

STATE EMPLOYEES
RETIREMENT COMMISSION



MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD
for DISABILITY RETIREMENT



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
RETIREMENT SERVICES DIVISION
OFFICE *of the* STATE COMPTROLLER

165 Capitol Ave.
Hartford, CT 06106

PHONE: (860) 702-3480 | EMAIL: OSC.RSD@CT.GOV

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION**

A regular meeting of the State Employees Retirement Commission (the “Commission”) was held on August 15, 2024. The meeting was held electronically via Zoom. The meeting convened at 9:00 a.m. and the following members of the Commission were present:

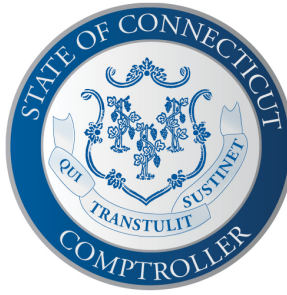
- Peter Adomeit, Chairman
- Michael Bailey, Trustee
- Karen Buffkin, Trustee
- Michael Carey, Trustee
- Carl Chisem, Trustee
- John Disette, Trustee
- Tara Downes, Deputy Comptroller, Ex Officio Member
- Brian Hill, Trustee
- David Krayeski, Trustee
- Sal Luciano, Trustee
- Karen Nolen, Trustee
- Michael O’Brien, Trustee
- Claude Poulin, Trustee
- Timothy Ryor, Trustee

Absent were:

- Angel Quiros, Trustee
- Rebecca Simonsen, Trustee
- Ted Wright, Chief Investment Officer, Office of the Treasurer, Ex Officio Member

Also present were:

- 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
- Yamuna Menon, General Counsel & Assistant Comptroller
- Michael Rose, General Counsel to the Commission, Rose Kallor
- Ben Sedrowski, Retirement Services Division



Call to Order

Chairman Adomeit called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. Ms. Cieslak identified those in attendance.

Division Director’s Report

At 9:05 a.m., Mr. Herrington provided the Division Director’s Report.

Division Director Report (08/15/2024)

I. SERS Disability Retirements:

A. Pending Disability Applications for the Initial Review by the Medical Examining Board: Currently the Disability Retirement Unit is scheduling into January 2025.

- There are 13 New Applications Received for August 2024.
 - There are 87 initial Disability Retirement Applications pending of which:
 - 73 Applications are Scheduled
 - 4 Tabled Cases Pending Due Date
 - 10 Reconsideration Cases Pending Due Date

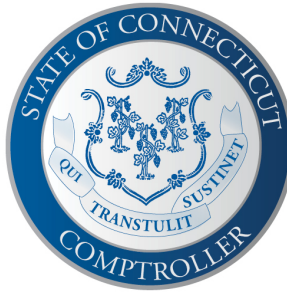
	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
2023	78	75	75	86	88	92	93	90	80	79	71	69
2024	76	79	74	75	75	94*	97*	87*				

*Going forward, we will be including tabled and reconsideration cases in the total pending count.

B. Twenty-Four Month Reviews: Currently the Disability Retirement Unit is scheduling into February 2025.

- 56 Cases are Scheduled
- 4 Reconsideration Cases Pending Due Date
- 102 Cases are Awaiting Due Date for 24-Month Review

C. Investigations: The Disability Retirement Unit scheduled 5 investigation cases.



II. MERS Disability Retirements:

A. Pending Disability Applications for the Initial Review by the Medical Examining Board:

- There are 10 initial Disability Retirement Applications pending of which:
 - 5 Applications are Scheduled
 - 2 Tabled Cases Pending Due Date
 - 3 Reconsideration Cases Pending Due Date

B. Twenty-Four Month Reviews:

- 11 Cases are Awaiting Due Date for 24-Month Review

III. Normal SERS Retirements:

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals
2024	111	87	98	96	83	125	121	136					857
2023	81	60	48	47	50	63	100	75	79	67	66	68	804
Historical Average	179	153	129	255	128	205	262	177	180	248	116	98	2,130

At 9:06 a.m., Mr. Poulin moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to amend the agenda to add the following as Item 16: Request Commission Acceptance of the GASB Statement No. 68 Report for the Connecticut Municipal Employees' Retirement System prepared as of June 30, 2023. All voted in favor.

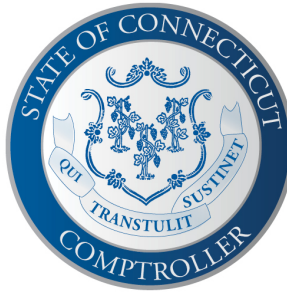
New Matters

1. Request Commission Approval of SERC minutes w/ Directors Report from July 2024.
 - i. At 9:07 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the SERC minutes w/ Directors Report from July 2024.
 - 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 SERC minutes w/ Directors Report from July 2024.
2. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut SERS Expenses for July 2024.

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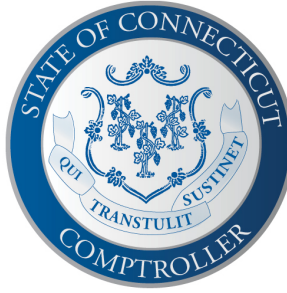
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- i. At 9:08 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Connecticut SERS Expenses for July 2024.
 - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
 - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the Connecticut SERS Expenses for July 2024.
3. Request Commission Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Chairman's Per Diem Expenses for July 2024.
 - i. At 9:08 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the State Employees Retirement Commission Chairman's Per Diem Expenses for July 2024.
 - 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 for July 2024.
4. Request Commission Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Union Trustee Claude Poulin's Per Diem and Travel Expenses Reimbursement for July 2024.
 - i. At 9:09 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the State Employees Retirement Commission Union Trustee Claude Poulin's Per Diem and Travel Expenses Reimbursement for July 2024.
 - 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 for July 2024.
5. Request Commission Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Management Trustee Timothy A. Ryor's Per Diem Expenses for July 2024.
 - i. At 9:09 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the State Employees Retirement Commission Management Trustee Timothy A. Ryor's Per Diem Expenses for July 2024.
 - ii. Mr. Ryor 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. Ryor abstaining, to approve the State Employees Retirement Commission Management Trustee Timothy A. Ryor's Per Diem Expenses for July 2024.

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6. Request Commission Acceptance of the Invoices from Robinson and Cole for Federal Tax Matters services for July 2024.
 - i. At 9:09 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to accept the invoices from Robinson and Cole for Federal Tax Matters services for July 2024.
 - 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 services for July 2024.

7. Request Commission Acceptance of the Invoices from Rose Kallor for July 2024.
 - i. At 9:09 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to accept the invoices from Rose Kallor for July 2024.
 - 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 for July 2024.

8. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Service Retirements for July 2024.
 - i. At 9:09 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Service Retirements for July 2024.
 - 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 July 2024.

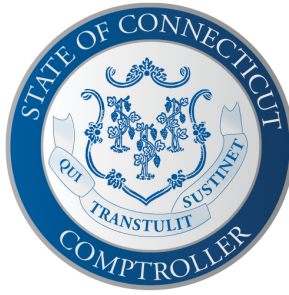
9. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Voluntary Pending Retirements for July 2024.
 - i. At 9:09 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Voluntary Pending Retirements for July 2024.
 - ii. 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 Voluntary Pending Retirements for July 2024.

10. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Disability Retirements for July 2024.
 - i. At 9:09 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Disability Retirements for July 2024.

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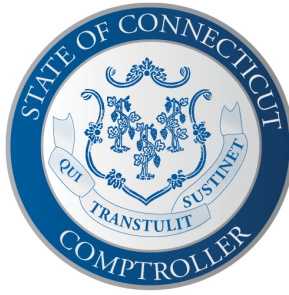
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- ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
 - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Disability Retirements for July 2024.
11. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Municipal Employees Retirements for July 2024.
 - i. At 9:10 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Municipal Employees Retirements for July 2024.
 - 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 July 2024.
12. Request Commission Approval of Municipal Employees Retirement System Tabled Denied Disability Retirement from the Medical Examining Board July 2024.
 - i. At 9:10 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Municipal Employees Retirement System Tabled Denied Disability Retirement from the Medical Examining Board July 2024.
 - 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 Municipal Employees Retirement System Tabled Denied Disability Retirement from the Medical Examining Board July 2024.
13. Request Commission Approval of Municipal Employees Retirement System Approved Disability Retirement from the Medical Examining Board July 2024.
 - i. At 9:10 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Municipal Employees Retirement System Approved Disability Retirement from the Medical Examining Board July 2024.
 - 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 Municipal Employees Retirement System Approved Disability Retirement from the Medical Examining Board July 2024.
14. Request Commission Approval of the Probate Judges and Employees' Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for July 2024.
 - i. At 9:10 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Probate Judges and Employees' Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for July 2024.

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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 Probate Judges and Employees' Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for July 2024.
15. Request Commission Approval of the Recommendations from Regulations and Overpayments Subcommittee meeting held July 24, 2024.
- i. At 9:10 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the recommendations from the Regulations and Overpayments Subcommittee meeting held on July 24, 2024.
 - 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 approve the recommendations from the Regulations and Overpayments Subcommittee meeting held on July 24, 2024.
16. Request Commission Acceptance of the GASB Statement No. 68 Report for the Connecticut Municipal Employees' Retirement System prepared as of June 30, 2023.
- i. At 9:11 a.m., Mr. Poulin moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to accept the GASB Statement No. 68 Report for the Connecticut Municipal Employees' Retirement System prepared as of June 30, 2023.
 - 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 GASB Statement No. 68 Report for the Connecticut Municipal Employees' Retirement System prepared as of June 30, 2023.

Executive Session – discussion and possible action

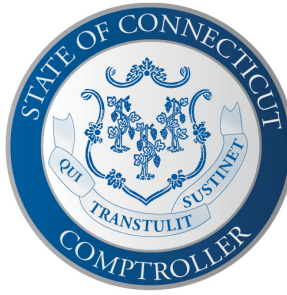
1. Jill Sizensky appeal – written legal opinion.
2. Lori LaPrise appeal – written legal opinion.
3. Jacqueline Lawrence appeal – written legal opinion.
4. Kimberly Newman request for reconsideration – written legal opinion.
5. Linda Cicarella v. SERC – pending litigation.
6. SERC v. Town of Ellington – pending litigation.
7. Patrick Butler v. SERC – pending litigation.

At 9:12 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to suspend the regular meeting and go into executive session for the purposes of discussing Items 1-7. Bruce Barth, Cindy Cieslak, Robert Helfand, John Herrington, Yamuna Menon, Michael Rose, and Ben Sedrowski were invited by the Commission to stay for executive session on Items 1-7 because they may give opinions or factual

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background with respect to the topics at issue. 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 1-7.

At 9:45 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano 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 9:45 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to deny Ms. Sizensky's appeal because the Retirement Commission cannot substitute its judgment for that of the MEB. All voted in favor.

At 9:46 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to deny Ms. LaPrise's appeal because the Retirement Commission cannot substitute its judgment for that of the MEB. All voted in favor.

At 9:47 a.m., Ms. Buffkin moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to deny Ms. Lawrence's appeal. All voted in favor.

At 9:48 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to reconsider Ms. Newman's appeal and schedule her to appear before the Retirement Commission to present her new information. All voted in favor.

Adjournment

With no further business before the Commission, Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Ms. Buffkin to adjourn at 9:48 a.m. The Commission voted unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Peter Adomeit, Chairman

Prepared by John Herrington
Director Retirement Services Division