



November 2018 eNews

Working in Retirement: It's Very Important Not to Exceed the Limits

As we get closer to the end of the calendar year, it's important for retirees who are working again in the public sector to be aware of their earnings limits. If you have received your superannuation retirement benefit for at least one full calendar year, and you return to work in the Massachusetts public sector (state, county, municipal, city, town, district or authority), you are limited to how much you may earn and how many hours you may work during a calendar year.

MSERS members who retired under a regular superannuation retirement may earn the difference between the current salary of the position they retired from and their pension, plus an additional \$15,000. Note: rules pertaining to the maximum 960 hours certain retirees can work in a calendar year still apply. [Per M.G.L. c. 32, Section 91A](#), **any earnings above the limits must be paid back.**

For example, if the current salary of the position you retired from is \$40,000 and your pension is \$20,000 per year, and you have been retired for more than one full calendar year, you may earn up to \$35,000 per calendar year or work up to 960 hours, whichever comes first. As a retiree, you must cease employment whenever either one of the two conditions is met. If you are at your allowable limit and wish to continue working, then you must waive your retirement allowance.

Separate earnings limitations apply to members who receive a disability retirement allowance. For more information [click here](#).

Did You Know?

The 2019 Pension Payment Calendar is now available for pension benefit recipients. To download it, [click here](#) or go to www.mass.gov/retirement > scroll down and click the "Retirement Information for Retirees and Survivors (MSRB)" tab > then click the first tab "Pension Payment Calendars (MSRB)."

Monthly pension payments are directly deposited on the last business day of each month. You can view your pension statements online at [PayInfo](#).

2018 Remaining Direct Deposit Dates: November: 11/30/18
December: 12/31/18

The Benefits of Direct Deposit

Every month, Board staff hears from members who did not get their check delivered as expected. While lost checks can be reissued, the process could take up to two weeks before the member receives the replacement check. Therefore, Board staff

MSERS is the Recipient of the 2018 Public Pension Standards Award

In November 2018, the MSERS (Massachusetts State Employees' Retirement System) was presented with the Public Pension Standards Award for Funding and Administration by the Public Pension Coordinating Council. The award recognizes retirement systems that meet professional standards for plan funding and administration as set forth in the Public Pension Standards.

The [Public Pension Coordinating Council](#) is a coalition of three national associations that represent public retirement systems and administrators: [NASRA](#) (National Association of State Retirement Administrators), [NCPERS](#) (National Conference on Public Employee Retirement Systems and [NCTR](#) (National Council on Teacher Retirement).

WEP Update

In last month's *Retiree eNews Bulletin*, we reported that new federal legislation was filed in the final days of September that, and if passed, would mark the first step toward resolving the unfairness of the Social Security Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) since the law's creation in 1983.

Since then, our office has received many inquiries about the current status of the legislation and if there is anything they can do to support it. The Bill, H.R. 6933, is cosponsored by House Ways and Means Chairman Kevin Brady (R-TX) and Committee's Ranking Member Richard Neal (D-MA) and details are posted on Congress.Gov. You can follow its progress by visiting [H.R.6933 - Equal Treatment of Public Servants Act of 2018](#).

Additionally, this Legislation is being closely followed, and advocated for, by The Retired State, County and Municipal Employees Association, a.k.a. Mass Retirees. For more information, visit their website at www.massretirees.com.

frequently encourages members to sign up for and use electronic deposit. It is the more secure and convenient way to receive a monthly retirement benefit.

Other benefits of direct deposit include not having to wait by the mailbox for your mail carrier to arrive with your check and/or anxiously driving to the bank in the hopes of getting there before it closes, especially during inclement weather and winter right around the corner!

Don't delay, begin taking advantage of all the benefits of direct deposit before the winter starts! Just [click here to download the Direct Deposit Form](#), complete it, and return to the MSRB office.

Thank You to Our Veteran Retirees!

Veteran's Day is a time to remember and pay tribute to the brave men and women of the United States Armed Forces. Their commitment to service is valued and appreciated by us all.

MSRB staff thanks all Veterans for their sacrifice, service, and all that they have done for us.

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

Tax Season

Tax season is right around the corner. Now might be a good time to check your year-to-date tax withholdings. Want to change your tax withholding election with the Board? Here is the [MSRB W-4P Tax Form](#). Please fill it out, sign it and mail it to our Boston office.

A Note About Medicare

Do you have questions about Medicare? You can call Medicare direct at 1-800-633-4227. Their phone lines are open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and they will be able to answer your questions.

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/or comments to MSRBCommunications@tre.state.ma.us We look forward to hearing from you!

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

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www.mass.gov/retirement

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receive your own monthly **Retiree eNews Bulletin**, send your e-mail address to us at MSRBCommunications@tre.state.ma.us

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

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:

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Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Walk-In Counseling Hours:
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

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