



June 2007

Pension Division Newsletter

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Legislative Update

This legislative session began with a number of hearings regarding the efficiencies and investment performance of Minnesota's volunteer fire relief associations. Despite this attention and focus on relief associations, only a few changes, which are discussed below, ultimately became law.

- **Survivor Supplemental Benefits** – Last year a bill was passed that provided authority for relief associations to pay an increased supplemental benefit upon the payment of a survivor benefit. The survivor supplemental benefit is equal to 20 percent of the survivor benefit amount, up to \$2,000. A relief association must amend its bylaws in order to pay the higher supplemental benefit. The Pension Omnibus Bill that passed this year clarifies that survivors are only eligible to collect the 20 percent up to \$2,000 supplemental benefit, and are **NOT** eligible for the regular 10 percent up to \$1,000 supplemental benefit that is limited to service pensions. This means that survivors are not eligible to receive a supplemental benefit unless the relief association elects to pay the survivor supplemental benefit amount. For bill language see:
<http://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/bin/bldbill.php?bill=S0430.4.html&session=ls85>
- **Corporate Registration with the Secretary of State's Office** – Relief associations have been required to file annually a corporate registration with the Secretary of State's Office. Relief associations that failed to file the registration were dissolved. The Omnibus State Government Finance Bill that was passed this year eliminates the requirement that relief associations complete and file the registration, beginning with this fiscal year. For bill language see:
<http://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/bin/bldbill.php?bill=H0548.2.html&session=ls85>

2007 Schedule Update

The 2007 Schedule will be available for download from the State Auditor's website in June. We are currently finishing work with the data pre-population and testing, and will ensure that the form is ready for use before July, when relief associations are statutorily required to complete the form. Notices will be provided in the Pension Newsletter and the State Auditor's E-Update once the form is available.

If you have questions please contact us:

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