



SPRING 2023



Administer and promote sustainable retirement plans and provide services that our members value.

2023 Legislative Update

The 2023 legislative session began on January 3rd.

The Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement (LCPR) heard testimony on the MSRS, PERA, and TRA administrative bills earlier in session. These bills, along with several other retirement-related bills, were merged into the Pension and Retirement Omnibus Policy Bill HF2950/SF3016.

PERA's portion of the Omnibus Policy Bill includes the following topics:

- » **Membership Eligibility Salary Threshold.** Changes the membership salary threshold from an annual threshold to a monthly amount. This topic was detailed in the Winter 2022 newsletter.
- » **Dependent Child Survivor Benefits.** Standardizes the age of dependent child benefits for all PERA plans and removes the Police & Fire student requirement.
- » **Leave Purchases.** Allows terminated members and disability applicants to purchase leaves under the same time frame as active members.
- » **Statewide Volunteer Firefighter (SVF) vesting credits.** Amends statutes to count prior service with a relief association as vesting service.

Other key topics under discussion include:

- » **Disability process changes.** HF1234/SF1959 is a proposed bill providing early mental health treatment for public safety members and contains provisions related to PERA benefit eligibility and amounts. The bill and the PERA-related changes were supported by our Board. See PERA's legislation page for several educational resources on this proposed Bill at mnpera.org/legislation.
- » **One-time post-retirement adjustment.** HF2940/SF2979, a State government finance bill, contains appropriations for the plans and a one-time post-retirement adjustment in 2024.

PERA is monitoring proposed legislation as it continues to be discussed with the LCPR. The session is expected to end in May. Many proposed items are still being discussed and outcomes are uncertain. In our next newsletter, we will provide detailed information regarding what proposals are passed by the Legislature.

The LCPR website provides information and tracking of retirement-related bills from the House and Senate. Many proposals are introduced throughout the legislative session; however, not all proposals will become law. You can access LCPR's bill page at lcp.mn.gov/billlog.

PERA Board welcomes elected trustees

The PERA Board welcomes one new trustee, Dennis Flaherty, elected retired, disabled and survivor representative; along with four returning trustees, Paul Bourgeois, Thomas Stanley, Thomas Rupp, elected active General and Correctional Plan representatives; and Paul Ford, elected Police & Fire representative.

Board Elections were held in January to fill five open positions which serve a four-year term. The election vendor certified the voting results. The Board voted to accept the certified results during their meeting on February 16. Visit the About section of our website for more information about PERA's Board of Trustees.



DENNIS FLAHERTY

TROUBLESHOOTING ERIS

At times, ERIS may be operational but individual employers experience access issues. Here is a list of troubleshooting tips that resolve most issues:

- » **Avoid Bookmarks.** Sessions often time-out. Accessing through a bookmarked link can store an expired session. Log into ERIS by going to our website at mnpera.org -> Employers -> ERIS Login.
- » **Use Another Web Browser.** Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, and Microsoft Edge are good options. Internet Explorer has been discontinued and is no longer supported.
- » **Cookies and Cache.** Clearing cookies and cache browsing history can clear an obstruction in the ERIS connection. The process for clearing these items varies by web browser. If you are unfamiliar, search “how to clear cache on (insert name of your web browser)”.
- » **Refresh the Page.** Press Ctrl+F5. In most browsers, this will retrieve the webpage from the server instead of loading it from the cache.
- » **Check for New Devices.** Has your agency installed any new hardware, devices, or programs recently? Sometimes those can cause a disruption where least expected. Check with your internal IT Department for assistance.
- » **Provide PERA the IPv4 Address.** If none of the above options work, your firewall may be blocked. Locate the IPv4 address of your computer and email to Employer.Reps@mnpera.org for staff to assist.

To Find Your IPv4 Address: search “what is my IPv4 address” in a web browser. The result will display as ###.##.###.###.

NCPERS Life Insurance

The National Conference on Public Employee Retirement Systems (NCPERS) offers a decreasing term life insurance program, called the *Public Employee Financial Protection Plan*, issued by Prudential.

As a public employer, you are able to offer this benefit to your PERA-covered employees, who pay a fixed \$16 per month. The benefit provides coverage for the employee, spouse, and dependent children. The life insurance benefit gradually decreases as the employee gets older. Coverage can continue into retirement by transferring the deduction to the PERA benefit payment. The plan is completely voluntary, and can be terminated by the employee at any time. For more information on this program, please visit ncpers.memberbenefits.com/minn.

Note: PERA has no role in the carrier selection, design, or operation of the plan.

ERIS Enhancement: Edit Leave Report Data

Employers who have successfully submitted an Annual Leave Report may now use the Amend Report Data feature to edit information already submitted for an employee. Previously, you were only able to add individuals who were missed on the original submission.

Click the Edit link to change Employee Information entries for date, hourly rate and total hours. When you have finished, click Save -> Submit to PERA. Close the report when you have finished making changes. PERA will generate and mail a new purchase estimate based on the updated information.

The Amend Report Data link remains available throughout the year until it is time to complete next year's report. At this time, you must still contact us to add new leave periods for an employee who was already included on the original report. A future enhancement is planned to address this limitation. Contact us at employer.reps@mnpera.org with questions.

2022 Financial Reports Now Available

PERA is pleased to announce that the 2022 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) and Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR), which is a summary of the ACFR, are now available on our website. The reports provide financial, investment, actuarial, statistical, and other related information about PERA and the pension plans it administers.

The 2022 GASB 68 Toolkit, which includes the GASB 68 schedules, audit opinion, and suggested footnotes, can also be accessed online. Employers with a calendar year ending December 31, 2022, and a measurement date of June 30, 2022, should use this information.

These reports can be found online under the Financial section of our website at.

EMPLOYER EDUCATION

ON-DEMAND WEBINARS

For your convenience, we have two on-demand webinars that can be viewed at any time:

- » The **Annual Leave Reporting** webinar is recommended for any contact responsible for member status or contribution reporting.
- » The **Welcome Employer: PERA Reporting Training** is recommended for payroll, HR, and business managers who are new to PERA reporting.

LIVE WEBINARS

- » The **Welcome Employer: PERA Reporting Training** webinar will be presented on Thursday, April 27 at 11:00 am.
- » After this legislative session ends, we will present a webinar on changes impacting PERA and employers. Details will be announced in the summer newsletter.

Check out the Employer Education page for more information at mnpera.org/education/employer-education.



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PERMIT 171

Ask PERA!

Have a question for PERA? We'd love to hear from you!
employer.reps@mnpera.org | 651.296.3636 | 888.892.7372 | mnpera.org

Why would PERA request a termination date for someone who changed jobs but is still a current employee of our governmental entity?

A status change of Termination means that an employee's coverage under a specific PERA-covered plan has ended. It is required when the work relationship between your entity and the employee has ended.

It is also needed when an employee moves to a different position within your entity that causes a change to their PERA plan or Retirement System coverage. For example:

- » Coordinated Plan member is promoted to a full-time police officer and enrolled in PERA's Police & Fire Plan.
- » Coordinated Plan member is promoted to a teacher and enrolled in Teachers Retirement Association (TRA).

In both situations, you must update the Coordinated Plan status to Terminated, using an effective date of the position change.

Employers have a responsibility to report employment status changes for PERA-covered employees during the pay period in which it occurs. Timely reporting ensures that employees receive up-to-date benefit estimates and statements.