



MSRB



Retiree eNews Bulletin

July 2020 eNews

FY 2021 COLA Update

At the time of this writing, the Legislature had not yet acted on a COLA (Cost-of-Living Adjustment) for eligible retired state employees for the 2021 fiscal year. Typically, the COLA is a line-item within the Commonwealth's fiscal year budget if enacted by the Legislature. If a COLA is approved, benefit recipients will receive the COLA as soon as administratively possible with their regular monthly benefit payment.

COLA updates will be posted on our website when they become available.
www.mass.gov/retirement.

2020 BVF Update

The first retiree Benefit Verification Forms (BVF) were mailed early July and are due back to the Board by August 7, 2020.

It is acceptable to return the form after the deadline of August 7, 2020, without harming a member's benefit payment. A second BVF will be mailed sometime in September to all benefit recipients who were not able to return the first BVF.

Note, the Board processes over 60,000 BVFs and will confirm receipt of an individual BVF starting in August. In the meantime, members whose BVF has been received and validated may receive a postcard that acknowledges receipt.

Did You Know?

The MSRB has partially re-opened its offices to telephone traffic between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. (Monday – Friday), and have limited staff working onsite and others remotely. There continues to be no public access to our Boston and Springfield offices.

MSRB staff added more than 900 new retirees / beneficiaries to the pension payroll for the period since March through the end of June.

Additionally, staff has received and responded to more than 35,000 telephone calls and over 9,000 emails during the same period.

Treasurer Goldberg Warns of Unclaimed Property Scam Text Messages

Fraudulent text messages are being sent claiming to be from the Massachusetts Unclaimed Property Division (UCP). The texts say that there are available funds under your name and to visit the link provided. According to Treasurer Deborah Goldberg, these texts are a scam and have not been sent by UCP.

"It has come to our attention that text messages claiming to be from the

There is no notarization requirement, but the BVF must be witnessed by someone aged 18 or older.

Your spouse or someone else living in your home may witness your BVF.

Benefit recipients will continue to receive their monthly benefit as usual during the BVF process.

If the benefit recipient has passed away, there is no need to return the form. Instead, please notify the Board of their passing and mail a copy of their Death Certificate to the Board at One Winter St, 8th FL Boston, MA 02108.

Please note: You will not be required to submit a form if you retired or started receiving a pension benefit this year (2020).

Be sure to check the [Board's website](#), [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#) pages for the latest updates!

The MSRB *Retiree eNews Bulletin* Celebrates Its Sixth Anniversary!

July marks the sixth anniversary of the launch of the MSRB ***Retiree eNews Bulletin***. Over the past six years, staff has worked diligently to provide important and relevant information to our retired members. Our July 2014 inaugural issue was emailed to 22,645 retirees, survivors and/or beneficiaries. Since then, we are pleased to report that the number of current subscribers has grown to 42,924, 66% of our benefit recipients!

Board staff has received a lot of positive feedback and, as we enter our next year of distribution, we hope that you, our retired members, continue to find this publication useful and informative. The past year's

Massachusetts Unclaimed Property Division have been sent to residents across the state," said State Treasurer Deborah Goldberg. "Our goal is to ensure that no Massachusetts citizen is taken advantage of as part of this scam."

UCP currently holds over \$3.4 billion in unclaimed property at Treasury and it could be yours. One in ten Massachusetts residents are owed money. To search to see if you have unclaimed money, visit: <https://findmassmoney.com>.

If you have any questions, please contact the Unclaimed Property Division at (617) 367-0400.

Unemployment Fraud Alert!

It has also come to our attention that illegitimate unemployment benefit claims are being made falsely representing people's identities. It is important to be aware of such scams in order to protect yourself.

If you believe your identity has been used to falsely obtain unemployment assistance, because you have received confirmation from DUA in a mailing, visit: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/report-unemployment-benefits-fraud>.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Department of Unemployment Assistance at 877-626-6800.

Go Green!

There is no better time than the summer to practice going green. Reduce paper usage by opting out of your mailed paper pension statements, which are

issues are available online for viewing at <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/newsletters-for-retirees-msrb>.

As always, your feedback and suggestions are welcomed and much appreciated. Thank you for reading the **Retiree eNews Bulletin!**

Did you receive this **Retiree eNews Bulletin** as a forwarded e-mail from a friend? If you are an MSERS retiree and would like to receive your own monthly **Retiree eNews Bulletin**, send your e-mail address to us at MSRBCommunications@tre.state.ma.us.

Note: Please include your full name and either your MSRB I.D. or the last four digits of your Social Security Number, and request that we add it to our distribution list.

Is there something you would like us to communicate in an upcoming **Retiree eNews Bulletin**? If so, let us know!

Please e-mail your request and/or comments to

MSRBCommunications@tre.state.ma.us

We look forward to hearing from you!

Contact us:

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easily accessible online at PayInfo! PayInfo makes it fast and easy to not only view your statements, but to have access to them whenever you want! The production of paper has a huge impact on our environment, so it's important we find ways to minimize it as much as we can.

Access your PayInfo statements here:

[PayInfo Login](#)

Once you're logged in, simply click the "Go Paperless Now!" button to opt-out of mail-in statements and join us in going green!

Here is a link to the instructions if you need assistance:

[PayInfo Instructions](#)

Have you, or are you planning to move? If so, be sure to notify the Board of your address change! Retirees who already have summer and winter addresses on file with the Board can call us to request the address update. Otherwise, you'll need to notify the Board in writing. You can download our Change of Address form [here!](#)

Past issues of our newsletter publications can be found on our [website](#).

Quick links: Visit our website:

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