

SENATE  
STATE OF MINNESOTA  
NINETY-THIRD SESSION

S.F. No. 4643

(SENATE AUTHORS: FRENTZ, Pappas, Seeberger, Westlin and Pha)		
DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
03/07/2024	12038	Introduction and first reading
		Referred to State and Local Government and Veterans
04/04/2024	13382	Author added Pha

1.1

A bill for an act

1.2

relating to retirement; authorizing eligible employees of the Minnesota State

1.3

Colleges and Universities who are members of the higher education individual

1.4

retirement account plan to elect coverage by the Teachers Retirement Association

1.5

and purchase past service credit; requiring an annual report; appropriating money

1.6

for offsetting the cost of service credit purchases; amending Minnesota Statutes

1.7

2022, section 354B.20, subdivision 18, by adding subdivisions; proposing coding

1.8

for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 354B.

1.9

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.10

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 354B.20, is amended by adding a subdivision

1.11

to read:

1.12

Subd. 10a. IRAP to TRA transfer account. "IRAP to TRA transfer account" means

1.13

the account established under section 354B.215, subdivision 11.

1.14

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective January 1, 2025.

1.15

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 354B.20, is amended by adding a subdivision to

1.16

read:

1.17

Subd. 11a. Offset amount. "Offset amount" means the lesser of \$10,000 or 25 percent

1.18

of the cost to purchase the maximum past service credit by an eligible person under section

1.19

354B.215, subdivision 6, except that, if the eligible person elects to purchase, under section

1.20

354B.215, subdivision 6, paragraph (c), less than the maximum past service credit, the offset

1.21

amount must not exceed the cost to purchase the amount of past service credit elected.

1.22

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective January 1, 2025.

Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 354B.20, subdivision 18, is amended to read:

Subd. 18. **Teachers Retirement ~~plan~~ Association.** "Teachers Retirement ~~plan~~ Association" means the retirement plan established by chapter 354.

**EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

Sec. 4. **[354B.215] TEACHERS RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION COVERAGE FOR EMPLOYEES WHO DID NOT RECEIVE ELECTION TO TRANSFER.**

Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** (a) For purposes of this section, the terms defined in this subdivision have the meanings given them, unless the context clearly indicates another meaning is intended.

(b) "Executive director" means the executive director of the Teachers Retirement Association.

(c) "Individual retirement account plan" means the individual retirement account plan governed by chapter 354B.

(d) "Maximum past service credit" means service credit for the period beginning with the date the eligible person was first covered by the individual retirement account plan to the transfer date.

(e) "Minnesota State" means the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities.

(f) "Transfer date" means the date selected by the executive director under subdivision 5 for the purpose of preparing the estimates required by subdivision 5.

Subd. 2. **Authority to transfer coverage.** Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, an eligible person described in subdivision 3 is authorized to become a member of the Teachers Retirement Association and purchase service credit upon making an election under subdivision 6.

Subd. 3. **Eligible person.** (a) An eligible person is a person who:

(1) is employed by Minnesota State;

(2) has an account in the individual retirement account plan; and

(3) satisfies paragraph (b).

(b) A person satisfies this paragraph if Minnesota State is not able to produce at least one of the following items by the end of the 60-day period under subdivision 4, paragraph

(b):

(1) a record indicating that the person received notice regarding the person's eligibility to elect prospective coverage by the Teachers Retirement Association within the election period under section 354B.211, subdivision 4 or 6, or its predecessor;

(2) a record that the person elected retirement coverage by the individual retirement account plan; or

(3) other credible documentation demonstrating that the person was aware of the person's right to elect retirement coverage by the Teachers Retirement Association.

**Subd. 4. Eligible person application; information required from Minnesota State. (a)**  
To elect coverage by the Teachers Retirement Association, an eligible person must submit a written application to the chancellor on a form provided by Minnesota State. The application must include:

(1) an attestation that the person was not informed of the right to elect a transfer from the individual retirement account plan to the Teachers Retirement Association and the person was unaware of the right to elect such a transfer;

(2) the date on which the person first became a participant in the individual retirement account plan;

(3) a signed release authorizing Minnesota State to provide employment and other personnel information to the Teachers Retirement Association; and

(4) any other information that Minnesota State may require.

(b) No later than 60 days after receipt of the application under paragraph (a), Minnesota State must verify the information provided by the person in the application, determine whether the person is an eligible person under subdivision 3, and provide a written response to the person regarding the determination of eligibility. If Minnesota State determines that the person is not an eligible person, Minnesota State must include a copy of any documentation identified in subdivision 3, paragraph (b), in its written response to the person.

(c) If Minnesota State determines that the person is an eligible person under subdivision 3, Minnesota State must forward to the executive director:

(1) the application;

(2) confirmation or modification of the information provided by the eligible person in the application;

(3) salary history for the eligible person;

4.1 (4) an estimate of the amount available for transfer from the eligible person's account  
4.2 in the individual retirement account plan to the Teachers Retirement Association; and  
4.3 (5) any other relevant information.

4.4 **Subd. 5. Determination of service credit purchase amounts.** (a) Upon receipt of the  
4.5 application and information under subdivision 4, the executive director must prepare estimates  
4.6 of the following as of a prospective transfer date selected by the executive director that is  
4.7 no later than 90 days after receiving the application and information under subdivision 4:

4.8 (1) the purchase payment amount determined under section 356.551 to purchase the  
4.9 maximum past service credit;

4.10 (2) the amount of service credit the eligible person would receive if the amount estimated  
4.11 under subdivision 4, paragraph (c), clause (4), is transferred to the Teachers Retirement  
4.12 Association and used to purchase service credit under section 356.551;

4.13 (3) the purchase payment amount for additional years of service credit, if any, not to  
4.14 exceed the maximum past service credit; and

4.15 (4) the offset amount attributable to the eligible person.

4.16 (b) No later than 90 days after receiving the application and information under subdivision  
4.17 4, the executive director must send a written communication to the eligible person with the  
4.18 amounts determined in paragraph (a) and inform Minnesota State of the offset amount. The  
4.19 executive director may charge the eligible person a reasonable fee to cover the costs of  
4.20 calculating the amounts required by paragraph (a).

4.21 (c) Minnesota State must notify the eligible person and the executive director no later  
4.22 than 30 days after receiving notice of the offset amount from the executive director under  
4.23 paragraph (b) if there are sufficient funds in the IRAP to TRA transfer account to pay the  
4.24 full offset amount or, if there are not sufficient funds, the portion of the offset amount, if  
4.25 any, that will be paid.

4.26 **Subd. 6. Election to transfer coverage and purchase of service credit.** (a) No later  
4.27 than 60 days after the executive director sends the written communication required by  
4.28 subdivision 5, the eligible person may elect to transfer coverage from the individual  
4.29 retirement account plan to the Teachers Retirement Association effective as of the transfer  
4.30 date.

4.31 (b) If the eligible person elects to transfer coverage under paragraph (a), the available  
4.32 balance in the eligible person's account in the individual retirement account plan must be  
4.33 transferred to the Teachers Retirement Association, not to exceed the amount required by

the Teachers Retirement Association to purchase the maximum past service credit, as adjusted for the offset amount, if any.

(c) If the available balance in the eligible person's account in the individual retirement account plan plus the offset amount, if any, is less than the amount needed to cover the cost to purchase the maximum past service credit, the eligible person must:

(1) direct the transfer of funds from the eligible person's account in the higher education supplemental retirement plan established under chapter 354C, from a source specified in section 356.441, subdivision 1, or from more than one of the foregoing sources in an amount, in total, sufficient to cover the rest of the cost to purchase the maximum past service credit; or

(2) elect fewer years or partial years of service credit corresponding to the amount of service credit that may be purchased using the funds transferred from the individual retirement account plan, the offset amount, and if directed by the eligible person, funds from any of the sources described in clause (1).

(d) Minnesota State must promptly initiate the transfer of funds or work with the eligible person to initiate the transfer of funds to the Teachers Retirement Association from the eligible person's account in the individual retirement account plan and, if directed by the eligible person under paragraph (c), from any other account over which Minnesota State has the authority to initiate or approve transfers when directed by a participant.

(e) Unless the balance in the IRAP to TRA transfer account is zero, Minnesota State must direct a transfer to the Teachers Retirement Association of an amount that is equal to the offset amount attributable to the eligible person. If the balance in the IRAP to TRA transfer account is less than the amount needed to transfer the offset amount, Minnesota State must direct a transfer of the remaining balance in the IRAP to TRA transfer account to the Teachers Retirement Association.

**Subd. 7. Commencement of membership in the Teachers Retirement Association.** (a) Upon receipt by the Teachers Retirement Association of the transfer or transfers under subdivision 6, the eligible person's membership in the Teachers Retirement Association commences effective as of the transfer date and the executive director must grant past service credit to the eligible person.

(b) The executive director may adjust the amount of past service credit granted to the eligible person as necessary to ensure that the Teachers Retirement Association does not receive less than required to cover the cost of the past service credit granted.

6.1 (c) Upon membership commencement, the eligible person ceases to be an active  
6.2 participant in the individual retirement account plan.

6.3 (d) Upon membership commencement, the person's membership status is irrevocable.  
6.4 Neither Minnesota State nor the Teachers Retirement Association may seek to revoke the  
6.5 eligible person's membership status due to events, including but not limited to Minnesota  
6.6 State producing documentation that would have previously disqualified the person as an  
6.7 eligible person under subdivision 3.

6.8 Subd. 8. **Service credit for vesting.** The Teachers Retirement Association must grant  
6.9 service credit to the eligible person for all years or partial years of service with Minnesota  
6.10 State for the purpose of vesting in a retirement annuity under section 354.44 or in a retirement  
6.11 benefit under section 354.46 or 354.48.

6.12 Subd. 9. **Notice to employees.** No later than March 31, 2025, and periodically thereafter,  
6.13 Minnesota State must provide notice to all employees summarizing this section and offer  
6.14 assistance to any eligible person who wishes to elect to transfer coverage from the individual  
6.15 retirement account plan to the Teachers Retirement Association. Minnesota State must  
6.16 designate personnel responsible for assisting employees with the requirements of this section.  
6.17 The notice must identify these personnel and provide their contact information.

6.18 Subd. 10. **Annual report required.** The chancellor and the executive director must  
6.19 submit an annual report to the Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement stating  
6.20 the number of employees who elected a transfer during the prior calendar year. Without  
6.21 identifying any eligible person, the report must include, for each eligible person, the cost  
6.22 of the transfer to the eligible persons and Minnesota State, the offset amount, if any, and,  
6.23 if applicable, the actuarial cost of the eligible person's pension benefit at the time of the  
6.24 transfer as calculated by the Teachers Retirement Association. The report must be submitted  
6.25 to the Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement no later than January 31 of each  
6.26 year.

6.27 Subd. 11. **IRAP to TRA transfer account created.** (a) The IRAP to TRA transfer  
6.28 account is created in the special revenue fund.

6.29 (b) Minnesota State must use the money in the IRAP to TRA transfer account established  
6.30 under paragraph (a) to transfer amounts required by subdivision 6, paragraph (e), until the  
6.31 balance in the account is zero.

6.32 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 1, 2025.

7.1       Sec. 5. **TRANSFER TO THE IRAP TO TRA TRANSFER ACCOUNT;**  
7.2       **APPROPRIATION.**

7.3       (a) \$..... in fiscal year 2025 is transferred from the general fund to the IRAP to TRA  
7.4       transfer account established under Minnesota Statutes, section 354B.215, subdivision 11.

7.5       (b) Money in the IRAP to TRA transfer account is appropriated to Minnesota State to  
7.6       reduce the cost of service credit purchases by eligible persons who transfer coverage from  
7.7       the individual retirement account plan to the Teachers Retirement Association under  
7.8       Minnesota Statutes, section 354B.215.

7.9       **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 1, 2025.