

CHAPTER 14

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS

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Payments in Advance

Salaries and wages of public officers may not be paid in advance. [IC 5-7-3-1]

Compensation

All compensation and benefits paid to officials and employees must be included in the labor contract, salary ordinance, resolution or salary schedule adopted by the governing body unless otherwise authorized by statute. Compensation should be made in a manner that will facilitate compliance with state and federal reporting requirements.

Compensation - Non-Employees

Payments for services provided by an organization should go directly to the organization and not to an individual employee of the organization. All payments for services should be supported by a written contract.

Compensation should be made in a manner that will facilitate compliance with state and federal reporting requirements.

Employee Benefits

All types of employee benefits should be detailed in a written policy. Payments for expenses not authorized in a written policy cannot be allowed.

The board should adopt policies governing sick leave, vacation leave, and any other types of special leave.

Leave and Overtime Policy

Each governmental unit should adopt a written policy regarding the accrual and use of leave time and compensatory time and the payment of overtime. Negotiated labor contracts approved by the governing board would be considered as written policy. The policy should conform to the requirements of all state and federal regulatory agencies.

RECORD OF HOURS WORKED

IC 5-11-9-4 requires that records be maintained showing which hours are worked each day for employees employed by more than one political subdivision or in more than one position by the same public agency. This requirement can be met by indicating the number of hours worked on each Employee's Service Record, General Form No. 99A and/or General Form No. 99B.

The federal Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) requires that records of wages paid, daily and weekly hours of work, and the time of day and day of week on which the employee's work week begins be kept for all employees. These requirements can be met by use of the following prescribed general forms:

General Form 99A, Employees' Service Record
General Form 99B, Employee's Earnings Record
General Form 99C, Employee's Weekly Earnings Record

General Form 99C is required only for employees who are not exempt from FLSA, are not on a fixed work schedule, and are not paid weekly.

Additional information regarding FLSA rules and regulations may be obtained from the Department of Labor.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

Legislation was passed in 1977 amending the Indiana Employment Security Act, IC 22-4, to include the State and all its political subdivisions as employers under the act, effective January 1, 1978.

Employers may elect payment of a percentage rate on a quarterly basis or to make "payments in lieu of contributions" on a monthly basis for benefits paid out during the month. If the employer chooses the first option they pay an unemployment insurance tax on a fixed sum of wages paid to each employee during a calendar year. The political subdivision's rate will be determined by the size of their credit reserve in relation to past claims. Employers wishing to change their elected option of payment may do so upon giving proper notification to the Department of Workforce Development. Employers under each option are required to file quarterly reports on their payroll and contributions. Each employer must display posters (available from the Department of Workforce Development) where all employees can see them.

PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT FUND (PERF)

Political Subdivisions may participate in the Public Employees' Retirement Fund.

The benefits specified in IC 5-10.2 provide the retirement, disability, and survivor benefits for public employees. This is the only retirement plan in which political subdivisions may participate unless the following applies:

This article does not prohibit a political subdivision from establishing and providing before January 1, 1995, and continuing to provide after January 1, 1995, retirement, disability, and survivor benefits for the public employees of the political subdivision independent of this article if the political subdivision took action before January 1, 1995, and was not a participant in the public employees' retirement fund on January 1, 1995. [IC 5-10.2-2-1]

PUBLIC EMPLOYEE DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLANS

A political subdivision may do the following:

1. agree with any employee to reduce and defer any portion of such employee's compensation which under federal law may be deferred under a nonqualified deferred compensation plan and subsequently contract for, purchase, or otherwise procure insurance and investment products appropriate for a nonqualified deferred compensation plan for the purpose of funding a deferred compensation plan for such employee;

2. contribute amounts before January 1, 1995 and continue or begin to contribute amounts after January 1, 1995 to a nonqualified deferred compensation plan on behalf of eligible employees, subject to any limits and provisions under Section 457 of the Internal Revenue Code. [IC 5-10-1.1-1]

IC 5-10-1.1-7(c) allows a political subdivision to establish and administer other plans including plans established under IC 5-10-1.1-1(2) which would include plans qualified under Sections 401(a) and 403(b) of the Internal Revenue Code.

TRAVEL POLICY

The following sets forth the audit position of the State Board of Accounts with regard to reimbursements made by local governmental units to their officers and employees for travel and meal expenses.

A local unit is specifically authorized by statute to reimbursement its officers or employees for travel related expenses, the local unit may reimburse such persons for actual miles traveled in their own motor vehicles on official business of the local unit at the rate per mile indicated in the enabling statute. The mileage rate should be fixed by the board or commission having authority to approve claims for travel expenses. No particular mileage rate has been set by the State of Indiana for local units of government and, consequently, the mileage rate lies within the discretion of legislative body, board or commission, unless otherwise provided by statute. The body setting the mileage rate should also determine whether parking fees and toll charges are included in the rate or, on the other hand, whether such expenses are to be reimbursed separately based on the submission of receipts.

Reimbursed mileage should not include travel to and from the officer's or employee's home and regular place of employment. If more than one person rides in the same vehicle, only one mileage reimbursement is allowable. General Form 101 (or an approved substitute) should be used for claiming mileage. The odometer reading columns on this form are to be used only when the distance between points cannot be determined by fixed mileage or official highway maps.

When traveling outside the local unit's boundaries on official business, officers, and employees may also be reimbursed for meals, lodging, and incidental expenses as defined in the travel policy. The claim for reimbursement should be supported by itemized receipts from hotels, restaurants, and taxi cabs used by the officer or employee while traveling on official business.

It is permissible for the legislative body of the local unit or the board or commission having the authority to approve claims to adopt an ordinance or resolution establishing a reasonable per diem rate intended to cover travel expenses other than hotel and mileage costs and the officer or employee may be reimbursed on the basis of such a per diem rate in lieu of submitting receipts. If a fixed per diem rate is established by policy, the policy should clearly indicate which type of expenses, in addition to meals, are included in the rate and which related expenses are to be reimbursed on the basis of actual receipts being submitted by the officer or employee. The policy should also define the local unit's boundaries for purposes of reimbursing travel; i.e., outside a 50-mile radius of the office, outside of the county, etc. The policy should cover a proportionate reduction in the per diem rate when meals are provided by an outside party.

When state statutes govern the amounts of allowable travel reimbursements, those statutes supersede local policy. Also, when determining the reasonableness of a mileage rate or per diem rate, consideration should be given to rates established by the State of Indiana and the Federal government. The local unit should, however, consider the income tax implications of setting its rates higher than the current Federal rates.

In all cases, an officer or employee requesting reimbursement for overnight travel is required to submit a receipt from the hotel or other meeting place where such accommodations were provided.

PRIVATE PROPERTY

Generally, public funds may not be used to make improvements to property not owned by the governmental unit, unless permitted by statute, federal requirements, state requirements, or safety concerns.

PERSONAL PROPERTY USE

Assets of the governmental unit may not be used in a manner unrelated to the functions and purposes of the governmental unit.

Whenever an item or other asset owned by the political subdivision is entrusted to an officer or employee, to be used at times outside the normal work time for business purposes, such as a cellular phone, or vehicle, a log should be maintained which clearly shows the business use.

PERSONAL EXPENSES

Public funds may not be used to pay for personal items or for expenses which do not relate to the functions and purposes of the governmental unit. Any personal expenses paid by the governmental unit may be the personal obligation of the responsible official or employee.

PURCHASING BONUSES

Any compensation, premium, bonus, or product earned as a result of the purchase of goods or services by the governmental unit becomes the property of the governmental unit.

SUSPENSION WITH PAY

Suspension with pay must be supported by the written opinion of the attorney for the governmental unit stating that the suspension is in accordance with all Federal laws and regulations, and State laws, including IC 35-44.1-1-4.

SEVERANCE PAY

Unless specifically authorized by statute, severance pay, or other payments to employees upon separation from employment, must be supported by the written opinion of the attorney for the governmental unit stating that the payments are in accordance with all federal laws and regulations and state laws, including IC 35-44.1-1-4, and a properly enacted Home Rule ordinance or resolution, as applicable.