March 2025

MSRB Retiree eNews Bulletin

REMINDER: Annual Statements of Earned Income (§91A) Due April 15

All disability retirees, including those who retired under accidental disability, are required by law (M.G.L. c. 32, §91A) to submit a statement of their earnings to PERAC (Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission), which mails disability retirees an Annual Statement of Earned Income every year. The deadline for this year is April 15, 2025.

All pertinent W-2 forms, Form 1099-Rs, other requested tax forms, proof of income, and any other documentation requested by PERAC must be included with the statement. **For more information, visit PERAC's Annual Statement of Earned Income FAQs online.**

As with last year, PERAC offers the option of filing electronically through an online portal. Information on filing in PROSPER will be included in the mailing from PERAC. If you have not received your statement or have questions, please contact PERAC at 617-666-4446.

GIC Annual Enrollment

The Group Insurance Commission's (GIC) Annual Enrollment period is from

March Pension Payment

The next pension benefit will be direct deposited on Monday, March 31, 2025, the last business day of this month.

The ***MSRB 2025 Pension Payment Calendar*** is available on our website and can be downloaded; **click here**.

ATTENTION MSERS BENEFIT RECIPIENTS!



IMPORTANT NOTICE: Has your address or mailing address changed? You **MUST** notify the Retirement Board of your new address to ensure receipt of important documents. The Board receives a good deal of returned mail due to members not having updated their change of address with the Board.

If you need to update your address,

Wednesday, April 2, to Thursday, May 1, 2025. You can review your health, dental, and life insurance benefit options and compare plan offerings during this time. **The Benefit Decision Guides are available to view on the GIC website.**

If you have questions about your GIC health and other insurance benefits or premiums, please call 617-727-2310 or complete their online **Contact the GIC request form.**

WEP/GPO Questions? Contact Social Security

As a reminder, the Social Security Fairness Act, HR 82, concerning the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO), was signed into law on January 5, 2025.

Social Security is a Federal benefit that has nothing to do with State pension benefits. This change in federal law will not impact Massachusetts state, municipal, city, or town pension benefits.

For more information, please contact the Social Security Administration. Information on the change in the law can be found **on this website**. Social Security can be contacted by calling their office at **1-800-772-1213 between 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., local time**.

Personal Financial Wellness Resources from OEE

The Massachusetts Office of Economic Empowerment (OEE) offers free programs to Massachusetts residents, regardless of their stage of life. These resources include Digital Financial Education, Financial Education Workshops, Tools to Help Close the Wage Gap, and more!

complete and mail a **Benefit Recipient Change of Address Form** to our Boston office. **Click here to download it.**

Federal and State Tax Filing and Payment Deadline Approaching!

The deadline to file returns is April 15, 2025. Taxpayers requesting an extension will have until October 15, 2025, to file.

This IRS has a page covering the filing deadlines if you live in an area affected by disasters. **Click here to get information for your state.**

For more information and filing resources, click here.

Beware of Tax Filing Misinformation and Scams!

With the tax filing deadline approaching, recognizing common tax scams is important. These scams can include charity impersonators, W-2 and 1099-R Form fraud, or bad tax advice spread on social media.

The IRS has put together this guide on different scams you may encounter and what to do if you suspect fraud. It also provides information on **how to tell if someone actually works for the IRS.**

As a reminder, the IRS doesn't initiate contact with taxpayers by email, text messages, or social media channels to request personal or financial information.

Women's Retirement Protection Act of 2025

The AARP recently endorsed newly filed legislation addressing financial

[Click here to view the Office of Economic Empowerment's Personal Financial Wellness Resources page.]

10 Sneaky Retirement Expenses from AARP

When you retire, you may encounter unexpected financial expenditures. The AARP put together an article that discusses some unexpected expenses you may encounter in retirement.

These surprising, costly items can include the cost of healthcare and wellness, home maintenance, moving, and more. [Click here to review their list and get some potential solutions.]

REMINDER: REAL ID Enforcement Begins May 7

Beginning May 7, 2025, a standard license will NOT be acceptable to pass through domestic airport security checkpoints or enter federal buildings. You will need a REAL ID or another acceptable form of identification, such as a valid passport, federal government PIV card, or US military ID.



To learn more about the new requirements and what you need to ensure you have the required documentation, please visit the [Massachusetts ID Requirements page] on the Registry of Motor Vehicles' website for more information.

Have you recently updated your email? Or did you receive this Retiree eNews Bulletin as a forwarded email from a friend? Let us know! You must complete disparity and providing resources for women retirees. If signed into law, the Women's Retirement Protection Act (WRPA) of 2025 would prevent a spouse from withdrawing retirement funds without the other spouse's consent.

[According to a press release] from the office of US Representative Lauren Underwood (D-IL), who filed the legislation, the act aims to prevent one spouse from making financial decisions without the other spouse's knowledge. The act would also provide grants to community organizations to offer financial literacy and support for women, lower-income individuals, and those impacted by domestic violence who need resources in filing qualified domestic relations orders.

Senators Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and Patty Murray (D-WA) filed the Senate version of the bill. Details on the Senate version can be found on [Senator Baldwin's website.]



If you are looking for something to do this spring, you may want to check out what activities the [Massachusetts Office of Travel & Tourism is promoting.] Their website provides an updated schedule of fun events all over Massachusetts, from casual dining to family vacation spots!

Fully explore what Massachusetts has to offer; you may be surprised at what you find!

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

the **Benefit Recipient Change of Address** form on our website. Fill in your personal information at the top of the form, including your email address. In the spot on the form that asks for “Old Address” and “New Address,” you can mark “N/A.”

The form will need to be signed and dated. It can be scanned and emailed to **msrbcommunications@tre.state.ma.us** or mailed to **Massachusetts State Retirement Board, One Winter Street, 8th Floor, Boston, MA 02108**.

Past issues of our newsletter publications can be found on our **website**.

Quick links: Visit our website: **mass.gov/retirement**

Like us on Facebook: **facebook.com/mass.state.retirement**

Follow us on X @MassStateRet: **x.com/massstateret**

Email your request or comments to **MSRBCommunications@tre.state.ma.us**.

We look forward to hearing from you!

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. - 5:00 p.m., except on state holidays.

Drop-off hours at both offices are Monday-Friday, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., except on state holidays.