

**17:1-3.12 Interfund transfers; accumulated interest**

(a) Notwithstanding the provisions of N.J.A.C. 17:2-7.1, 17:3-7.1, 17:4-7.1 and 17:10-6.1 concerning interfund transfers of members between State-administered retirement systems, accumulated interest credited to the member's account in the former system will only be transferred as part of such member's contributions to the new system if the new system likewise credits interest to its member accounts.

(b) If the new system does not credit interest to its member accounts then only the contributions actually made by the member to the former system will be transferred to the new system when an interfund transfer occurs.

## SUBCHAPTER 4. PURCHASES AND ELIGIBLE SERVICE

**17:1-4.1 Purchases; cancellation, interest on outstanding purchases or cash discount requested**

(a) A member who authorizes a purchase of service credit may cancel that purchase at any time on a prospective basis only. No refunds will be made of any lump sum payments, partial payments or installment payments. The member will receive a pro rata credit for the service purchased to the date installment payments cease. Any subsequent requests to purchase the remaining service credit shall be based on the laws and rules in effect on the date that the subsequent request is received.

(b) No more than one request received from a member for the cash discount value of an outstanding arrearage or a purchase quotation for previous service will be honored in a calendar year.

(c) A member who authorizes a purchase which requires installment payments, but who has not had installment payments made toward that purchase for two years due to inactivity in the account, shall be informed by the Division that the remainder of the purchase will be canceled. The member shall receive a pro rata credit for the service purchased to the date that the installment payments ceased. The member may request to pay the cash discount value of the outstanding arrearage for the purchase in full within 60 days of the Division notice. Any subsequent requests to purchase the remaining service credit shall be based on the laws and rules in effect on the date that the subsequent request is received.

(d) A member returning from an approved leave of absence after two years may request that the original purchase be resumed. Such purchase shall be recalculated to include additional regular interest accrued between two years after the date of the last installment payment and the date the purchase is resumed.

(e) For a member who has authorized a purchase of service credit prior to September 8, 1998 and who is inactive, or becomes inactive, the purchase shall remain outstanding. The outstanding balance on the purchase shall include additional regular interest beginning September 8, 2000, or the date of inactivity, whichever is later.

**17:1-4.2 Purchase terms; grace period**

A member who receives a written optional purchase cost quotation is given a 60-day grace period to confirm that he or she wishes to make the purchase of credit. If the confirmation of the purchase is not received from the member within 60 days, the cost of purchase must be recalculated to determine if any change in the cost is warranted as a result of change in age or salary.

As amended, R.1981 d.85, effective March 6, 1981.  
See: 13 N.J.R. 109(a), 13 N.J.R. 247(c).

(b): "certifying officer" was "certifying agent".

**17:1-4.3 Final compensation; salaries to be used for a period of purchased service**

(a) If a period of purchased New Jersey service may be included in the period for the calculation of final compensation, actual base salaries paid during such period will be certified and used in the computation.

(b) The period of a purchased leave of absence will not be included in the calculation of final compensation.

**17:1-4.4 Purchase of service credit; continuation of death benefits coverage; maternity leaves of absence**

In the event of an unpaid leave of absence for maternity, no leave of absence period granted by any public employer can be approved for the subsequent purchase of credit for a period in excess of three months unless the Division of Pensions and Benefits receives a certification from a physician that such member was disabled due to pregnancy and resulting disability for the period in excess of three months. During the first three months of an unpaid leave of absence for maternity, the member shall be presumed to be disabled from the performance of her job duties because of her pregnancy and its resulting disabilities.

As amended, R.1971 d.16 effective February 1, 1971.

See: 3 N.J.R. 11(b), 3 N.J.R. 52(a).

Amended by R.1987 d.76, effective February 2, 1987.

See: 18 N.J.R. 2320(a), 19 N.J.R. 304(a).

Deleted text "unless otherwise specified by the employee."

#### Case Notes

New Jersey pension credit; working from 17th of month to end of month. *Thompson v. Board of Trustees of the Public Employees' Retirement System*, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (TYP) 166.

## SUBCHAPTER 5. INSURANCE AND DEATH BENEFITS

### 17:1-5.1 Multiple beneficiaries

Where a member has designated more than one beneficiary, in the absence of a specific request, the payment will be made to the beneficiaries on a "share and share alike, survivor or survivors" basis.

As amended, R.1982 d.491, effective January 17, 1983.

See: 14 N.J.R. 1290(a), 15 N.J.R. 95(b).

Hearings conducted by Office of Administrative Law.

#### Case Notes

Policeman was not entitled to reopen denied application for accidental disability retirement benefits. *Obsuth v. Board of Trustees of the Police and Firemen's Retirement System*, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (TYP) 175.

### 17:1-5.2 Optional settlements; group life insurance

As the statutes provide that death benefits under the group life insurance contracts may be paid under any optional settlement made available by the insurance company, the beneficiary will be informed of such opportunity in the correspondence when such optional settlements are possible. If the beneficiary requests advice concerning such settlements, the claim shall be forwarded to the carrier for contact with the beneficiary. The Division will be advised of the final settlement for the recording of the data with the retirement system.

### 17:1-5.3 Accrued increase; limitations

Upon the death of a retiree or a beneficiary receiving a pension, any payments which were due to the deceased shall be paid to a named beneficiary as established in the records of the State-administered retirement system, or if none is named, to the deceased's estate.

## SUBCHAPTER 6. HONORABLE SERVICE

#### Authority

52:18A-96 et seq.

#### Source and Effective Date

R.2001 d.388, effective November 5, 2001.

See: 33 N.J.R. 1872(a), 33 N.J.R. 3754(a).

### 17:1-6.1 Honorable service

(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. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 43:1-3, the Boards of Trustees of the State-administered retirement systems are authorized to order the forfeiture of all or part of the pension or retirement benefit of a member of the fund or system for misconduct occurring during the member's public service which render the member's service or part thereof, dishonorable.

(b) Whenever the Board of Trustees determines that a partial forfeiture of pension or retirement benefits is warranted, it shall order that benefits be calculated as if the accrual of pension rights terminated as of the date the misconduct first occurred unless (c) below applies.

(c) In the limited circumstances where the termination of pension rights as of the date of the misconduct results in no reduction, or a minimal reduction of pension or retirement benefits, or in an excessive forfeiture, as compared to the nature and extent of the misconduct and the years of honorable service, the Board may, in its sole discretion, provide a more equitable relief. Alternate methods available to the Board when a forfeiture of service renders an unreasonable or unjust result include, but are not limited to:

1. Forfeiture of salary credit upon which retirement benefits are based;
2. Forfeiture of system-paid retired State Health Benefits;
3. Forfeiture of right to participate in the retired State Health Benefits Program;
4. Reduction in monthly retirement allowance;
5. Forfeiture of service and/or salary credit in a specific title or rank;
6. Forfeiture of service in excess of that needed to qualify for a specific retirement benefit; or
7. Forfeiture of a percentage of the retirement benefit based on the calculation of the percentage of time which was dishonorable service as compared to the total years and months of service credit.