

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 June 20, 2025. 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
- 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
- Timothy Ryor, Trustee
- Ted Wright, Chief Investment Officer, Office of the Treasurer, Ex Officio Member

Absent were:

- John Disette, Trustee
- Rebecca Simonsen, Trustee

Also present were:

- Bruce Barth, Tax Counsel, Robinson & Cole
- 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
- Benjamin Sedrowski, Retirement Services Division



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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 (6/20/2025)

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

- A. Pending Disability Applications for Initial Review by the Medical Examining Board (MEB): Currently the Disability Retirement Unit is scheduling into September 2025.
 - There are 14 New Applications received for June 2025.
 - There are 88 initial Disability Retirement applications pending of which:
 - 3 Applications are awaiting review and scheduling by Unit.
 - 12 Tabled cases have not yet provided updated medical documentation.
 - 10 Reconsideration cases to be scheduled in 2026 and have not provided updated medical documentation.
 - 63 Applications are scheduled for upcoming MEB meetings...

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
2024	76	79	74	75	75	94*	97*	87*	85*	79*	87*	83*
2025	83*	85*	94*	92*	90*	88*						

^{*}Including tabled and reconsideration cases in the total pending count.

- **B.** Twenty-Four Month Reviews: The next 24-month review meeting is September 17, 2025.
 - 28 Cases are already scheduled.
 - 1 Tabled case have not yet provided updated medical documentation.
 - 2 Reconsideration case has not provided updated medical documentation.
 - 97 cases are awaiting the due date for scheduling.
- **C. Investigations:** The Disability Retirement Unit scheduled 0 investigation cases.



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II. <u>Normal SERS Retirements</u>:

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals
2025	162	129	104	115	110	129							749
2024	111	87	98	96	83	125	121	136	132	111	103	91	1294
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 the May 2025 meeting.
 - i. At 9:06 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the SERC minutes w/ Directors Report from the May 2025 meeting.
 - 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 the May 2025 meeting.
- 2. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut SERS Expenses for May 2025.
 - i. At 9:06 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Connecticut SERS Expenses for May 2025.
 - 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 May 2025.
- 3. Request Commission Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Chairman's Per Diem Expenses for May 2025.
 - i. At 9:07 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the State Employees Retirement Commission Chairman's Per Diem Expenses for May 2025.
 - 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 State Employees Retirement Commission Chairman's Per Diem Expenses for May 2025.
- 4. Request Commission Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Union Trustee Claude Poulin's Per Diem and Travel Expenses Reimbursement for May 2025.
 - i. At 9:07 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 May 2025.
- 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 May 2025.
- 5. Request Commission Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Management Trustee Timothy A. Ryor's Per Diem Expenses for May 2025.
 - i. At 9:07 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 May 2025.
- 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 May 2025.
- 6. Request Commission Acceptance of Invoices from Rose Kallor for May 2025.
 - i. At 9:08 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to accept the invoices from Rose Kallor for May 2025.
 - 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 May 2025.
- 7. Request Commission Acceptance of the Invoices from Robinson and Cole for Federal Tax Matter Services for May 2025.
 - i. At 9:08 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to accept the invoices from Robinson and Cole for Federal Tax Matter Services for May 2025.
 - 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 Robinson and Cole for Federal Tax Matter Services for May 2025.
- 8. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Service Retirements for May 2025.
 - i. At 9:08 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Service Retirements for May 2025.
 - 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 May 2025.
- 9. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Voluntary Pending Retirements for May 2025.
 - i. At 9:08 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Voluntary Pending Retirements for May 2025.
 - 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 May 2025.
- 10. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Disability Retirements for May 2025.
 - i. At 9:08 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Disability Retirements for May 2025.
 - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion, the Chairman called for a vote.
- iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Disability Retirements for May 2025.
- 11. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement Pre-Retirement Death Benefits for May 2025.
 - i. At 9:08 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Pre-Retirement Death Benefits for May 2025.
 - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion, the Chairman called for a vote.
- iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Pre-Retirement Death Benefits for May 2025.
- 12. Request Commission Acceptance of the Recommendations by the Medical Examining Board for SERS Continued Entitlement Approvals May 2025.



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- i. At 9:08 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to accept the Recommendations by the Medical Examining Board for SERS Continued Entitlement Approvals May 2025.
- 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 SERS Continued Entitlement Approvals May 2025.
- 13. Request Commission Acceptance of the Recommendations by the Medical Examining Board for SERS Continued Entitlement Tabled and Denials May 2025.
- i. At 9:08 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to accept the Recommendations by the Medical Examining Board for SERS Continued Entitlement Tabled and Denials May 2025.
- 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 SERS Continued Entitlement Tabled and Denials May 2025.
- 14. Request Commission Approval of the Probate Judges and Employees' Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for May 2025.
 - i. At 9:09 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Probate Judges and Employees' Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for May 2025.
 - 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 May 2025.
- 15. Request Commission Approval of the Recommendations from the Overpayments and Regulations Subcommittee meeting held on May 20, 2025.
 - i. At 9:09 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the recommendations from the Overpayments and Regulations Subcommittee meeting held on May 20, 2025.
 - 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 Overpayments and Regulations Subcommittee meeting held on May 20, 2025.



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Executive Session – discussion and possible action

- 1. Jeffrey Ford request for reconsideration written legal opinion.
- 2. Eddie Rivera appeal written legal opinion.
- 3. Patrick Butler v. SERC pending claim/pending litigation.
- 4. Roderick Porter v. SERC pending litigation.

At 9:10 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to suspend the regular meeting and go into executive session for the purpose of discussing Items 1-4. Bruce Barth, Cindy Cieslak, Robert Helfand, John Herrington, Michael Rose, and Benjamin Sedrowski were invited by the Commission to stay for executive session on Items 1-4 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 1-4.

Ms. Buffkin joined the meeting at 9:26 a.m.

At 9:32 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 9:32 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to table Mr. Ford's request in order to allow Mr. Ford the opportunity to provide a copy of the email he referenced in his request which may or may not impact the Commission's decision. All voted in favor.

At 9:34 a.m., Mr. Carey moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to deny Mr. Rivera's request because SERC cannot supersede the MEB's medical decision. All voted in favor.

Executive Session

At 9:35 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to suspend the regular meeting and go into executive session for the purpose of discussing Items 3-4. Bruce Barth, Cindy Cieslak, Robert Helfand, John Herrington, Michael Rose, and Benjamin Sedrowski were invited by the Commission to stay for executive session on Items 3-4 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 3-4.

At 9:38 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey 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.



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Adjournment

With no further business before the Commission, Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to adjourn the meeting at 9:38 a.m. The Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

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