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NEWS to USE

FOR EMPLOYERS

Public Employee Retirement System of Idaho

August 2021

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REMINDER: NEW LEGISLATION AFFECTING EMPLOYERS

REEMPLOYMENT OF RETIRED MEMBERS – §59-1356(4)

This past April, Governor Little signed into law House Bill 203 amending §59-1356(4) to include “person qualified to drive school buses”.

This permits a school-district-employed bus driver to retire, return to work as a bus driver, and maintain their PERSI benefit as long as they retired at age 60 or older with an unreduced benefit, had no promise or agreement of future employment, and are qualified to drive a school bus. This section reads as:

(4) If a retired schoolteacher, person qualified to drive school buses, or administrator who retired on or after age sixty (60) years, or public safety officer who retired, and is receiving a benefit that is not reduced under 59-1346, Idaho Code, again becomes an employee as defined in this section 59-1302(14), Idaho Code, as a result of returning to employment with a school district as provided in section 33-1004H, Idaho Code, the retired member may elect to continue receiving benefits and not accrue additional service, in which event no contributions shall be made by the member during such reemployment and any benefit payable on behalf of such member shall continue. How-

ever, the school district shall pay the required employer contribution for that employee to the public employee retirement system.

This change also amends §33-1004H to include “persons qualified to drive school buses” and provides a similar update in IDAPA 59.01.01 Rule 536.

PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER CATASTROPHIC LINE OF DUTY BENEFITS – §59-1352B AND CONTRIBUTION RATE INCREASE FOR PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYEES

Signed Senate Bill 1096 amends Chapter 13, Title 59, Idaho Statute by adding new section §59-1352B.

The new section provides a new classification for the catastrophic line of duty benefit under the Public Employee Retirement System of Idaho (PERSI). This will apply to public safety employees who are catastrophically injured in the line of duty.

It provides benefit enhancements, specific conditions for payments, and periodic Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA). It also clarifies that a member receiving the benefit may return to work under certain conditions.

This amendment will result in a contribution rate

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increase for public safety employees, but will have no impact on employer contribution rates.

Beginning July 1, 2021, the contribution rate for public safety employees will increase from 8.81% to 9.13%.

DEFINITIONS – §59-1302(14)(e) & §59-1302(16)
Senate Bill 1009 amends §59-1302(14)(e) making a technical change from title “professional-technical” to “career technical”.

This bill also amends §59-1302(16), creating subsections (a) and (b) in the existing law. This section will read as:

(16) “Firefighter” means:

(a) An employee, including paid firefighters hired on or after October 1, 1980, whose primary occupation is that of preventing and extinguishing fires as determined by the rules of the board; or

(b) The state fire marshal or the state fire marshal’s deputies.

If you have questions about any of these changes, call the PERSI Employer Service Center (ESC) at 1-866-887-9525 or 208-287-9525.

ANNUAL STATEMENTS MAILED

Please let your employees know that PERSI is mailing Base Plan account statements to active and inactive members in August. Statements reflect unaudited account data as of the end of PERSI’s most recent fiscal year (June 30, 2021).

The annual Base Plan statement provides each member with specific information regarding their retirement, separation, and death benefits. These statements also provide information about the member’s accrued service credits and an estimate of projected benefits.

PERSI urges members to carefully review the credited service section of their statements and

to report any discrepancies to PERSI. This is also a good time for members to review their beneficiary designations to ensure the designations still accurately reflect their wishes.

Online statements are available on *myPERSI*. Members with questions should call the PERSI Answer Center at 1-800-451-8228 or 208-334-3365.

NOTE: Members should not confuse these statements with Choice 401(k) Plan statements.

LEARN ABOUT YOUR BENEFIT

Please let your employees know that PERSI trainers have made preparing for retirement even easier with virtual and in-person workshops. Your employees can register for live online or in-person workshops to learn how to reach their retirement goals.

Whether it is a virtual or in-person workshop, employees will have the opportunity to ask questions during the workshop. There will also be additional time to ask further questions at the end of each workshop.

Our trainers have custom-designed workshops for members in different stages of their careers to learn how to better prepare for retirement and about their PERSI retirement benefits.

Encourage your employees to visit <https://www.persi.idaho.gov/education/workshop-schedule/> to view workshop descriptions that will help them decide which workshop is right for them.

To register for a workshop, go to the PERSI workshop registration page or click “Contact” to schedule a workshop. If you have a question, please call the PERSI Answer Center at 1-800-451-8228 or at 208-334-3365.

CHECK FOR A WORKSHOP HERE

WORKSHOPS