

STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF ILLINOIS  
MINUTES OF THE  
RULES AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE  
April 26, 2021

The Rules and Personnel Committee of the Board of Trustees of the State Employees' Retirement System of Illinois convened on Monday, April 26, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. at the System's Springfield office located at 2101 South Veterans Parkway. Such meeting was conducted by videoconference in accordance with the provisions of Public Act 101-640.

The following trustees were in attendance:

Danny Silverthorn, Trustee  
Jeremy "Tad" Hawk, Trustee

Others in attendance were:

Tim Blair, Executive Secretary  
Jim Stivers, General Counsel  
Jeff Houch, Assistant to the Executive Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 3:10 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no members of the public present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 11, 2021 MEETING

Trustee Silverthorn motioned to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2021 meeting of the committee, Trustee Hawk seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

RULEMAKING AND LEGISLATION AUTHORIZATION

Mr. Houch presented proposed rules recommended by staff for the committee's consideration. He summarized that the proposed rules:

- provide that a Department is not required to certify to the System the date that a member terminates service if the member retires while on inactive or disabled status and has been off the Department's payroll for at least 5 years;
- codify that any person claiming a survivor's annuity must file a written application with the System, must provide a copy of the death certificate for the deceased member or annuitant, and may be required to provide an affidavit that states his or her relationship to the deceased member;

- move the gainful employment rules into a stand-alone section and codify the process used by the System to suspend the payment of disability benefits, occupational death benefits, and survivor's annuities to benefit recipients who have engaged in gainful employment or activity;
- provide that lump sum payments issued under the Workers' Compensation or Workers' Occupational Diseases Act are generally to be applied as an offset to SERS occupational disability benefits for the period prescribed in the workers' compensation award or settlement, unless the award or settlement does not prescribe a period of time for the payment of the benefit, in which case the System will offset the amount of the award as it has historically (i.e., using the average weekly wage);
- provide that the workers' compensation offset shall be reduced by medical, hospital, or burial expenses only if such expenses are incurred before either a final determination is made on the member's claim by the Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission or the member's claim is otherwise settled;
- allow the System to accept a QILDRO calculation order that was issued by an Illinois court after a member's death;
- clarify that any member, including a Tier 2 member, whose occupational disability benefit is terminated as a result of either attaining age 65 or attaining the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary date of the benefit start date, if benefit began after age 60, shall be eligible for a retirement annuity upon the benefit ceasing, provided that he or she remains disabled;
- provide that the term "licensed healthcare professional" includes licensed healthcare professionals that are licensed or otherwise certified in other states;
- provide that the term "licensed healthcare professional's registration number" means the unique license, registration, or certification number or other identifier issued by the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation or the licensing body of another state to an individual who is licensed or otherwise credentialed by the Department or the licensing body as a licensed healthcare professional; and
- eliminate the requirement that the System must pay for independent medical examinations, hospital records, and activity inspection reports when substantiating the continuance of disability benefits and allow for such services to be paid by the System at its discretion.

After some discussion, on the details of the proposed rules, a motion to approve the pursuit of the proposed rulemaking was submitted by Trustee Hawk and seconded by Trustee Silverthorn.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Houch provided an update on the SERS sponsored legislation that was approved by the Committee at the January 11, 2021 meeting, mentioning SB 1056 passed the Senate on April 23, 2021 and that he expects the House to do the same.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Secretary Blair mentioned to the Committee that his evaluation is due by the end of the fiscal year and that he has provided the template by email, to the members of the committee.

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the committee, Trustee Hawk made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Silverthorn seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.