

49-13-501 Death benefit -- Eligibility for death benefit -- Benefit calculation -- Payment of claim.

- (1) The office shall provide a death benefit for members of this system.
- (2) The board shall make rules to administer the death benefit provided by this section and may, in accordance with federal law, establish:
 - (a) benefit levels;
 - (b) classes of members; and
 - (c) a living benefit option.
- (3) This death benefit is payable when:
 - (a) the member dies prior to the member's retirement date or dies under circumstances which Section 49-13-402 requires to be treated as the death of a member before retirement;
 - (b) the office receives acceptable proof of death; and
 - (c) benefits are not payable under Section 49-13-404.
- (4) The death benefit payable to the beneficiary under this section is a lump-sum payment consisting of:
 - (a) the return of any member contributions under this chapter; plus
 - (b) a percentage of the final average salary of the member to be determined by the board.
- (5) Any amount of a living benefit option paid to the member prior to death shall be deducted from the benefit payable to the beneficiary.
- (6) The cost of the death benefit shall be paid by the participating employer as a portion of the contribution rate established under Section 49-13-301.
- (7) The portion of the death benefit provided under Subsection (4)(b), may not be paid to the beneficiary of an inactive member unless:
 - (a) that member has 10 or more years of service credit prior to July 1, 1987; or
 - (b) the death of the member occurs either:
 - (i) within a period of 120 days after the last day of work for which the person received compensation; or
 - (ii) while the member is still physically or mentally incapacitated from performance of duties, if the incapacity has been continuous since the last day of work for which compensation was received.
- (8) The death benefit provided under Subsection (4)(b) shall be paid in accordance with Sections 49-11-609 and 49-11-610.
- (9) The death benefit paid to the beneficiary of an inactive member, except as otherwise provided under Subsection (7), is a lump-sum return of the member's member contributions.
- (10) Payment of the death benefit by the office constitutes a full settlement of any beneficiary's claim against the office and the office is not liable for any further or additional claims or assessments on behalf of the member.
- (11) Unless otherwise specified in a written document filed with the office, death benefits payable to beneficiaries shall be in accordance with the order of precedence established under Title 75, Chapter 2, Intestate Succession and Wills.
- (12) A death benefit under this section may not be paid on behalf of a retiree under this system.

Amended by Chapter 316, 2013 General Session