

New law impacts return to work options for certain TRS and SERS retirees

Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) and School Employees' Retirement System (SERS) retirees who retired under the 2008 Early Retirement Factors may use post-retirement employment options in K-12 prior to reaching age 65 without suspension of benefits under legislation approved earlier this year. The bill ([HB 1139](#)) also repeals an existing expiration date for a similar provision related to substitute teachers. This and four other pension-related bills were passed into law during the 2019 legislative session.

[HB 1408](#) – Allows that written spousal consent for a survivorship selection will be required only in instances where retiring members choose to have no survivor benefit go to their spouse or domestic partner, either through the selection of the Single Life option or by naming someone other than the spouse or domestic partner to receive a survivorship benefit.

[SB 5350](#) – Will allow members of all DRS-administered retirement systems to purchase a lifetime annuity benefit via the Washington State Investment Board. This annuity purchase option has been only available to members of TRS, the Washington State Patrol Retirement System (WSPRS) and the Law Enforcement Officers' and Fire Fighters' (LEOFF) Retirement System.



[SB 5360](#) – Beginning July 1, 2020, new employees hired into a Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS), TRS or SERS position who do not make a plan choice within 90 days of employment will be defaulted into Plan 2. Currently, new employees who do not make a choice become members of Plan 3.

[SB 5355](#) – Allows law enforcement officers or firefighters who meet specific criteria to restore service credit withdrawn from PERS to LEOFF Plan 2. Qualifying individuals are required to pay all member contributions owed, without interest, by taking an actuarial reduction to their ongoing benefit or by making a lump sum payment. The option to recover service credit is available until July 1, 2020.

Inside this issue

Sign up for legislation updates — 2

2019 pension pay dates — 2

DRS open for business during building renovation — 2

New website search tool — 3

July 1 fee updates for Plan 3 and DCP — 3

New Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLAs) established for 2019 — 3

Required minimum distribution — 4

2019 pension pay dates

Sign up for legislation updates

The [Legislation page](#) on the DRS website (drs.wa.gov/legislative) provides a list of pension-related bill introductions and additional resources, including links to summaries and the full text of legislation. Want to know when updates are made to the Legislation page and other pages on the DRS website? Be sure to sign up for [Email/Text updates](#) (drs.wa.gov/updates). You can choose the updates you receive.



DRS open for business during building renovation

Beginning this summer and continuing through fall of 2020, DRS' building in Tumwater will undergo a renovation project to update the 20-year-old structure to better serve our customers. During the renovation, DRS will be open for business with normal operating hours. However, beginning in late 2019, we will have a temporary lobby and interview rooms set up in another part of the building. Keep in mind that most all interactions can be completed on the DRS website without the need for an in-person meeting. Your [online account](#) (drs.wa.gov/aaa) is a quick, convenient way to make changes to your tax withholding or update your mailing address. If you do visit DRS between now and the fall of 2020, be sure to watch for posted signs with directions for parking and entering the building.



New website search tool



To improve your DRS website experience, DRS has a new, more intuitive, search tool.

-  **Autocomplete:** As you type, the tool will guess what you are looking for to save you a little typing. The tool will get smarter over time and guesses will become more accurate.
-  **Synonyms:** The new search has a like-terms feature for the things you search for most. So whether you type “Cost-of-Living Adjustment” or “COLA,” you’ll get the same results.
-  **No results found:** DRS can now discover information you are searching for that may not already be on the DRS website. Over time, this will help us add more of the content you are looking for.

The search will get better with time and use. We encourage you to try it today! Search from any page on the [DRS website](https://drs.wa.gov) (drs.wa.gov) by selecting the magnifying glass icon at the top.

July 1 fee updates for Plan 3 and DCP

Effective July 1, 2019, the administrative and investment management fees the Washington State Investment Board (WSIB) charges to Plan 3 accounts and the Deferred Compensation Program (DCP) increased to 0.0226% from the current level of 0.0205%.

Additionally, the administrative fee the Department of Retirement Systems (DRS) charges to DCP increased to 0.0473% from the current level of 0.0453%.

Both adjustments are due to recent budget increases approved by the Legislature. For WSIB, the increases are primarily due to the addition of staff members to support certain investment strategies and data analytics. For DRS, the increases are chiefly due to two projects related to information technology security and system modernization.

For more information about fund fees and expenses, visit the Investment sections of the [Plan 3](https://drs.wa.gov) and [DCP](https://drs.wa.gov) websites (drs.wa.gov).

New Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLAs) established for 2019



Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLAs) for DRS-administered retirement systems and plans have been established for 2019. LEOFF Plan 1 COLAs took effect April 1. COLAs for all other plans took effect July 1 and will be reflected in end-of-July benefit payments.

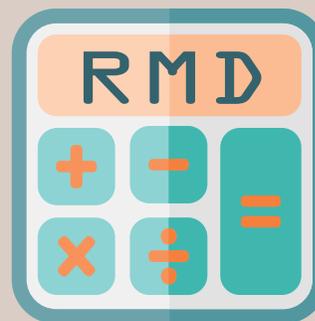
You can view the 2019 COLA percentages by retirement date and plan on the [DRS website](https://drs.wa.gov/retiree/information/cola.htm) (drs.wa.gov/retiree/information/cola.htm). Additional information is available on the [COLA FAQ](#) page.

Required minimum distribution

Did you retire from one of the state's Plan 3 systems (PERS, SERS or TRS)? Are you a member of the state's Deferred Compensation Program (DCP)? If either of these apply to you, keep in mind that you must begin taking withdrawals from these accounts once you reach age 70 ½.

The amount you must withdraw, known as a required minimum distribution or RMD, is determined by your age and your account balance. To learn more, visit the [DRS website](https://drs.wa.gov/dcp/withdrawals) (drs.wa.gov/dcp/withdrawals).

Members who retired from one of the state's Plan 1 or Plan 2 systems do not have an RMD that they must withdraw from their state



account, but if you have other investments you may be required to do so from those accounts.

More information is available in the [RMD section](#) of the Internal Revenue Service website.