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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 May 15, 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
- Carl Chisem, Trustee
- Tara Downes, Deputy Comptroller, Ex Officio Member
- Brian Hill, Trustee
- David Krayeski, Trustee
- Sal Luciano, Trustee
- Karen Nolen, Trustee
- Claude Poulin, Trustee
- Timothy Ryor, Trustee
- Rebecca Simonsen, Trustee
- Ted Wright, Chief Investment Officer, Office of the Treasurer, Ex Officio Member

Absent were:

- Michael Carey, Trustee
- John Disette, Trustee
- Michael O'Brien, Trustee
- Angel Quiros, 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
- Virginia McGarrity, Tax Counsel, Robinson & Cole
- Yamuna Menon, Assistant Comptroller and General Counsel
- Benjamin Sedrowski, Retirement Services Division

Call to Order

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Chairman Adomeit called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. Ms. Cieslak identified those in attendance.

At 9:04 a.m., Mr. Poulin moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to amend the agenda to add the following as Item 15:

• Request Commission Acceptance of the Connecticut Probate Judges and Employees Retirement System Report of the Actuary on the Valuation Prepared as of December 31, 2024.

All voted in favor.

Division Director's Report

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

Division Director Report (5/15/2025)

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 August 2025.
 - There are 11 New Applications received for May 2025.
 - There are 90 initial Disability Retirement applications pending of which:
 - 2 Applications are awaiting review and scheduling by Unit.
 - 10 Tabled cases have not yet provided updated medical documentation.
 - 10 Reconsideration cases to be scheduled in 2026 and have not provided updated medical documentation.
 - 68 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*							

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

B. Twenty-Four Month Reviews: Currently the Disability Retirement Unit is scheduling retirees for review no later than 24-months from the date of retirement. The next 24-month review meeting is May 21, 2025.

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- 51 Cases are already scheduled.
- 5 Tabled cases have not yet provided updated medical documentation.
- 1 Reconsideration case has not provided updated medical documentation.
- 85 cases are not at date for 24-months after date of retirement.

C. Investigations: The Disability Retirement Unit scheduled 0 investigation cases.

II. Normal SERS Retirements:

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals
2025	162	129	104	115	110								620
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 April 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 April 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 April 2025 meeting.
- 2. Request Commission Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Chairman's Per Diem Expenses for April 2025.
 - i. At 9:06 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the State Employees Retirement Commission Chairman's Per Diem Expenses for April 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 State Employees Retirement Commission Chairman's Per Diem Expenses for April 2025.



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- 3. Request Commission Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Union Trustee Claude Poulin's Per Diem and Travel Expenses Reimbursement for April 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 April 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 April 2025.
- 4. Request Commission Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Management Trustee Timothy A. Ryor's Per Diem Expenses for April 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 April 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 April 2025.
- 5. Request Commission Acceptance of Invoices from Rose Kallor for April 2025.
 - i. At 9:07 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to accept the invoices from Rose Kallor for April 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 April 2025.
- 6. Request Commission Acceptance of the Invoices from Robinson and Cole for Federal Tax Matter Services for April 2025.
 - i. At 9:07 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to accept the invoices from Robinson and Cole for Federal Tax Matter Services for April 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 Robinson and Cole for Federal Tax Matter Services for April 2025.



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- 7. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Service Retirements for April 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 April 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 April 2025.
- 8. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Voluntary Pending Retirements for April 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 April 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 April 2025.
- 9. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Disability Retirements for April 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 April 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 April 2025.
- 10. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement Pre-Retirement Death Benefits for April 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 April 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 April 2025.
- 11. Request Commission Acceptance of the Recommendations by the Medical Examining Board for SERS Continued Entitlement Approvals April 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 Approvals April 2025.

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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 Recommendations by the Medical Examining Board for SERS Continued Entitlement Approvals April 2025.
- 12. Request Commission Acceptance of the Recommendations by the Medical Examining Board for SERS Continued Entitlement Tabled and Denials April 2025.
 - i. At 9:09 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 April 2025.
- ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
- The Commission voted unanimously in favor to accept the Recommendations by the Medical Examining Board for SERS Continued Entitlement Tabled and Denials April 2025.
- 13. Request Commission Approval of the Probate Judges and Employees' Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for April 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 April 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 April 2025.
- 14. Request Commission Approval of the Recommendations from the Purchase of Service and Related Matters Subcommittee meeting held on April 29, 2025.
 - i. At 9:10 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the recommendations from the Purchase of Service and Related Matters Subcommittee meeting held on April 29, 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 Purchase of Service and Related Matters Subcommittee meeting held on April 29, 2025.
- Request Commission Acceptance of the Connecticut Probate Judges and Employees Retirement System Report of the Actuary on the Valuation Prepared as of December 31, 2024.
 - i. At 9:10 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to accept the Connecticut Probate Judges and Employees Retirement System Report of the Actuary on the Valuation Prepared as of December 31, 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 accept the Connecticut Probate Judges and Employees Retirement System Report of the Actuary on the Valuation Prepared as of December 31, 2024.

Executive Session – discussion and possible action

- 1. Kevin Ahlquist petition for declaratory ruling written legal opinion.
- 2. Desiree Bowman appeal written legal opinion.
- 3. Sherene Nelson appeal written legal opinion.
- 4. William Pagoni petition for declaratory ruling written legal opinion.
- 5. Jeffrey Scott request for reconsideration written legal opinion.
- 6. Patrick Butler v. SERC pending claim/pending litigation.
- 7. 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 1-7. Bruce Barth, Cindy Cieslak, Robert Helfand, John Herrington, Virginia McGarrity, Yamuna Menon, and Benjamin Sedrowski were invited by the Commission to stay for executive session on Items 1-7 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 1-7.

At 9:39 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 9:40 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to remand Mr. Ahlquist's matter to the Medical Examining Board. All voted in favor.

At 9:40 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to deny Ms. Bowman's appeal. All voted in favor.

At 9:40 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to remand Ms. Nelson's matter to the Medical Examining Board. All voted in favor.

At 9:41 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to issue a declaratory ruling denying Mr. Pagoni's requested relief. All voted in favor.

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At 9:41 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to provide a hearing before the full Commission to Mr. Scott. All voted in favor.

At 9:41 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to schedule a hearing before the full Commission regarding Mr. Butler's matter. All voted in favor.

<u>Adjournment</u>

With no further business before the Commission, Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to adjourn the meeting at 9:42 a.m. The Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Peter Adomeit, Chairman

Prepared by John Herrington Director Retirement Services Division