



MSRB



Retiree eNews Bulletin

NOVEMBER 2021

Medicare Premium Increase Announced for 2022

Earlier this month, the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services ("CMS") released the 2022 Medicare Parts A and B premiums, deductibles, and coinsurance amounts.

Both the standard Part B premium and the Part B deductible for all Medicare beneficiaries will increase by more than 14%. The Medicare Part A inpatient deductible will increase by less than 5%. These will take effect on January 1, 2022.

According to the November 12, 2021 announcement, the standard monthly Medicare Part B premium will be \$170.10 for 2022, an increase of \$21.60. In 2022, the annual deductible for Medicare Part B beneficiaries will be \$233.00, an increase of \$30.00.

[According to CMS](#), the reason for these increases are due to a variety of factors such as:

- Rising prices and utilization across the health care system.
- Congressional action to significantly lower the increase in 2021 Medicare Part B premium. CMS notes that due to legislation, they are required to "pay back" the premium over time – beginning in

PRIM Investment Committee Recommends Investment of up to \$1 Billion in Emerging- Diverse Managers

The Pensions Reserves Investment Management ("PRIM") Board will consider a recommendation of its Investment Committee to invest up to \$1 billion in emerging-diverse managers over the next two years.

"The PRIM team, by investing \$1 billion into its emerging-diverse managers' program, is taking important steps in addressing the inequities endemic in the financial services sector" said Treasurer Goldberg, who serves as the Chair of PRIM's Board.

[Click here to learn more.](#)

The PRIM Board will vote on the plan during their December 2nd meeting. If you have any questions regarding PRIM, you can contact them at their website: <https://www.mapension.com>.

MSRB Operations Update

As of November 1, 2021, MSRB staff have returned to a hybrid in-office and remote work arrangement to the Boston and Springfield offices. Staff are working

2022.

- Additional contingency reserves due to the uncertainty regarding the potential use of the Alzheimer's drug, Aduhelm™, by people with Medicare.

While many retirees will benefit from a 5.9% cost-of-living increase in their Social Security benefits for 2022 and it may help offset these increases, many public sector retirees are not covered by Social Security. As a result, the Medicare increases will have a greater impact when combined with current upward cost pressures on necessities such as transportation, groceries, and utilities.

Medicare Open Enrollment began on October 15, 2021, and will end on December 7, 2021. The Group Insurance Commission offers a video on their website for those who have recently turned 65 and are looking to enroll in Medicare while they are covered by GIC Insurance. Click here to learn more: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/turning-age-65-and-medicare-enrollment-with-gic-health-coverage>.

Reminder From PERAC - You Can Help Protect Public Retirement Benefits

Public pension fraud is a crime that can result in the suspension or termination of pension benefits and the Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission (PERAC) wants to hear from you if you suspect pension fraud is being committed.

There are several categories that can fall under public pension fraud:

1. Submission of falsified records
2. Submission of falsified affidavits
3. Exceeding earnings limits and not reporting

a minimum of two days per week in the office and other days remotely.

Member drop off hours in both offices continue during which MSERS members may drop off applications, forms, and documents in person. In Boston currently, Monday, Wednesday & Friday 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. In Springfield Tuesday and Thursday 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Mask requirements remain in place for our building and offices for members dropping materials.

Our Business Support Unit supported by Treasury's Administration & Finance Department executed accelerated benefit payments this month. The team provided accelerated payments to the 150 new retirees whose applications had been processed and benefits were approved for payment on November 16th. The total dollar amount issued was over \$1.9m in gross retro-benefit payments. Thus far approximately 899 retirees have received accelerated payments in this fashion since March 2020.

For 2021 the Disbursement Unit has processed thus far more than 3,100 refunds / rollovers / transfers totaling more than \$48m in net funds.

Since January 1st of this year, the Board has received 24,587 emails and approximately 92,122 phone calls.

As of November 24th, there are 48,348 subscribers to the monthly **MSRB Retiree eNews Bulletin**. This represents 72% of our total retiree/beneficiaries.

Massachusetts' Pension Fund May Be Used in Fight Against Climate Change

Recently, Massachusetts State Treasurer Deborah Goldberg announced new draft rules, that if adopted by the Pension

4. Exceeding hours limits and not reporting

If you suspect someone is committing pension fraud, please visit mass.gov/pensionfraud to file a report. You can report suspected pension fraud with PERAC's online form, by mailing in the information to PERAC, or by calling their fraud hotline, 1-800-445-3266. These reports can be submitted anonymously and PERAC actively investigates all allegations received.

Working in Retirement - Reminders (§91)

As we move towards the end of the calendar year, we wanted to remind our retirees of the various annual earnings limitations for those of you who are working in the public sector in Massachusetts while receiving your monthly retirement payment.

MSERS members who are retired under a regular Superannuation retirement may earn the difference between what the retiree would be making if they were still working and their pension. Then, after you are retired for one full calendar year (January-December), that dollar amount limit may be increased by an additional \$15,000. Additionally, you also have an annual hourly limit and may not work beyond 1,200 hours a year.

For example, if you were still working and earning \$40,000 annually, and your pension is \$20,000 per year, and you have been retired for more than one full calendar year, you may earn up to \$35,000 per calendar year or work up to 1,200 hours, whichever comes first. Your employment must cease when either limitation is reached, or you can waive your retirement allowance and these limitations would not apply. **Please note:**

Reserves Investment Management ("PRIM") Board, will allow PRIM to vote against directors at companies that are not aligned with the Paris Climate Agreement.

The criteria includes aligning businesses with the goals of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius and/or planning to achieve "net-zero" emissions by 2050.

"The pension fund invests billions of dollars in publicly-traded companies, and we want to do all we can to ensure these organizations are following best practices by affirming the science and causes of climate change," said State Treasurer Deborah B. Goldberg, who Chairs the PRIM Board.

If you have any questions about the State Pension Fund, you can reach out to PRIM directly via their website: <https://www.mapension.com>.

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!](#)

Did you receive this **Retiree eNews Bulletin** as a forwarded email from a friend? If you are an MSERS retiree and would like to receive your own monthly **Retiree eNews Bulletin**, send your email 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.

per Massachusetts General Law (M.G.L.), c. 32, §91, any earnings above the limits must be paid back.

From January 1 to June 15, 2021, retirees working in the public sector were exempt from earnings restrictions due to legislation.

Retirees are responsible for tracking their hours and/or earnings limits. Current guidelines for working and receiving a public retirement benefit are available on the Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission (PERAC) website:

<https://www.mass.gov/guides/working-receiving-a-public-retirement-benefit>.

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

Quick links: Visit our website:

www.mass.gov/retirement

Like us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/mass.state.retirement

Follow us on Twitter @MassStateRet:

<https://twitter.com/massstateret>

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

E-mail your request or comments to MSRBCommunications@tre.state.ma.us.

We look forward to hearing from you!

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Note: MSRB phones are answered Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. If you call our office outside of these hours, you will be prompted to leave a message. Board staff will return your call as soon as possible, and thanks you for your patience.