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# **PERS**pectives FOR RETIREES

Public Employee Retirement System of Idaho

Second Quarter 2021

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## 2021 LEGISLATION AFFECTING PERSI

This past legislative session was very busy for PERSI. The following legislative modifications affecting PERSI statutes became effective on July 1, 2021:

### **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

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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 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 Answer Center at 1-800-451-8228 or 208-334-3365.

## MEDICARE & YOUR OPTIONS

Whether you are already retired or still working but nearing age 65, you may be confused about how Medicare works and the many other options you have for health insurance. Idaho’s Senior Health Insurance Benefits Advisors (SHIBA) program can help.

SHIBA is a part of the Idaho Department of Insurance and has three main goals:

- Help people understand Medicare – how it works, the advantages and disadvantages of each option, and how to avoid costly mistakes like coverage gaps, penalties, and enrollment errors.
- Help Idahoans find the right plan for their health, prescriptions, and individual needs.
- Provide assistance with complaints, appeals, and grievances in the event of claim denials, billing disputes, or other issues.

SHIBA counselors can help you apply for assistance to pay for prescription drug costs, learn about Medicare options if you are under age 65, and provide the most current Medicare information. SHIBA has many counseling sites throughout Idaho, and multiple Certified Medicare Counselors are available to assist beneficiaries or their caregivers. Services are free and unbiased.

To learn more about SHIBA, register for a SHIBA Medicare 101 class, or schedule an appointment with a counselor, call 1-800-247-4422.

For more information about SHIBA, visit the website at <https://doi.idaho.gov/shiba/>





## PROTECT YOURSELF

### REGISTER & CLAIM YOUR *my*PERSI ACCOUNT

PERSI strongly urges all members to register and claim their *my*PERSI account.

By doing this, you can greatly reduce the risk to your account, and stop potential fraudsters in their tracks!

Keep your account, and your personal information out of the hands of bad actors.

Learn how to register and claim your account here: <https://www.persi.idaho.gov/docs/brochures/myPERSI-Registration.pdf>

If you have questions, call the PERSI Answer Center at 1-800-451-8228 or 208-334-3365 from the Treasure Valley area.



## DO YOU HAVE A NEW MAILING ADDRESS?

You may update your mailing address in your *my*PERSI account under the “Personal Info” tab in the *my*PERSI portal. You may also update your mailing address by mailing, emailing, or faxing a completed Member Mailing Address Change form to PERSI (available at [www.persi.idaho.gov](http://www.persi.idaho.gov)).



Updating your mailing address with PERSI only updates your mailing address with PERSI and your PERSI Choice 401(k) Plan account, if you have one. You will still need to update your mailing address with the United States Postal Service.

Once your address change is processed, all statements, correspondence, and documents will be mailed to the address on record.

If you have questions, contact the PERSI Answer Center at 1-800-451-8228 or 208-334-3365.

## KEEPING YOURSELF SAFE

Educate and protect yourself and your family against scams, product recalls, and safety alerts through trusted national and state websites.

The State of Idaho’s Attorney General website has a number of resources to learn about consumer alerts, fraud, or how to file a complaint. There is also an extensive library of manuals discussing topics such as Internet safety or landlord and tenant guidelines. Get started at [www.ag.idaho.gov/](http://www.ag.idaho.gov/).

On the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission website, you can sign up for topic-specific newsletters, latest recalls, join the Neighborhood Safety Network (NSN), and much more. You can even download an app! Go to [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov) to get started.

## UPDATE CONCERNING PERSI OFFICES

We ask individuals visiting PERSI offices to follow current CDC guidance related to masking and physical distancing.



Please visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html#-vaccinated> to learn more.

If you have questions, call the PERSI Answer Center at 1-800-451-8228 or 208-334-3365.



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## DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU CAN DO WITH *myPERSI*?

You can receive your PERSI annual statements, confirmations of changes, and other documents sooner and in a secure location by setting your preferred method of communication to electronic in your *myPERSI* account.

By choosing electronic communication, under the Personal Information tab on your *myPERSI* page, you will receive an email alert when new documents are available. Then you can log into your *myPERSI* account to download the documents.

If you have questions, call the PERSI Answer Center at 1-800-451-8228 or 208-334-3365.

CLICK HERE



[myPERSI Login](#)

## UPCOMING HOLIDAYS

PERSI will be closed in observance of the following holidays:

- Monday, July 5 – Independence Day
- Monday, September 6 – Labor Day

If you have questions, call the PERSI Answer Center at 1-800-451-8228 or 208-334-3365.

## RETIREMENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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[www.persi.idaho.gov](http://www.persi.idaho.gov)

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