirement System*, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (TYP) 239.

Public works employee injured in slip and fall on bus steps did not suffer traumatic event entitling him to accidental disability retirement benefits. *Yodice v. Public Employees' Retirement System*, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (TYP) 210.

Road construction worker who inhaled fumes from new blacktop mixture was not injured as result of traumatic event entitling him to accidental disability retirement benefits. *Beverly v. Public Employee's Retirement System*, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (TYP) 41.

Fall from ground level cannot constitute great rush of force necessary to find traumatic event entitling claimant to accidental disability retirement benefits. *Keaton v. Public Employees' Retirement System*, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (TYP) 37.

Hospital attendant's injury while assisting patient from bed to chair did not result from traumatic event qualifying her for accidental disability retirement benefits. *Siniscalchi v. Board of Trustees of the Public Employees' Retirement System*, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (TYP) 30.

Supervisor's transfer threats did not constitute a traumatic event qualifying employee for accidental disability retirement benefits. *Fay v. Board of Trustees of the Public Employees' Retirement System*, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (TYP) 27.

Maintenance worker's fall from three foot scaffolding was not traumatic event entitling him to accidental disability retirement benefits. *Minkus v. Board of Trustees of the Public Employees' Retirement System*, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (TYP) 19.

School crossing guard's fall on sidewalk was not traumatic event in course of employment entitling her to accidental disability retirement benefits. *Osinga v. Board of Trustees, Public Employees' Retirement System*, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (TYP) 16.

17:2-6.8 Option selection

If an applicant for an accidental disability retirement benefit is rejected for an accidental disability benefit but is approved by the Board for retirement, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 17:2-6.7, the applicant will be permitted within 30 days following Board approval of the retirement, to amend the option selection which the applicant made on the original accidental disability retirement application.

As amended, R.1971 d.71, effective May 18, 1971.

See: 3 N.J.R. 50(a), 3 N.J.R. 117(b).

Amended by R.2000 d.26, effective January 18, 2000.

See: 31 N.J.R. 3229(a), 32 N.J.R. 304(a).

Neutralized gender references throughout.

17:2-6.9 Employer and employee notices

If an applicant for accidental disability retirement is found to be physically or mentally incapacitated for the performance of duty but is rejected for accidental disability retirement because the Board finds that the disability was not a direct result of a traumatic event occurring during and as a result of the performance of the applicant's regular or assigned duties and, if the applicant does not meet the minimum statutory requirements for any other type of retirement allowance, the System will notify both the member and the member's employer that the member was found to be physically or mentally incapacitated for the continued performance of duty, as was previously certified to the System.

Amended by R.2000 d.26, effective January 18, 2000.

See: 31 N.J.R. 3229(a), 32 N.J.R. 304(a).

Neutralized gender references throughout, and deleted "by both the employee and his employer" and deleted a former second sentence at the end.

17:2-6.10 Involuntary disability application

(a) If an application for an accidental disability retirement benefit or for an ordinary disability retirement benefit is filed by an employer for one of their employees, the member will be promptly notified by letter that:

1. The member's employer has properly initiated a disability application signed by the Certifying Officer or other designated officer of the employer, on the member's behalf;

2. The member's employer has submitted a written statement as to the grounds for the employer's request for member's involuntary disability retirement and all available medical documentation;

3. The member has a period of 30 days to contest his or her involuntary retirement before the Board acts on the employer's application;

4. The member will be required to appear for an examination before a physician designated to conduct such an examination for the retirement system;

5. In the event the Board finds that the member is totally and permanently incapacitated for the performance of duty, the member shall be granted the maximum retirement allowance, (without option) payable under the statute, if the member does not file a completed "Application for Disability Retirement Allowance" setting forth the type of allowance the member desires, before the retirement goes into effect; and

6. In the event the Board finds that the member is not totally and permanently incapacitated for the performance of duty, the employer's application shall be disallowed and the employer shall be informed that the member should be returned to duty.

Amended by R.2000 d.26, effective January 18, 2000.

See: 31 N.J.R. 3229(a), 32 N.J.R. 304(a).

In (a), neutralized gender references throughout, rewrote 1 and 2, deleted a former 3, and recodified former 4 through 7 as 3 through 6.

17:2-6.11 Early retirement; reduction

(a) Retirement with 25 or more years of credited service before the first of the month in which a member attains age 60 shall be classified as "early" retirement.

(b) The statutory reduction of one quarter of one percent applies to each month prior to the month in which the member attains age 55 and for the month in which the member attains age 55 if the member's 55th birthday occurs after the 15th day of the month.

Amended by R.1974 d.230, effective August 19, 1974.

See: 6 N.J.R. 32(a), 6 N.J.R. 361(a).

Amended by R.2000 d.26, effective January 18, 2000.

See: 31 N.J.R. 3229(a), 32 N.J.R. 304(a).

Rewrote the section.

Case Notes

Suspended employee who retired after completing court-ordered pretrial intervention program was not entitled to early retirement benefits. *Gulics & Simeone v. Public Employees' Retirement System*, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (TYP) 228.

17:2-6.12 Service retirement; eligibility

A member becomes eligible for "Service" retirement on the 1st of the month following the member's 60th birthday. At the election of a member, if the member's 60th birthday falls on the first of a month, the retirement shall become effective on that date, provided the member files a timely retirement application pursuant to N.J.S.A. 43:15A-47a, and requests that date.

Amended by R.2000 d.26, effective January 18, 2000.

See: 31 N.J.R. 3229(a), 32 N.J.R. 304(a).

Neutralized a gender reference in the first sentence, and added a second sentence.

Case Notes

Denial of petitioner's request for additional four years of creditable service was appropriate. *Alcaro v. Division of Pensions, the Alternate Benefit Program*, 94 N.J.A.R.2d (TYP) 124.

17:2-6.13 Disability retiree; annual medical examinations

(a) All disability retirees under the normal retirement age of 60 may be required to undergo a medical examination each year for a maximum period of five years by a physician designated by the System as of the anniversary date of their retirement, unless such examination requirement has been waived by the Board.

(b) Failure on the part of a retiree to submit to the required medical examination shall result in the automatic suspension of the retiree's retirement allowance until the retiree submits to a medical examination.

Amended by R.1998 d.322, effective July 6, 1998.

See: 30 N.J.R. 1026(a), 30 N.J.R. 2514(a).

In (a), deleted "under age 60," following "retirees" and substituted "at least five years or for good cause thereafter" for "a maximum period of five years" in the first sentence, and added a second sentence. Amended by R.2000 d.26, effective January 18, 2000.

See: 31 N.J.R. 3229(a), 32 N.J.R. 304(a).

In (a), deleted "as of the anniversary date of their retirement" following "System" in the first sentence; and in (b), neutralized gender references throughout.

Amended by R.2000 d.248, effective June 19, 2000.

See: 32 N.J.R. 1152(a), 32 N.J.R. 2257(a).

Rewrote (a).

Case Notes

Regulations adopted by the Board of Trustees of Teachers' Pension and Annuity Fund (TPAF) and Board of Trustees of Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) which applied to all disability retirees, regardless of age, and allowed Boards to require physical examination for good cause after five years exceeded legislative requirements of statute, and thus, regulations were invalid. *New Jersey Education Association v. Board of Trustees, Public Employees' Retirement System*, 327 N.J.Super. 326, 744 A.2d 353 (N.J.Super.A.D. 2000).

Township not required to reinstate formerly disabled employee who resigned before applying for disability benefits. *Township of Dover v. Board of Trustees, Public Employees' Retirement System*, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (TYP) 83.

17:2-6.14 Disability retiree; annual report (employment, earnings, test and adjustment)

(a) All disability retirees shall be required to file a report with the System which shall include copies of the retiree's IRS 1040 forms and W-2 forms and any other proofs of employment requested of a specific retiree indicating the type of employment they are engaged in, if any, and the gross earned income realized therefrom as of December 31 of each year.

1. Such report shall be filed with the System before the following April 30.

2. Failure on the part of the retiree to file a completed report with the System before April 30 shall result in the presentation of the retiree's case to the PERS Board of Trustees, who may impose penalties or suspend the retiree's entire retirement allowance for the period the report is in default.

(b) If a retiree reports employment and earnings, then the following tests shall be made by the System to ascertain:

1. If the retiree is engaged in a position subject to coverage by the System, the retirement allowance shall be canceled and the retiree shall be reenrolled in the System pursuant to N.J.S.A. 43:15A-44, effective as of the date of the retiree's appointment to such position. Any disability retirement benefits received after this date of appointment shall be refunded to the System.

2. If the retiree is engaged in employment and the gross earned income for the preceding calendar year exceeds the difference between the pension and the salary the retiree would have been receiving had the retiree continued to work for the former employer (normal increment steps and salary range revisions will be considered but no promotional assumptions will be made) an appropriate adjustment to the pension for the period will be made by such difference.

3. If it is found, on or after April 30, that gross earned income for the calendar year exceeded the difference between the pension and the salary of the retiree's former position and if the retiree does not refund the excess pension to the System within 30 days of notification of the difference, the pension portion of the retirement allowance shall be reduced, dollar for dollar, by the excess earnings. The Board of Trustees shall determine the length of time that the retiree's pension allowance will be reduced.

Amended by R.1998 d.323, effective July 6, 1998.

See: 30 N.J.R. 1026(b), 30 N.J.R. 2514(b).

Rewrote the section.

Amended by R.2000 d.26, effective January 18, 2000.

See: 31 N.J.R. 3229(a), 32 N.J.R. 304(a).

Rewrote (b)3.

17:2-6.15 Disability retirements; filing after more than two years' discontinuance of service

(a) Following the filing of a disability retirement application, a vested member, who has not withdrawn his or her

contributions from the retirement system, and has discontinued service for more than two consecutive years, and who was otherwise eligible for disability retirement at the time service was discontinued, shall be approved to receive disability retirement benefits by the Board of Trustees, if:

1. The applicant demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Board of Trustees that he or she was physically or mentally incapacitated for the performance of duty at the time service was discontinued and continues to be so incapacitated, with the same disability or disabilities, at the time of filing; and

2. The applicant factually demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Board of Trustees that service was discontinued because of the disability or disabilities.

(b) A disability retirement application that is filed under this rule may take effect, in accordance with the laws and rules applicable to effective dates for disability retirements, only on or after the date the application is filed.

(c) This rule shall be applicable to all vested members and former members whose retirements were effective prior to February 1, 1999, but disability retirements under this rule shall not be effective prior to February 1, 1999.

(d) This section shall be effective until December 31, 2003, unless such effectiveness is extended through amendment of this subsection.

New Rule, R.1999 d.36, effective February 1, 1999.
See: 30 N.J.R. 3375(b), 31 N.J.R. 458(a).

17:2-6.16 Compulsory retirement; Law Enforcement Officers (LEO)

(a) Members classified as "Law Enforcement Officers" shall be retired automatically by the Board as of the compulsory retirement date established pursuant to N.J.S.A. 43:15A-99.

(b) Should a member classified as a Law Enforcement Officer fail to file an application with the Division before the member's compulsory retirement date, the member shall be granted the maximum allowance payable on the member's account; however, no retirement checks will be disbursed until the member files the required application.

(c) If an application is not filed with the Division before a period of 30 days has elapsed after the Board has acted on the member's retirement, the member shall not be eligible to exercise any of the available retirement survivorship options and the member's retirement on maximum allowance shall stand as approved.

(d) When such a member files an application with the Division, the member shall be eligible to receive retirement benefits for the months that have elapsed since the date of the member's compulsory retirement, provided satisfactory evidence is received to show that the member terminated employment as of the member's compulsory retirement date.

(e) No retirement benefits shall be paid for any period the member continued in service beyond the compulsory retirement date, nor shall the member receive any credit for

retirement purposes for salary received or service rendered beyond the compulsory retirement date.

(f) An LEO member who is also enrolled as a non-LEO member cannot continue the LEO membership or employment in the LEO capacity beyond age 65 should the member continue his or her membership on the basis of the member's non-LEO position pursuant to N.J.S.A. 43:15A-99.

Amended by R.1974 d.230, effective August 19, 1974.
See: 6 N.J.R. 32(a), 6 N.J.R. 361(a).

Amended by R.2000 d.26, effective January 18, 2000.
See: 31 N.J.R. 3229(a), 32 N.J.R. 304(a).

Neutralized gender references and substituted references to the Division for references to the system throughout; and in (f), added N.J.S.A. reference.

17:2-6.17 Approved allowance

When a retirement allowance becomes effective, the type of allowance (maximum or option) elected shall stand as approved.

17:2-6.18 Option "1" benefit

The reserve established under the provisions of Option "1" shall be a form of reducing term insurance, as the reserve shall reduce in value by the amount of the retirant's regular monthly allowance, whether received or not, for each month that the retirant survives after the effective date of retirement.

Amended by R.2000 d.26, effective January 18, 2000.
See: 31 N.J.R. 3229(a), 32 N.J.R. 304(a).

Substituted a reference to regular monthly allowance for a reference to monthly allowance, and neutralized gender references throughout.

17:2-6.19 (Reserved)

Repealed by R.2000 d.26, effective January 18, 2000.
See: 31 N.J.R. 3229(a), 32 N.J.R. 304(a).

Section was "Maximum allowance prescribed".

17:2-6.20 Final compensation; 10 and 12-month members reported monthly

(a) In order to determine the final compensation (three-year average) for benefits on a member reported on a monthly basis under a 10-month contract, use the creditable salaries upon which contributions were made to the System for the member's final 30 months, or the highest three fiscal years of pensionable service, including any retroactive salary payments that are attributable to the covered period and paid as part of a salary agreement with a group of employees.

(b) In order to determine the final compensation (three-year average) for benefits on a member reported on a monthly basis under a 12-month contract, use the creditable salaries upon which contributions were made to the system for the member's last 36 months or the highest three fiscal years of pensionable service, including any retroactive salary payments that are attributable to the covered period and

paid as part of a salary agreement with a group of employees.

(c) If a member was reported on any combination of ten and 12-month contract years in such three-year period, the final average compensation shall be determined on a proportional basis.

Amended by R.1974 d.230, effective August 19, 1974.

See: 6 N.J.R. 32(a), 6 N.J.R. 361(a).

Amended by R.2000 d.26, effective January 18, 2000.

See: 31 N.J.R. 3229(a), 32 N.J.R. 304(a).

Rewrote the section.

Case Notes

Full amount of pension; requiring former employer to submit retroactive payment into retirement system reserve fund. *Muzzarelli v. Public Employees' Retirement System*, 94 N.J.A.R.2d (TYP) 214.

17:2-6.21 Determination of last year's salary; veterans paid on a monthly basis

(a) In order to determine the last year's salary for a veteran with 35 or more years of creditable service, age 60 or older, reported on a monthly basis under a 10-month contract, use the creditable salaries upon which contributions were made in the member's final 10 months of pensionable service preceding retirement, including any retroactive salary payments that are attributable to the covered period and paid as part of a salary agreement with a group of employees.

(b) In order to determine the last year's salary for a veteran with 35 or more years of creditable service, age 60 or older, reported on a monthly basis under a 12-month contract basis, use the member's creditable salaries upon which contributions were made in the member's final 12 months of pensionable service preceding retirement, including any retroactive salary payments that are attributable to the covered period and paid as part of a salary agreement with a group of employees.

(c) In order to determine the last year's salary for a veteran with 20 or more years of creditable service, age 62 or older, reported on a monthly basis under a 10-month contract, use the creditable salaries upon which contributions were made in the member's final 10 months of pensionable service preceding retirement or in the consecutive 10-month period in which the member achieved the greatest earnings, including any retroactive salary payments that are attributable to the covered period and paid as part of a salary agreement with a group of employees.

(d) In order to determine the last year's salary for a veteran with 20 or more years of creditable service, age 62 or older, reported on a monthly basis under a 12-month contract, use the member's creditable salaries upon which contributions were made in the member's final 12 months of pensionable service preceding retirement, or in the consecutive 12-month period in which the member achieved the greatest earnings, including any retroactive salary payments that are attributable to the covered period and paid as part of a salary agreement with a group of employees.

(e) If a member was reported on any combination of 10 and 12-month contract years in such months, the last year's salary shall be determined on a proportional basis.

Amended by R.1974 d.230, effective August 19, 1974.

See: 6 N.J.R. 32(a), 6 N.J.R. 361(a).

Amended by R.2000 d.26, effective January 18, 2000.

See: 31 N.J.R. 3229(a), 32 N.J.R. 304(a).

Rewrote the section.

17:2-6.22 Waiver

(a) If for any reason a retirement allowance or portion thereof has been waived by a retired member or beneficiary, the benefit waived shall remain in the retirement reserve fund.

(b) Such retired members or beneficiaries may cancel the waiver effective as of the first day of any month subsequent to the receipt of the notice of cancellation; however, they may not make a claim for retroactive payment of any benefits waived prior thereto.

Amended by R.2000 d.26, effective January 18, 2000.

See: 31 N.J.R. 3229(a), 32 N.J.R. 304(a).

In (b), substituted a reference to retired members and beneficiaries for a reference to persons, neutralized a gender reference, and substituted a reference to retroactive payment for a reference to payment.

17:2-6.23 (Reserved)

Amended by R.1971 d.71, effective May 18, 1971.

See: 3 N.J.R. 50(a), 3 N.J.R. 117(b).

Repealed by R.2000 d.26, effective January 18, 2000.

See: 31 N.J.R. 3229(a), 32 N.J.R. 304(a).

Section was "Additional contributions".

17:2-6.24 Final compensation; biweekly salary computation for employees reported on a biweekly basis

(a) In computing "final compensation" upon which pension contributions were based, in the case of a 12-month employee reported on a biweekly basis, a total of 78 biweekly pensionable pay periods will be used, including any retroactive salary payments that are attributable to the covered period.

(b) In computing (a) above, the total salary will be adjusted by the factors supplied by the actuary to convert biweekly salaries to compensate for biweekly payroll schedules. Application of the factors to the salaries reported for pension purposes will develop "final compensation."

(c) In computing (a) above in the case of employees reported on a 10-month basis, the total biweekly pay periods will include those pay periods in the third quarter of each year in which the member does not receive a salary. The adjustment as specified in (b) above shall not be made.

(d) If a member was reported on a biweekly basis on any combination of 10 and 12-month contract years, the final average compensation prior to retirement shall be determined on a proportional basis.

R.1974 d.230, effective August 19, 1974.

See: 6 N.J.R. 32(a), 6 N.J.R. 361(a).

Amended by R.1978 d.138, effective May 1, 1978.

See: 10 N.J.R. 38(a), 10 N.J.R. 265(c).

Amended by R.1990 d.377, effective August 6, 1990.

See: 22 N.J.R. 1348(a), 22 N.J.R. 2342(c).

Benefits based on salary attributable to the prescribed period.

Amended by R.2000 d.26, effective January 18, 2000.

See: 31 N.J.R. 3229(a), 32 N.J.R. 304(a).

Deleted "State" throughout; in (a), substituted "pensionable pay periods" for "pays" following "biweekly", and substituted "covered" for "prescribed" preceding "period"; in (c), substituted "pay periods" for "pays" following "biweekly" in the first sentence; and in (d), deleted a former second sentence.

17:2-6.25 Determination of last year's salary; veterans reported on a biweekly basis

(a) In order to determine the last year's salary for a veteran with 35 or more years of creditable service, age 60 or older reported on a biweekly basis under a 12-month contract, use a total of 26 biweekly pay periods including any across the board retroactive salary payments made within the covered period. The total salary will be adjusted by factors supplied by the actuary to compensate for biweekly payroll schedules.

(b) In order to determine the last year's salary for a veteran with 35 or more years of creditable service, age 60 or older, reported on a biweekly basis under a 10-month contract, include in the total 26 biweekly pay periods those pay periods in the third quarter of each year in which the member does not receive salary, including any retroactive salary payments that are attributable to the covered period and paid as part of a salary agreement with a group of employees. The adjustment as specified in (a)1 above shall not be made.

(c) In order to determine the last year's salary for a veteran with 20 or more years of creditable service, age 62 or older, reported on a biweekly basis under a 12-month contract, use the member's creditable salaries upon which contributions were made in the member's final 26 biweekly pay periods of pensionable service preceding retirement, or in the 26 consecutive pay periods in which the member achieved the greatest earnings, including any retroactive salary payments that are attributable to the covered period and paid as part of a salary agreement with a group of employees. The total salary will be adjusted by factors supplied by the actuary to compensate for biweekly payroll schedules.

(d) In order to determine the last year's salary for a veteran with 20 or more years of creditable service, age 62 or older, reported on a biweekly basis under a 10-month contract, the total 26 biweekly pay periods will include those pay periods in the third quarter of each year in which the member does not receive salary, including any retroactive salary payments that are attributable to the covered period and paid as part of a salary agreement with a group of employees. The adjustment as specified in (a)1 above shall not be made.

(e) If a member was reported on a biweekly basis on any combination of 10 and 12-month contract years, the last year's salary prior to retirement shall be determined on a proportional basis.

R.1974 d.230, effective August 19, 1974.

See: 6 N.J.R. 32(a), 6 N.J.R. 361(a).

Amended by R.1978 d.138, effective May 1, 1978.

See: 10 N.J.R. 38(a), 10 N.J.R. 265(c).

Amended by R.2000 d.26, effective January 18, 2000.

See: 31 N.J.R. 3229(a), 32 N.J.R. 304(a).

Rewrote the section.

Case Notes

Determination of retirement allowance on basis of last 26 pay periods as figure for last year of compensation was proper. *Rossi v. Public Employees' Retirement System*, 95 N.J.A.R.2d (TYP) 9.

17:2-6.26 Medical examination; physician

N.J.S.A. 43:15A-42, 43 and 44 require the Retirement System or the Board to designate physicians to perform medical examinations. A designated physician shall not be a member's personal physician, except in the case of a member whose personal physician has identified the member as having a probable abbreviated life expectancy (referred to as an "imminent death" case), if corroborating medical evidence of the diagnosis can be obtained.

Amended by R.1977 d.148, effective April 27, 1977.

See: 9 N.J.R. 142(b), 9 N.J.R. 295(a).

Amended by R.1981 d.515, effective January 18, 1982.

See: 13 N.J.R. 748(a), 14 N.J.R. 105(a).

Deleted "in order to . . . fund" and substituted therefor "in the cases . . . obtained."

Amended by R.2000 d.26, effective January 18, 2000.

See: 31 N.J.R. 3229(a), 32 N.J.R. 304(a).

Rewrote the section.

Administrative correction.

See: 34 N.J.R. 936(a).

17:2-6.27 Work-related travel; accidental disability retirement and accidental death benefit coverage

(a) A member whose duties include regular or occasional travel in the course of employment will be considered in the "performance of the member's regular or assigned duties" for the purposes of accidental disability retirement or "in the actual performance of duty" for the purposes of accidental death benefits during employment-related travel as provided in this section. For the purposes of this section, "in performance of duty" means and includes both "performance of regular or assigned duties" and "in the actual performance of duty."

(b) If a member's duties require or authorize the member to travel between a regularly assigned office or workplace and other locations, or among other locations, the member is in performance of duty during travel between a regularly assigned office or workplace and other locations, or among other locations.

(c) If a member's duties require or authorize the member to travel between the member's place of residence and a

location other than an office or workplace of the employer to which the member is regularly assigned or near to the regularly assigned office or workplace to perform the duties of the employment, the member is in performance of duty when the member completely leaves the property of the member's residence and begins to travel to the other location, or until the member begins entry to the property of residence after travel from the other location, and all expenses of the travel are paid for by the employer. A member's duties are considered to authorize or require travel from the place of residence to a location other than a regularly assigned office or workplace of the employer in the following situations:

1. The member's regular or assigned duties involve field work which requires or authorizes the member to travel to locations other than a regularly assigned office or workplace of the employer to perform his or her duties and do not require the member to report to a regularly assigned office or workplace before or after traveling to other locations. Travel by the member between a regularly assigned office or workplace of the employer and the place of residence of the member is not considered part of the member's duties.
2. The member's regular or assigned duties are usually performed at an office or workplace of the employer to which the member is regularly assigned but occasionally require or authorize travel to other locations.
3. The member is authorized or required by the member's employer to respond to an emergency situation outside of the member's regularly scheduled work hours, regardless of whether the member goes to a regularly assigned office or workplace or another location, or whether the expenses of the travel are paid for by the employer or the member.
4. The member is attending a meeting, seminar, convention or a similar type of work-related activity as authorized or required by the employer at a location other than a regularly assigned office or workplace, regardless of whether the expenses of the travel are paid for by the employer or the member. Where there are social or recreational activities associated with the work-related activity or attendance requires living accommodations, only travel to and from the general activity and participation in and travel to and from the work-related functions of the activity are considered part of the duties of the member. Activities related to social or recreational functions or living accommodations are not considered part of the duties of the member.

(d) In all cases, a certification from the employer is required and must include a copy of the member's job description, a statement of the member's work schedule on the day of the travel in question, and proof of or a statement by the employer that the travel was authorized or required by the employer and was paid for by the employer.

New Rule, R.1989 d.422, effective August 7, 1989.

See: 21 N.J.R. 1285(a), 21 N.J.R. 2300(b).

Amended by R.2000 d.26, effective January 18, 2000.

See: 31 N.J.R. 3229(a), 32 N.J.R. 304(a).

In (a), neutralized a gender reference; and in (c)1, substituted a reference to duties for a reference to dues at the end.

Case Notes

Public prosecutor's conduct in attempting to traverse balconies on eighth floor of building under poor lighting conditions while intoxicated constituted willful negligence precluding award of accidental death benefits. *Estate of Greene*, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (TYP) 215.

Housing inspector's fall while exiting car at end of day not caused by traumatic event, and not in course of regular assigned duties, and thus no eligibility for accidental disability retirement benefits. *Delunas v. Board of Trustees of the Public Employees' Retirement System*. 93 N.J.A.R.2d (TYP) 42.

SUBCHAPTER 7. TRANSFERS

17:2-7.1 Honorable service; interfund transfers; State-administered retirement systems

(a) The receipt of a public pension or retirement benefit is expressly conditioned upon the rendering of honorable service by a public officer or employee. Therefore, the Board of Trustees of the present System shall disallow the transfer of all or a portion of prior service of any member of the System for misconduct occurring during the member's prior public service which renders that prior service, or part thereof, dishonorable.

(b) The system will transfer membership to any State-administered retirement system as follows:

1. A member, desiring to transfer service credit and contributions from one State-administered retirement system to another shall file an "Application for Interfund Transfer" and an "Enrollment Application" in place of the customary "Application for Withdrawal." This application will void all possible claims against the present system when approved and the new membership is commenced in the new system.
2. The member's accumulated contributions, full interest included, less any outstanding loan, shall be transferred to the new system for the account of the respective member. Any outstanding loan, back deductions or arrears obligation will be scheduled for repayment.
3. A statement reflecting the member's status as of the date of transfer shall be prepared by the Withdrawal Section of the Division and a copy forwarded to the old account.
4. The member's service credits established in the present system shall be transferred into the new system.
5. The member is not eligible to transfer service credit if any of the following conditions apply:

i. The member has withdrawn the previous membership;

ii. The member has credit in the present system for service earned after the date of enrollment in the new system (concurrent service) unless the member meets the criteria established by P.L. 2001, c.6 (N.J.S.A. 43:15A-14). P.L. 2001, c.6 provides that a member of the Teachers' Pension and Annuity Fund (TPAF) at the time of enrollment in the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) may transfer the non-concurrent TPAF service if the member ceased to be an active contributing member of the TPAF two or less years from the date of enrollment in the PERS. The member must apply to transfer this service no more than two years from the date of the last contribution in the TPAF unless the member is vested in the TPAF, or the member's TPAF account has not expired due to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:66-8. A member who transfers service under this provision shall receive credit for the salaries earned in both the TPAF and PERS during the period of concurrent service; or

iii. The account has expired; that is, it has been more than two years from the date of the last contribution and the member is not vested, nor has the member's account remained active due to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 43:15A-8.

6. A data sheet shall be created for the member's new account that will indicate an interfund transfer from the member's previous retirement system and the service credit transferred into the new membership account.

(c) The reserves accrued in the present system will be valued and compared to the reserves required in the new system.

1. If the reserves accumulated or provided for in the present system are less than those required in the new system, the full reserve will be transferred.

2. If the reserves accumulated or provided for in the present system are more than those required in the new system, only the amount required to establish the credit will be transferred.

(d) Years of credit will be subject to the benefit formula of the new system after transfer.

As amended, R.1979 d.399, effective October 9, 1979.

See: 11 N.J.R. 411(a), 11 N.J.R. 596(b).

As amended, R.1983 d.7, effective February 7, 1983.

See: 14 N.J.R. 1150(a), 15 N.J.R. 162(d).

Subsection 17:2-7.2 deleted, combined with 7.1, language added.

Amended by R.1988 d.141, effective April 4, 1988.

See: 19 N.J.R. 2386(a), 20 N.J.R. 812(a).

Substantially amended (a)5 and (d).

Amended by R.2000 d.26, effective January 18, 2000.

See: 31 N.J.R. 3229(a), 32 N.J.R. 304(a).

Rewrote the section.

Amended by R.2001 d.258, effective August 6, 2001.

See: 33 N.J.R. 1341(a), 33 N.J.R. 2677(a).

Rewrote (b)(5)(ii); in (b)(5)(iii), added "the member is not vested, nor has the member's account remained active due to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 43:15A-8" and deleted "there was not enough service credit to be eligible for a deferred retirement".

Cross References

Interfund transfers, accumulated interest, see N.J.A.C. 17:1-12.5.

Case Notes

Teacher not entitled to reverse withdrawal from pension fund in order to obtain interfund transfer of service time. *Long v. Public Employees' Retirement System Board of Trustees*, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (TYP) 112.

17:2-7.2 Intrafund transfers; State-administered retirement systems

(a) Members who leave one public employer and take a position with another public employer covered by the same pension system are immediately eligible to transfer their membership to their new employers, as long as the following conditions are met:

1. The member has not withdrawn their contributions;

2. The account has not expired; that is, it has not been more than two years between the date of the last contribution received from the old employer and the starting date of contributions with the new employer or there was enough service credit to be eligible for a deferred retirement; and

3. The account has not been canceled due to Board of Trustees action. It is the responsibility of the employer to establish the employee's status. For accounts that are withdrawn, expired or canceled, an enrollment application is needed, and the standard enrollment rules are again in effect;

(b) To transfer the member's account to the new employer, the new employer should file a Report of Transfer with the Division of Pensions and Benefits within 10 working days of the date employment begins. If more than one year elapses between the date that the member was required to contribute to the retirement system and the date contributions were first certified, the employer shall be assessed a late enrollment employer liability penalty plus delayed appropriation costs.

New Rule, R.2000 d.26, effective January 18, 2000.

See: 31 N.J.R. 3229(a), 32 N.J.R. 304(a).