

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION

---

JULY 20, 2023 MEETING  
HELD VIA ZOOM  
CONVENED AT 9:02 a.m.

---

Board Members Present:

Peter Adomeit, Chairman  
Michael Bailey, Trustee  
Karen Buffkin, Trustee  
Michael Carey, Trustee  
Carl Chisem, Trustee  
John Disette, Trustee  
Tara Downes, Deputy Comptroller, Ex Officio Member  
David Krayski, Trustee  
Sal Luciano, Trustee  
Michael O'Brien, Trustee  
Claude Poulin, Trustee  
Angel Quiros, Trustee  
Timothy Ryor, Trustee  
Mark Sciota, Municipal Liaison  
Rebecca Simonsen, Trustee  
Ted Wright, Chief Investment Officer, Office of the Treasurer,  
Ex Officio Member

Absent:

Karen Nolen, Trustee

Also Present:

Bruce Barth, Tax Counsel to the Commission, Robinson & Cole  
Cindy Cieslak, General Counsel to the Commission, Rose Kallor  
Robert Helfand, Assistant Director, Retirement Services Division  
John Herrington, Director, Retirement Services Division  
Virginia McGarrity, Tax Counsel to the Commission, Robinson &  
Cole  
Yamuna Menon, General Counsel, Assistant Comptroller

Also Present, continued:

Bruce Barth, Tax Counsel to the Commission, Robinson & Cole  
Cindy Cieslak, General Counsel to the Commission, Rose Kallor  
Robert Helfand, Assistant Director, Retirement Services Division  
John Herrington, Director, Retirement Services Division  
Virginia McGarrity, Tax Counsel to the Commission, Robinson &  
Cole  
Yamuna Menon, General Counsel, Assistant Comptroller  
Charlotte Moller, Retirement Services Division  
Colin Newman, Retirement Services Division  
Michael Rose, General Counsel to the Commission, Rose  
Kallor

TRANSCRIPTIONIST: Karin A. Empson

1 (Proceedings commenced at 9:02 a.m.)

2  
3  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Do we have a quorum,  
6 Cindy?

7 MS. CIESLAK: Yes, we do.

8 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: We do, okay. All right.  
9 Then I will call the meeting to order. This is the  
10 July 20<sup>th</sup>, 1923 - 2023 meeting of the State Employees  
11 Retirement Commission being held electronically via  
12 Zoom.

13 Do you have the attendance, Cindy?

14 MS. CIESLAK: Sure. Good morning. This is  
15 Cindy Cieslak. Present this morning, we have Chairman  
16 Peter Adomeit; Trustee Michael Bailey; Tax Counsel from  
17 Robinson & Cole, Bruce Barth; Trustee Karen Buffkin;  
18 Trustee Michael Carey; Trustee Carl Chisem; General  
19 Counsel from Rose Kallor, Cindy Cieslak; Trustee John  
20 DiSette; Deputy Comptroller and Ex Officio Member of  
21 the Retirement Commission, Tara Downes; Assistant  
22 Director from the Retirement Services Division, Robert  
23 Helfand; Director from the Retirement Services  
24 Division, John Herrington; Trustee David Kraveski;  
25 Trustee Sal Luciano; Tax Counsel from Robinson & Cole,

1 Virginia McGarrity; Assistant Comptroller and General  
2 Counsel, Yam Menon; Trustee Michael O'Brien; Actuarial  
3 Trustee Claude Poulin; Trustee Angel Quiros; General  
4 Counsel from Rose Kallor, Michael Rose; Actuarial  
5 Trustee Tim Ryor; Municipal Liaison Mark Sciota;  
6 Trustee Rebecca Simonsen.

7 Is there anybody I missed? There are a lot  
8 of people coming in all at once. Looks like we're  
9 good. Thank you, Peter.

10 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay. Thank you. Can you  
11 hear that noise? You can't hear it, okay. I have a  
12 woodchipper outside my door. I had a 200-year-old oak  
13 tree fall down.

14 Okay, I'm going to defer to Tara Downes  
15 because I don't have much of a voice today. Tara?

16 MS. DOWNES: Oh, good morning. I don't have  
17 anything to report. I'll leave it to our director,  
18 John Herrington.

19 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay. Mr. Herrington?

20 MR. HERRINGTON: I don't have anyone to defer  
21 to, so I'll jump into our report. Basically, this  
22 month, you'll see that there was a slight uptick. You  
23 know, after the 2022 surge, we saw an extreme kind of  
24 drop-off in retirements. July typically is a heavy  
25 month just based on kind of the life cycle of the

1 higher ed population, and I think that that's why the  
2 number is higher than it has been in recent months.  
3 But as we'll see, historically, it's still low.

4 We still continue to see some low levels. We  
5 hope that that's going to result in good news when we  
6 see the actuarial valuation for this year. That's kind  
7 of our focus at this point. We continue to pull the  
8 information for the different plans, and we continue to  
9 perfect that and scrub it each year. We do a better  
10 and better job of increasing and maximizing the  
11 accuracy of the underlying census data.

12 The only other issue that I have to report is  
13 we continue to make progress with the CMERS reforms.  
14 The CMERS reforms that will most directly impact the  
15 retirement commission would be the reforms that relate  
16 to the governance of the CMERS plan where we have a  
17 working group and there is the desire to increase the  
18 presence and the voice of the CMERS entities.

19 With respect to this body, the temporary  
20 solution is to create a CMERS subcommittee. We hope to  
21 provide some information to the Legal & Personnel  
22 Subcommittee next month for discussion of the relevant  
23 issues next month and, depending on where that goes,  
24 it's possible that there may be a proposal or a set of  
25 issues to present to the entire commission next month.

1           And I'd say we have two issues. The first  
2 would be kind of the short term, how we would  
3 incorporate this new subcommittee into our existing  
4 practice, and then, you know, some thought on how this  
5 might look long-term, whether, you know, that reform  
6 will be sufficient, or whether there will be need for  
7 more. But I would expect that by next month's meeting,  
8 there should be, you know, more specifics to present to  
9 this body.

10           Other than that, I don't have anything more  
11 to present today.

12           CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay. Any questions or  
13 comments? Okay, hearing none, Mr. Bailey.

14           MS. CIESLAK: Mr. Chairman, I apologize for  
15 the interruption. This is Cindy Cieslak. I just  
16 wanted to note for the record that Ted Wright, Chief  
17 Investment Officer from the Office of the Treasurer and  
18 Ex Officio Member of the Retirement Commission is  
19 present as well as Charlotte Moller from the Retirement  
20 Services Division.

21           CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay. Very good. New  
22 matters.

23           MR. BAILEY: Mr. Chairman, this is Michael  
24 Bailey. I move approval of the State Employees  
25 Retirement Commission minutes with director's report on

1 June 2023.

2 MR. LUCIANO: Sal Luciano, second.

3 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing  
4 none, all in favor, say aye or raise your hand.

5 MS. BUFFKIN: Aye.

6 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Opposed, nay or raise your  
7 hand. It's unanimous; the ayes have it.

8 MR. BAILEY: Mr. Chairman, this is Michael  
9 Bailey. I move approval of the SERS expenses for June  
10 2023.

11 MR. LUCIANO: Sal Luciano, second.

12 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing  
13 none, all in favor, say aye or raise your hand.

14 MS. BUFFKIN: Aye.

15 MR. LUCIANO: Aye.

16 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Opposed, nay or raise your  
17 hand. It's unanimous; the ayes have it.

18 MR. BAILEY: Mr. Chairman, Michael Bailey. I  
19 move approval of the State Employees Retirement  
20 Commission Chairman's per diem expenses for June 2023.

21 MR. LUCIANO: Sal Luciano, second.

22 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing  
23 none, all in favor, say aye or raise your hand.

24 MS. BUFFKIN: Aye.

25 MR. LUCIANO: Aye.

1 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Opposed, nay or raise your  
2 hand. The ayes have it, unanimous.

3 MR. BAILEY: This is Michael Bailey. I move  
4 approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission  
5 Union Trustee, Claude Poulin's per diem and travel  
6 expenses reimbursement for June 2023.

7 MR. LUCIANO: Sal Luciano, second.

8 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing  
9 none, all in favor, say aye or raise your hand.

10 MR. LUCIANO: Aye.

11 MS. BUFFKIN: Aye.

12 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Opposed, nay or raise your  
13 hand. The ayes have it, unanimous.

14 MR. BAILEY: This is Michael Bailey. I move  
15 approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission  
16 Management Trustee, Timothy Ryor's per diem expenses  
17 June 2023.

18 MR. LUCIANO: Sal Luciano, second.

19 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing  
20 none, all in favor, say aye or raise your hand.

21 MS. BUFFKIN: Aye.

22 MR. LUCIANO: Aye.

23 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Opposed, nay or raise your  
24 hand. The ayes have it, unanimous.

25 MR. BAILEY: Mr. Chairman, I move Items 6 and



1 7, acceptance of the invoices from Robinson & Cole and  
2 from Rose Kallor for expenses for June 2023.

3 MR. LUCIANO: Sal Luciano, second.

4 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing  
5 none, all in favor, say aye or raise your hand.

6 MR. LUCIANO: Aye.

7 MS. BUFFKIN: Aye.

8 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Opposed, nay or raise your  
9 hand. The ayes have it, unanimous.

10 MR. BAILEY: Mr. Chairman, I move Items 8, 9,  
11 and 10, approval of the Connecticut State Employees  
12 Retirement System service retirements, voluntary  
13 pending retirements, and disability for the month of  
14 June 2023.

15 MR. LUCIANO: Sal Luciano, second.

16 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing  
17 none, all in favor, say aye or raise your hand.

18 MS. BUFFKIN: Aye.

19 MR. LUCIANO: Aye.

20 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Opposed, nay or raise your  
21 hand. It's unanimous; the ayes have it.

22 MR. BAILEY: This is Michael Bailey. I move  
23 approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement  
24 System municipal employees' retirements for the month  
25 of June 2023.

1 MR. LUCIANO: Sal Luciano, second.

2 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing  
3 none, all in favor, say aye or raise your hand.

4 MR. LUCIANO: Aye.

5 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Opposed, nay or raise your  
6 hand. The ayes have it, unanimous.

7 MR. BAILEY: This is Michael Bailey. I move  
8 approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement  
9 System retroactive retirements for June of 2023.

10 MR. LUCIANO: Sal Luciano, second.

11 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing  
12 none, all in favor, say aye or raise your hand.

13 MR. LUCIANO: Aye.

14 MS. BUFFKIN: Aye.

15 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Opposed, nay or raise your  
16 hand. It's unanimous; the ayes have it.

17 MR. BAILEY: Mr. Chairman, this is Michael  
18 Bailey. I move Items 13 and 14 of the agenda for  
19 acceptance of the Municipal Employees Retirement System  
20 disability retirement approvals and disability  
21 retirement tabled and/or denials from the Medical  
22 Examining Board for June 2023.

23 MR. LUCIANO: Sal Luciano, second.

24 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing  
25 none, all in favor, say aye or raise your hand.

1 MS. BUFFKIN: Aye.

2 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Opposed, nay or raise your  
3 hand. The ayes have it, unanimous.

4 MR. BAILEY: This is Michael Bailey. I move  
5 approval of the Probate Judges and Employees Retirement  
6 Fund personnel expenses for June 2023.

7 MR. LUCIANO: Sal Luciano, second.

8 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing  
9 none, all in favor, say aye or raise your hand.

10 MS. BUFFKIN: Aye.

11 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Opposed, nay or raise your  
12 hand. The ayes have it.

13 MR. BAILEY: And Mr. Chairman, this is  
14 Michael Bailey. I move approval for the request  
15 received from Sean Kilbride that the commission  
16 consider whether tolling of time limit is appropriate  
17 as it relates to him making application for a non-  
18 service-connected disability retirement. This was  
19 tabled from the June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting.

20 MR. LUCIANO: Sal Luciano, second.

21 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing  
22 none, all in favor, say aye or raise your hand.

23 MR. CAREY: Mr. Chairman? This is Mike  
24 Carey. I'm sorry.

25 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Sure.

1 MR. CAREY: Regarding the motion, are we -  
2 I'd like some clarification, please. Is the motion  
3 that we approve the request to toll, or that we are  
4 reviewing the request because it had been tabled from  
5 last meeting?

6 MR. LUCIANO: I thought the motion was to put  
7 this back on the table.

8 MR. CAREY: Okay.

9 MR. LUCIANO: For us to-

10 MR. CAREY: For us to consider. Thank you.  
11 I just wanted to be clear that the motion was not that  
12 we are approving it at this - with this motion.

13 MR. BAILEY: That's what I understand it to  
14 be as well, Michael.

15 MR. CAREY: Thank you very much. I  
16 appreciate that.

17 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Yeah. It's not otherwise  
18 on the agenda.

19 All in favor, say aye or raise your hand.

20 MR. LUCIANO: Aye.

21 MS. BUFFKIN: Aye.

22 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Opposed, nay or raise your  
23 hand. Unanimous, the ayes have it.

24 MR. LUCIANO: Can somebody give us a  
25 thumbnail on this?

1 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Cindy?

2 MS. CIESLAK: This is Cindy Cieslak. So  
3 there was a request by Mr. Kilbride actually to  
4 essentially toll the limitations period so (inaudible)  
5 had time for disability retirement beyond the two-year  
6 limitations period. And he had sought a hearing based  
7 on the fact that he had claimed there were extenuating  
8 circumstances. I believe the extenuating circumstances  
9 were related to his disability. And at the last  
10 meeting, it was tabled.

11 I believe he had indicated that - I don't  
12 have those notes in front of me, but I believe he  
13 indicated that it was someone had told him at the  
14 agency that he had to wait for workers' comp to be  
15 concluded, and so he was waiting for that to conclude.  
16 And so I believe the trustees wanted to find out if  
17 there was additional information we could get from the  
18 employing agency to either, you know, confirm that, or  
19 see if there was any additional information.

20 So he has asked to be allowed to apply for  
21 disability beyond the 24-month limitation period based  
22 on what he has set forth as extenuating circumstances.

23 MR. LUCIANO: Did we get the additional  
24 information, Cindy?

25 MS. CIESLAK: I am going to defer to John

1 Herrington or Colin - oh, I wanted to note for the  
2 record, Colin Newman, Assistant Director for the  
3 Retirement Services Division has joined us. And I just  
4 saw he took himself off mute. So it looks like Colin  
5 might have some information for us.

6 MR. NEWMAN: Hi. So, yes, the additional  
7 documentation, you know, showed that - so Mr. Kilbride,  
8 it appears that he resigned - actually resigned not in  
9 good standing on June 30<sup>th</sup> of 2016. But he continued to  
10 receive temporary partial - temporary total and  
11 temporary partial workers' compensation. And those  
12 records show that he continued to receive that until  
13 approximately, I believe, like March of 2017.

14 And then, I think the last page would show  
15 that on - there's like a voluntary agreement that was  
16 signed, and that voluntary agreement was for like a  
17 permanent partial disability like agreement. And it  
18 really was for the period from April of 2017 through  
19 August of 2017. And so he - and then he subsequently  
20 applied for the - the second application for the  
21 disability retirement came in for September 1<sup>st</sup> of 2017.

22 So I think it depends on how you view those  
23 workers' comp payments, as opposed to the rule of last  
24 date of a payment being March of 2017. And if the  
25 commission determines that those temporary total,

1 temporary partial payments were the same as someone  
2 being - receiving like a regular paycheck, the 24  
3 months could possibly start from that March 2017 date.

4           However, if you determine that it doesn't  
5 matter the type of workers' comp payments that he  
6 received, then obviously the last payment he received  
7 would have been for the period that ran from April 2017  
8 through August of 2017, at which point, he did submit -  
9 an application was submitted, you know, for September  
10 1<sup>st</sup> of 2017.

11           MR. HERRINGTON: Aren't the dates - wasn't  
12 there an application for vested rights (inaudible)?

13           MR. NEWMAN: There was an original  
14 application for vested rights that had the separation  
15 day of June 30<sup>th</sup> of 2016.

16           MR. HERRINGTON: Right. But that was  
17 submitted September of '17, so after the conclusion of  
18 the workers' comp.

19           MR. NEWMAN: Right, right, right.

20           MR. HERRINGTON: And the disability  
21 applications that we're talking about, it was '19, not  
22 '17.

23           MR. NEWMAN: It was 2019, sorry, '19, which  
24 was two years after - which was two years after.  
25 Sorry.

1 MS. CIESLAK: This is Cindy Cieslak. When he  
2 submitted that vested rights application, was he on the  
3 retirement payroll?

4 MR. NEWMAN: No, because he was under the age  
5 of 55.

6 MS. CIESLAK: Okay.

7 MR. NEWMAN: So - because his - I believe - I  
8 don't have it in front of me, but I believe his vested  
9 rights day is like in 2028, I think.

10 MR. HERRINGTON: Mm-hmm.

11 MR. KRAYESKI: Hi, Colin. This is Dave  
12 Krayeski. Did we get any information regarding what he  
13 was advised by the agency in this instance?

14 MR. NEWMAN: No. We didn't get anything from  
15 the agency regarding that.

16 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: How do you wish to  
17 proceed?

18 MR. LUCIANO: What is the practice, Colin?

19 MR. NEWMAN: The practice in the sense of  
20 how-

21 MR. LUCIANO: How would (inaudible) handle  
22 this situation?

23 MR. NEWMAN: So the division would initially  
24 take the last date of paid employment, which goes back  
25 to June 30<sup>th</sup> of 2016, and that 24-month period would



1 start from there. However, there have been situations,  
2 and I guess it depended on the actual case, where the  
3 workers' comp payments that the person - the person  
4 continued to receive workers' comp payments, that that  
5 has been viewed - and correct me if I'm wrong, Cindy -  
6 I think the commission has looked at that, and if the  
7 person continued to receive workers' comp payments,  
8 they viewed that as the same as someone receiving like  
9 a regular paycheck, so to speak.

10 The only question is, does it matter what  
11 type of worker's comp it is.

12 MS. CIESLAK: Right.

13 MR. NEWMAN: Because obviously the type that  
14 he was receiving was temporary partial, temporary  
15 total, which was creditable workers' comp, whereas for  
16 that lump sum payment that he - that voluntary  
17 agreement was signed, it was for a specific period of  
18 April to August of 2017, in which case, under normal  
19 circumstances, he wouldn't get retirement credit for  
20 that.

21 MS. CIESLAK: This is Cindy Cieslak. So now  
22 that Colin kind of gave that background, there has been  
23 at least one, possibly two or three matters, that our  
24 office have reviewed, and I think we've come out kind  
25 of different ways depending on what type of workers'

1 comp benefits they were receiving. And so if you  
2 wanted us to review those matters and do a comparison  
3 so your practice could remain consistent, our office  
4 could do that.

5 MR. LUCIANO: I would like that. I don't  
6 like being inconsistent, and it just opens the door to  
7 a lot of other - or it can open the door to a lot of  
8 other issues.

9 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: So we need a motion to  
10 table until the next meeting then.

11 MR. LUCIANO: Yeah, I'd like to make the  
12 motion to table until the next meeting with the caveat  
13 that we look at this regarding what we've done in the  
14 past in terms of consistency.

15 MR. BAILEY: Bailey will second.

16 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any further discussion?  
17 Hearing none, all in favor, say aye or raise your hand.

18 MS. BUFFKIN: Aye.

19 MR. LUCIANO: Aye.

20 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Opposed, nay or raise your  
21 hand. It's unanimous; the ayes have it.

22 MR. BAILEY: Mr. Chairman, this is Michael  
23 Bailey. I move to suspend the regular meeting and go  
24 into executive session for the purpose of discussing  
25 Items 1 through 7 of the agenda. I also invite the

1 list of people that Cindy is going to give us at this  
2 point.

3 MR. LUCIANO: Sal Luciano, second. The list  
4 Cindy is going to give us are people that will have or  
5 may have advice regarding the executive session.

6 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Yeah, Mr. Attorney Krzys  
7 is here to discuss the Colangelo case. So perhaps what  
8 we should do is take that case up first in executive  
9 session, and then come out of executive session and  
10 allow Attorney Krzys to address us, and then return to  
11 executive session and make a final determination.

12 MR. LUCIANO: I don't have a problem with  
13 that.

14 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: All right.

15 MS. CIESLAK: Mr. Chairman, this is Cindy  
16 Cieslak. The individuals that Mr. Bailey and Mr.  
17 Luciano were referring to include Bruce Barth, Cindy  
18 Cieslak, Robert Helfand, John Herrington, Virginia  
19 McGarrity, Yam Menon, Colin Newman, Michael Rose, and  
20 Charlotte Moller.

21 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay. We're going to  
22 discuss the case that Mr. Krzys is here on in executive  
23 session. And then we're going to come out of executive  
24 session and allow Attorney Krzys to make a  
25 presentation, and then go back into executive session

1 and make a ruling.

2 So we are in executive session now for  
3 Colangelo.

4 MS. CIESLAK: Mr. Chairman, can you call the  
5 vote?

6 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: I did not. All in favor,  
7 say aye or raise your hand.

8 MR. LUCIANO: Aye.

9 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Opposed, nay or raise your  
10 hand. The ayes have it. Thank you, Cindy.

11 MS. CIESLAK: All right. So anyone who  
12 wasn't invited into executive session, I'm going to  
13 place you in the waiting room. When we reenter public  
14 session, you will come back in. Stay patient. Thank  
15 you.

16 (The commission was in executive session from  
17 9:22 a.m. until 9:30 a.m.)

18 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Attorney Krzys, you have  
19 the floor.

20 MR. KRZYS: All right. Thank you, Mr.  
21 Chairman. Thanks to the trustees for allowing me to  
22 make a short statement today.

23 This matter has been referred to the  
24 litigation and personal subcommittee on two occasions,  
25 the last of which was for further consideration of the

1 legal issues, and now it's back in front of the full  
2 commission. It involves a claim under the state's  
3 attorney retirement system, which is a pension fund  
4 under the jurisdiction of your commission. It's sort  
5 of an orphan fund in the sense that it is purely the  
6 fund that has been established by legislative  
7 enactments going back to 1967.

8           When it first began in 1967, the state's  
9 attorneys and chief state's attorneys, as Mr. Colangelo  
10 was until he resigned in 2022, were entitled to a  
11 certain retirement benefit. It is set forth in 51-  
12 287(a), parens (a), which I think we can all agree is a  
13 rather confusing sentence, to say the least. However,  
14 in its simplest iteration, it talks about state's  
15 attorneys who have obtained age of 65 - or who obtain  
16 the age of 65 while serving as such attorney, and who  
17 has obtained the age of 60 and so elects - or who so  
18 elects, on attaining the age of 60, while so serving  
19 shall receive a retirement salary.

20           That was in 1967. So that at that point in  
21 time, if you were 60 and you resigned while serving in  
22 office, you got a full benefit. I think we can all  
23 agree that if this applicant had stayed until he was  
24 60, he would get a full benefit. There wouldn't be any  
25 question. The question is, well, what about if you

1 left before 60.

2 Well, the legislature was approached with  
3 that in 1973. They passed the public act which said,  
4 well, if you left before 60, you could get an actuarial  
5 reduction, and that was the first time an actuarial  
6 reduction ever appeared in this fund, but you had to  
7 wait until you were 60 to receive a benefit. In 1978,  
8 again, they acted. They eliminated the requirement  
9 that you had to wait until age 60 to get your  
10 actuarially reduced benefit.

11 Since that time, as we've provided  
12 documentation, and I've served the trustees on the  
13 subcommittee and the full trustees now have seen, that  
14 applying subsection (a), which is the entitlement  
15 section, and then applying the later-enacted subsection  
16 (c), which is the actuarial reduction, the division has  
17 consistently reduced state's attorneys' pensions who  
18 retired before the age of - before the age of - from  
19 age 60.

20 So this applicant is the only retired state's  
21 attorney who has ever been reduced from age 65. I  
22 think that the dispositive ruling here should be that,  
23 while (a), subsection (a), is rather confusing, it does  
24 provide the full, normal, unreduced pension benefit for  
25 anyone who retires while in office at age 60, and that

1 subsection (c) provides that if you retire before your  
2 normal unreduced age, which in this case is 60, you  
3 were reduced from that normal pension being reduced  
4 from age 60.

5 And that is simply the claim. It's simply a  
6 matter of statutory construction. It is somewhat  
7 complex because the statutory history and then the  
8 subsequent legislative history that's attached to it is  
9 voluminous, and as we can see, we've submitted 80 pages  
10 and then an additional 40 pages of record to show the  
11 legislative history and to show the statutory history.

12 So I appreciate the time that you've given  
13 me. I know it's a full agenda. And that, in essence,  
14 is this claim. So I thank you for letting me speak.

15 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay. Thank you.

16 How do you wish to proceed?

17 MR. LUCIANO: I think we should go into  
18 executive session. It's Sal Luciano.

19 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: All right.

20 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

21 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay. All in favor, say  
22 aye or raise your hand.

23 MR. LUCIANO: Aye.

24 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Opposed, nay or raise your  
25 hand. The ayes have it.

1 MS. CIESLAK: This is Cindy Cieslak. Mr.  
2 Luciano, Mr. Bailey, can you confirm that your motion  
3 includes an invitation to the previously named  
4 individuals to enter executive session?

5 MR. LUCIANO: Yes.

6 MR. BAILEY: Yes.

7 MR. ROSE: And also that it includes the  
8 discussion of written legal opinion.

9 MS. CIESLAK: Yes. Mike, it's on the agenda  
10 with written legal opinion.

11 MR. ROSE: Okay, thank you.

12 MS. CIESLAK: All right. Any - let's see.  
13 Attorney Krzys and any other guests here, I'm going to  
14 place you in the waiting room. And when we reenter  
15 public session, you will be invited back in.

16 (The commission was in executive session from  
17 9:36 a.m. until 10:04 a.m.)

18 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay. What's the motion,  
19 please?

20 MR. CAREY: Mr. Chairman, this is Mike Carey.  
21 And I move that, consistent with the recommendation of  
22 the Legal & Personnel Subcommittee, that the commission  
23 deny Mr. Colangelo's appeal.

24 MS. BUFFKIN: Second.

25 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Karen Buffkin. All in



1 favor, say aye - or A, discussion, first of all. Any  
2 further discussion? Hearing none, all in favor, say  
3 aye or raise your hand. We have the rollcall. I'm  
4 sorry.

5 MR. LUCIANO: Rollcall.

6 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: I apologize.

7 MR. LUCIANO: No worries.

8 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Yeah. Cindy, we have a  
9 rollcall, please.

10 MS. CIESLAK: Sure. I'm going to go in  
11 alphabetical order by last name. Michael Bailey?

12 MR. BAILEY: Nay.

13 MS. CIESLAK: Karen Buffkin?

14 MS. BUFFKIN: Yes.

15 MS. CIESLAK: Michael Carey?

16 MR. CAREY: Aye.

17 MS. CIESLAK: Carl Chisem?

18 MR. CHISEM: Nay.

19 MS. CIESLAK: John DiSette?

20 MR. DISETTE: Nay.

21 MS. CIESLAK: David Krayeski?

22 MR. KRAYESKI: Yes.

23 MS. CIESLAK: Sal Luciano?

24 MR. LUCIANO: I abstain. I'm recusing  
25 myself.

1 MS. CIESLAK: Yep. Michael O'Brien?

2 MR. O'BRIEN: I recuse myself as well.

3 MS. CIESLAK: Claude Poulin?

4 MR. POULIN: I recuse myself.

5 MS. CIESLAK: Angel Quiros?

6 MR. QUIROS: No.

7 MS. CIESLAK: Tim Ryor?

8 MR. RYOR: Yes.

9 MS. CIESLAK: Rebecca Simonsen? It doesn't  
10 look like she's still here. I don't think Becky's here  
11 anymore.

12 Okay. I believe those are all the voting  
13 members. Give me one second to tally.

14 MR. LUCIANO: I think it's four-four.

15 MS. CIESLAK: I think someone said four-four  
16 and that is accurate.

17 MR. LUCIANO: I said it. Yep.

18 MS. CIESLAK: Mr. Chairman?

19 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: I vote no.

20 MS. CIESLAK: No in that you - no. Okay. So  
21 the motion does not pass, five-to-four.

22 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay.

23 MR. LUCIANO: Motion to go into executive  
24 session for purposes of dealing with the remaining  
25 issues.

1 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

2 MR. ROSE: With an amendment to include all  
3 the legal counsel as well?

4 MS. CIESLAK: It will include Bruce Barth,  
5 Cindy Cieslak, Robert Helfand, John Herrington,  
6 Virginia McGarrity, Yam Menon, Colin Newman, Michael  
7 Rose, and Charlotte Moller.

8 MR. LUCIANO: Yes, because they have  
9 information that will help address these.

10 MS. CIESLAK: Mr. Chairman, we have to call  
11 the motion.

12 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay. All in favor, say  
13 aye.

14 MR. LUCIANO: Aye.

15 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Opposed, nay. The ayes  
16 have it.

17 (The commission was in executive session from  
18 10:07 a.m. until 10:09 a.m.)

19 MR. CAREY: Cindy, may I ask a matter of  
20 clarification?

21 MS. CIESLAK: We are back in public session.  
22 This is Cindy.

23 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay.

24 MR. LUCIANO: The reason we're back in public  
25 session is regarding the Colangelo case, there was a

1 motion that did not pass. And so we need a motion in  
2 the affirmative for Mr. Colangelo.

3 MR. BAILEY: Mr. Chairman, this is Michael  
4 Bailey. I move that we accept the appeal and approve  
5 the age for reduction at age 60.

6 MR. CHISEM: Carl Chisem, second.

7 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay. Any discussion?

8 MR. LUCIANO: Just a point of clarification.  
9 Are we making the motion just regarding this person,  
10 Michael?

11 MR. BAILEY: Yes. Yes.

12 MR. LUCIANO: Would you like me to rephrase  
13 the motion then, that his appeal be granted and that's  
14 it?

15 MR. BAILEY: The appeal granted for Mr.  
16 Colangelo?

17 MS. CIESLAK: Limited to the facts of his  
18 case; correct?

19 MR. BAILEY: Correct.

20 MR. LUCIANO: I believe there was a second by  
21 Carl Chisem.

22 MR. CHISEM: Yeah, I'm sorry. Second by  
23 Carl.

24 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay. All in favor, say  
25 aye or - we need a rollcall on this though; don't we?

1 MR. LUCIANO: Yes, we do.

2 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay. Let's do a  
3 rollcall.

4 MS. CIESLAK: Michael Bailey?

5 MR. BAILEY: Yes.

6 MS. CIESLAK: Karen Buffkin?

7 MR. BAILEY: You're on mute, Karen.

8 MR. DISETTE: Yeah, I don't think she heard  
9 you.

10 MS. BUFFKIN: Sorry. Thank you. Nay.

11 MS. CIESLAK: Michael Carey?

12 MR. CAREY: Nay.

13 MS. CIESLAK: Carl Chisem?

14 MR. CHISEM: Yes.

15 MS. CIESLAK: John DiSette?

16 MR. DISETTE: Yes.

17 MS. CIESLAK: David Krayeski?

18 MR. KRAYESKI: No.

19 MS. CIESLAK: Sal Luciano?

20 MR. LUCIANO: I abstain. I recuse myself.

21 MS. CIESLAK: Michael O'Brien?

22 MR. O'BRIEN: I abstain and recuse myself.

23 MS. CIESLAK: Claude Poulin?

24 MR. BAILEY: You're on mute, Claude.

25 MR. POULIN: I recuse myself.

1 MS. CIESLAK: Angel Quiros?

2 MR. QUIROS: Yes.

3 ELECTRONIC VOICE: Recording in progress.

4 MS. CIESLAK: Tim Ryor?

5 MR. RYOR: No.

6 MS. CIESLAK: I think - Becky Simonsen?

7 (Inaudible) Becky Simonsen is still not here; correct?

8 Okay.

9 All right. We have four-to-four again.

10 Chairman?

11 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: No.

12 MR. LUCIANO: You just voted no, Mr.

13 Chairman. So that means this motion fails as well.

14 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Let me rephrase that.

15 Please read the motion one more time, please.

16 MS. CIESLAK: The motion is to accept the

17 appeal and approve the age for reduction for Mr.

18 Colangelo at age 60, limited to the facts of this case.

19 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: So a vote in the

20 affirmative grants the motion, I take it then.

21 MS. CIESLAK: Correct.

22 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Yeah, yeah. I'm going to

23 change my motion - I'm going to change my vote. I am

24 going to vote yes.

25 MR. LUCIANO: Okay. Now I'd like to make a

1 motion that we go into executive session to finish our  
2 business.

3 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay.

4 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

5 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: All in favor, say aye or  
6 raise your hand. Opposed, nay or raise your hand. The  
7 ayes have it.

8 MS. CIESLAK: For the record, Mr. Luciano and  
9 Mr. Bailey, you are inviting the same people into  
10 executive session that you previously invited; correct?

11 MR. BAILEY: Correct.

12 MR. LUCIANO: For the same - so that they can  
13 help the trustees make the decisions.

14 MS. CIESLAK: Thank you.

15 (The commission was in executive session from  
16 10:14 a.m. until 10:33 a.m.)

17 MR. LUCIANO: Regarding the Lessor (phonetic)  
18 or Loeser case, I'd like to make a motion that we  
19 recommend allowing her to go to the MEB for disability  
20 retirement.

21 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

22 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing  
23 none, all in favor, say aye or raise your hand.  
24 Opposed, nay or raise your hand. The ayes have it,  
25 unanimous.

1           Mudry, we need a motion.

2           MR. LUCIANO: I think there's a larger issue  
3 that was mentioned by one of the trustees. But  
4 regarding Mudry, I'd like to make a recommendation that  
5 we deny the request to go back to the MEB.

6           MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

7           CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing  
8 none, all in favor, say aye or raise your hand.

9           MR. LUCIANO: Aye.

10          CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Opposed, nay or raise your  
11 hand. The ayes have it.

12          MR. LUCIANO: Regarding Searles, I'd like to  
13 make a motion that we send - because it was unclear  
14 what they meant regarding comparable and because there  
15 was some new information, I'd like to make a motion  
16 that we send Searles back to the MEB for clarification.

17          MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

18          CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing  
19 none, all in favor, say aye or raise your hand.

20          MR. LUCIANO: Aye.

21          CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Opposed, nay or raise your  
22 hand. It's unanimous; the ayes have it.

23          MR. LUCIANO: Regarding the Wilson case,  
24 there was no information, but it was unclear whether  
25 the MEB said there was - they said there was no new



1 information, whether or not they actually received the  
2 information, or whether or not they did receive and it  
3 still felt there was - that it was not new information  
4 in terms of the decision. Because of the lack of  
5 clarity, I make a motion that we send the Wilson case  
6 back to the MEB, remand it for clarification.

7 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

8 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay. Any further  
9 discussion? Hearing none, all in favor, say aye or  
10 raise your hand.

11 MR. LUCIANO: Aye.

12 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Opposed, nay or raise your  
13 hand. The ayes have it.

14 MR. LUCIANO: I don't believe there's any  
15 further business for the commission.

16 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: That is correct.

17 MR. LUCIANO: So then I believe a motion to  
18 adjourn is in order, and I so move.

19 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

20 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: All in favor, say aye or  
21 raise your hand.

22 MR. LUCIANO: Aye.

23 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Opposed, nay or raise your  
24 hand. It's unanimous; the ayes have it.

25 Thank you all very much.

1 MR. LUCIANO: (Inaudible) Stay safe.  
2 MS. CIESLAK: Thank you.  
3 MS. BUFFKIN: Take care, everyone.  
4 (Adjourned at 10:36 a.m.)  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

1  
2  
3  
4  
5 I, Karin A. Empson, do hereby  
6 certify that the preceding pages are an accurate  
7 transcription of the Connecticut State Employees  
8 Retirement Commission meeting held electronically via  
9 Zoom, conducted at 9:02 a.m. on July 20, 2023.  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15

16 Karin A. Empson

17 Karin A. Empson  
18

19 08/11/2023

20 Date  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25