

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 February 19, 2026. 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
- John Disette, Trustee
- Tara Downes, Deputy Comptroller, Ex Officio Member
- Brian Hill, Trustee
- David Krayeski, Trustee
- Karen Nolen, Trustee
- Michael O’Brien, Trustee
- Claude Poulin, Trustee
- Angel Quiros, Trustee
- Rebecca Simonsen, Trustee
- Ted Wright, Chief Investment Officer, Office of the Treasurer, Ex Officio Member

Absent were:

- Michael Carey, Trustee
- Sal Luciano, Trustee

Also present were:

- Bruce Barth, Tax Counsel, Robinson & Cole
- Cindy Cieslak, General Counsel to the Commission, Rose Kallor
- Robert Helfand, Retirement Services Division
- John Herrington, Director, Retirement Services Division
- Yamuna Menon, General Counsel & Assistant Comptroller
- Michael Rose, General Counsel to the Commission, Rose Kallor
- Benjamin Sedrowski, Retirement Services Division
- Denise Stake, Deputy Chief Investment Officer, Office of the Treasurer



**Call to Order**

Chairman Adomeit called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. Ms. Cieslak identified the individuals in attendance.

**Division Director’s Report**

At 9:04 a.m., Mr. Herrington provided the Division Director’s Report.

**Division Director Report (2/19/2026)**

**I. SERS Disability Retirements:**

**A. Pending Disability Applications for Initial Review by the Medical Examining Board (MEB):** Currently the Disability Retirement Unit is scheduling into June 2026.

- There are 9 New Applications received for February 2026.
  - There are 113 initial Disability Retirement applications pending of which:
    - 1 Application is awaiting review and scheduling by Unit.
    - 15 Tabled cases have not yet provided updated medical documentation.
    - 24 Reconsideration cases to be scheduled in 2026 and have not provided updated medical documentation.
    - 73 Applications are scheduled for upcoming MEB meetings.

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
2025	83*	85*	94*	92*	90*	88*	89*	92*	95*	91*	92*	104*
2025	112*	113*										

\*Going forward, we will be including tabled and reconsideration cases in the total pending count.

**B. Twenty-Four Month Reviews:**

- 28 Cases are scheduled for review.
- 13 Cases are scheduled for approval due to Social Security MOU.
- 2 Tabled cases have not yet provided updated medical documentation.
- 2 Reconsideration cases have not provided updated medical documentation.
- 79 cases are awaiting the due date for scheduling.

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**II. Normal SERS Retirements:**

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals
2026	223	<b>169</b>											<b>392</b>
2025	162	129	104	115	110	129	186	156	150	110	106	92	1549

**New Matters**

1. Request Commission Approval of SERC minutes w/ Directors Report from the January 2026 meeting.
  - i. At 9:05 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Ms. Buffkin to approve the SERC minutes w/ Directors Report from the January 2026 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 January 2026 meeting.
  
2. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut SERS Expenses for January 2026.
  - i. At 9:05 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Ms. Buffkin to approve the Connecticut SERS Expenses for January 2026.
  - 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 January 2026.
  
3. Request Commission Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Chairman's Per Diem Expenses for January 2026.
  - i. At 9:06 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Ms. Buffkin to approve the State Employees Retirement Commission Chairman's Per Diem Expenses for January 2026.
  - 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 January 2026.
  
4. Request Commission Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Union Trustee Claude Poulin's Per Diem and Travel Expenses Reimbursement for January 2026.

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- i. At 9:06 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Ms. Buffkin to approve the State Employees Retirement Commission Union Trustee Claude Poulin's Per Diem and Travel Expenses Reimbursement for January 2026.
  - 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 January 2026.
5. Request Commission Acceptance of Invoices from Rose Kallor for January 2026.
  - i. At 9:06 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Ms. Buffkin to accept the invoices from Rose Kallor for January 2026.
  - 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 January 2026.
6. Request Commission Acceptance of the Invoices from Robinson and Cole for Federal Tax Matter Services for January 2026.
  - i. At 9:06 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Ms. Buffkin to accept the invoices from Robinson and Cole for Federal Tax Matter Services for January 2026.
  - 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 January 2026.
7. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Service Retirements for January 2026.
  - i. At 9:07 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Ms. Buffkin to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Service Retirements for January 2026.
  - 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 January 2026.
8. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Voluntary Pending Retirements for January 2026.
  - i. At 9:07 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Ms. Buffkin to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Voluntary Pending Retirements for January 2026.
  - 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 Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Voluntary Pending Retirements for January 2026.
9. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Disability Retirements for January 2026.
    - i. At 9:07 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Ms. Buffkin to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Disability Retirements for January 2026.
    - 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 January 2026.
  10. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Retroactive Retirements for January 2026.
    - i. At 9:07 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Ms. Buffkin to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Retroactive Retirements for January 2026.
    - 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 Retroactive Retirements for January 2026.
  11. Request Commission Acceptance of Recommendations by Medical Examining Board for Continued Entitlement Approvals January 2026.
    - i. At 9:07 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Ms. Buffkin to accept the recommendations by the Medical Examining Board for Continued Entitlement Approvals January 2026.
    - 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 accept the recommendations by the Medical Examining Board for Continued Entitlement Approvals January 2026.
  12. Request Commission Acceptance of Recommendations by Medical Examining Board for Continued Entitlement Tabled and Denials January 2026.
    - i. At 9:08 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Ms. Buffkin to accept the recommendations by the Medical Examining Board for Continued Entitlement Tabled and Denials January 2026.
    - 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 accept the recommendations by the Medical Examining Board for Continued Entitlement Tabled and Denials January 2026.

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13. Request Commission Approval of the RSD to Discontinue Disability Apps. 1-Year Limitations for January 2026.
  - i. At 9:08 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Ms. Buffkin to approve the RSD to discontinue disability applications due to the 1-Year Limitations period for January 2026.
  - 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 RSD to discontinue disability applications due to the 1-Year Limitations period for January 2026.
  
14. Request Commission Approval of the Probate Judges and Employees Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for January 2026.
  - i. At 9:08 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Ms. Buffkin to approve Probate Judges and Employees Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for January 2026.
  - 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 Probate Judges and Employees Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for January 2026.
  
15. Request Commission Approval of the Recommendations from the Purchase of Service and Related Matters Subcommittee meeting held on February 3, 2026.
  - i. At 9:08 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Ms. Buffkin to approve the recommendations from the Purchase of Service and Related Matters Subcommittee meeting held on February 3, 2026.
  - 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 recommendations from the Purchase of Service and Related Matters Subcommittee meeting held on February 3, 2026.

**Executive Session – discussion and possible action**

1. Judicial Retirement System refunds – written legal opinion.
2. William Kenney petition for declaratory ruling – written legal opinion.
3. Michael Viera appeal – written legal opinion.
4. Jeffrey Patton – written legal opinion.
5. Patrick Butler v. SERC - pending claim/pending litigation.
6. William Pagoni v. SERC – pending claim/pending litigation.

At 9:09 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Ms. Buffkin to suspend the regular meeting and go into executive session for the purpose of discussing Items 1-6. Bruce Barth, Cindy Cieslak, Robert Helfand, John Herrington, Yamuna Menon, Michael Rose, Benjamin Sedrowski, and Denise Stake were invited by the

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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.

Denise Stake was Mr. Wright's delegee for the period of time he had to exit the meeting. Mr. Wright exited the meeting upon entry into executive session, and he returned to the meeting at 9:47am, at which time, Ms. Stake exited the meeting.

At 10:29 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Ms. Buffkin 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 10:29 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Ms. Buffkin to direct counsel to draft regulations as discussed during executive session with respect to Item 1. All voted in favor.

At 10:30 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Ms. Buffkin to direct counsel to prepare a declaratory ruling denying Mr. Kenney's request for relief. All voted in favor.

At 10:31 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Ms. Buffkin to deny Mr. Viera's appeal. Mr. Poulin abstained from the vote on this matter. The remaining present trustees voted in favor of the motion.

At 10:31 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Ms. Buffkin to deny Mr. Patton's appeal based on its untimeliness and the merits. All voted in favor.

### **Adjournment**

With no further business before the Commission, Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Ms. Buffkin to adjourn the meeting at 10:32 a.m. The Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted by:

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Peter Adomeit, Chairman

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Prepared by John Herrington  
Director Retirement Services Division