

1 STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
2 STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION  
3 MONTHLY MEETING  
4 JANUARY 15, 2026  
5 (Via Zoom)

6 Members Present:

7 Peter Adomeit, Chairman Michael Bailey, Trustee  
8 Karen Buffkin, Trustee Michael Carey, Trustee  
9 Carl Chisem, Trustee Angel Quiros, Trustee  
10 Brian Hill, Trustee David Krayeski, Trustee  
11 Sal Luciano, Trustee Karen Nolen, Trustee  
12 Michael O'Brien, Trustee Claude Poulin, Trustee  
13 Tara Downes, Deputy, Comptroller, Ex Officio Member  
14 Ted Wright, Chief Investment Officer, Office of the  
15 Treasurer, Ex Officio Member

16 Absent were:

17 John Disette, Trustee  
18 Rebecca Simonsen, Trustee

19 Also present were:

20 Cindy Cieslak, General Counsel to the Commission, Rose  
21 Kallor  
22 Michael Rose, General Counsel to the Commission, Rose  
23 Kallor  
24 Robert Helfand, Retirement Services Division  
25 John Herrington, Director, Retirement Services Division  
Virginia McGarrity, Tax Counsel, Robinson & Cole  
Yamuna Menon, General Counsel & Assistant Comptroller  
Benjamin Sedrowski, Retirement Services Division

26 (Transcription from Electronic Sound Recording)

27 Brandon Legal Tech, LLC  
28 37 Pinnacle Mountain Road  
29 Simsbury, Connecticut 06070  
30 (860) 528-2244

1 (Meeting commenced: 9:04 a.m.)

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3 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: All right. This is the  
4 monthly meeting of the State Employees Retirement  
5 Commission being held remotely using Zoom technology.

6 Cindy, do you have the attendance, please?

7 MS. CIESLAK: Good morning. This is Cindy  
8 Cieslak. Present today we have Chairman Peter  
9 Adomeit; Trustee Michael Bailey; Trustee Karen  
10 Buffkin; Trustee Michael Carey; Trustee Carl Chisem;  
11 general counsel from Rose Kallor Cindy Cieslak; Deputy  
12 Comptroller and Ex Officio Member of the Retirement  
13 Commission Tara Downes; Assistant Director Retirement  
14 Services Division, Robert Helfand; Division Director  
15 Retirement Services Division, John Herrington; Trustee  
16 Brian Hill; Trustee David Krayeski; Trustee Sal  
17 Luciano, the tax counsel from Robinson and Cole,  
18 Virginia McGarrity; General Counsel and Assistant  
19 Comptroller John Menon; Trustee Michael O'Brien;  
20 Trustee Angel Guiros; General Counsel from Rose  
21 Kallor, Michael Rose; from the Retirement Services  
22 Division, Benjamin Sedrowski; and Chief Investment  
23 Officer, Office of the Treasurer, Ex Officio Member of  
24 the Retirement Commission, Ted Wright.

25

CHAIRMAN: Okay.

1 MS. CIESLAK: Oh, and Actuarial Trustee  
2 Claud Poulin in joining us right now.

3 CHAIRMAN: Okay. Division Director's  
4 report?

5 MR. HERRINGTON: Good morning, everyone. I  
6 don't have much new to report other than you will see  
7 that we've seen a, a considerable uptick in retirement  
8 activity. We've had over 200 retirements for the  
9 month of January. That's the largest number that  
10 we've seen in a number of years. It remains to be  
11 seen whether this is kind of a, a new adjustment to  
12 the COLA provisions or whether this is indicative of  
13 some type of trend. But we -- it, it is a, a slightly  
14 larger number, but it, it's not a number that was in  
15 any unmanageable for us to, to work through.

16 CHAIRMAN: Okay. Any questions? If not,  
17 let's move on to new matters.

18 MR. BAILEY: Good morning, everyone. Mr.  
19 Chairman, this is Michael Bailey. I move approval of  
20 the State Employees Retirement Commission minutes with  
21 Directors Report for December 2025.

22 MR. LUCIANO: Attorney Lucian, second.

23 CHAIRMAN: Any discussion? Hearing none,  
24 all in favor say aye or raise your hand.

25 Opposed, nay or raise your hand.

1                   It's unanimous, the ayes have it.

2                   MR. BAILEY: Mr. Chairman, I move approval  
3                   of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System  
4                   expenses for December 2025.

5                   MR. LUCIANO: Sal Luciano, second.

6                   CHAIRMAN: Any discussion? Hearing none,  
7                   all in favor say aye or raise your hand.

8                   Opposed, nay or raise your hand.

9                   The ayes have it.

10                  MR. BAILEY: Mr. Chairman, Michael Bailey.  
11                  I move approval of the State Employees Retirement  
12                  Commission Chairman's per diem expenses for December  
13                  2025.

14                  MR. LUCIANO: Sal Luciano, second.

15                  CHAIRMAN: Any discussion? Hearing none,  
16                  all in favor, say aye or raise your hand?

17                  Opposed, nay or raise your hand.

18                  It's unanimous, the ayes have it.

19                  MR. BAILEY: Mr. Chairman, I move approval  
20                  of the State Employees Retirement Commission Union  
21                  Trustee Claude Poulin's per diem and travel expenses  
22                  reimbursement for December 2025.

23                  MR. LUCIANO: Sal Luciano, second with  
24                  Claude abstaining.

25                  CHAIRMAN: Any, any discussion? Hearing

1                   none, all in favor say aye or raise your hand.

2                   Opposed, nay or raise your hand.

3                   It's unanimous, the ayes have it.

4                   MR. BAILEY: Mr. Chairman, I move items 5  
5 and 6 on the agenda, acceptance of invoices from Rose  
6 Kallor executive session and invoices from Robinson  
7 and Cole for federal tax matter services, executive  
8 session for December 2025.

9                   MR. LUCIANO: Sal Luciano, second.

10                  CHAIRMAN: Any discussion? Hearing none,  
11 all in favor say aye or raise your hand.

12                  Opposed, nay or raise your hand.

13                  It's unanimous, the ayes have it.

14                  MR. BAILEY: Mr. Chairman, I move items 7,  
15 8, and 9 on the agenda, approval of the Connecticut  
16 State Employees Retirement System service retirements,  
17 voluntary pending retirements, and disability  
18 retirements for December 2025.

19                  MR. LUCIANO: Sal Luciano, second.

20                  CHAIRMAN: Any discussion? Hearing none,  
21 all in favor say aye or raise your hand.

22                  Opposed, nay or raise your hand.

23                  It's unanimous, the ayes have it.

24                  MR. BAILEY: And Mr. Chairman, I move  
25 approval of the Probate Judges and Employees

1 Retirement Fund personnel expenses for November and  
2 December 2025.

3 MR. LUCIANO: Sal Luciano, second.

4 CHAIRMAN: Any discussion? Hearing none,  
5 all in favor say aye or raise your hand.

6 Opposed, nay or raise your hand.

7 It's unanimous, the ayes have it.

8 Motion to go into executive session, please?

9 MR. BAILEY: Mr. Chairman, Michael Bailey.  
10 I move that we move into executive session to take up  
11 items 1 through 5.

12 MR. LUCIANO: Sal Luciano, second.

13 CHAIRMAN: Okay. Who does that include?

14 MR. BAILEY: I can do that for you.

15 MR. ROSE: That's you, Cindy.

16 MR. CIESLAK: Mr. Bailey, would you like me  
17 to identify those individuals?

18 MR. BAILEY: That'll be great. Thank you.

19 MS. CIESLAK: Okay. That would be Cindy  
20 Cieslak, Robert Helfand, John Herrington, Virginia  
21 McGarrity, Yan Menon, Michael Rose, and Benjamin  
22 Sedrowski.

23 MR. BAILEY: And the reason that we'd like  
24 them to join us is they may give us opinions of a more  
25 factual background with respect to the topics at

1 issue.

2 MR. LUCIANO: This is second  
3 (indiscernible).

4 CHAIRMAN: Okay. Any discussion? Hearing  
5 none, all in favor say aye or raise your hand.

6 Opposed, nay or raise your hand.

7 It's unanimous, the ayes have it.

8 MS. CIESLAK: For the record, I'll also note  
9 that Trustee Karen Nolan joined us. She was having a  
10 -- Zoom was giving her difficulties.

11 CHAIRMAN: All right. Hi, Kar. Okay.  
12 Okay. We need a motion please on Lori Laprise.

13 MR. LUCIANO: Regarding Lori, I'd like to  
14 make a motion that we approve the draft that --  
15 declaratory ruling.

16 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

17 CHAIRMAN: Any discussion? Hearing none,  
18 all in favor say aye or raise your hand.

19 Opposed, nay or raise your hand.

20 It's unanimous, the ayes have it.

21 CHAIRMAN: Lawlor.

22 MR. LUCIANO: Regarding Lawlor, I'd like to  
23 make a motion that we move his request for  
24 reconsideration and make it clear that any future  
25 retirees would be actuarially reduced from age 65

1 going forward.

2 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

3 CHAIRMAN: Any discussion? Hearing none,  
4 all in favor say aye or raise your hand.

5 Opposed, nay or raise your hand.

6 It's unanimous, the ayes have it.

7 CHAIRMAN: Okay. Anything else?

8 MR. LUCIANO: I believe that's it.

9 Is that it, (indiscernible)?

10 CHAIRMAN: Yeah.

11 MS. CIESLAK: If you would like -- this is  
12 Cindy Cieslak. If you would like to make a  
13 determination on Brenda Baerga, you can.

14 CHAIRMAN: Oh, I'm sorry.

15 MR. LUCIANO: Oh, that we deny -- I'd like  
16 to make a motion that we deny Brenda Baerga's appeal.

17 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

18 CHAIRMAN: Okay. Sorry. All in favor say  
19 aye or raise your hand.

20 Opposed, nay or raise your hand.

21 It's unanimous, the ayes have it.

22 MR. LUCIANO: Happy New Year, everybody.  
23 I'd like to make a motion that we adjourn.

24 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

25 CHAIRMAN: All in favor say aye or raise

1                   your hand. It's always unanimous.

2                   MR. ROSE: Good seeing everyone. Happy New  
3                   Year.

4                   MR. LUCIANO: Have a good one, everyone.  
5                   Take care.

6                   (Meeting adjourned at 9:47 a.m.)

7                   (End of recording.)

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## CERTIFICATE

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I hereby certify that the foregoing 9 pages are a  
complete and accurate transcription to the best of my  
ability of the electronic sound recording of the State of  
Connecticut, State Employees Retirement Commission,  
monthly meeting held via Zoom and recorded on January 15,  
2026.

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Date: February 2, 2026

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Joanne Auger, Transcriber

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