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PERAC Memo #27/2026

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS | PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT ADMINISTRATION COMMISSION

PHILIP Y. BROWN, ESQ., *Chair* WILLIAM T. KEEFE, *Executive Director*

Auditor DIANA DIZOGLIO | KATHLEEN M. FALLON | KATE FITZPATRICK | JAMES J. GUIDO | RICHARD MACKINNON, JR. | JENNIFER F. SULLIVAN, ESQ.

TO: All Retirement Boards

FROM: Bill Keefe, Executive Director

RE: Free Cybersecurity Training

DATE: October 26, 2026

Your retirement board may or may not have received an email from the state's Executive Office of Technology Services and Security (EOTSS), but in either case we are happy to inform you that free cybersecurity training is available again in 2027 for retirement boards through the Office of Municipal and School Technology (OMST).

Please visit OMST's website for a comprehensive description of the Cybersecurity Awareness Program (https://www.mass.gov/info-details/cybersecurity-awareness-program). Demand for the Cybersecurity Awareness Program has never been higher. In 2026, the program reached full capacity and, for the first time, had a waitlist. **Don't wait — submit your 2027 application today** (https://www.mass.gov/forms/cybersecurity-awareness-program-application) and take the next step toward strengthening your board's cybersecurity awareness and resilience.

This is the fifth year the Cybersecurity Awareness Program is available to retirement boards. Several retirement boards have participated in the program and found it beneficial without being overbearing. The program offers participants the opportunity to complete customized cybersecurity trainings which emphasize best practices, interactive modules, and simulated attacks. We believe this emphasis on end-user training is well worth the time investment to ensure that staff is taking the necessary measures to protect member information and system data.

Each participating retirement board needs to designate a contact/local coordinator who will attend a training session and act as the point person for this program. This person does not need to be well versed in IT. Each participant must have an email address tied to the retirement board's web domain and not a generic address such as Gmail or Yahoo. For board members whom this may preclude, there is a training available to all Massachusetts residents that you can participate in by emailing CybersecurityHomeCourse@mass.gov

The OMST webpage (https://www.mass.gov/orgs/office-of-municipal-and-school-technology) lists other free or reduced-cost services available to boards, including a cybersecurity health check, and has staff contact information.

10 CABOT ROAD, SUITE 300 | MEDFORD, MA 02155
PH 617 666 4446 | FAX 617 628 4002 | WWW.MASS.GOV/PERAC

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Re: Free Cybersecurity Training
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The Cybersecurity Awareness Program has been well received, and many agencies are repeat customers as the materials change. Thanks to EOTSS Secretary Jason Snyder for making this program again available to retirement boards and to OMST Director Susan Noyes for her continued support. If you have any questions regarding the Cybersecurity Awareness Program, please email omst-cyber-training@mass.gov