



MSRB



Retiree eNews Bulletin

AUGUST 2024

What Happens If a Retiree Receives a Retroactive Salary Increase, Post-Retirement?

If a retiree receives a retroactive salary increase after they have retired that covers a period when they were actively employed, the retiree's former department or agency will make the payment to the retiree of retroactive earnings owed. The department should deduct the appropriate retirement contribution from the pensionable earnings.

If the increase affects the salary average used to calculate a retirement benefit for a retiree, a benefit adjustment will be processed. Upon receipt of the retirement contribution, it would be posted to the retiree's retirement account. The Retirement Board would then send a letter to the department or agency requesting the updated salary.

Once the information is received by the Retirement Board, and as soon as administratively feasible, a review of the information would occur to confirm the accuracy of the data provided. Thereafter, an adjustment will be processed. Once the adjustment is processed, a letter with the updated information will be mailed to the retiree. Any retroactive retirement payment will be made from the effective date of retirement.

Did You Know? Direct Deposit Changes

You can update your direct deposit information by completing a **Change of Direct Deposit for Retirement Benefit** form, which can be [downloaded from our website](#). The form cannot be faxed or emailed; we need your original ink signature. It's also important to note that the Board must receive direct deposit changes by the 15th of the month to be effective for that month's pension payment.

Pension Fund Hits Record Year-End Balance

The Pension Reserves Investment Trust (PRIT) Fund ended Fiscal Year 2024 (June 30, 2024) with a record balance of \$105.3 billion. This balance surpassed the previous record of \$96.6 billion last year. The PRIT Fund returned 9.9% (9.5% net) for a net gain of \$9.1 billion in the fiscal year, with five of the seven asset classes outperforming their benchmarks. Staff researched and deployed \$6.6 billion in attractive new investments during the fiscal year.

The PRIT Fund is the pooled investment fund that invests the pension assets of the State Employees' and Massachusetts

Please note the Retirement Board regularly receives an extremely large number of retros as we service many departments covered by collective bargaining agreements. We must rely on departments to respond and provide accurate data on hundreds of employees. As each adjustment must be reviewed individually, we ask for your continued patience and cooperation.

COLA Increase for Supplemental Dependent Allowances Paid to Accidental Disability Retirees & Accidental Death Survivors

As we reported in the **July 2024 Retiree eNews Bulletin**, a 3% Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) was approved and included in July's benefit payments for eligible Massachusetts State Employees' Retirement System (MSERS) retirees. Along with this COLA, there was also an increase in supplemental dependent allowances for either accidental disability retirees or accidental death survivors.

The dependent allowance increase effective July 1, 2024, for MGL Chapter 32 sections 7 and 9 have been posted. The new monthly amount is \$93.78. The August payment will include the new amount plus a retroactive payment for July.

[For more information, click here to read a recent memorandum from the Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission \(PERAC\).](#)

Paper Statements Reminder

Receiving paper bank statements could be costing you! Some banks charge your account when they have to mail your monthly statement. Talk to your bank

Teachers' Retirement Systems, as well as the assets of Boston-Teachers and the county, authority, district, and municipal retirement systems that elect to invest in the PRIT Fund. You can read more about the PRIT Fund at the [MassPRIM website](#).

Reminder: Review Your Tax Withholdings!

As we approach the end of summer, now might be a good time to check your year-to-date tax withholdings. You may recall that beginning with your January 2024 pension payment, new 2024 federal tax rates went into effect. Therefore, some of you may have noticed a change in your NET amount. Want to change your tax withholding election with the Board? [Click here to download the IRS 2024 W-4P Tax Form](#). Please fill it out, sign it, and mail it to our Boston office.

Beware of Paper Check Thefts and Scams

A recent Time Magazine article, "[Why Mail Theft is On the Rise](#)," reports that there has been an increase in theft and other forms of fraudulent activity related to paper checks and mail. The article notes that the Government Accountability Office has seen cases double between 2019 and 2023.

A [similar article from the AARP](#) notes that finding alternatives to paper checks, such as cash transfer apps or direct deposit, offers protection against someone physically stealing your mail. Another suggestion is to use permanent ink to prevent paper checks from being rewritten or "washed" by criminals.

The USPS has taken action to thwart potential robbers, and they suggest some things you can do to prevent these

about switching to online statements. (And, if needed, you can print your online statements at home).

Is there something you would like us to communicate in an upcoming **Retiree eNews Bulletin**? If so, let us know!

Email your request or comments to MSRBCommunications@tre.state.ma.us.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Did you receive this **Retiree eNews Bulletin** as a forwarded email from a friend? If you are an MSERS retiree and would like to receive your own monthly **Retiree eNews Bulletin**, send your email 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.

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

Quick links: Visit our website: mass.gov/retirement

Like us on Facebook: facebook.com/mass.state.retirement

Follow us on X @MassStateRet: x.com/massstateret

crimes' impact. [Click here to view them.](#)

We encourage all retirees to receive their pension payment through direct deposit-- a safe, secure option. If you want to change from receiving a paper check, please click here to download and complete the [Change of Direct Deposit for Retirement Benefit](#) Form.

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!](#)

Happy Labor Day from the State Retirement Board! The office will be closed on Monday, September 2, in observance of the holiday. Regular business hours will resume on Tuesday, September 3.

Contact us:

Boston Office:
Downtown Crossing
One Winter Street, 8th Floor
Boston, MA 02108

Springfield Office:
436 Dwight Street, #109A
Springfield, MA 01103

Tel: 617-367-7770

Note: MSRB phones are answered Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., except on state holidays.