

AMENDMENTS TO LB686

Introduced by Nebraska Retirement Systems.

1 1. Strike the original sections and insert the following new
2 sections:

3 Section 1. Section 16-1020, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
4 amended to read:

5 16-1020 (1) Sections 16-1020 to 16-1042 and section 16 of this act
6 shall be known and may be cited as the Cities of the First Class
7 Firefighters Retirement Act.

8 (2) Except as provided in section 16-1039, sections 16-1020 to
9 16-1038 and section 16 of this act shall apply to all firefighters of a
10 city of the first class.

11 Sec. 2. Section 16-1021, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
12 amended to read:

13 16-1021 For the purposes of the Cities of the First Class
14 Firefighters Retirement Act sections 16-1020 to 16-1042, unless the
15 context otherwise requires:

16 (1) Absolute coverage group means an absolute coverage group as
17 described in 20 C.F.R. 404.1205 as such regulation existed on January 1,
18 2024;

19 (2) ~~(1)~~ Actuarial equivalent means equality in value of the
20 aggregate amount of benefit expected to be received under different forms
21 or at different times determined as of a given date as adopted by the
22 city or the retirement committee for use by the retirement system.
23 Actuarial equivalencies shall be specified in the funding medium
24 established for the retirement system, except that if benefits under the
25 retirement system are obtained through the purchase of an annuity
26 contract, the actuarial equivalency of any such form of benefit shall be
27 the amount of pension benefit which can be purchased or otherwise

1 provided by such contract. All actuarial and mortality assumptions
2 adopted by the city or retirement committee shall be on a sex-neutral
3 basis;

4 (3) ~~(2)~~ Annuity contract means the contract or contracts issued by
5 one or more life insurance companies or designated trusts and purchased
6 by the retirement system in order to provide any of the benefits
7 described in the Cities of the First Class Firefighters Retirement Act
8 ~~such sections~~. Annuity conversion rates contained in any such contract
9 shall be specified on a sex-neutral basis;

10 (4) ~~(3)~~ Beneficiary means the person or persons designated by a
11 firefighter, pursuant to a written instrument filed with the retirement
12 committee before the firefighter's death, to receive death benefits which
13 may be payable under the retirement system;

14 (5) ~~(4)~~ Funding agent means any bank, trust company, life insurance
15 company, thrift institution, credit union, or investment management firm
16 selected by the retirement committee, subject to the approval of the
17 city, to hold or invest the funds of the retirement system;

18 (6) ~~(5)~~ Regular interest means the rate of interest earned each
19 calendar year commencing January 1, 1984, equal to the rate of net
20 earnings realized for the calendar year from investments of the
21 retirement fund. Net earnings means the amount by which income or gain
22 realized from investments of the retirement fund exceeds the amount of
23 any realized losses from such investments during the calendar year. The
24 retirement committee shall annually report the amount of regular interest
25 earned for such year;

26 (7) ~~(6)~~ Regular pay means the salary of a firefighter at the date
27 such firefighter elects to retire or terminate employment with the city;

28 (8) ~~(7)~~ Retirement committee means the retirement committee created
29 pursuant to section 16-1034;

30 (9) ~~(8)~~ Retirement system means a retirement system established
31 pursuant to the Cities of the First Class Firefighters Retirement Act

1 ~~sections 16-1020 to 16-1042;~~

2 (10) (9) Retirement value means the accumulated value of the
3 firefighter's employee account and employer account. The retirement value
4 at any time shall consist of the sum of the contributions made or
5 transferred to such accounts by the firefighter and by the city on the
6 firefighter's behalf and the regular interest credited to the accounts
7 through such date, reduced by any realized losses which were not taken
8 into account in determining regular interest in any year, and as further
9 adjusted each year to reflect the accounts' pro rata share of the
10 appreciation or depreciation of the assets of the retirement system as
11 determined by the retirement committee at their fair market values,
12 including any account under subsection (3) (2) of section 16-1036. Such
13 valuation shall be undertaken at least annually as of December 31 of each
14 year and at such other times as may be directed by the retirement
15 committee. The value of each account shall be reduced each year by the
16 appropriate share of the investment costs as provided in section
17 16-1036.01. The retirement value shall be further reduced by the amount
18 of all distributions made to or on the behalf of the firefighter from the
19 retirement system;

20 (11) (10) Salary means the base rate of pay and: τ

21 (i) Includes ~~excluding~~ overtime, callback, and call-in pay; τ

22 (ii) Includes ~~clothing allowances,~~ and other such benefits as
23 reported on the participant's federal income tax withholding statement
24 including the firefighters' contributions picked up by the city as
25 provided in subsection (2) of section 16-1024 and any salary reduction
26 contributions which are excludable from income for federal income tax
27 purposes pursuant to section 125 or 457 of the Internal Revenue Code; and

28 (iii) Excludes clothing allowances;

29 (12) (11) Sex-neutral basis means the benefit calculation provided
30 to the city of the first class by a licensed domestic or foreign
31 insurance or annuity company with a product available for purchase in

1 Nebraska that utilizes a blended, non-gender-specific rate for actuarial
2 assumptions, mortality assumptions, and annuity conversion rates for a
3 particular participant, except that if a blended, non-gender-specific
4 rate is not available for purchase in Nebraska, the benefit calculation
5 shall be performed using the arithmetic mean of the male-specific
6 actuarial assumptions, mortality assumptions, or annuity conversion rates
7 and the female-specific actuarial assumptions, mortality assumptions, or
8 annuity conversion rates, as applicable, for a particular participant,
9 and the arithmetic mean shall be determined by adding the male-specific
10 actuarial assumptions, mortality assumptions, or annuity conversion rates
11 to the female-specific actuarial assumptions, mortality assumptions, or
12 annuity conversion rates applicable to a particular participant and
13 dividing the sum by two; and

14 (13) ~~(12)~~ Straight life annuity means an ordinary annuity payable
15 for the life of the primary annuitant only, and terminating at his or her
16 death without refund or death benefit of any kind.

17 Sec. 3. Section 16-1022, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
18 amended to read:

19 16-1022 A firefighter shall be credited with all years of his or her
20 service after August 7, 1965, for the purpose of determining vested
21 retirement benefits under sections 16-1020 to 16-1038 and section 16 of
22 this act.

23 Sec. 4. Section 16-1023, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
24 amended to read:

25 16-1023 (1) Commencing on January 1, 1984, each city of the first
26 class having a paid fire department shall keep and maintain a
27 Firefighters Retirement System Fund for the purpose of investing payroll
28 deductions and city contributions to the retirement system. The fund
29 shall be maintained separate and apart from all city money and funds. The
30 fund shall be administered exclusively for the purposes of the retirement
31 system and for the benefit of participating firefighters and their

1 beneficiaries and so as to establish the fund as a trust under the law of
2 this state for all purposes of section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue
3 Code. Upon the passage of sections 16-1020 to 16-1038 all of the
4 contributions made by a firefighter under section 35-203.01 as it
5 formerly existed and interest accrued at five percent per annum on such
6 contributions prior to January 1, 1984, shall be transferred to the
7 firefighter's employee account. Regular interest shall begin to accrue on
8 the contributions transferred into the fund. Such funds shall be invested
9 in the manner prescribed in section 16-1036.

10 (2) The city shall establish a medium for funding the retirement
11 system which, with the approval of the retirement committee, may be a
12 pension trust fund, custodial account, group annuity contract, or
13 combination thereof, for the purpose of investing money for the
14 retirement system in the manner prescribed by section 16-1036 and to
15 provide the retirement, death, and disability benefits for firefighters
16 granted by the Cities of the First Class Firefighters Retirement Act
17 ~~sections 16-1020 to 16-1042~~. The trustee or custodian of any trust fund
18 shall be a designated funding agent which is qualified to act as a
19 fiduciary or custodian in this state, the city treasurer, an appropriate
20 city officer authorized to administer funds of the city, or a combination
21 thereof.

22 Sec. 5. Section 16-1024, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
23 amended to read:

24 16-1024 (1)(a) ~~(1)~~ Each firefighter, covered by an absolute
25 coverage group, participating in the retirement system shall contribute
26 to the retirement system a sum equal to six and one-half percent of his
27 or her salary. Such payment shall be made by regular payroll deductions
28 from his or her periodic salary and shall be credited to his or her
29 employee account on a monthly basis. Each such account shall also be
30 credited with regular interest.

31 (b)(i) Each firefighter, not covered by an absolute coverage group,

1 participating in the retirement system shall contribute to the retirement
2 system a sum equal to:

3 (A) Until September 30, 2024, six and one-half percent of his or her
4 salary;

5 (B) Beginning October 1, 2024, and until September 30, 2025, eight
6 and seven-tenths percent of his or her salary;

7 (C) Beginning October 1, 2025, and until September 30, 2026, ten and
8 seven-tenths percent of his or her salary; and

9 (D) Beginning October 1, 2026, twelve and seven-tenths percent of
10 his or her salary.

11 (ii) Such payment shall be made by regular payroll deductions from
12 his or her periodic salary and shall be credited to his or her employee
13 account on a monthly basis. Each such account shall also be credited with
14 regular interest.

15 (2) Each city of the first class with firefighters participating in
16 a retirement system shall pick up the firefighters' contributions
17 required by subsection (1) of this section for all compensation paid on
18 or after January 1, 1984, and the contributions so picked up shall be
19 treated as employer contributions in determining federal income tax
20 treatment under the Internal Revenue Code, except that the city shall
21 continue to withhold federal income taxes based upon such contributions
22 until the Internal Revenue Service or the federal courts rule that,
23 pursuant to section 414(h) of the Internal Revenue Code, such
24 contributions shall not be included as gross income of the employee until
25 such time as they are distributed from the retirement system. The city
26 shall pay the employee contributions from the same source of funds which
27 is used in paying compensation to the employee. The city shall pick up
28 the employee contributions by a salary deduction either through a
29 reduction in the cash salary of the employee or a combination of a
30 reduction in salary and offset against a future salary increase. In no
31 event shall a firefighter be given an option to choose to receive the

1 amount of the required contribution in lieu of having such contribution
2 paid directly to the retirement system.

3 (3) Each firefighter participating in the retirement system shall be
4 entitled to make voluntary cash contributions to the retirement system in
5 an amount not to exceed the contribution limitations established by the
6 Internal Revenue Code. Voluntary contributions shall be credited to the
7 employee account and shall thereafter be credited with regular interest.
8 A voluntary contribution shall become a part of the Firefighters
9 Retirement System Fund and shall be held, administered, invested, and
10 distributed in the same manner as any other employee contribution to the
11 retirement system.

12 Sec. 6. Section 16-1025, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
13 amended to read:

14 16-1025 (1)(a) ~~(1)~~ Beginning January 1, 1984, each city of the
15 first class with a population of sixty thousand or more inhabitants that
16 is located in a county with a population of one hundred thousand or more
17 inhabitants, with firefighters who are covered by an absolute coverage
18 group and participating in a retirement system shall contribute to the
19 retirement system a sum equal to thirteen percent of each such
20 participating firefighter's periodic salary. Such payment shall be
21 credited to his or her employer account on a monthly basis. Each such
22 account shall also be credited with regular interest. The city shall also
23 contribute to the employer account of any firefighter employed by the
24 city on January 1, 1984, an amount equal to the employee's contributions,
25 without interest, that were made to the city prior to January 1, 1984,
26 with such contribution to be made at the time the firefighter retires or
27 terminates employment with the city. The city may contribute such amount
28 before the firefighter's retirement or termination of employment or
29 credit interest on such contribution.

30 (b) Beginning January 1, 1984, each city of the first class with a
31 population of fewer than sixty thousand inhabitants that is located in a

1 county with a population of one hundred thousand or more inhabitants,
2 with firefighters who are covered by an absolute coverage group and
3 participating in a retirement system shall contribute to the retirement
4 system a sum equal to eight and eight-tenths percent of each such
5 participating firefighter's periodic salary. Such payment shall be
6 credited to his or her employer account on a monthly basis. Each such
7 account shall also be credited with regular interest. The city shall also
8 contribute to the employer account of any firefighter employed by the
9 city on January 1, 1984, an amount equal to the employee's contributions,
10 without interest, that were made to the city prior to January 1, 1984,
11 with such contribution to be made at the time the firefighter retires or
12 terminates employment with the city. The city may contribute such amount
13 before the firefighter's retirement or termination of employment or
14 credit interest on such contribution.

15 (c)(i) Beginning January 1, 1984, each city of the first class with
16 firefighters, not covered by an absolute coverage group, participating in
17 a retirement system shall contribute to the retirement system a sum equal
18 to:

19 (A) Until September 30, 2025, thirteen percent of each such
20 participating firefighter's periodic salary;

21 (B) Beginning October 1, 2025, and until September 30, 2026,
22 fourteen percent of each such participating firefighter's periodic
23 salary; and

24 (C) Beginning October 1, 2026, fifteen percent of each such
25 participating firefighter's periodic salary.

26 (ii) Such payment shall be credited to his or her employer account
27 on a monthly basis. Each such account shall also be credited with regular
28 interest. The city shall also contribute to the employer account of any
29 firefighter employed by the city on January 1, 1984, an amount equal to
30 the employee's contributions, without interest, that were made to the
31 city prior to January 1, 1984, with such contribution to be made at the

1 time the firefighter retires or terminates employment with the city. The
2 city may contribute such amount before the firefighter's retirement or
3 termination of employment or credit interest on such contribution.

4 (2) Each such city shall contribute any additional amounts necessary
5 to fund retirement or other retirement plan benefits not provided by
6 employee contributions or city contributions to the employer account
7 required by subsection (1) of this section. Such additional contributions
8 shall be accumulated in an unallocated employer account of the
9 Firefighters Retirement System Fund and used to provide the benefits, if
10 any, specified in sections 16-1027 and 16-1029 to 16-1031 which are not
11 otherwise funded by the firefighter's retirement value. Funds needed to
12 provide for a firefighter's benefits shall be transferred from the
13 unallocated employer account when and as such funds are needed. All funds
14 committed by the city to the funding of a firefighter pension system on
15 January 1, 1984, that are not transferred to the firefighters employee
16 accounts shall be transferred to the unallocated employer account.

17 Sec. 7. Section 16-1030, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
18 amended to read:

19 16-1030 (1) When prior to commencement of retirement benefits any
20 firefighter participating in the retirement system dies in the line of
21 duty or in case death is caused by or is the result of injuries received
22 while in the line of duty and such firefighter is not survived by a
23 spouse or minor children, the entire retirement value shall be payable to
24 the beneficiary or beneficiaries specified by the deceased firefighter
25 prior to his or her death or to the deceased firefighter's estate in the
26 event that no beneficiary was specified. The retirement value or portion
27 thereof may be paid in the form of a single lump-sum payment, a straight
28 life annuity, or any other optional form of benefit specified in the
29 retirement system's funding medium. For a firefighter who is survived by
30 a spouse or minor children, a retirement pension of fifty percent of
31 regular pay shall be paid to the surviving spouse or, upon his or her

1 remarriage or death, to the minor child or children during such child's
2 or children's minority subject to deduction of the amounts paid as
3 workers' compensation benefits on account of death as provided in section
4 16-1032. Each such child shall share equally in the total pension benefit
5 to the age of majority, except that as soon as a child attains the age of
6 majority, such pension benefit to such child shall cease and be
7 reallocated among the remaining minor children until the last remaining
8 child dies or reaches the age of majority.

9 (2) Any payments for the benefit of a minor child shall be made on
10 behalf of such child to the surviving spouse or, if there is none, to the
11 legal guardian of the child.

12 (3) In the event the surviving spouse or minor children of such
13 deceased firefighter die before the aggregate amount of pension payments
14 received by the firefighter and his or her survivor beneficiaries, if
15 any, equals the total amount in the firefighter's employee account at the
16 time of the first benefit payment, the difference between the total
17 amount in the employee account and the aggregate amount of pension
18 payments received by the retired firefighter and his or her surviving
19 beneficiaries, if any, shall be paid in a single sum to the firefighter's
20 beneficiary or, in the absence of a surviving beneficiary, his or her
21 estate.

22 (4) In the event the surviving spouse remarries and there are no
23 minor children at the time of remarriage, and the aggregate amount of
24 pension payments received by the firefighter and his or her survivor
25 beneficiaries, if any, is less than the total amount in the firefighter's
26 employee account at the time of remarriage, the difference between the
27 total amount in the employee account and the aggregate amount of pension
28 payments received by the retired firefighter and his or her surviving
29 beneficiaries, if any, shall be paid in a single sum to the surviving
30 spouse who remarried.

31 (5) To the extent that the retirement value at the date of death

1 exceeds the amount required to purchase the specified retirement pension,
2 reduced by any amounts paid as workers' compensation benefits, the excess
3 shall be paid in the manner provided in subsection (1) of section
4 16-1029.

5 Sec. 8. Section 16-1032, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
6 amended to read:

7 16-1032 No firefighter shall be entitled during any period of
8 temporary disability to receive in full both his or her salary and his or
9 her benefits under the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Act. All Nebraska
10 workers' compensation benefits shall be payable in full to such
11 firefighter as provided in the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Act, but
12 all amounts paid by the city or its insurer under the Nebraska Workers'
13 Compensation Act to any disabled firefighter entitled to receive a salary
14 during such disability shall be considered as payments on account of such
15 salary and shall be credited thereon. The remaining balance of such
16 salary, if any, shall be payable as otherwise provided in sections
17 16-1020 to 16-1038 and section 16 of this act.

18 Sec. 9. Section 16-1033, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
19 amended to read:

20 16-1033 (1) In the event a firefighter quits or is discharged
21 before his or her retirement date as defined in subsection (3) of section
22 16-1028, the firefighter may request and receive, as a lump-sum payment,
23 an amount equal to the value of his or her employee account as determined
24 at the valuation date preceding his or her termination of employment
25 pursuant to subdivision (10) ~~(9)~~ of section 16-1021. Such firefighter, if
26 vested, may, in lieu thereof, receive a deferred pension benefit or lump-
27 sum benefit in an amount purchased or provided by the vested retirement
28 value at the date of retirement. The retirement value at such retirement
29 date shall consist of the then accumulated value of the firefighter's
30 employee account at the date of the retirement as reduced by any lump-sum
31 distributions received prior to retirement, together with a vested

1 percentage of the accumulated value of the firefighter's employer account
2 at the date of retirement. The vesting schedule shall be as follows:

3 (a) ~~(1)~~ If the terminating firefighter has been a member of the
4 system for less than four years, the vesting percentage shall be zero;
5 and

6 (b) ~~(2)~~ If the terminating firefighter has been a member of the paid
7 department of the city for at least four years, the vesting percentage
8 shall be forty percent. The vesting percentage shall be sixty percent
9 after five years, eighty percent after six years, and one hundred percent
10 after seven years.

11 (2) The deferred pension benefit shall be payable on the first of
12 the month immediately following the terminating firefighter's fifty-fifth
13 birthday. At the option of the firefighter, such pension benefit may be
14 paid as of the first of the month after he or she attains the age of
15 fifty. Such election may be made by the firefighter any time prior to the
16 payment of the pension benefits.

17 (3) The deferred pension benefit shall be paid in the optional
18 benefit forms specified at subsection (1) of section 16-1027 as elected
19 by the firefighter. Notwithstanding anything ~~in sections 16-1020 to~~
20 ~~16-1042~~ to the contrary under the Cities of the First Class Firefighters
21 Retirement Act, if the firefighter's vested retirement value at the date
22 of his or her termination of employment is less than three thousand five
23 hundred dollars, such firefighter shall, upon request within one year of
24 such termination, be paid his or her vested retirement value in the form
25 of a single lump-sum payment.

26 (4) Effective January 1, 1997, a firefighter may elect, upon his or
27 her termination of employment, to receive his or her vested retirement
28 value in the form of a single lump-sum payment. For a firefighter whose
29 termination of employment is prior to January 1, 1997, this election
30 shall be available only if the city has adopted a lump-sum distribution
31 option for terminating firefighters in the funding medium established for

1 the retirement system.

2 (5) Upon any lump-sum payment of a terminating firefighter's
3 retirement value under this section, such firefighter will not be
4 entitled to any deferred pension benefit and the city and the retirement
5 system shall have no further obligation to pay such firefighter or his or
6 her beneficiaries any benefits under the Cities of the First Class
7 Firefighters Retirement Act sections 16-1020 to 16-1042.

8 (6) In the event that the terminating firefighter is not credited
9 with one hundred percent of his or her employer account, the remaining
10 nonvested portion of the account shall be forfeited and shall be
11 deposited in the unallocated employer account. If the actuarial analysis
12 required by section 16-1037 shows that the assets of the unallocated
13 employer account are sufficient to provide for the projected plan
14 liabilities, such forfeitures shall instead be used to meet the expenses
15 incurred by the city in connection with administering the retirement
16 system, and the remainder shall then be used to reduce the city
17 contribution which would otherwise be required to fund pension benefits.

18 Sec. 10. Section 16-1034, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
19 amended to read:

20 16-1034 (1) A retirement committee shall be established to
21 supervise the general operation of the retirement system. The city
22 council shall be responsible for the general administration of such
23 retirement system unless specific functions or all functions with regard
24 to the administration of the retirement system are delegated, by
25 ordinance, to the retirement committee. All costs incurred with regard to
26 the administration of the retirement system shall be paid by the city
27 from the unallocated employer account as provided in section 16-1036.01.

28 (2) The city and retirement committee shall have all powers which
29 are necessary for or appropriate to establishing, maintaining, managing,
30 and administering the retirement system. Whenever the Cities of the First
31 Class Firefighters Retirement Act fails sections 16-1020 to 16-1042 fail

1 to address the allocation of duties or powers in the administration of
2 the retirement system, such powers or duties shall be vested in the city
3 unless such powers or duties have been delegated by ordinance to the
4 retirement committee.

5 Sec. 11. Section 16-1036, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
6 amended to read:

7 16-1036 (1) The funds in the Firefighters Retirement System Fund
8 shall be invested by the retirement committee. The city, subject to the
9 approval of the retirement committee, shall contract with a funding agent
10 or agents to hold or invest the assets of the retirement system and to
11 provide for the benefits provided by the Cities of the First Class
12 Firefighters Retirement Act sections ~~16-1020 to 16-1042~~. The retirement
13 committee, subject to the approval of the city, may also select an
14 investment manager. The city, subject to approval of the retirement
15 committee, may contract with investment managers registered under the
16 federal Investment Advisers Act of 1940 to invest, reinvest, and
17 otherwise manage such portion of the assets of the retirement system as
18 may be assigned by the city or retirement committee.

19 (2) The retirement committees of two or more cities of the first
20 class may, by written agreement and approval by the retirement committee
21 of each such city of the first class, agree to pool investments and
22 administration of plan benefits with a single administrative and
23 investment agent.

24 (3) (2) The retirement committee shall establish an investment plan
25 which allows each member of the retirement system to allocate all
26 contributions to his or her employee account and, if he or she commenced
27 his or her employment after January 1, 1984, his or her employer account
28 to the various investment options or combinations of investment options
29 described in such plan. Each firefighter shall have the option of
30 investing his or her employee account and, if he or she commenced his or
31 her employment after January 1, 1984, his or her employer account in any

1 proportion, including full allocation, in any investment option offered
2 by the plan. Upon the direction of the city, firefighters employed on
3 January 1, 1984, may have the option to allocate their employer account
4 to various investment options or combinations of investment options in
5 any proportion, including full allocation, in any investment option
6 offered by the plan. Each firefighter shall be given a summary of the
7 investment plan and a detailed current description of each investment
8 option prior to making or revising his or her allocation.

9 (4) ~~(3)~~ The funds in the Firefighters Retirement System Fund shall
10 be invested pursuant to the policies established by the Nebraska
11 Investment Council.

12 Sec. 12. Section 16-1036.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska,
13 is amended to read:

14 16-1036.01 The city and the retirement committee shall develop a
15 schedule of investment costs relating to the investment of the funds in
16 each of the accounts in the Firefighters Retirement System Fund, which
17 costs shall be paid out of the funds in such accounts or assessed to the
18 firefighters as provided in such schedule. The schedule of investment
19 costs shall provide for the allocation of the administrative or record-
20 keeping costs of the various investment options available to the members
21 of the retirement system and shall assess such costs so that each member
22 pays a fair proportion of the costs based upon his or her choice of
23 options and number of transfers among options. All other costs related to
24 the general operation of the retirement system established pursuant to
25 sections 16-1020 to 16-1038 and section 16 of this act and not allocated
26 or assessed pursuant to the schedule of investment costs shall be
27 considered administrative costs and shall be paid by the city from the
28 unallocated employer account.

29 Sec. 13. Section 16-1037, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
30 amended to read:

31 16-1037 (1) It shall be the duty of the retirement committee to:

1 (a) Elect a chairperson, a vice-chairperson, and such other officers
2 as the committee deems appropriate;

3 (b) Hold regular quarterly meetings and special meetings upon the
4 call of the chairperson;

5 (c) Conduct meetings pursuant to the Open Meetings Act;

6 (d) Provide each employee a summary of plan eligibility
7 requirements, benefit provisions, and investment options available to
8 such employee;

9 (e) Provide, within thirty days after a request is made by a
10 participant, a statement describing the amount of benefits such
11 participant is eligible to receive; and

12 (f) Make available for review an annual report of the system's
13 operations describing both (i) the amount of contributions to the system
14 from both employee and employer sources and (ii) an identification of the
15 total assets of the retirement system.

16 ~~(2) Beginning December 31, 1998, through December 31, 2017:~~

17 ~~(a) The chairperson of the retirement committee shall file with the~~
18 ~~Public Employees Retirement Board an annual report on each retirement~~
19 ~~plan established pursuant to section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code~~
20 ~~and administered by a retirement system established pursuant to sections~~
21 ~~16-1020 to 16-1042 and shall submit copies of such report to the Auditor~~
22 ~~of Public Accounts. The Auditor of Public Accounts may prepare a review~~
23 ~~of such report pursuant to section 84-304.02 but is not required to do~~
24 ~~so. The annual report shall be in a form prescribed by the Public~~
25 ~~Employees Retirement Board and shall contain the following information~~
26 ~~for each such retirement plan:~~

27 ~~(i) The number of persons participating in the retirement plan;~~

28 ~~(ii) The contribution rates of participants in the plan;~~

29 ~~(iii) Plan assets and liabilities;~~

30 ~~(iv) The names and positions of persons administering the plan;~~

31 ~~(v) The names and positions of persons investing plan assets;~~

- 1 ~~(vi) The form and nature of investments;~~
2 ~~(vii) For each defined contribution plan, a full description of~~
3 ~~investment policies and options available to plan participants; and~~
4 ~~(viii) For each defined benefit plan, the levels of benefits of~~
5 ~~participants in the plan, the number of members who are eligible for a~~
6 ~~benefit, and the total present value of such members' benefits, as well~~
7 ~~as the funding sources which will pay for such benefits.~~

8 ~~If a plan contains no current active participants, the chairperson~~
9 ~~may file in place of such report a statement with the Public Employees~~
10 ~~Retirement Board indicating the number of retirees still drawing~~
11 ~~benefits, and the sources and amount of funding for such benefits; and~~

12 ~~(b) If such retirement plan is a defined benefit plan which was open~~
13 ~~to new members on January 1, 2004, in addition to the reports required by~~
14 ~~section 13-2402, the retirement committee shall cause to be prepared an~~
15 ~~annual report and the chairperson shall file the same with the Public~~
16 ~~Employees Retirement Board and the Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee~~
17 ~~of the Legislature and submit to the Auditor of Public Accounts a copy of~~
18 ~~such report. The Auditor of Public Accounts may prepare a review of such~~
19 ~~report pursuant to section 84-304.02 but is not required to do so. If the~~
20 ~~retirement committee does not submit a copy of the report to the Auditor~~
21 ~~of Public Accounts within six months after the end of the plan year, the~~
22 ~~Auditor of Public Accounts may audit, or cause to be audited, the city.~~
23 ~~All costs of the audit shall be paid by the city. The report shall~~
24 ~~consist of a full actuarial analysis of each such retirement plan~~
25 ~~administered by a system established pursuant to sections 16-1020 to~~
26 ~~16-1042. The analysis shall be prepared by an independent private~~
27 ~~organization or public entity employing actuaries who are members in good~~
28 ~~standing of the American Academy of Actuaries, and which organization or~~
29 ~~entity has demonstrated expertise to perform this type of analysis and is~~
30 ~~unrelated to any organization offering investment advice or which~~
31 ~~provides investment management services to the retirement plan. The~~

1 ~~report to the Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee shall be submitted~~
2 ~~electronically.~~

3 ~~(2)(a) For any (3)(a) Beginning December 31, 2018, and each December~~
4 ~~31 thereafter, for a defined benefit plan, by December 31 each year the~~
5 chairperson of the retirement committee or his or her designee shall
6 prepare and electronically file an annual report with the Auditor of
7 Public Accounts and the Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee of the
8 Legislature. If such retirement plan is a defined benefit plan which was
9 open to new members on January 1, 2004, the report shall be in addition
10 to the reports required by section 13-2402. The report shall be on a form
11 prescribed by the Auditor of Public Accounts and shall include, but not
12 be limited to, the following information:

13 (i) The levels of benefits of participants in the plan, the number
14 of members who are eligible for a benefit, the total present value of
15 such members' benefits, and the funding sources which will pay for such
16 benefits; and

17 (ii) A copy of a full actuarial analysis of each such defined
18 benefit plan. The analysis shall be prepared by an independent private
19 organization or public entity employing actuaries who are members in good
20 standing of the American Academy of Actuaries, and which organization or
21 entity has demonstrated expertise to perform this type of analysis and is
22 unrelated to any organization which offers investment advice or provides
23 investment management services to the retirement plan.

24 (b) The Auditor of Public Accounts may prepare a review of such
25 report pursuant to section 84-304.02 but is not required to do so. If the
26 retirement committee does not submit a copy of the report to the Auditor
27 of Public Accounts within six months after the end of the plan year, the
28 Auditor of Public Accounts may audit, or cause to be audited, the
29 retirement committee. All costs of the audit shall be paid by the
30 retirement committee.

31 Sec. 14. Section 16-1038, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is

1 amended to read:

2 16-1038 (1) The right to any benefits under the retirement system
3 and the assets of any fund of the retirement system shall not be
4 assignable or subject to execution, garnishment, attachment, or the
5 operation of any bankruptcy or insolvency laws, except that the
6 retirement system may comply with the directions set forth in a qualified
7 domestic relations order meeting the requirements of section 414(p) of
8 the Internal Revenue Code. The city or retirement committee may require
9 appropriate releases from any person as a condition to complying with any
10 such order. The retirement system shall not recognize any domestic
11 relations order which alters or changes benefits, provides for a form of
12 benefit not otherwise provided for by the retirement system, increases
13 benefits not otherwise provided by the retirement system, or accelerates
14 or defers the time of payment of benefits. No participant or beneficiary
15 shall have any right to any specific portion of the assets of the
16 retirement system.

17 (2) The retirement system shall be administered in a manner
18 necessary to comply with the tax-qualification requirements applicable to
19 government retirement plans under section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue
20 Code, including section 401(a)(9) relating to the time and manner in
21 which benefits are required to be distributed and section 401(a)(9)(G)
22 relating to incidental death benefit requirements, section 401(a)(16)
23 relating to compliance with the maximum limitation on the plan benefits
24 or contributions under section 415, section 401(a)(17) which limits the
25 amount of compensation which can be taken into account under a retirement
26 plan, section 401(a)(25) relating to the specification of actuarial
27 assumptions, section 401(a)(31) relating to direct rollover distribution
28 from eligible retirement plans, and section 401(a)(37) relating to the
29 death benefit of a firefighter who dies while performing qualified
30 military service. Any requirements for compliance with section 401(a) of
31 the Internal Revenue Code may be set forth in any trust or funding medium

1 for the retirement system. This subsection shall be in full force and
2 effect only so long as conformity with section 401(a) of the Internal
3 Revenue Code is required for public retirement systems in order to secure
4 the favorable income tax treatment extended to sponsors and beneficiaries
5 of tax-qualified retirement plans.

6 (3) If the retirement committee determines that the retirement
7 system has previously overpaid or underpaid a benefit payable under the
8 Cities of the First Class Firefighters Retirement Act ~~sections 16-1020 to~~
9 ~~16-1042~~, it shall have the power to correct such error. In the event of
10 an overpayment, the retirement system may, in addition to any other
11 remedy that the retirement system may possess, offset future benefit
12 payments by the amount of the prior overpayment, together with regular
13 interest thereon.

14 (4) A firefighter whose benefit payment is adjusted by the
15 retirement committee pursuant to subsection (3) of this section may
16 request a review by the city council of the adjustment made by the
17 retirement committee.

18 (5) In order to provide the necessary amounts to pay for or fund a
19 pension plan established under the Cities of the First Class Firefighters
20 Retirement Act ~~sections 16-1020 to 16-1042~~, the mayor and council may
21 make a levy which is within the levy restrictions of section 77-3442.

22 Sec. 15. Section 16-1041, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
23 amended to read:

24 16-1041 Nothing in the Cities of the First Class Firefighters
25 Retirement Act ~~sections 16-1020 to 16-1042~~ shall in any manner affect the
26 right of any person now receiving or entitled to receive, now or in the
27 future, pension or other benefits provided for in sections 35-201 to
28 35-216, as they exist immediately prior to January 1, 1984, to receive
29 such pension or other benefits in all respects the same as if such
30 sections remained in full force and effect.

31 Sec. 16. (1) When a firefighter employed as a firefighter by a city

1 of the first class who has attained the age of fifty-five retires from
2 such employment after at least twenty-one years of employment as a
3 firefighter, the city of the first class that employed such firefighter
4 shall provide such firefighter with the opportunity to continue to obtain
5 health insurance coverage on the same basis that the city provides
6 applicable group health insurance coverage to actively employed
7 firefighters of such city of the first class for twenty-four consecutive
8 months beginning one month after such firefighter's retirement.

9 (2) Subsection (1) of this section shall not apply to:

10 (a) Any city of the first class with a population of sixty thousand
11 or more inhabitants that is located in a county with a population of one
12 hundred thousand or more inhabitants; and

13 (b) Any firefighter who reaches the age of medicare eligibility.

14 Sec. 17. Section 18-1723, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
15 amended to read:

16 18-1723 Whenever any firefighter who has served a total of five
17 years as a member of a paid fire department of any city in this state or
18 any police officer of any city or village, including any city having a
19 home rule charter, shall suffer death or disability as a result of
20 hypertension or heart or respiratory defect or disease, there shall be a
21 rebuttable presumption that such death or disability resulted from
22 accident or other cause while in the line of duty for all purposes of the
23 Police Officers Retirement Act, sections 15-1012 to 15-1027, and the
24 Cities of the First Class Firefighters Retirement Act ~~16-1020 to 16-1042,~~
25 and any firefighter's or police officer's pension plan established
26 pursuant to any home rule charter, the Legislature specifically finding
27 the subject of this section to be a matter of general statewide concern.
28 The rebuttable presumption shall apply to death or disability as a result
29 of hypertension or heart or respiratory defect or disease after the
30 firefighter or police officer separates from his or her applicable
31 employment if the death or disability occurs within three months after

1 such separation. Such rebuttable presumption shall apply in any action or
2 proceeding arising out of death or disability incurred prior to December
3 25, 1969, and which has not been processed to final administrative or
4 judicial conclusion prior to such date.

5 Sec. 18. Section 35-1001, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
6 2022, is amended to read:

7 35-1001 (1) For a firefighter or firefighter-paramedic who is a
8 member of a paid fire department of a municipality or a rural or suburban
9 fire protection district in this state, including a municipality having a
10 home rule charter or a municipal authority created pursuant to a home
11 rule charter that has its own paid fire department, and who suffers death
12 or disability as a result of cancer, including, but not limited to,
13 breast cancer, ovarian cancer, and cancer affecting the skin or the
14 central nervous, lymphatic, digestive, hematological, urinary, skeletal,
15 oral, or prostate systems, evidence which demonstrates that (a) such
16 firefighter or firefighter-paramedic successfully passed a physical
17 examination upon entry into such service or subsequent to such entry,
18 which examination failed to reveal any evidence of cancer, (b) such
19 firefighter or firefighter-paramedic was exposed to a known carcinogen,
20 as defined on July 19, 1996, by the International Agency for Research on
21 Cancer, while in the service of the fire department, and (c) such
22 carcinogen is reported by the agency to be a suspected or known cause of
23 the type of cancer the firefighter or firefighter-paramedic has, shall be
24 prima facie evidence that such death or disability resulted from
25 injuries, accident, or other cause while in the line of duty for the
26 purposes of the Cities of the First Class Firefighters Retirement Act
27 ~~sections 16-1020 to 16-1042~~, a firefighter's pension plan established
28 pursuant to a home rule charter, and a firefighter's pension or
29 disability plan established by a rural or suburban fire protection
30 district.

31 (2) For a firefighter or firefighter-paramedic who is a member of a

1 paid fire department of a municipality or a rural or suburban fire
2 protection district in this state, including a municipality having a home
3 rule charter or a municipal authority created pursuant to a home rule
4 charter that has its own paid fire department, and who suffers death or
5 disability as a result of a blood-borne infectious disease, tuberculosis,
6 meningococcal meningitis, or methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus,
7 evidence which demonstrates that (a) such firefighter or firefighter-
8 paramedic successfully passed a physical examination upon entry into such
9 service or subsequent to such entry, which examination failed to reveal
10 any evidence of such blood-borne infectious disease, tuberculosis,
11 meningococcal meningitis, or methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus,
12 and (b) such firefighter or firefighter-paramedic has engaged in the
13 service of the fire department within ten years before the onset of the
14 disease, shall be prima facie evidence that such death or disability
15 resulted from injuries, accident, or other cause while in the line of
16 duty for the purposes of the Cities of the First Class Firefighters
17 Retirement Act ~~sections 16-1020 to 16-1042~~, a firefighter's pension plan
18 established pursuant to a home rule charter, and a firefighter's pension
19 or disability plan established by a rural or suburban fire protection
20 district.

21 (3) The prima facie evidence presumed under this section shall
22 extend to death or disability as a result of cancer as described in this
23 section, a blood-borne infectious disease, tuberculosis, meningococcal
24 meningitis, or methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus after the
25 firefighter or firefighter-paramedic separates from his or her service to
26 the fire department if the death or disability occurs within three months
27 after such separation.

28 (4) For purposes of this section, blood-borne infectious disease
29 means human immunodeficiency virus, acquired immunodeficiency syndrome,
30 and all strains of hepatitis.

31 Sec. 19. Section 68-621, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is

1 amended to read:

2 68-621 For purposes of sections 68-621 to 68-630:

3 (1) Referendum ~~A referendum group means~~ ~~, as referred to in sections~~
4 ~~68-621 to 68-630,~~ shall consist of the employees of the state, a single
5 political subdivision of this state, or any instrumentality jointly
6 created by this state and any other state or states, the employees of
7 which are or may be members of a retirement system covering such
8 employees, except that: (a) The employees of the University of Nebraska
9 shall constitute a referendum group; (b) the employees of a Class V
10 school district shall constitute a referendum group; (c) all employees of
11 the State of Nebraska who are or may be members of the School Employees
12 Retirement System of the State of Nebraska, including employees of
13 institutions operated by the Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State
14 Colleges, employees of institutions operated by the Department of
15 Correctional Services and the Department of Health and Human Services,
16 and employees subordinate to the State Board of Education, shall
17 constitute a referendum group; and (d) all employees of school districts
18 of the State of Nebraska, county superintendents, and county school
19 administrators, who are or may be members of the School Employees
20 Retirement System of the State of Nebraska, shall constitute a single
21 referendum group.

22 (2) Managing ~~The managing authority means~~ ~~of a political subdivision~~
23 ~~or educational institution shall be~~ the board, committee, or council
24 having general authority over a political subdivision, university,
25 college, or school district whose employees constitute or are included in
26 a referendum group; the managing authority of the state shall be the
27 Governor; and insofar as sections 68-601 to 68-631 may be applicable to
28 county superintendents and county school administrators, managing
29 authority means ~~shall mean~~ the board of county commissioners or county
30 supervisors of the county in which the county superintendent was elected
31 or with which the county school administrator contracted.

1 (3) Eligible employees means ~~, as referred to in sections 68-621 to~~
2 ~~68-630,~~ shall mean those employees of the state or any political
3 subdivision of the state ~~thereof~~ who at or during the time of voting in a
4 referendum ~~as herein provided~~ are in positions covered by a retirement
5 system, are members of such retirement system, and were in such positions
6 at the time of giving of the notice of such referendum, as ~~herein~~
7 ~~required by sections 68-621 to 68-630,~~ except that no such employee shall
8 be considered an eligible employee if at the time of such voting such
9 employee is in a position to which the state agreement applies ~~or if such~~
10 ~~employee is in service in a police officer or firefighter position.~~

11 (4) State agreement means ~~, as referred to in sections 68-621 to~~
12 ~~68-630,~~ shall mean the agreement between the State of Nebraska and the
13 designated officer of the United States of America entered into pursuant
14 to section 68-603.

15 Sec. 20. Section 81-8,317, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
16 2022, is amended to read:

17 81-8,317 (1) If a public safety officer is killed in the line of
18 duty, compensation shall be paid as provided in the In the Line of Duty
19 Compensation Act to recognize the ultimate sacrifice made by such public
20 safety officer.

21 (2) The amount of compensation to be paid under the act shall be as
22 follows:

23 (a) For deaths occurring during calendar year 2022, the amount of
24 such compensation shall be two hundred fifty thousand dollars; and

25 (b) For deaths occurring in calendar year 2023 and each calendar
26 year thereafter, the amount of such compensation shall be equal to the
27 compensation amount from the previous calendar year increased by the
28 percentage increase, if any, in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban
29 Consumers, as published by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau
30 of Labor Statistics, for the twelve months ending on June 30 of such
31 previous calendar year.

1 (3) The person entitled to receive such compensation shall be
2 determined as follows:

3 (a) If the public safety officer designated a person to receive the
4 compensation in accordance with subsection (4) of this section, the
5 compensation shall be paid to the designated person; or

6 (b) If no person is designated by the public safety officer or if
7 the designated person is not alive at the death of the public safety
8 officer, the compensation shall be paid in accordance with the laws of
9 this state regarding intestate succession.

10 (4) The Risk Manager shall prescribe a form that may be used by a
11 public safety officer to designate a person to receive the compensation.
12 The public safety officer shall file such form with his or her employer
13 or, if he or she is a volunteer, with the entity for which the volunteer
14 service is provided.

15 (5) Amounts paid under the In the Line of Duty Compensation Act
16 shall not be considered:

17 (a) Compensation under the County Employees Retirement Act, the
18 Judges Retirement Act, the Nebraska State Patrol Retirement Act, the
19 School Employees Retirement Act, the State Employees Retirement Act, or
20 any other retirement plan administered by the Public Employees Retirement
21 Board and shall not be eligible for deferral under any deferred
22 compensation plan administered by the Public Employees Retirement Board;
23 or

24 (b) Regular pay or salary under the Police Officers Retirement Act
25 or the Cities of the First Class Firefighters Retirement Act sections
26 ~~16-1020 to 16-1042.~~

27 (6) An employer of the public safety officer shall not have any
28 right of subrogation under section 48-118 with respect to compensation
29 paid under the In the Line of Duty Compensation Act.

30 Sec. 21. Original sections 16-1020, 16-1021, 16-1022, 16-1023,
31 16-1024, 16-1025, 16-1030, 16-1032, 16-1033, 16-1034, 16-1036,

- 1 16-1036.01, 16-1037, 16-1038, 16-1041, 18-1723, and 68-621, Reissue
- 2 Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and sections 35-1001 and 81-8,317, Revised
- 3 Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2022, are repealed.