

2009 SCPP Legislative Proposals

The SCPP has recommended the following proposals for the 2009 Legislative Session:

1. \$150,000 Death Benefit

Increase the amount of the death benefit from \$150,000 to \$175,000. Recommended December 16, 2008.

2. Change Membership Default for PERS 2/3

Change the default retirement plan for new members of the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) who do not select a plan upon hire from Plan 3 to Plan 2. Recommended December 16, 2008.

3. Disability Benefits Study

Direct the Washington State Institute for Public Policy, with the assistance of the Office of The State Actuary, to study options for addressing the needs of PERS Plan 2/3, Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) Plan 2/3, and School Employees' Retirement System (SERS) Plan 2/3 members for adequate disability benefit coverage. Recommended December 16, 2008.

4. DRS Technical Corrections

Repeal two obsolete sections of the TRS 1 statute. Recommended November 18, 2008.

5. Fish & Wildlife Service Credit Transfer

Allow enforcement officers for the Department of Fish & Wildlife to convert prior PERS Plan 2 or PERS Plan 3 service to LEOFF Plan 2. Recommended December 16, 2008.

6. HECB Proposal

Allow the Higher Education Coordinating Board to offer Higher Education Retirement Plans to employees not already retired from a state-administered retirement system. Recommended May 13, 2008.

7. Interruptive Military Service

Allow members of the open plans to receive up to five years of free service credit for interruptive military service during a period of war as defined in RCW 41.04.005, with refunds to members who have already made payments for such service. Recommended December 16, 2008.

8. Lower the General Salary Increase Assumption

Lower the statutory general salary increase assumption from 4.50 percent to 4.25 percent for all plans except LEOFF Plan 2—consistent with the actions of the Pension Funding Council. Recommended September 16, 2008.

9. Military Death Benefits

Provide an unreduced joint and survivor annuity to the survivor of a member who dies in war while serving in the National Guard or Military Reserves. Recommended July 15, 2008.

10. OSA Request Legislation

Clarify how the State Actuary studies salary growth, and codify current practices relating to recommendations of the State Actuary following an actuarial experience study. Recommended November 18, 2008.

11. PERS to SERS Auto-Transfer

End the conditional automatic transfer of membership from PERS to SERS and allow certain auto-transferred members to reverse the transfer. Recommended May 13, 2008.

12. Pre-LEOFF Survivor Benefits

Provide a new, member-paid survivor benefit option for spouses who are ineligible to receive a survivor benefit from the plan, and continue paying survivor benefits when a surviving spouse remarries. Recommended December 16, 2008.

13. Past Part-Time Service Credit

Grant half-time service credit to certain Plan 2/3 members who worked at least half-time for an educational employer prior to 1987. Recommended November 18, 2008.

14. Survivors of PERS 1 Inactives

Provide the same pre-retirement survivor annuity for inactive members as for active members in PERS Plan 1. Recommended May 13, 2008.

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