



MSRB

Retiree eNews Bulletin

JUNE 2021

Post Retirement Work Waiver Update

As of the date of this publication, the Legislature has not extended the waiver of the annual earnings limits for superannuation retirees who work in the public sector in Massachusetts for the rest of 2021.

The waiver on the annual limits expired on June 15, 2021, at midnight, when the Commonwealth's State of Emergency was lifted.

Unless there is further legislative action, superannuation retirees will need to start counting their earnings and hours beginning on June 15, 2021, for the remainder of the calendar year against their annual limits.

For the period starting June 15, 2021, through December 31, 2021, superannuation retirees are limited to 960 hours of service and/or an earnings limit based on the difference between the retiree's pension benefit and the current salary of the position from they retired. Retirees can earn an additional \$15,000 once they have been retired for a calendar year.

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

Upcoming Change to June Benefit Payment

Some of you may notice changes to the June monthly pension amount you receive at the end of the month if you have health insurance benefits administered through the Commonwealth's Group Insurance Commission. The monthly premium deduction for many plans through the GIC will change beginning in June. To view the new rates or for more information, go online to mass.gov/gic.

Note: all benefit recipients will receive a paper pay statement for the June payment.

COLA Update

The Legislature has not yet acted on a COLA (Cost-of-Living Adjustment) for eligible retired state employees, which has been included in the various FY '22 state budget proposals being reviewed. Typically, the COLA is a line-item within the Commonwealth's fiscal year budget and, if enacted by the Legislature, has been effective July 1st for those eligible members who retired before July 1st of the previous year. If a COLA is approved, benefit recipients would receive the COLA as soon as administratively possible with their regular monthly benefit payment.

COLA updates will be posted on our website

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

Treasurer Goldberg, Mass State Lottery & Commonwealth Launches “Mass VaxMillions” Vaccine Lottery Program

On June 15, 2021, Treasurer Deborah Goldberg, the Massachusetts State Lottery, and the Baker-Polito Administration [announced the “Mass VaxMillions Giveaway” lottery program](#) for residents who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

Residents 18 and older will have the opportunity to enter to win one of five \$1 million cash prizes. Fully vaccinated residents between 12-17 years of age may enter for the chance to win one of five \$300,000 scholarship grants.

Eligible residents will be able to enter the drawing beginning July 1. Drawings will be held once a week for five weeks, beginning the week of Monday, July 26, and continuing through the week ending Friday, August 27.

To be eligible, individuals must be lawful permanent residents of Massachusetts and have received their vaccination within Massachusetts. Residents must also be vaccinated prior to entry.

If you need help finding a vaccination location, be sure to visit this link:

<https://www.mass.gov/COVIDVaccine>.

For more information, visit: [Massachusetts VaxMillions Giveaway frequently asked questions | Mass.gov](#).

MSERS Members Across the US!

Did you know that the Massachusetts State Employees’ Retirement System currently has over 11,000 retirees who live outside of Massachusetts? We have members who reside

when they become available.

June Is World Elder Abuse Awareness Month! Protect Yourself Against Social Security Scams

Throughout the month, government agencies, businesses, and organizations sponsor events to unite communities, seniors, caregivers, governments, and the private sector to raise awareness of the cultural, social, economic, and demographic processes affecting elder abuse and neglect.

According to Julie Schoen, Deputy Director of the National Center on Elder Abuse (NCEA), this is more important than ever as cases of elder abuse have increased significantly during the pandemic. Abuser tactics— isolation, manipulation, and systemic barriers (such as ageism and racism)—put older adults at greater risk for harm.

Further, scammers often target older people. They use fear to pressure people into providing personal information or money. In times like the current pandemic when people are particularly vulnerable, scammers will pretend to be government employees, often from Social Security, to gain people's trust to steal their money and personal information. The most effective way to defeat scammers is by knowing how to identify scams then hanging up or ignoring the calls.

For tips on what you can do to fight the neglect and exploitation of our elderly citizens, please read the whole article here:

<https://blog.ssa.gov/world-elder-abuse-awareness-day-what-we-have-learned/>.

MSRB Operations Update

Starting in June, members of the State Employees’ Retirement System may drop off completed forms and other documents to the

in all fifty states, as well as the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Marshall Islands.

Some of the top locations we have members are:

State	Number of MSERS Retirees
Florida	3,526
New Hampshire	1,804
Rhode Island	778
Maine	616
North Carolina	401
South Carolina	391
Arizona	355
Connecticut	322
California	318

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!

Please email your request or comments to
MSRBCommunications@tre.state.ma.us.
We look forward to hearing from you!

State Retirement Board's Boston office at One Winter Street, Downtown Crossing on the following days: Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays only from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM; and the Springfield office at 436 Dwight Street, Room 109A on Tuesday and Thursdays only from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. You can view the MSRB Visit Protocols and Requirements by clicking here: [Boston](#) or [Springfield](#).

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](#)!

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.