

74-4927h. Accidental death benefits for certain employees of educational institutions under state board of regents. (1) The provisions of this section shall apply to employees of the state board of regents and institutions under its management covered by the provisions of K.S.A. 74-4925 and 74-4927a and amendments thereto. This section shall be administered by the board of trustees of the Kansas public employees retirement system.

(2) (a) In the event that a member dies before retirement as a result of an accident arising out of and in the course of the member's actual performance of duty in the employ of a participating employer independent of all other causes and not as a result of a willfully negligent or intentional act of the member, an accidental death benefit shall be payable if: (A) A report of the accident, in a form acceptable to the board, is filed in the office of the executive director of the board within 60 days of the date of the accident causing such death, and an application for such benefit, in such form and manner as the board shall prescribe, is filed in the office of the executive director of the board within two years of the date of the accident, but the board may waive such time limits for a reasonable period if in the judgment of the board the failure to meet these limits was due to lack of knowledge or incapacity; and (B) the board finds from such evidence as it may require, to be submitted in such form and manner as it shall prescribe, that the natural and proximate cause of death was the result of an accident arising out of and in the course of the member's employment with a participating employer independent of all other causes at a definite time and place. Such accidental death benefit shall be a lump-sum amount of \$50,000 and an annual amount of 1/2 of the member's final average salary which shall accrue from the first day of the month following the date of death and which shall be payable in monthly installments or as the board may direct, but in no case shall the accidental death benefit be less than \$100 per month. The accidental death benefit payments shall be paid to the surviving spouse of such deceased member, such payments to continue so long as such surviving spouse lives or until such surviving spouse remarries. If there is no surviving spouse, or in the case the spouse dies or remarries before the youngest child of such deceased member attains age 18 years or before the youngest child of such deceased member attains age 23, if such child is a full-time student as provided in K.S.A. 74-49,117, or if there are one or more children of the member who are totally disabled and dependent on the member or spouse, the accidental death benefit payments shall be paid to the child or children of such member under age 18 years or under age 23 years, if such child or children are full-time students as provided in K.S.A. 74-49,117 and to the child or children of the member who are totally disabled and dependent on the member or spouse, such payments to be divided in such manner as the board in its discretion shall determine and to continue until the youngest surviving child dies or attains age 18 years or attains age 23 years, if such child is a full-time student as provided in K.S.A. 74-49,117, in the case of the child or children who are totally disabled and dependent on the member or spouse, until death or until no longer totally disabled. If there is no surviving spouse or child eligible for accidental death benefits under this subsection (2) at the time of the member's death, the accidental death benefit payments shall be paid to the parent or parents of such member who are dependent on such member, such payments to continue until the last such parent dies. All payments due under this subsection (2) to a minor shall be made to a legally appointed conservator of such minor or totally disabled child as provided in subsection (7) of K.S.A. 74-4902 and amendments thereto.

(b) In construction of this section, there shall be no presumption that the death of the member was the result of an accident nor shall there be a liberal interpretation of the law or evidence in favor of the person claiming under this subsection (2). In the event of the death of a member resulting from a heart, circulatory or respiratory condition, there must be clear and precise evidence that death was the result of an accident independent of all other causes which arose out of and in the course of the member's actual performance of duties in the employ of a participating employer.

(c) The value, as determined by the board upon recommendation of the actuary, of any worker's compensation benefits paid or payable to the recipient or recipients of an annual benefit under this subsection (2) shall be deducted from the amounts which become payable under this section. In the event that a member should die as a result of an accident as described in this subsection (2), all elections or options previously made by the deceased member shall become void and of no effect whatsoever and the retirement system shall be liable only for the accidental death benefit and any insured death benefit that may be due. The benefit payable under this subsection (2) shall be known and referred to as the "accidental death benefit."

(3) Any costs to the board from the claims arising under this section shall be included in the rate certified by the board to finance the costs of members under subsection (3) of K.S.A. 74-4925 and amendments thereto.

(4) The payment of benefits as provided in this section is subject to the provisions of K.S.A. 74-49,123 and amendments thereto.

History: L. 1984, ch. 289, § 22; L. 1989, ch. 232, § 14; L. 1998, ch. 64, § 56; L. 2001, ch. 209, § 25; May 31.