

74-4923. Rights of members and beneficiaries not affected by change or repeal of act, exception; benefits and rights exempt from taxes and legal process and nonassignable, exceptions for decrees for support and maintenance and qualified domestic relations orders and lump-sum death benefit assigned to a funeral establishment; recovery of arrearage obligations and debts owed state agencies.

(a) No alteration, amendment or repeal of this act shall affect the then existing rights of members and beneficiaries but shall be effective only as to rights which would otherwise accrue under this act as a result of services rendered by an employee after the alteration, amendment or repeal. This subsection shall not apply to any alteration or amendment of this act which provides greater benefits to members or beneficiaries, but any increase of benefits shall only be applicable to benefits payable on the first day of the month coinciding with or following the effective date of the alteration or amendment.

(b) Any annuity, benefits, funds, property or rights created by, or accruing to any person under the provisions of K.S.A. 74-4901 et seq. or 74-4951 et seq., and amendments thereto, including, but not limited to, for all taxable years beginning after December 31, 2000, amounts received as a lump-sum payment at retirement as provided by K.S.A. 74-4918, 74-4964 or 74-4964a, and amendments thereto, and all earnings thereof, shall be exempt from any tax of the state of Kansas or any political subdivision or taxing body of the state, and such lump-sum payment at retirement, and all earnings thereof, shall retain such tax exempt status even if a retirant elects to roll over such lump-sum payment at retirement, and earnings, into a qualified retirement account whether segregated from or commingled with other retirement funds; shall not be subject to execution, garnishment or attachment, or, except as otherwise provided, any other process or claim whatsoever; and shall be unassignable, except that within 30 days after the death of a retirant the lump-sum death benefit payable to a retirant's beneficiary pursuant to the provisions of K.S.A. 74-4989, and amendments thereto, may be assignable to a funeral establishment providing funeral services to the retirant by the beneficiary of such retirant. Any annuity or benefit or accumulated contributions due and owing to any person under the provisions of K.S.A. 74-4901 et seq. or 74-4951 et seq., and amendments thereto, are subject to claims of an alternate payee under a qualified domestic relations order. As used in this subsection, the terms "alternate payee" and "qualified domestic relations order" shall have the meaning ascribed to them in section 414(p) of the federal internal revenue code. The provisions of this act shall apply to any qualified domestic relations order which is in effect on or after July 1, 1994. The Kansas public employees retirement system shall not be a party to any action under the Kansas family law code, chapter 23 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto, but is subject to orders from such actions issued by the district court of the county where such action was filed and may also accept orders which it deems to be qualified under this subsection from courts having jurisdiction of such actions outside the state of Kansas. Such orders from such actions shall specify either a specific amount or specific percentage of the amount of the pension or benefit or any accumulated contributions due and owing from the system to be distributed by the system pursuant to this act.

(c) In any case where a state agency is owed a debt or where a participating employer under the Kansas public employees retirement system or under the Kansas police and firemen's retirement system has been required to pay and has paid an arrearage obligation of the amount of contributions of a member which were not paid at the time required and where the employment of the member by the state agency or participating employer has been terminated and the member is eligible to withdraw accumulated contributions in accordance with K.S.A. 74-4917 and 74-4963, and amendments thereto, the state agency or participating employer shall be paid from the member's account in the fund an amount equal to the debt or the amount of contributions of the member paid by the participating employer pursuant to an arrearage obligation, upon application to the board therefor accompanied by certification of the amount to be paid to the state agency or participating employer. If any application and certification under this subsection are not received by the board prior to the withdrawal of accumulated contributions by the member, the board shall not be liable to pay and shall not pay any amount from the fund pursuant to any such application and certification.

History: L. 1961, ch. 427, § 23; L. 1963, ch. 412, § 15; L. 1970, ch. 325, § 1; L. 1974, ch. 338, § 1; L. 1977, ch. 274, § 1; L. 1981, ch. 342, § 15; L. 1982, ch. 152, § 24; L. 1990, ch. 282, § 11; L. 1991, ch. 238, § 3; L. 1992, ch. 321, § 10; L. 1994, ch. 231, § 5; L. 1995, ch. 267, § 19; L. 1998, ch. 64, § 52; L. 2007, ch. 191, § 4; L. 2012, ch. 162, § 86; May 31.