

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 October 17, 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
- Angel Quiros, Trustee
- Ted Wright, Chief Investment Officer, Office of the Treasurer, Ex Officio Member

Absent were:

- Timothy Ryor, Trustee
- Rebecca Simonsen, Trustee

Also present were:

- Bruch Barth, Tax Counsel to the Commission, Robinson & Cole
- Cindy Cieslak, General Counsel to the Commission, Rose Kallor
- John Garrett, Cavanaugh MacDonald
- Robert Helfand, Assistant Director, Retirement Services Division
- John Herrington, Director, Retirement Services Division
- Ed Koebel, Cavanaugh MacDonald
- Virginia McGarrity, Tax Counsel to the Commission, Robinson & Cole
- Michael Rose, General Counsel to the Commission, Rose Kallor
- Ben Sedrowski, Retirement Services Division



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Call to Order

Chairman Adomeit called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Ms. Cieslak identified those in attendance.

Division Director's Report

At 9:07 a.m., Mr. Herrington provided the Division Director's Report.

Division Director Report (10/17/2024)

I. <u>SERS Disability Retirements</u>:

- A. Pending Disability Applications for the Initial Review by the Medical Examining Board: Currently the Disability Retirement Unit is scheduling into February 2025.
 - There are 9 New Applications Received for October 2024.
 - o There are 79 initial Disability Retirement Applications pending of which:
 - 63 Applications are Scheduled
 - 1 Applications are Awaiting Review and Scheduling by Unit
 - 3 Tabled Cases Pending Due Date
 - 12 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*	85*	79*		

^{*}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.
 - 43 Cases are Scheduled
 - 2 Tabled Cases Pending Due Date
 - 4 Reconsideration Cases Pending Due Date
 - 109 Cases are Awaiting Due Date for 24-Month Review
- **C. Investigations:** The Disability Retirement Unit scheduled 7 investigation cases.



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II. MERS Disability Retirements:

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

- There are 11 initial Disability Retirement Applications pending of which:
 - 5 Applications are Scheduled
 - 0 Applications are Awaiting Review and Scheduling by Unit
 - 3 Tabled Cases Pending Due Date
 - 3 Reconsideration Cases Pending Due Date

B. Twenty-Four Month Reviews:

- 0 Cases are Scheduled
- 0 Tabled Cases Pending Due Date
- 0 Reconsideration Cases Pending Due Date
- 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	132	111			1100
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

New Matters

- 1. Request Commission Approval of SERC minutes w/ Directors Report from September 2024.
 - i. At 9:09 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. O'Brien to approve the SERC minutes w/ Directors Report from September 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 September 2024.
- 2. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut SERS Expenses for September 2024.
 - i. At 9:10 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. O'Brien to approve the Connecticut SERS Expenses for September 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 Connecticut SERS Expenses for September 2024.
- 3. Request Commission Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Chairman's Per Diem Expenses for September 2024.
 - i. At 9:10 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. O'Brien to approve the State Employees Retirement Commission Chairman's Per Diem Expenses for September 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 September 2024.
- 4. Request Commission Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Union Trustee Claude Poulin's Per Diem and Travel Expenses Reimbursement for September 2024.
 - i. At 9:10 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. O'Brien to approve the State Employees Retirement Commission Union Trustee Claude Poulin's Per Diem and Travel Expenses Reimbursement for September 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 September 2024.
- 5. Request Commission Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Management Trustee Timothy A. Ryor's Per Diem Expenses for September 2024.
 - i. At 9:11 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. O'Brien to approve the State Employees Retirement Commission Management Trustee Timothy A. Ryor's Per Diem Expenses for September 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 Management Trustee Timothy A. Ryor's Per Diem Expenses for September 2024.
- 6. Request Commission Acceptance of the Invoices from Rose Kallor for September 2024.
 - i. At 9:11 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. O'Brien to accept the invoices from Rose Kallor for September 2024.



MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD for DISABILITY RETIREMENT



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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 accept the invoices from Rose Kallor for September 2024.
- 7. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Service Retirements for September 2024.
 - i. At 9:12 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. O'Brien to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Service Retirements for September 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 September 2024.
- 8. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Voluntary Pending Retirements for September 2024.
 - i. At 9:12 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. O'Brien to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Voluntary Pending Retirements for September 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 September 2024.
- 9. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Disability Retirements for September 2024.
 - i. At 9:12 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. O'Brien to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Disability Retirements for September 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 Disability Retirements for September 2024.
- 10. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Retroactive Retirements for September 2024.
 - i. At 9:12 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. O'Brien to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Retroactive Retirements for September 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 Retroactive Retirements for September 2024.



MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD for DISABILITY RETIREMENT



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- 11. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Pre-Retirement Death Benefits for September 2024.
 - i. At 9:12 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. O'Brien to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Pre-Retirement Death Benefits for September 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 Pre-Retirement Death Benefits for September 2024.
- 12. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Municipal Employees Retirements for September 2024.
 - i. At 9:12 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. O'Brien to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Municipal Employees Retirements for September 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 September 2024.
- 13. Request Commission Acceptance of the Recommendations by Medical Examining Board for Continued Entitlement Approvals September 2024.
- i. At 9:13 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. O'Brien to accept the recommendation by the Medical Examining Board for Continued Entitlement Approvals September 2024.
- ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a
- iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to accept the recommendation by the Medical Examining Board for Continued Entitlement Approvals September 2024.
- 14. Request Commission Acceptance of the Recommendations by Medical Examining Board for Continued Entitlement Tabled and Denials September 2024.
- i. At 9:13 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. O'Brien to accept the recommendation by the Medical Examining Board for Continued Entitlement Tabled and Denials September 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 recommendation by the Medical Examining Board for Continued Entitlement Tabled and Denials September 2024.



MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD for DISABILITY RETIREMENT



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- 15. Request Commission Approval of Municipal Employees Retirement System Tabled/Denied Disability Retirement from the Medical Examining Board September 2024.
- i. At 9:13 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. O'Brien to approve the Municipal Employees Retirement System Tabled/Denied Disability Retirement from the Medical Examining Board September 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 September 2024.
- 16. Request Commission Approval of the RSD to Discontinue Disability Apps. 1-Year Limitations for September 2024.
- i. At 9:14 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. O'Brien to approve the RSD to Discontinue Disability Apps. 1-Year Limitations for September 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 RSD to Discontinue Disability Apps. 1-Year Limitations for September 2024.
- 17. Request Commission Approval of the Probate Judges and Employees' Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for September 2024.
 - i. At 9:14 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. O'Brien to approve the Probate Judges and Employees' Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for September 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 Probate Judges and Employees' Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for September 2024.
- 18. Request Commission Approval of the Recommendations from the Purchase of Service and Related Matters Subcommittee meeting held on September 26, 2024.
 - i. At 9:14 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. O'Brien to approve the recommendations from the Purchase of Service and Related Matters Subcommittee meeting held on September 26, 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 recommendations from the Purchase of Service and Related Matters Subcommittee meeting held on September 26, 2024.



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- 19. Request Commission Review and Acceptance of the Judges, Family Support Magistrates, and Compensation Commission Retirement Fund Statement of Operations and Balance Sheet for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024.
 - i. At 9:15 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. O'Brien to accept the Judges, Family Support Magistrates, and Compensation Commission Retirement Fund Statement of Operations and Balance Sheet for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 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 Judges, Family Support Magistrates, and Compensation Commission Retirement Fund Statement of Operations and Balance Sheet for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024.
- 20. Request Commission Review and Acceptance of the Connecticut Police & Fire Member's Survivors Benefit Fund Statement of Operations and Balance Sheet for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024.
 - i. At 9:15 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. O'Brien to accept the Connecticut Police & Fire Member's Survivors Benefit Fund Statement of Operations and Balance Sheet for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 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 Connecticut Police & Fire Member's Survivors Benefit Fund Statement of Operations and Balance Sheet for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024.
- 21. Request Commission Review and Acceptance of the Public Defenders Retirement Fund Statement of Operations and Balance Sheet for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024.
 - i. At 9:15 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. O'Brien to accept the Public Defenders Retirement Fund Statement of Operations and Balance Sheet for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 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 Public Defenders Retirement Fund Statement of Operations and Balance Sheet for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024.
- 22. Request Commission Review and Acceptance of the State Attorneys Retirement Fund Statement of Operations and Balance Sheet for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024.
 - i. At 9:16 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. O'Brien to accept the State Attorneys Retirement Fund Statement of Operations and Balance Sheet for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 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 State Attorneys Retirement Fund Statement of Operations and Balance Sheet for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024.



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- 23. Request Commission Review and Acceptance of the State Employees Retirement System Statement of Operations and Balance Sheet for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024.
 - i. At 9:16 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. O'Brien to accept the State Employees Retirement System Statement of Operations and Balance Sheet for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 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 State Employees Retirement System Statement of Operations and Balance Sheet for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024.
- 24. Request Commission Review and Acceptance of the Connecticut Municipal Employees Retirement System Fund B Statement of Operations and Balance Sheet for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024.
 - i. At 9:16 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. O'Brien to accept the Connecticut Municipal Employees Retirement System Fund B Statement of Operations and Balance Sheet for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 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 Connecticut Municipal Employees Retirement System Statement of Operations and Balance Sheet for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024.

Executive Session – discussion and possible action

- 1. Roderick Porter petition for declaratory ruling written legal opinion.
- 2. Brien Woodaman request written legal opinion.
- 3. Town of Redding/CMERs participation written legal opinion.
- 4. SERC v. Ellington pending litigation.
- 5. Patrick Butler v. SERC pending litigation.

At 9:17 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. O'Brien to suspend the regular meeting and go into executive session for the purposes of discussing Items 1-5. Bruce Barth, Cindy Cieslak, Robert Helfand, John Herrington, Virginia McGarrity, Yamuna Menon, Michael Rose, and Benjamin Sedrowski were invited by the Commission to stay for executive session on Items 1-5 because they may give opinions or factual 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 1-5.



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At 9:46 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. O'Brien 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 9:46 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. O'Brien to issue a declaratory ruling denying Roderick Porter's request. All voted in favor.

At 9:47 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. O'Brien to deny Mr. Woodaman's request. All voted in favor.

At 9:48 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. O'Brien to approve a resolution with the Town of Redding as discussed in executive session. All voted in favor.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully Submitted by:							
Peter Adomeit, Chairman							
Prepared by John Herrington							
Director Retirement Services Division							