

513-7-1-.04 Qualification for Membership and Creditable Service.

(1) To qualify for the Pension Fund, an individual must be a full-time or part-time employee of a fire department and also be state certified or a candidate for state certification by the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council, or enrolled as a volunteer firefighter with a volunteer fire department or an employee of the Pension Fund.

(2) An individual who does not have and principally perform the duties of a firefighter is not eligible for initial or continued membership in the Georgia Firefighters' Pension Fund, even though the individual is employed by a fire department in some other capacity, unless prior to July 1 2006 as an employee of a full-time fire department, the individual principally performed within that fire department a support function set forth in subpart (3). The role of a volunteer must be that of a firefighter with the principal duties and responsibilities of fire suppression.

(3) The following activities are support functions for fire prevention and fire suppression activities of a type which have been traditionally and customarily performed by fire departments in the State of Georgia:

- (a) Administrative activities related to the operation of the department performed by personnel within the department;
- (b) The maintenance and repair of firefighting equipment and apparatus performed by personnel within the fire department;
- (c) Communication services for fire suppression and fire prevention activities performed by personnel within the fire department;
- (d) Clerical services for administration of the department performed by personnel within the fire department;
- (e) Job-related training activities for fire suppression and fire prevention personnel performed by personnel within the fire department; and
- (f) Fire prevention and fire inspection functions performed by personnel within the fire department.

(4) A person who qualifies for membership in the Fund, but is later transferred voluntarily (or involuntarily) to a position in which the member's primary duties no longer qualify that individual for pension credit will not receive credit for service in the new position, even if the new position is within the fire department.

(5) Members who met the above qualifications and who were admitted to the Fund prior to July 1, 2006 may remain in the Fund and continue to earn creditable service so long as there is no break in continuous pension service.

(6) The Board may require evidence of qualification for initial or continued membership in the Georgia Firefighters' Pension Fund and of the performance of creditable service certification by the applicant or member and by the Chief of the department as to the roster of the department, showing the position held and the duties of the position held.

- (a) For full-time and part-time certified firefighters, the Board will require verification from the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council that qualifications are met.
- (b) For volunteer firefighters, the Board will require annual affidavits from department chiefs that training and attendance requirements are met.
- (c) For all others, the Board will require an initial job description and periodically, on request, reaffirmation of fire support duties.

Authority O.C.G.A. Sec. 47-7-23. **History.** Original Rule entitled “Qualification for Membership and Creditable Service” adopted. F. Dec. 23, 1985; eff. July 30, 1981, as specified by the Agency. **Amended:** F. Nov. 20, 1990; eff. Dec. 10, 1990. **Amended:** F. Aug. 22, 1994; eff. Sept. 11, 1994. **Amended:** F. Dec. 29, 1999; eff. Jan. 18, 2000. **Amended:** F. Feb. 5, 2001; eff. Feb. 25, 2001. **Amended:** F. Aug. 20, 2009; eff. Sept. 9, 2009.