

Title 27: Personnel

Part 210: PERS, Regulations for Retirement Plans Administered by the Board of Trustees

Chapter 63: Temporary Benefit

100 Purpose

This regulation sets forth the terms and conditions under which a temporary benefit in the form of a partial distribution of a member's accumulated contributions under Miss. Code Ann. § 25-11-117(4) (1972, as amended) can be paid to an inactive member of the Public Employees' Retirement System of Mississippi (PERS) and the Supplemental Legislative Retirement Plan (SLRP) to provide such member with a temporary source of income while awaiting a final determination of eligibility for disability retirement benefits.

101 Authority

Section 25-11-117(4) allows the Board of Trustees to establish rules and regulations for carrying out the provisions authorizing the payment of a temporary benefit to an eligible inactive member of PERS and/or SLRP who is awaiting a final determination on an application for disability retirement benefits.

102 Eligibility Requirements for the Temporary Benefit

To qualify for a temporary benefit as provided in § 25-11-117(4), a PERS and/or SLRP member who has applied for disability retirement benefits must meet all of the following requirements:

1. Must have no more than a total of 14 days of unused personal (vacation) and/or major medical (sick) leave from the last employer;
2. Must have terminated from employment;
3. Must not be eligible for service retirement benefits;
4. Must have a contribution balance in his or her accumulation account; and
5. Must have completed the required disability retirement application forms as defined in Board Regulation 35, Section 101.2.

103 Application for the Temporary Benefit

An eligible inactive member must make application for the temporary benefit on a form prescribed by the Board.

104 Amount of the Temporary Benefit

The temporary benefit in the form of a partial distribution of an eligible member's accumulated contribution account will be paid in equal monthly installments for a limited time. The total temporary benefit payable will equal no more than 50 percent of the member's accumulated contributions and will be paid in equal monthly installments over a period of not more than 18 months. The monthly payment shall be no more than one-half of the estimated monthly disability

retirement allowance to which the member would become entitled under the applicable optional benefit payment plan selected by the member if approved for disability retirement benefits.

105 Payment of the Temporary Benefit

1. The temporary benefit will cease at the end of the 18-month time frame or at the time a final disability determination is made, whichever occurs first.
2. If the Medical Board approves the claim for disability retirement benefits, the temporary benefit will end and disability retirement benefits will commence.
3. If the claim for disability retirement benefits is denied by the Medical Board and appealed to the Disability Appeals Committee, the temporary benefit will continue for the 18-month time frame or until a final decision by the Board of Trustees is rendered, whichever occurs first.
4. In no case will the temporary benefit continue to be paid after a final decision is made by order of the Board of Trustees.
5. Payment of the temporary benefit is dependent upon active pursuit of a claim for disability retirement benefits. Inactivity on a claim for a period of 90 days from the effective date of disability retirement established upon receipt of the member's completed Form DSBL 1, *Pre-Application for Disability Retirement Benefits*, will void the application and suspend the temporary benefit.
6. If death occurs during the disability application process after a temporary benefit has been initiated but prior to the final determination of disability, the temporary benefit will cease and future benefits, if any, will be paid under the survivor benefit provisions of the law.
 - a. If monthly survivor benefits are payable under the law, the survivor benefit will be actuarially adjusted to take into account the partial distribution of contributions paid under the temporary benefit provisions.
 - b. In the event the member dies prior to a final determination, the disability application is void and no disability retirement benefits can be paid pursuant to such application.
7. No deductions for life and/or health insurance will be made from the temporary benefit.

106 Impact of Temporary Benefits on Member's Service Credit

Receipt of temporary benefits will not affect the member's service credit. However, the member's account will be marked as an account from which temporary benefits are or have been paid until a recovery has begun through an actuarially reduced monthly benefit payment as noted in Section 108 below.

107 Taxation of the Temporary Benefits

1. The temporary benefit is not a disability retirement benefit. The temporary benefit is a partial distribution of the member's accumulated contributions and is subject to mandatory federal income tax withholding.
2. The temporary benefit will have federal income taxes withheld in accordance with Internal Revenue Service requirements.

3. The temporary benefit may also be subject to a tax penalty if the member is younger than age 55 (age 50 for a qualified public safety employee) at the time of the distribution.
4. An IRS Form 1099-R will be issued at least annually for the temporary benefits paid during the applicable calendar year.

108 Recovery of the Temporary Benefits

All amounts paid under the temporary benefit provisions will be recovered by PERS. No interest will be charged on the recovery of the temporary benefit when recovered through actuarially reduced disability, service, or survivor retirement benefits.

1. Member Approved for Disability Retirement Benefits

A member approved for disability retirement benefits who previously elected to receive a temporary benefit shall have the disability retirement allowance actuarially reduced to ensure full recovery of any temporary benefit paid.

2. Member Denied Disability Retirement Benefits Who Later Elects to Receive Refund of Remaining Accumulated Contributions

A member who is not approved for disability retirement benefits and who had previously elected to receive a temporary benefit may apply for and receive a refund of the remaining contributions in his or her account. Where a member applies for and receives a refund of his or her accumulated contributions and interest, the member waives and relinquishes all accrued rights to future benefits from PERS or SLRP, as applicable. Any member who subsequently returns to covered employment and who wishes to repay the refund will be responsible for the payment of interest on the full balance of the member's account previously distributed including the portion distributed under the temporary benefit provision.

3. Member Denied Disability Retirement Benefits Who Later Applies for Service Retirement Benefits

A member who has previously elected to receive a temporary benefit and who is not approved for disability retirement benefits may elect to leave the remaining unused contributions in his or her account in anticipation of returning to covered employment or later becoming eligible to apply for service retirement benefits. The member shall have his or her benefit reduced actuarially to recover the total temporary benefit previously paid over his or her life expectancy.

4. Member Denied Disability Retirement Benefits and Later Dies Before Retirement

The spouse and/or dependent children of a member who has previously elected to receive a temporary benefit and who is not approved for disability retirement benefits who dies prior to retirement and having left his or her remaining contributions with PERS or SLRP, as applicable, may be entitled to statutory benefits provided that the deceased member was vested at the time of death. If a deceased member's spouse or dependent children are eligible for survivor benefits, a reduced actuarial equivalent of the normal benefit will be

paid to the spouse and/or dependent children to recover the total temporary benefit previously paid.

(History: Adopted effective October 1, 2009; amended effective December 1, 2012)