

Benefit Improvement Follow-Up

April 27, 2022

Issue

 The Board requested an update on the implementation of the Board's benefit improvement bill (HB 1701)

DRS Implementation

- Project Manager Christine Gee
- Project Team kick off meeting April 14th
- Developing FAQs

Common Member Questions

- 1. When will I get my benefit?
- 2. Which benefit do I qualify for?
- 3. When do I have to make the decision for the lump sum payout or the multiplier?
- 4. How much will my benefit be?
- 5. Do I have to do anything to get my benefit?
- 6. Are you taking my pension in exchange for this benefit?
- 7. Is my benefit taxed?
- 8. When will estimates be available?
- 9. What are my rollover options for lump sum?

Questions sent to DRS

- 1. Will DRS prorate the January 2023 payment since it is effective January 16th?
- 2. Will the lump sum payments to catastrophic retirees be taxable?
- 3. How will the lump sum payment (or monthly annuity) to catastrophic retirees affect L&I and Social Security offsets?
- 4. How will DRS handle lump sum payments to members who were retired on February 1, 2021 but are active in LEOFF 2 when the lump sum is scheduled to be paid?
- 5. How will existing property division orders be handled?

More Questions to DRS

- 6. How will membership in another system affect eligibility for the tiered multiplier?
- 7. What annuity factors will be used for lump sum benefit?
- 8. Will the online DRS calculators be able to do an estimate of the annuity?

Next Steps

Are there any issues the Board would like to receive follow-up briefings on?



Thank You

Jacob White

Senior Research and Policy Manager

(564) 999-0738

jacob.white@leoff.wa.gov