



2023 Legislative Session Debrief

April 26, 2023

No-Cost Interruptive Military Service Credit

- **HB 1007 Signed by Governor**
 - Expands no-cost interruptive military service credit to include service where a member earns an expeditionary medal. Currently, no-cost interruptive military service credit is limited to interruptive service where the member earns a campaign badge or medal.
 - Amended in the House Committee of Appropriations to clarify that this benefit applies retroactively to members who have already retired.
 - Effective 90 days after the end of the session (July 23, 2023)
- **Next Steps**
 - DRS assigning Project Manager

Tribal Law Enforcement LEOFF 2 Eligibility

- **HB 1481 Signed by Governor**
 - This bill would allow tribes to enter into compacts with Washington State and participate in LEOFF 2
 - Effective 90 days after the end of the session (July 23, 2023)
- **Next Steps**
 - Waiting on direction from Governor's Office, may not occur until a tribe requests to begin process

2023-25 Operating Budget

- **LEOFF 2 Budget**
 - The House and Senate budgets fully fund LEOFF plan 2
 - Appropriations reflect pension rates adopted by the Board
 - **LEOFF 2 Board Staff**
 - General Wage Increases
 - Vaccine incentive payments
- **DRS Budget**

LEOFF 2 Legislation Not Passed

- **SB 5648/HB 1279 - Promotional firefighter positions**
 - Clarifies the definition of Fire to include positions within a fire department that require an experienced fire fighter
 - Status SB 5468 - Passed through Senate Ways and Means
 - Status HB 1279 – Did not receive a hearing
- **SB 5625 - Concerning public employee retirees**
 - Status – Received a hearing in Senate Ways and Means
 - This bill creates an ombudsman position at DRS in addition to the items on the following two slides

SB 5625

- **“In the course of employment” has the same meaning as “in the line of duty” for purposes of qualifying for a LEOFF 2 disability benefit. DRS must review past duty disability denials and determine if the disability was incurred “in the line of duty”. Also, an occupational assessment must be conducted either by LNI or DRS before denying a member’s duty disability application based on the member being capable of employment**
- **DRS administrative fees and employer charges for the unfunded liability in a plan should not be included in employer contribution calculation charged to members to purchase service credit**

SB 5625, Continued

- The appeal deadline for DRS administrative decisions must be no less than 90 days. If DRS requests additional information from a member their time to file an appeal must be tolled at least 90 days. Also, allows members who had their decision dismissed by DRS for failing to meet the appeal deadline to refile their claim with DRS
- Allows members to change their survivor option election if they requested to after the passage of the survivor option reelection window legislation (2020 SB 6417) but prior to DRS receiving approval from the IRS that the legislation did not violate federal law
- Basic salary includes holiday payments, as well as all sick leave and vacation leave used by the member. Currently, these types of pay may not be considered basic salary by DRS in certain situations (see DRS Employer Notice 22-012, and DRS Employer Notice 17-007)

Other Bills of Interest

- **HB 1413/SSB 5424 – Concerning flexible work schedules for General and Limited Authority Peace Officers**
- **HB 1814 - Reemployment and pension service credit of public employees separated from service due to a vaccination mandate**



Thank You

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