

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 September 19, 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 Krayski, Trustee
- Sal Luciano, Trustee
- Karen Nolen, Trustee
- Michael O’Brien, Trustee
- Claude Poulin, Trustee
- Angel Quiros, Trustee
- Timothy Ryor, Trustee
- Rebecca Simonsen, Trustee
- Ted Wright, Chief Investment Officer, Office of the Treasurer, Ex Officio Member

Also present were:

- Cindy Cieslak, General Counsel to the Commission, Rose Kallor
- Robert Helfand, Assistant Director, Retirement Services Division
- John Herrington, Director, Retirement Services Division
- 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 9:06 a.m. Ms. Cieslak identified those in attendance.

**Division Director’s Report**

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At 9:08 a.m., Mr. Herrington provided the Division Director’s Report.

**Division Director Report (09/19/2024)**

**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 February 2025.

- There are 10 New Applications Received for September 2024.
  - There are 85 initial Disability Retirement Applications pending of which:
    - 68 Applications are Scheduled
    - 4 Applications are Awaiting Review and Scheduling by Unit
    - 4 Tabled Cases Pending Due Date
    - 9 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*	<b>85*</b>			

\*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.

- 58 Cases are Scheduled
- 4 Reconsideration Cases Pending Due Date
- 110 Cases are Awaiting Due Date for 24-Month Review

**C. Investigations:** The Disability Retirement Unit scheduled 7 investigation cases.

**II. MERS Disability Retirements:**

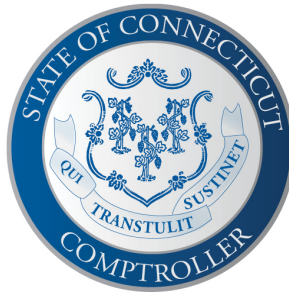
**A. Pending Disability Applications for the Initial Review by the Medical Examining Board:**

- There are 10 initial Disability Retirement Applications pending of which:
  - 4 Applications are Scheduled

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- 1 Applications are Awaiting Review and Scheduling by Unit
- 2 Tabled Cases Pending Due Date
- 3 Reconsideration Cases Pending Due Date

**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	<b>132</b>				<b>989</b>
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

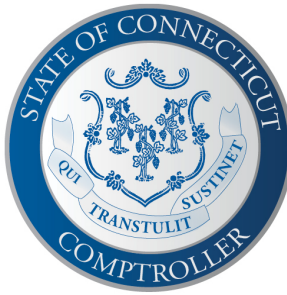
**New Matters**

1. Request Commission Approval of SERC minutes w/ Directors Report from August 2024.
  - i. At 9:10 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the SERC minutes w/ Directors Report from August 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 August 2024.
  
2. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut SERS Expenses for August 2024.
  - i. At 9:10 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Connecticut SERS Expenses for August 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 August 2024.
  
3. Request Commission Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Chairman's Per Diem Expenses for August 2024.
  - i. At 9:11 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the State Employees Retirement Commission Chairman's Per Diem Expenses for August 2024.
  - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.

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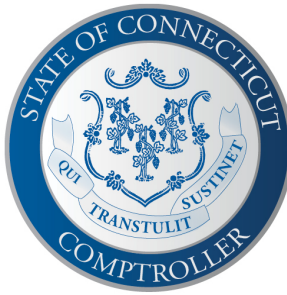
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- iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the State Employees Retirement Commission Chairman's Per Diem Expenses for August 2024.
4. Request Commission Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Union Trustee Claude Poulin's Per Diem and Travel Expenses Reimbursement for August 2024.
  - i. At 9:11 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 August 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 August 2024.
5. Request Commission Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Management Trustee Timothy A. Ryor's Per Diem Expenses for August 2024.
  - i. At 9:11 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 August 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 August 2024.
6. Request Commission Acceptance of the Invoices from Robinson and Cole for Federal Tax Matters services for August 2024.
  - i. At 9:12 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to accept the invoices from Robinson and Cole for Federal Tax Matters services for August 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 August 2024.
7. Request Commission Acceptance of the Invoices from Rose Kallor for August 2024.
  - i. At 9:12 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to accept the invoices from Rose Kallor for August 2024.
  - 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 accept the invoices from Rose Kallor for August 2024.
8. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Service Retirements for August 2024.
  - i. At 9:12 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Service Retirements for August 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 August 2024.
9. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Voluntary Pending Retirements for August 2024.
  - i. At 9:12 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Voluntary Pending Retirements for August 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 August 2024.
10. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Disability Retirements for August 2024.
  - i. At 9:12 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Disability Retirements for August 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 August 2024.
11. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Retroactive Retirements for August 2024.
  - i. At 9:12 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Retroactive Retirements for August 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 August 2024.
12. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Pre-Retirement Death Benefits for August 2024.

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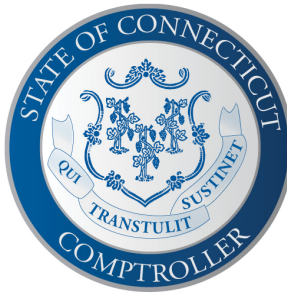
- i. At 9:13 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Pre-Retirement Death Benefits for August 2024.
  - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
  - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Pre-Retirement Death Benefits for August 2024.
13. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Municipal Employees Retirements for August 2024.
  - i. At 9:13 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Municipal Employees Retirements for August 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 August 2024.
14. Request Commission Approval of Municipal Employees Retirement System Approved Disability Retirement from the Medical Examining Board August 2024.
  - i. At 9:13 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Municipal Employees Retirement System Approved Disability Retirement from the Medical Examining Board August 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 August 2024.
15. Request Commission Approval of the RSD to Discontinue Disability Apps. 1-Year Limitations for August 2024.
  - i. At 9:14 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the RSD to Discontinue Disability Apps. 1-Year Limitations for August 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 August 2024.
16. Request Commission Approval of the Probate Judges and Employees' Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for August 2024.
  - i. At 9:14 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Probate Judges and Employees' Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for August 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 August 2024.

### **Executive Session – discussion and possible action**

1. Michael Mudry request for reconsideration – written legal opinion.
2. Joseph Russo request – written legal opinion.
3. Linda Cicarella v. SERC – pending litigation.
4. SERC v. Town of Ellington – pending litigation.
5. Patrick Butler v. SERC – pending litigation.
6. Review Proposals Submitted in Response to RFP for Tax Counsel Service – personnel matter.

At 9:14 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 1-6. Cindy Cieslak, Robert Helfand, John Herrington, Michael Rose, and Ben Sedrowski were invited by the Commission to stay for executive session on Items 1-6 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 1-6.

At 9:28 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 9:28 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to send Mr. Mudry's application to the MEB for review as requested. All voted in favor.

At 9:28 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to deny Mr. Russo's request and have the review proceed to the MEB. All voted in favor.

At 9:29 a.m., Mr. Carey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to proceed with securing a contract with Robinson and Cole for tax counsel services, following the Commission's review of proposals. All voted in favor.

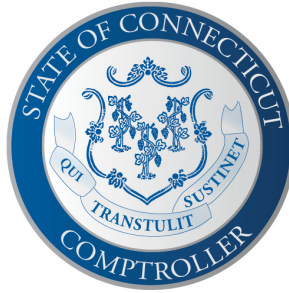
### **Adjournment**

With no further business before the Commission, Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to adjourn at 9:29 a.m. The Commission voted unanimously to adjourn.

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Respectfully Submitted by:

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Peter Adomeit, Chairman

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Prepared by John Herrington  
Director Retirement Services Division