



Boise | Coeur d'Alene | Pocatello

NEWS to USE

FOR EMPLOYERS

Public Employee Retirement System of Idaho

June 2021

TOPICS / 2021 Legislation Affecting PERSI pg. 1-2 / Register For A Workshop pg. 2 / Plan For A Better Retirement pg. 2

2021 LEGISLATION AFFECTING PERSI

Beginning July 1, 2021, the following legislative modifications affecting PERSI statutes will become effective:

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 PERSI retiree who retired at age 60 or older with an unreduced benefit, has no promise or agreement of future employment, and who is qualified to drive a school bus to become reemployed as a school bus driver. This section will read 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. However, 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.”

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

continued on page two...



...continued from page one

benefit may return to work under certain conditions. This amendment will result in a contribution rate 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, please contact the Employer Service Center (ESC) toll-free at 1-866-887-9525 or 208-287-9525.

REGISTER FOR A WORKSHOP

Our workshop calendar is full of opportunities for members to learn how to plan for retirement and about their PERSI retirement benefits. Please encourage your employees to take advantage of the multiple workshops available.

Members can register by clicking on any PERSI workshop marked as “open” and best fits their schedule. The workshop schedule is updated regularly, so please check back often.

CLICK HERE FOR SCHEDULE 

PLAN FOR A BETTER RETIREMENT with Empower Retirement



You’re cordially invited
to the next quarterly educational webinar.

Join us to learn how Social Security, the PERSI Base Plan and Choice 401(k) Plan fit together in your retirement picture.

WHO: All PERSI Members, including Social Security participating employees

WHAT: Educational webinar covering important aspects of Social Security, PERSI Base Plan and Choice 401(k) Plan

WHY: To understand the complete picture about your retirement

WHERE: Anywhere you’d like, it’s virtual!

WHEN: July 21, 2021 at 1:00 PM MT

REGISTER TODAY

SPONSORED BY:
Empower Retirement with special guests PERSI and Social Security

For more information visit mypersi401k.com.

Securities offered and/or distributed by GWFS Equities, Inc., Member FINRA/SIPC. GWFS is an affiliate of Empower Retirement, LLC; Great-West Funds, Inc.; and registered investment adviser, Advised Assets Group, LLC. This material is for informational purposes only and is not intended to provide investment, legal or tax recommendations or advice. ©2020 Empower Retirement, LLC. All rights reserved.



Do you have questions? Schedule a call or online visit with your local Empower Retirement representative.

■ Ali Belden
Direct 208-345-5201
Toll-Free (844) 446-8658 Ext. 20461
ali.belden@empower-retirement.com

■ Oscar Lopez
Direct 208-345-1120
Toll-Free (844) 446-8658 Ext. 20431
oscar.lopez@empower-retirement.com