



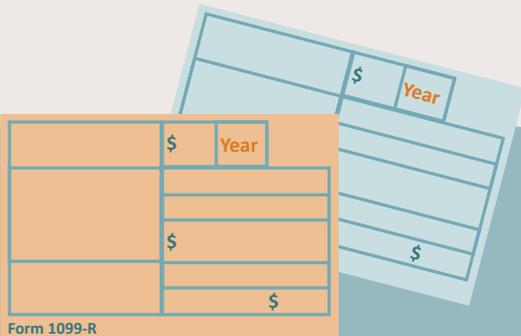
Automatic deposit: Now easier than ever

Do you receive your monthly pension benefit by mail?

If so, there's never been an easier time to have your monthly benefit deposited directly into your bank account. You can now sign up for direct deposit from your account on the DRS website.

Having your money automatically deposited eliminates the need to wait on postal mail delivery and ensures that you receive your monthly benefit the fastest and most convenient way possible.

To sign up for direct deposit, set up or log in to your secure online retirement account at drs.wa.gov/oa. Then follow the "Direct Deposit" directions under "My Account" in the navigation menu.

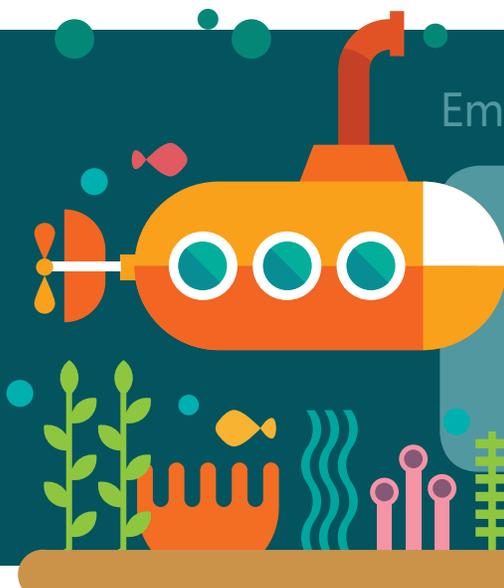


There's a lot you can do with your online account. Updating your contact information? Or need a copy of your 1099-R tax form? It's all right there.

If you haven't signed up for online account access yet, consider doing so today. You can access your account registration and login from the DRS home page at drs.wa.gov.

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Email updates let you know what's going on

The most convenient way to stay on top of what's going on regarding your pension is to sign up for email updates. Signing up is easy, and you can pick the topics for which you would like to receive updates. To see your options, visit drs.wa.gov/updates.



2016 legislative update

Among the many pension-related bills that were introduced during the 2016 legislative session, eight were passed and signed into law.

To see the complete list and additional details, visit the legislative information page on the [DRS website](https://drs.wa.gov/legislative). (drs.wa.gov/legislative)

Here's a summary of the bills that were approved.

SB 5435 – Addressing optional salary deferral programs

After Jan. 1, 2017, anyone newly employed by the state of Washington in a full-time position will be automatically enrolled in the state's Deferred Compensation Program (DCP), with an opt-out option. Administered by DRS, DCP is a supplemental savings program that allows participants to defer part of their income pre-tax. Under the new law, automatic enrollees will start with a default

contribution rate of 3%, but will also have the opportunity to set their own rate.

SB 6455 – Expanding the professional educator workforce

Are you a former teacher who retired under the 2008 Early Retirement Factors? If so, this law will allow you to return to work as a substitute teacher without suspension of your benefits. This new provision, which includes limitations on total work hours and other restrictions, will be in effect until Aug. 1, 2020.

SB 5873 – Creating another opportunity for LEOFF Plan 1 retirees to designate a spouse as a survivor beneficiary

Gives a LEOFF Plan 1 retiree a chance to name as survivor a spouse he or she married after retiring. To qualify, the marriage needs to have spanned at least two years before Sept. 1, 2015.

Benefit payment schedule

Here are the automatic deposit payment dates for the last half of 2016.

If you still receive your pension payment in the mail, keep in mind that it's never been easier to sign up for direct deposit (see page 1).



2016 legislative update continued

SB 6091 – Definition of “Slayer”

Changes the definition of a “slayer” to include a person found not guilty by reason of insanity. A “slayer” is not entitled to receive a retirement benefit from the person he or she killed.

SB 6194 – Charter Schools

Allows employees of charter schools to become members of the state retirement system as long as the IRS determines that the inclusion of these employees does not jeopardize the status of the systems as governmental plans.

SB 6263 – LEOFF Plan 2 Disaster Coverage

Impacts LEOFF Plan 2 members who are called into eligible federal service to respond to natural disasters or other federal emergencies. It will provide them with benefit protections similar to the ones provided to members of the National Guard or military reserves who are called during a time of war.

SB 6264 – Annuity purchase for LEOFF and WSPRS members

Allows retirees of LEOFF and WSPRS a six-month window to purchase an annuity. The annuity may be purchased between Jan. 1 and June 1, 2017.

SB 6523 – Service credit for certain emergency services employees

Allows an employee who provides emergency medical services to a consortium of local governments the option to establish service credit in PERS for service performed before July 23, 2003. The service must have been performed in a county whose current population is more than 700,000 residents but fewer than 800,000 residents. The employee must pay both the employer and employee contribution, as calculated by DRS, within five years of choosing to establish service credit.

Retirement Outlook for Retired Members

Pension notes

Questions
about your health care
coverage? Contact the
Health Care Authority
at 800-200-1004 or visit
hca.wa.gov



These days it's especially important to be vigilant when it comes to protecting yourself against unscrupulous individuals or companies. The Office of the Washington State Attorney General has excellent fraud protection resources for seniors on its website.

www.atg.wa.gov/Protecting-seniors

The Washington State Department of Retirement Systems publishes *Retirement Outlook* for retired members twice a year.

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www.drs.wa.gov/outlook/retiree