

2023 Kansas Statutes

74-4956. Credited service; prior service credit; additional prior service credit with a participating employer other than entry date employer; participating service credit. (1) Prior service shall be credited as follows:

(a) Each member shall receive:

(i) Full credit for all employment, whether or not continuous, as either a policeman or fireman prior to the entry date with such member's employer who is such member's employer on the entry date;

(ii) full credit for all employment, whether or not continuous, as either a police or fireman prior to the entry date of such police or firemen's employer, with a participating employer, if such member has at least 20 years of credited service; and

(iii) for all continuous employment with the same employer other than either as policeman or fireman, immediately preceding such service as a policeman or fireman, one month of credit for each two months of service. Any member or retirant who has been credited with prior service as provided in this section may apply to the board on such forms as the board prescribes for prior service credit with a participating employer under the Kansas police and firemen's retirement system other than such member's entry date employer. Each member shall receive full credit for all employment as either a policeman or fireman with such other participating employers and shall receive one month of credit for each two months of continuous service with other participating employers for continuous employment preceding service as a policeman or fireman. Upon receipt of written verification of such employment from such other participating employer, the board may grant such additional prior service credit. With respect to a retirant, the board shall adjust the amount of the retirement benefit accordingly commencing with the next monthly benefit payment due following receipt of written verification. In the case of any person other than a retirant receiving a retirement benefit, such person may make application for an adjustment in the benefit amount in the same manner as a member or retirant, and in such case the adjustment in the benefit amount shall be determined by the board upon the advice of the actuary, and shall commence with the next monthly benefit payment due following receipt of written verification, except that no additional prior service credit shall be granted for any service with another participating employer for which benefits are being received or will be received. A retirant or any other person receiving a retirement benefit shall not be entitled to any retroactive adjustment in the amount of retirement benefit as a result of the board granting such additional prior service credit.

If a member was employed as a fireman, other than as a volunteer fireman, by a township which is annexed by a participating employer the member's retirement benefits and death and disability benefits shall be computed on the basis of credited service. Continuous service as a fireman with a township prior to annexation by a member, who became a member immediately following the annexation, shall be considered credited service.

No such service shall be considered credited service for the purpose of computing years of service if such fireman is receiving or will become eligible to receive benefits as a result of such service with the township.

(b) Leaves of absence and military service shall not be counted as breaks in continuous employment; however, military service which is preceded within 30 days and followed by employment with a participating employer shall be credited, except that after July 1, 1974, not more than five years credit for military service shall be granted hereunder to the extent required by the provisions of USERRA, but leaves of absence shall not be credited.

(2) Participating service shall be credited as follows: (a) A member shall receive credit for participating service with a participating employer in accordance with the rules and regulations established by the board. Any period of time away from work or normal duties while in a paid status authorized and approved by a participating employer on and after July 1, 2014, including, without limitation, any administrative leave with pay and any paid vacation leave, sick leave, personal leave, worker's compensation leave, light duty or temporary duty assignment, shall constitute

participating service and any member shall receive full credit for such participating service with a participating employer for any such period of time away from work or normal duties. If the member does not return to work for the participating employer in the same or a similar position at the conclusion of such leave, except for reasons of death or disability, the period of the leave shall be removed from service credit, and the employer and employee contributions for such period of leave shall be reimbursed by the system to the employee and the employer unless otherwise provided herein. In the case of a decision to voluntarily terminate employment, the period of leave exceeding 365 days shall be removed from service credit, and the employer and employee contributions for such period of leave shall be reimbursed by the system to the employee and the employer. No more than one calendar quarter of participating service shall be credited for employment within any one calendar quarter.

(b) Leaves of absence shall not be counted as a termination of employment provided the member leaves such member's accumulated contributions on deposit with the system and returns to employment with the employer granting such leave; however, the period of leave of absence shall not be credited service.

(c) To the extent required under the provisions of USERRA, military service shall not count as a break in continuous employment.

(d) Termination of employment with a participating employer followed by employment with the same or another participating employer within two years shall not constitute a termination of membership provided the member leaves such member's accumulated contributions on deposit with the system; however, the period while not employed shall not be credited.

(3) In determining the number of years of credited service for calculation of retirement benefits a fractional year of six months or more of credited service shall be considered as one year and a fractional year of less than six months of credited service shall be disregarded.

History: L. 1965, ch. 447, § 6; L. 1967, ch. 431, § 5; L. 1968, ch. 71, § 1; L. 1974, ch. 342, § 1; L. 1982, ch. 319, § 34; L. 1989, ch. 232, § 16; L. 1994, ch. 293, § 20; L. 1998, ch. 64, § 68; L. 1998, ch. 201, § 35; L. 2017, ch. 68, § 2; July 1.