

**DRAFT**  
**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
**STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION**

A regular meeting of the State Employees Retirement Commission (the “Commission”) was held on December 16, 2021 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room at 165 Capitol Ave. Hartford, CT; however, due to COVID-19, the meeting was held electronically via Zoom. The meeting convened at 9:06 a.m. and the following members of the Commission were present:

- Peter Adomeit, Chairman
- Michael Carey, Trustee
- Martha Carlson, Deputy Comptroller, Ex Officio Member
- Carl Chisem, Trustee
- Robert D. Coffey, Trustee
- John Disette, Trustee
- John Flores, General Counsel Office of the Treasurer, Ex Officio Member
- Karen Nolen, Trustee
- Michael O’Brien, Trustee
- Claude Poulin, Trustee
- Angel Quiros, Trustee
- Mark Sciota, Municipal Liaison
- Rebecca Simonsen, Trustee
- Timothy Ryor, Trustee
- Michael Bailey, Trustee
- Sandra Fae Brown Brewton, Trustee

Absent

- Karen Buffkin, Trustee
- Sal Luciano, Trustee

Also present were:

- Bruce Barth, Tax Counsel to the Commission, Robinson & Cole
- Alisha Sullivan, Tax Counsel to the Commission, Robinson & Cole
- Michael Rose, General Counsel to the Commission, Rose Kallor
- John Herrington, Director, Retirement Services Division
- Yamuna Menon, General Counsel/Assistant State Comptroller, Office of the State Comptroller
- Colin Newman, Assistant Director, Retirement Services Division
- Michael Barry (Visitor, Retiree and member of Connecticut Coalition for Retirement Security)

**Call to Order**

Chairman Adomeit called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

Attorney Rose identified those in attendance.

**Chairman’s Report**

At 9:06 a.m., the Chairman provided his report. He announced there would be a virtual holiday party after the meeting today and invited everyone to stay and virtually mingle. He complimented the Retirement Services Division for all its efforts the past year despite having to do it remotely.

**Division Director’s Report**

At 9:21 a.m., Mr. Herrington provided the Division Director’s Report.

**Division Director Report (12/16/2022)**

**I. Disability Retirements:**

**A. Pending Disability Applications for the Initial Review by the Medical Examining Board:** The Division is in the process of adding additional meetings for 2022 in attempt to reduce the wait period. Currently scheduling into February 2022.

- There are 71 Disability Retirement Applications pending of which:
  - 12 New applications received for November 2021
    - 28 Applications have been scheduled for MEB hearings through February 2022
    - 43 Applications are awaiting additional medical documentation

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
2021	114	107	103	117	125	90	89	85	77	79	99	<b>71</b>
2020	291	232	226	197	162	140	117	114	97	86	83	108

**B. Twenty-Four Month Reviews:**

141 Cases are due for a 24-month review (i.e. approved within the past 24 months)

- 7 Cases – are receiving SSD benefits (Expedited Approvals Process)
- 134 Cases – Retiree does not appear to be receiving SSD benefits.
  - 38 have retirement dates beyond 24 months old.
  - 21 have been scheduled for November 2021

**C. Disability Files Processed:**

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
2021	60	85	156	115	101	145	163	184	173	240	163	<b>40</b>
2020	19	93	103	48	29	53	43	38	38	44	35	39

**D. Disability Backlog:**

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
2021	1,527	1,453	1,341	1,226	1,140	1,089	960	605	426	206	27	<b>1</b>
2020	1,992	1,868	1,777	1,729	1,765	1,739	1,732	1,687	1,687	1,675	1,625	1,596

**II. Normal Retirement Audits:**

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
2021	243	192	124	337	152	244	291	213	234	331	159	<b>136</b>	<b>2,656</b>
2020	178	166	149	268	149	140	170	226	198	219	101	92	2,056
10-YR Avg	164	142	124	234	119	192	251	166	167	226	107	91	1982

**III. Self-Service Benefit Estimator Roll-Out:**

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
2021	661	1,233	1,366	790	1,044	1,009	283	800	130	246	674	736	8,961
2020	n/a	n/a	157	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	682	584	821	740	811	3,795
<b>Total Released to Date:</b>													<b>12,756</b>

**Estimated = 12,500 Eligible for 2022**

**IV. Projected 2022 Retirements:**

Projected Retirements

(As of December 15, 2022)

D.O.R.	Number of Intents to Retire Received	Number of Retirement Applications Received
1/1/2022	327	105
2/1/2022	181	9
3/1/2022	155	2
4/1/2022	304	
5/1/2022	41	
6/1/2022	94	
7/1/2022	45	
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>1,147</b>	<b>126</b>

At 9:15 a.m., Ms. Carlson provided remarks about the pending retirement of Kevin Lembo and what he has meant to the State over the years. Her thoughts were shared by all. She also addressed the appointment of this new Comptroller, Natalie Braswell.

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**New Matters**

1. Request Commission Approval of the November 18, 2021 minutes.
  - i. At 9:21 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Coffey to approve the November 18, 2021 minutes.
  - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
  - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the November 18, 2021 minutes.
  
2. Request Commission Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Chairman's Per Diem Expenses.
  - i. At 9:22 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Coffey to approve the State Employees Retirement Commission Chairman's Per Diem Expenses
  - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
  - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the State Employees Retirement Commission Chairman's Per Diem Expenses.
  
3. Request Commission Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Union Trustee Claude Poulin's Per Diem and Travel Expenses Reimbursement.
  - i. At 9:22 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Coffey to approve the State Employees Retirement Commission Union Trustee Claude Poulin's Per Diem and Travel Expenses Reimbursement.
  - ii. Mr. Poulin abstained.
  - iii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
  - iv. The Commission voted unanimously in favor, with Mr. Poulin abstaining, to approve the State Employees Retirement Commission Union Trustee Claude Poulin's Per Diem and Travel Expenses Reimbursement.
  
4. Request Commission Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Management Trustee Timothy A. Ryor's Per Diem Expenses.
  - i. At 9:23 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Coffey to approve the State Employees Retirement Commission Management Trustee Timothy A. Ryor's Per Diem Expenses.
  - ii. Mr. Ryor abstained.
  - iii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.

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- iv. The Commission voted unanimously in favor, with Mr. Ryor abstaining, to approve the State Employees Retirement Commission Management Trustee Timothy A. Ryor's Per Diem Expenses.
5. Request Commission Acceptance of the Invoices from Robinson and Cole for Federal Tax Matters rendered for the month of October.
  - i. At 9:23 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Coffey to accept the invoices from Robinson and Cole for Federal Tax Matters rendered for the month of November.
  - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
  - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to accept the invoices from Robinson and Cole for Federal Tax Matters rendered for the month of November.
6. Request Commission Acceptance of the Invoices from Rose Kallor rendered for the month of November.
  - i. At 9:23 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Coffey to accept the invoices from Rose Kallor rendered for the month of November.
  - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
  - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to accept the invoices from Rose Kallor rendered for the month of November.
7. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Service Retirements for the Month of November 2021.
  - i. At 9:24 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Coffey to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Service Retirements for the Month of November 2021.
  - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
  - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Service Retirements for the Month of November 2021.
8. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees System Voluntary Pending Retirements for the Month of November 2021.
  - i. At 9:24 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Coffey to approve the Connecticut State Employees System Voluntary Pending Retirements for the Month of November 2021.
  - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.

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- iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the Connecticut State Employees System Voluntary Pending Retirements for the Month of November 2021.
9. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees System Disability Retirements for the Month of November 2021.
  - i. At 9:24 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Coffey to approve the Connecticut State Employees System Disability Retirements for the Month of November 2021.
  - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
  - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the Connecticut State Employees System Disability Retirements for the Month of November 2021.
10. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Municipal Employees Retirements for the Month of November 2021.
  - i. At 9:25 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Coffey to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Municipal Employees Retirements for the Month of November 2021.
  - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
  - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Municipal Employees Retirements for the Month of November 2021.
11. Request Commission Approval of the Municipal Retirement System Disability Retirement Approvals.
  - i. At 9:25 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Coffey to approve the Municipal Retirement System Disability Retirement Approvals.
  - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
  - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the Municipal Retirement System Disability Retirement Approvals.
12. Request Commission Approval of the Municipal Retirement System Disability Retirement Denials.
  - i. At 9:25 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Coffey to approve the Municipal Retirement System Disability Retirement Denials.
  - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.

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- iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the Municipal Retirement System Disability Retirement Denials.
13. Request Commission Acceptance of the Recommendations by the Medical Examining Board for the Continued Entitlement Approvals.
  - i. At 9:26 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Coffey to accept the recommendations by the Medical Examining Board for the Continued Entitlement Approvals.
  - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
  - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to accept the recommendations by the Medical Examining Board for the Continued Entitlement Approvals.
14. Request Commission Acceptance of the recommendations by the Medical Examining Board for the Continued Entitlement Tabled and Denials.
  - i. At 9:26 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Coffey accept the recommendations by the Medical Examining Board for the Continued Entitlement Tabled and Denials.
  - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
  - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to accept the recommendations by the Medical Examining Board for the Continued Entitlement Tabled and Denials.
15. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut Judges, Family Support Magistrates and Compensation Commissioners Retirement System.
  - i. At 9:26 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Coffey to approve the Connecticut Judges, Family Support Magistrates and Compensation Commissioners Retirement System.
  - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
  - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the Connecticut Judges, Family Support Magistrates and Compensation Commissioners Retirement System.
16. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut Probate Judges and Employees Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for the Pay Period October 8, 2021 through November 4, 2021.
  - i. At 9:26 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Coffey to approve the Connecticut Probate Judges and Employees Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for the Pay Period October 8, 2021 through November 4, 2021.
  - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.

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- iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve Connecticut Probate Judges and Employees Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for the Pay Period October 8, 2021 through November 4, 2021.
17.
  - a. Request Commission Review and acceptance of the Probate Judges' and Employees' Retirement Fund Statement of Operations for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2021.
    - i. At 9:27 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Coffey to approve the Probate Judges' and Employees' Retirement Fund Statement of Operations for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2021.
    - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
    - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the Probate Judges' and Employees' Retirement Fund Statement of Operations for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2021.
  - b. Request Commission Review and acceptance of the Probate Judges' and Employees' Retirement Fund Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2021.
    - i. At 9:27 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Coffey to approve the Probate Judges' and Employees' Retirement Fund Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2021.
    - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
    - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the Probate Judges' and Employees' Retirement Fund Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2021.
18.
  - a. Request Commission Review and acceptance of the Judges' Family Support Magistrates' and Compensation Commission Retirement Fund Statement of Operations for fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2021.
    - i. At 9:27 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Coffey to approve the Judges' Family Support Magistrates' and Compensation Commission Retirement Fund Statement of Operations for fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2021.
    - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
    - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the Judges' Family Support Magistrates' and Compensation Commission Retirement Fund Statement of Operations for fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2021.
  - b. Request Commission Review and acceptance of the Judges', Family Support Magistrates' and Compensation Commission Retirement Fund Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2021.
    - i. At 9:27 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Coffey to approve the Judges', Family Support Magistrates' and Compensation Commission Retirement Fund Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2021.



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- ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
    - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the Judges', Family Support Magistrates' and Compensation Commission Retirement Fund Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2021.
- 19.
  - a. Request Commission Review and Acceptance of the Connecticut Policemen & Firemen Survivors' Benefit Fund Statement of Operations for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2021.
    - i. At 9:28 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Coffey to approve the Connecticut Policemen & Firemen Survivors' Benefit Fund Statement of Operations for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2021.
    - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
    - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the Connecticut Policemen & Firemen Survivors' Benefit Fund Statement of Operations for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2021.
  - b. Request Commission Review and acceptance of the Connecticut Policemen & Firemen Survivors' Benefit Fund Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2021.
    - i. At 9:27 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Coffey to approve the Connecticut Policemen & Firemen Survivors' Benefit Fund Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2021.
    - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
    - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the Connecticut Policemen & Firemen Survivors' Benefit Fund Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2021.
- 20.
  - a. Request Commission Review and Acceptance of the Public Defenders' Retirement Fund Statement of Operations for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2021.
    - i. At 9:29 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Coffey to approve the Public Defenders' Retirement Fund Statement of Operations for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2021.
    - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
    - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the Public Defenders' Retirement Fund Statement of Operations for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2021.
  - b. Request Commission Review and acceptance of the Public Defenders' Retirement Fund Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2021.
    - i. At 9:29 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Coffey to approve the Public Defenders' Retirement Fund Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2021.
    - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.

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- iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the Public Defenders' Retirement Fund Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2021.
  21. a. Request Commission Review and Acceptance of the General Assembly Pension Fund Statement of Operations for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2021.
    - i. At 9:29 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Coffey to approve the General Assembly Pension Fund Statement of Operations for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2021.
    - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
    - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the General Assembly Pension Fund Statement of Operations for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2021.
  - b. Request Commission Review and acceptance of the General Assembly Pension Fund Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2021.
    - i. At 9:29 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Coffey to approve the General Assembly Pension Fund Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2021.
    - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
    - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the General Assembly Pension Fund Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2021.
22. a. Request Commission Review and Acceptance of the State Attorneys' Retirement Fund Statement of Operations for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2021.
  - i. At 9:29 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Coffey to approve the State Attorneys' Retirement Fund Statement of Operations for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2021.
  - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
  - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the State Attorneys' Retirement Fund Statement of Operations for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2021.
- b. Request Commission Review and acceptance of the State Attorneys' Retirement Fund Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2021.
  - i. At 9:30 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Coffey to approve the State Attorneys' Retirement Fund Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2021.
  - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
  - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the State Attorneys' Retirement Fund Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2021.

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### **Executive Session – Discussion and Possible Action**

1. Judges pension matters – written legal opinion.
2. Ronald Johnson v. SERC – pending claim/pending litigation.
3. Mario Trapanese request for reconsideration – written legal opinion.
4. Paul Cicarella appeal – written legal opinion.
5. Patrick Butler request for review pursuant to Regs., Conn. State Agencies § 5-155a-2(i) – written legal opinion.
6. Marianna Grzeszczyk v. SERC – pending litigation.
7. Catherine Crandle v. SERC – pending litigation.
8. FOI appeal by Attorney Russell Zimmerlin – pending claim/pending litigation.

At 9:31 a.m., Mr. Coffey moved, seconded by Mr. Carey to suspend the regular meeting and go into executive session for the purposes of discussing Items 1-8 on the Agenda. Attorney Barth, Attorney Sullivan, Attorney Rose, John Herrington, Attorney Menon, and Colin Newman, were invited by the Commission to stay for executive session. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to enter executive session to discuss Items 1-8.

At 10:02 a.m., Mr. Coffey moved, seconded by Mr. Carey to exit executive session. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously to exit executive session.

### **Public Session**

At 10:02 a.m., Mr. Coffey moved, seconded by Mr. Carey to deny Ms. Duggal's request for reconsideration as there was no new information presented. There being no discussion, the Chairman called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously to deny Ms. Duggal's request.

At 10:02 a.m., Mr. Coffey moved, seconded by Mr. Carey, to deny Ms. Hayes request for relief for a declaratory ruling and for Mr. Herrington to issue the standard letter. There being no discussion, the Chairman called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously to deny of Ms. Hayes' request.

At 10:03 a.m., Mr. Coffey moved, seconded by Ms. Brown, to deny Ms. Gibb's appeal. There being no discussion, the Chairman called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously to deny Ms. Gibbs' appeal.

### **Adjournment**

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With no further business before the Commission, Ms. Brown moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to adjourn at 10:03 a.m. The Commission voted unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted by:

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Peter Adomeit, Chairman

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Prepared by John Herrington  
Director Retirement Services Division