



MSRB

Retiree eNews Bulletin

JUNE 2022

2022 Benefit Verification Forms (BVF) Mailed

Retired members of the State Employees' Retirement System have begun receiving in the mail their 2022 Benefit Verification Forms ("BVF"). Every two years, the State Retirement Board conducts a benefit verification process mandated by state regulations.

All benefit recipients must demonstrate that they remain eligible to continue receiving benefits. Failure to properly complete and promptly return your form to the Board may result in the suspension or termination of your benefits. The return date for the first BVF mailing is July 21, 2022.

Please note that during the verification process, your benefit payments will not be delayed or withheld without prior notification. Board staff will make every effort to contact members who do not return a BVF before withholding benefit payments.

Those who have questions about the BVF process or on how to complete the forms can sign up for one of the "How to Complete Your Benefit Verification Form (BVF)" webinars that we have recently scheduled. [Click here to see the webinar schedule.](#)

More information about the BVF process

Post Retirement Work Waiver Update

On June 7, 2022, Governor Baker signed [Chapter 80 of the Acts of 2022](#), *An Act relative to certain retired employees during the outbreak of the 2019 novel coronavirus*, which suspends the time and earnings limits on post-retirement employment through the end of the calendar year 2022, or until 90 days after the end of the public health emergency declared on May 28, 2021, whichever occurs first.

Please note that the suspension of the hours and earnings limits for 2022 does not apply to individuals receiving accidental or ordinary disability retirement benefits.

Generally, superannuation retirees are limited to 1,200 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 which 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)

can be found on the MSRB website: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/biennial-benefit-verification-process-msrb>.

Medicare Part B Reexamination

In our January [Retiree eNews Bulletin](#), we reported that Massachusetts State Treasurer Deborah Goldberg wrote a letter that strongly urged the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services ("CMS") to reexamine their 2022 Part B premium.

In May, [CMS released a report](#) to Secretary Xavier Becerra of the US Department of Health and Human Services that indicated that after reexamination, they would not be making any adjustment to the 2022 premium.

The reexamination was prompted by a price drop in an Alzheimer's medication. In their report, they indicated that CMS would be "incorporating the savings realized from the difference between assumed and actual Part B spending into the 2023 Part B premium determination."

[For more information, click here.](#)

SCAM ALERT! Federal Law Enforcement Agencies Warn of Impersonation Scam Involving Credentials and Badges

On June 7, [a joint statement was issued](#) by the Social Security Administration, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Labor, National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee to bring attention to a recent scam that has come to light.

In the statement, it's detailed that some scammers have been sending their victim's doctored photos of agency IDs or

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

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 '23 state budget proposals being reviewed. Typically, the COLA is a line-item within the Commonwealth's fiscal year budget and. 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 when they become available.

June Is World Elder Abuse Awareness Month!

Throughout the month, government agencies, businesses, and organizations sponsor events to unite communities,

badges. They offer the following five tips to potentially protect yourself:

1. **Do not take immediate action.** While the scammer may make you think you are in trouble and must act right away, take a deep breath, and contact someone you trust.
2. **Do not transfer your money! Do not buy that gift card!** Never pay someone who insists on payment with a gift card, prepaid debit card, Internet currency, wire transfer, money transfer, or by mailing cash.
3. **Be skeptical.** Do not trust your caller ID. If you are worried, contact a local law enforcement office to verify.
4. **Be cautious!** Do not provide your personal information, even if the caller has some of your information already.
5. **Do not click on links or attachments.** These can contain malicious programs or tools to capture your information.

For more information, be sure to visit the Federal Trade Commission website on scams: <https://consumer.ftc.gov/scams>.

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!

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>.

seniors, caregivers, governments, and the private sector to raise awareness of the cultural, social, economic, and demographic processes affecting elder abuse and neglect.

On June 14, also known as "World Elder Abuse Day," President Biden released a proclamation to acknowledge the different forms of elder abuse that exist and the importance of raising awareness of these forms of abuse.

[Click here to read the statement.](#)

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](#).

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Note: MSRB phones are answered Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., except on state holidays.