



# MSRB



## *Retiree eNews Bulletin*

### *JULY 2021*

#### **FY 2021 Retiree COLA Update**

We are pleased to inform you that if you retired before July 1, 2020, and are otherwise eligible, the approved 3% COLA (Cost-of-Living Adjustment) increase for eligible retirees of the State Employees' Retirement System will be included in the July 30th benefit payment. The COLA, effective July 1, 2021, is 3% of the first \$13,000 of your annual benefit paid in monthly installments.

If you have direct deposit and have not elected to **Go Green**, you will receive a statement in the mail as a record of your monthly benefit. You can also view your statement online at [mass.gov/payinfo](https://mass.gov/payinfo). Your ID is on your statement below your name.

#### **The MSRB Retiree eNews Bulletin Celebrates Its Seventh Anniversary!**

July marks the seventh anniversary of the launch of the MSRB **Retiree eNews Bulletin**. Over the past seven 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 beneficiaries. Since then, we are pleased to report that the number of current subscribers has grown to 47,517

#### ***Did You Know?***

You can opt-out of mailed paper pension payment statements! Your full statements are accessible to you online via PayInfo, for details see below.

#### **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 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, 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:**

(70%) of our benefit recipients!

Board staff has received a lot of positive feedback. As we enter our next year of distribution, we hope that you, our retired members, continue to find this publication helpful and informative. The past year's issues are available online for viewing at <http://www.mass.gov/treasury/retirement/for-retirees/msrb-retiree-eneb-bulletin.html>.

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

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## WEP Check-in

In April 2021, United States House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee Chairman Richard E. Neal (D-MA) reintroduced his legislation to modify the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) for future retirees and provide relief to current WEP retirees.

The Public Servants Protection & Fairness Act of 2021 (H.R.2337) would establish a new formula that would pay Social Security benefits in proportion to the share of a worker's earnings covered for Social Security purposes. The provision is coupled with a proposed benefit guarantee that would ensure no benefit cuts relative to current law for all current and future retirees. In addition, current WEP retirees would receive \$150 a month in relief payments.

On April 1, 2021, the legislation was referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means, and there has been no action since.

If you would like to learn more about the legislation and how you may help, visit the Public Retirees Alliance website: <https://www.publicretirees.org/2021/04/hr2337-windfall-elimination-reform/>.

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## [PayInfo Instructions](#)

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## Financial Wellness Summer Pledge

The Office of Economic Empowerment would like to invite you to take the Financial Wellness Summer Pledge with us. By taking the pledge, you will gain access to our guided tools through Enrich, which will provide information on keeping your finances in order, protecting your information, and budgeting in retirement.

With your pledge, you will be entered to win a \$25 E-Gift Card. Winners will be announced every week from the end of June through the middle of August. Winners will be randomly selected and notified via email.

[Click here to sign up!](#)

We hope that you take the Financial Wellness Summer Pledge and join us on your financial wellness journey! If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Economic Empowerment at [empowerment@tre.state.ma.us](mailto:empowerment@tre.state.ma.us).

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## Working In Retirement for State or Local Government

On July 16th, Governor Baker signed the \$47.6 billion Fiscal Year 2022 budget. He returned certain items to the Legislature with amended language, including the item relative to the permanent increase in the hours public retirees can work post retirement in a public sector job within Massachusetts.

The conference committee report that was sent to the Governor earlier this month included an increase from 960 hours to 1200 hours annually. The Governor amended the language to

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 comments to

[MSRBCommunications@tre.state.ma.us](mailto:MSRBCommunications@tre.state.ma.us).

We look forward to hearing from you!

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## The Group Insurance Commission (GIC) Moved!

The GIC recently moved its office to the John W. McCormack State Office Building located at 1 Ashburton Place, Suite 1619, Boston, MA 02108. Their phone number, 617-727-2310, and website URL [www.mass.gov/gic](http://www.mass.gov/gic) have not changed.

The GIC mailing address for enrollment forms and member correspondence is PO Box 556, Randolph, MA 02368.

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## Contact us:

### Boston Office:

Downtown Crossing  
One Winter Street, 8th Floor  
Boston, MA 02108

### Springfield Office:

436 Dwight Street, #109A  
Springfield, MA 01103

Tel: 617-367-7770

**Note: MSRB phones are answered Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 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.**

increase the hours from 960 to just 975 hours, indicating that he felt that this number was more in line with traditional part-time work versus the 1200.

The next step in the process is for the House and Senate to take up the items that the Governor returned. We will pass along updates as they occur.

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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](mailto:MSRBCommunications@tre.state.ma.us).

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

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**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](#)!

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

**Quick links:** Visit our website:

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