

H. B. 100  
134 O.L.

Sec. 145.45. In lieu of accepting the payment of the accumulated contributions of a member, except a member who has withdrawn an exemption and has not completed three years of contributing service credit, who dies before superannuation or commuted superannuation retirement, a survivor, if designated as a sole beneficiary, may elect to forfeit the accumulated contributions and to substitute certain other benefits either under division (A) or division (B) of this section.

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(A) If the deceased member was eligible for a superannuation or commuted superannuation retirement allowance as provided in sections 145.33 and 145.34 of the Revised Code, a surviving spouse, or other sole dependent designated beneficiary, may elect to receive a monthly benefit computed as the joint-survivor allowance designated as Option 1 in section 145.46 of the Revised Code, which the member would have received had he retired as of the last day of the month of death and had he at that time selected such joint-survivor plan. Payment shall begin with the month subsequent to the member's death.

(B) If the deceased member had at least one and one-half years of contributing service credit, with at least one-quarter year of OHIO contributing service credit within the two AND ONE-HALF years prior to the date of death, or was receiving at the time of death a disability retirement allowance as provided in section 145.36 of the Revised Code, certain designated beneficiaries may elect to receive monthly benefits, provided they meet the following requirements:

(1) (a) A widow sixty-two years of age, or a widower sixty-five years of age, [married to the member at least three years,] and not remarried subsequent to the member's death, shall be paid ninety dollars per month or a monthly amount which on an annual basis shall not exceed seventy-five per cent of the member's earnings during his last twelve calendar months of employment as a member, whichever is the lesser; provided, that the benefit payable under this paragraph shall not be less than seventy-five dollars per month.

Such benefits shall be payable the month subsequent to the death of the member, or thereafter upon attainment of the age requirement by the beneficiary. Such benefit shall terminate upon the remarriage or death of such beneficiary. Such spouse may qualify for this benefit in addition to any payments received as provided by division (B) (3) of this section, but such spouse shall not receive the benefit provided by this paragraph while receiving benefits under division (B) (2) or (B) (3) of this section.

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(b) A widow or widower of a member who dies on or after [the effective date of this section] AUGUST 27, 1970, regardless of age, [married to the member at least three years,] and not remarried after the member's death, adjudged physically or mentally incompetent by a court having jurisdiction, or by a physician appointed by the public employees retirement board, shall receive the benefit provided in division (B) (1) (a) of this section. Benefits shall begin the first day of the month after the filing of an application by or on behalf of the applicant. Benefits shall terminate upon the beneficiary's remarriage or death, or when a court having jurisdiction or a physician appointed by the board determines that such widow or widower is no longer physically or mentally incompetent.

(2) A widow, or a dependent widower, fifty or more years of age, [married to the member at least three years,] and not remarried subsequent to the member's death, shall be paid one hundred dollars per month, if the deceased member had fifteen or more years of service credit at the time of death. If a member with ten or more years of Ohio service credit dies after [the effective date of this section] AUGUST 27, 1970, a beneficiary meeting the other requirements of this subdivision shall qualify for this benefit. A widower is a "dependent" only if he received at least one-half of his support from the member during the twelve-month period immediately preceding the member's death. Such benefit shall be payable the month subsequent to the death of the member, or thereafter upon attainment of age fifty by the beneficiary. Such benefit shall terminate upon the remarriage or death of such beneficiary. Such widow or dependent widower may qualify for this benefit in addition to any payments received as provided by division (B) (3) of this section, but such widow, or dependent widower, shall not receive the benefit provided by this paragraph while receiving benefits under division (B) (3) of this section.

(3) A widow, or a dependent widower, who has the care of and who pays at least fifty per cent of the support of dependent children shall be paid as follows:

(a) Having one such child, one hundred eighty dollars per month or a monthly amount which on an annual basis shall not exceed seventy-five per cent of the member's earnings during his last twelve calendar months of employment as a member, whichever is the lesser; provided, that the benefit payable under this paragraph shall not be less than one hundred fifty dollars per month;

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(b) Having two or more such children, two hundred thirty dollars per month or a monthly amount which on an annual basis shall not exceed seventy-five per cent of the member's earnings during his last twelve calendar months of employment as a member, whichever is the lesser; provided, that the benefit payable under this paragraph shall not be less than one hundred fifty dollars per month. Benefits payable under subdivisions (3) (a) and (3) (b) of this division shall begin the first of the month after the member's death. Such benefits shall terminate upon the death or remarriage of the beneficiary; or when such children are no longer in the care of the beneficiary by reason of the following: (1) adoption, (2) active military service, (3) the attainment of age eighteen by the youngest child, except a financially dependent incompetent progeny, (4) relinquishing fifty per cent or more of their financial support to an institutional authority or other person or persons. After all but one child have attained age eighteen, the benefit shall be reduced to that payable under paragraph (a) of this division.

(c) If the beneficiary taking under paragraphs (3) (a) and (3) (b) remarries or dies, while having the care of such unmarried children under eighteen years of age, or while having the care of such financially dependent incompetent progeny, or abandons such children then benefits shall be paid such children in the amounts provided under division (B) (4) of this section.

(d) If the widower of a deceased member cannot establish dependency under this division and has the care of dependent children benefits shall be paid such children as provided under division (B) (4) of this section. Such benefits shall begin the first day of the month after the member's death and shall terminate with respect to any child upon his adoption, marriage, active military service, or when he ceases to be a dependent child. Such children shall not receive the benefits payable under this paragraph while eligible for and receiving benefits in accordance with the qualifications under division (B) (4) of this section.

(4) (a) One dependent child of the deceased member who received at least one-half of his support from the member during the twelve-month period immediately preceding the member's death, shall be paid ninety dollars per month or a monthly amount, which on an annual basis shall not exceed seventy-five per cent of the member's earnings during his last twelve calendar months of employment as a member, whichever is the lesser; provided, that such benefits shall not be less than seventy-five dollars per month.

(b) If such child's guardian elects to take under subdivision (4) (a), and there is another dependent child of the deceased member who received at least one-half of his support from the member during the twelve-month period immediately preceding the member's death there shall be paid a total amount of one hundred fifty dollars per month. Such benefit shall be divided equally between the dependent children.

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(c) If such child's guardian, elects to take under subdivision (4) (a), and there are two or more other dependent children who received at least one-half of their support from the member during the twelve-month period immediately preceding the member's death there shall be paid a total amount of two hundred ten dollars per month or a monthly amount, which on an annual basis shall not exceed seventy-five per cent of the member's earnings during his last twelve calendar months of employment as a member, whichever is the lesser; provided, that such benefit shall not be less than one hundred fifty dollars per month. Such benefit shall be divided equally among all such dependent children.

(d) Benefits payable under paragraphs (4) (a), (4) (b), and (4) (c) shall commence with the month subsequent to the death of the member, or, if payable by reason of the death or remarriage of a beneficiary who received benefits under division (B) (3) of this section, commencing the month subsequent to such death or remarriage.

A dependent child who was denied a monthly benefit after the remarriage of the primary beneficiary of such deceased member, and who otherwise qualifies for the monthly benefit on or after November 1, 1961, shall receive a monthly benefit, commencing on or after November 1, 1961, in the amount provided by the law in effect at the time of such marriage. Benefits shall terminate with respect to any child upon his adoption, death, marriage, active military service, or when he ceased to be a dependent child.

(5) A dependent parent sixty-five or more years of age, and who does not remarry subsequent to the member's death, shall be paid ninety dollars per month or a monthly amount which on an annual basis shall not exceed seventy-five per cent of the member's earnings during his last twelve calendar months of employment as a member, whichever is the lesser; provided, that such benefit shall not be less than seventy-five dollars per month. If such parent elects to take under this paragraph and if the other parent of the member also meets the qualifications of this paragraph, such other parent shall also be paid the amount provided in this paragraph. Such benefit shall commence with the month subsequent to the death of the member, or thereafter upon attainment of age sixty-five by the beneficiary. Such benefit shall terminate upon the remarriage or death of the beneficiary.

(6) In lieu of accepting benefits under subdivisions (B) (1) to (B) (5), inclusive, beneficiaries of members who die on or after [the effective date of this section] AUGUST 27, 1970, and who met the eligibility requirements of division (B) of this section may elect benefits as follows;

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Number of Persons Affecting the Benefit	Annual Benefit As a Per Cent Of Decedent's Final Average Salary
1	25%
2	40
3	50
4	55
5 or more	60

Benefits shall begin and shall be terminated as provided in divisions (B) (1) to (B) (5), inclusive, of this section.

For the purpose of subdivision (B) (6), if the member had at least one and one-half years of Ohio service credit CONTRIBUTING MEMBERSHIP, but less than five years, THE FINAL AVERAGE SALARY SHALL BE THE total annual compensation and service credit granted during such period shall be used in determining final average salary DIVIDED BY THE TOTAL NUMBER OF YEARS, INCLUDING ANY FRACTION OF A YEAR OF CONTRIBUTING MEMBERSHIP, DURING THAT PERIOD.

(7) Concurrent payments shall not be made under more than one subdivision of division (B) of this section.

(C) "Dependent child" means any unmarried child of a deceased member under age eighteen, or any other financially dependent child of a deceased member, regardless of age, adjudged physically or mentally incompetent by a court or by a physician appointed by the public employees retirement board. A dependent child receiving, or eligible to receive a benefit on or after the effective date of this section, shall include such child under age twenty-two who is a student in and attending an institution of learning or training pursuant to a program designed to complete in each school year the equivalent of at least two-thirds of the full-time curriculum requirements of such institution and as determined by retirement board policy.

"Child" as used in this section includes a legally adopted child. If a court hearing for an interlocutory decree had been held prior to the time of the member's death, the beneficiary shall qualify for the monthly benefit notwithstanding the fact that the final decree of adoption, adjudging the surviving spouse as the adoptive parent, is made subsequent to the death of the member, and such benefit shall commence with the month subsequent to the final decree. "Child" as used in this section includes a child of the deceased born subsequent to the death of the member, and such benefit shall commence with the month subsequent to the birth of such child.

If the validity of marriage cannot be established to the satisfaction of the retirement board for the purpose of disbursing any amount due under this section, the retirement board may accept a decision rendered by a court having jurisdiction in the state in which the member was domiciled at the time of death that (1) the relationship constituted a valid marriage at the time of death, or (2) the "spouse" would have the same status as a widow or widower for the purposes of sharing the distribution of the member's intestate personal property.