

RCW 41.24.170 Retirement pensions. (1) Except as provided in RCW 41.24.410, whenever any participant has been a member and served honorably for a period of ten years or more as an active member in any capacity, of any regularly organized fire department or law enforcement agency of any municipality in this state, and which municipality has adopted appropriate legislation allowing its firefighters or reserve officers to enroll in the retirement pension provisions of this chapter, and the participant has enrolled under the retirement pension provisions and has reached the age of sixty-five years, the board of trustees shall order and direct that he or she be retired and be paid a monthly pension from the principal fund as provided in this section.

(2) (a) Whenever a participant has been a member, and served honorably for a period of twenty-five years or more as an active member in any capacity, of any regularly organized volunteer fire department or law enforcement agency of any municipality in this state, and he or she has reached the age of sixty-five years, and the annual retirement fee has been paid for a period of twenty-five years, the board of trustees shall order and direct that he or she be retired and such participant be paid a monthly pension of three hundred fifty dollars from the fund for the balance of that participant's life.

(b) Beginning the date that the state board receives a determination from the federal internal revenue service that this subsection (2)(b) does not exceed limits on deferred compensation from volunteer plans, but no sooner than July 1, 2022, whenever a participant is eligible for a benefit under (a) of this subsection, the board of trustees shall order and direct that he or she be retired and such participant be paid the monthly pension under (a) of this subsection plus ten dollars per month for each year that the retirement fee was paid beyond twenty-five years, from the fund for the balance of that participant's life.

(3) Whenever any participant has been a member, and served honorably for a period of twenty-five years or more as an active member in any capacity, of any regularly organized volunteer fire department or law enforcement agency of any municipality in this state, and the participant has reached the age of sixty-five years, and the annual retirement fee has been paid for a period of less than twenty-five years, the board of trustees shall order and direct that he or she be retired and that such participant shall receive a minimum monthly pension of one hundred dollars increased by the sum of ten dollars each month for each year the annual fee has been paid, but not to exceed three hundred fifty dollars, for the balance of the participant's life.

(4) No pension provided in this section may become payable before the sixty-fifth birthday of the participant, nor for any service less than twenty-five years: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That:

(a) Any participant, who is older than fifty-nine years of age, less than sixty-five years of age, and has completed twenty-five years or more of service may irrevocably elect a reduced monthly pension in lieu of the pension that participant would be entitled to under this section at age sixty-five. The participant who elects this option shall receive the reduced pension for the balance of his or her life. The reduced monthly pension is calculated as a percentage of the pension the participant would be entitled to at age sixty-five. The percentage used in the calculation is based upon the age of the participant at the time of retirement as follows:

Age 60	Sixty percent
Age 61	Sixty-eight percent
Age 62	Seventy-six percent
Age 63	Eighty-four percent
Age 64	Ninety-two percent

(b) If a participant is age sixty-five or older but has less than twenty-five years of service, the participant is entitled to a reduced benefit. The reduced benefit shall be computed as follows:

(i) Upon completion of ten years, but less than fifteen years of service, a monthly pension equal to twenty percent of such pension as the participant would have been entitled to receive at age sixty-five after twenty-five years of service;

(ii) Upon completion of fifteen years, but less than twenty years of service, a monthly pension equal to thirty-five percent of such pension as the participant would have been entitled to receive at age sixty-five after twenty-five years of service; and

(iii) Upon completion of twenty years, but less than twenty-five years of service, a monthly pension equal to seventy-five percent of such pension as the participant would have been entitled to receive at age sixty-five after twenty-five years of service.

(c) If a participant with less than twenty-five years of service elects to retire after turning age sixty but before turning age sixty-five, the participant's retirement allowance is subject:

(i) First to the reduction under (b) of this subsection based upon the participant's years of service; and

(ii) Second to the reduction under (a) of this subsection based upon the participant's age. [2020 c 144 § 2; 2003 c 62 § 1. Prior: 1999 c 148 § 15; 1999 c 117 § 4; 1995 c 11 § 7; 1992 c 97 § 2; 1989 c 91 § 4; 1981 c 21 § 4; 1979 ex.s. c 157 § 1; 1973 1st ex.s. c 170 § 2; 1969 c 118 § 5; 1961 c 57 § 2; 1953 c 253 § 3; 1951 c 103 § 1; 1945 c 261 § 17; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9578-31.]

Contingent effective date—2020 c 144: See note following RCW 41.24.030.

Effective date—2003 c 62: "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect July 1, 2003." [2003 c 62 § 3.]

Effective date—1992 c 97: See note following RCW 41.24.030.

Effective date—1989 c 91: See note following RCW 41.24.010.

Effective date—Severability—1981 c 21: See notes following RCW 41.24.150.

Effective date—1973 1st ex.s. c 170: See note following RCW 41.24.030.