



## State Employees' Retirement System

2101 South Veterans Parkway, P. O. Box 19255, Springfield, IL 62794-9255 • Phone 217-785-7444 • Fax 217-785-7019  
State of Illinois Building - 160 N. LaSalle St., Suite N725, Chicago IL 60601 • Phone 312-814-5853 • Fax 312-814-5805

## Early Retirement Incentive Finally Becomes Reality

After years of speculation that another ERI was imminent, Governor Ryan signed House Bill 2671 (PA #92-566) into law on June 25, 2002 giving state employees the first chance since 1991 to purchase five years of service credit & age and retire or resign.

② We will compute benefit and cost information for all members eligible to retire. The individual estimates and a brochure explaining the ERI program will be mailed to these members by July 15.

② Employees can retire starting August 1, but no later than December 31.

② Some key workers may be given a four-month work extension.

② Employees should visit the Early Retirement Information section of our website. The Frequently Asked Questions will be updated weekly.

**Our web address is:**  
**[www.state.il.us/srs](http://www.state.il.us/srs)**

## State Employees Called to Active Military Duty

In an effort to ensure that no state employee shall lose compensation or benefits because of military service, Governor Ryan has previously ordered that any full-time state employee under the control of the Governor's office who is also a member of any reserve component of the U.S. Armed Forces, including the National Guard, and mobilized to active military duty in response to the terrorist attacks, shall continue to receive their regular compensation as a state employee, including health insurance and other benefits, minus the amount of their military base pay.

State agencies not under the control of the Governor's office have indicated that they will also follow the Governor's Order.

The following information explains how contributions for employees, both active and in their qualifying period, should be administered.

**Active Employees** entitled to receive Guard or Reserve Active Duty pay under the Governor's Order, will be required to pay employee retirement contributions on their **full rate of pay**, as if they

## Retirement Service Credit for Furlough Days

One provision of HB 2671 allows SERS members to establish retirement service and earnings credit with no additional contribution for voluntary or involuntary furloughs taken between December 1, 2001 and January 1, 2003. The maximum number of credit days allowed is five. The furlough day(s) had to be used as a means of addressing the state's fiscal emergency.

To receive this credit, members must apply in writing to the member's employer before July 1, 2005. In order to process these furlough day adjustments in an organized manner, a new reporting form has been prepared. A copy of this new form will be sent to all payroll officers with a Payroll Bulletin. **Employees taking advantage of the ERI should be given priority basis.**

*(continued on back)*

had remained on the payroll as an active employee.

The employer retirement contributions are also due on the full rate of pay. If the proper amount of contributions are not deducted or picked up, we will notify the agency payroll officer.

The state's retirement contribution should be vouchered on Form C-13 if necessary. Similarly, the employer pickup amount not included on the agency's regular payroll, may also be vouchered on Form C-13.

If no additional salary payment is due by the State to the employee after the Military Base Pay Reduction, you must send a letter to us identifying:

1. The employee's name and Social Security number;
2. The amount of their full rate of pay and the related pay periods involved;
3. The amount of employee/ employer retirement contributions due for pay periods identified in Item 2.

**Qualifying Period Employees** who are called to active military duty and remain on the State of Illinois' payroll, must serve the remainder of their qualifying period while on active duty.

After completing the qualifying period, the employee becomes a member of SERS, and either the employee contribution and/or

employer pickup is due on their full rate of pay.

Be sure to use Employee Status Code 'R' for military leaves of absence of more than 30 days. The Status Effective Date should also be completed if status code 'R' is used.

***Due to the passage of the Early Retirement Incentive (ERI), please complete the attached form for all qualified employees, with particular attention to those eligible to retire under the ERI. These forms should be completed as soon as possible.***

If you have questions about any information in this article, call us at 217-785-7202 or 217-785-7191.

## ***ERI APPLICATION PACKET REQUEST***

We have dedicated an e-mail address and telephone number for  
**REQUESTING AN ERI APPLICATION PACKET ONLY.**

When you call or e-mail these numbers, please provide your name, Social Security number, marital status, and if you have minor children.

The numbers are:

E-Mail Address: [pension@ser084r1.state.il.us](mailto:pension@ser084r1.state.il.us)

Telephone Number: 217-557-2033