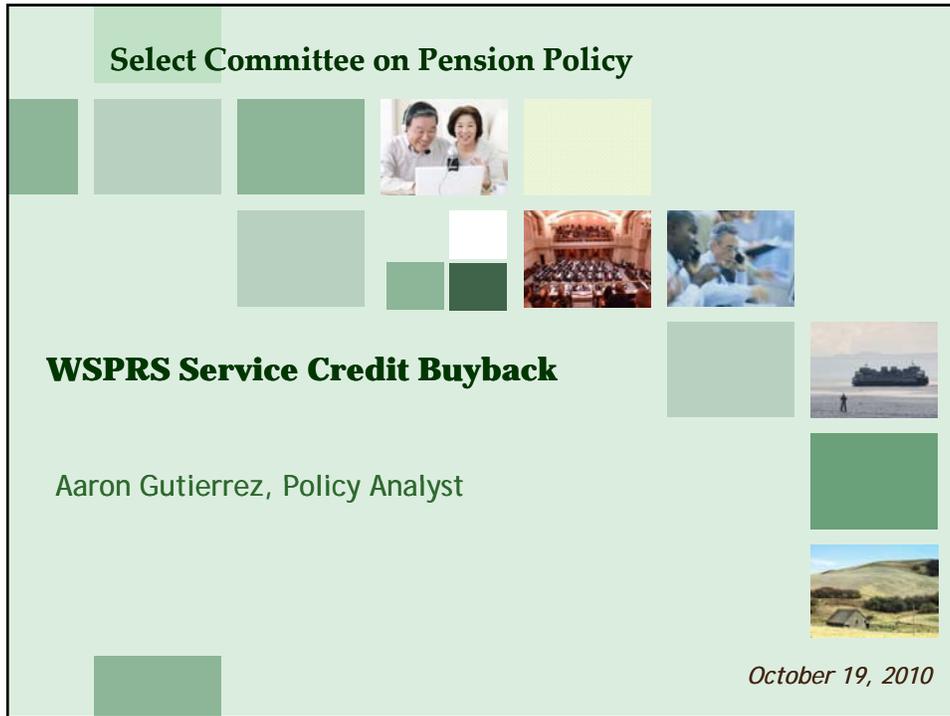


Select Committee on Pension Policy



WSPRS Service Credit Buyback

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Issue

- Some commissioned troopers have prior service credit in PERS, earned in other WSP job classifications
- In 2010, Legislature considered a non-SCPP bill to allow some of these troopers to consolidate their service credit in WSPRS
 - CVEO
 - CO
- State Patrol Troopers Association asked the SCPP to consider the 2010 bill



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Today's Presentation

- Background
- 2010 bill
 - Provisions
 - Cost
- Policy questions
- Next steps



Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Officers

- Limited-authority officers
 - Can issue citations
 - Do not have general law enforcement authority
 - Duties include
 - Staffing weigh stations
 - Inspecting payloads
 - Enforcing safety requirements
 - Conducting commercial vehicle traffic stops
 - Armed for defensive purposes
- Since 2006, all newly hired CVEOs are members of PSERS
- Prior to that, CVEOs were members of PERS
- Generally, CVEOs who wish to become troopers must apply through normal process for a trooper



CVEO Transition Class

- In 2000, a group of CVEOs were given the opportunity to take special transition training to become commissioned troopers
- As commissioned troopers they automatically became members of WSPRS



Some Former CVEOs Allowed To Consolidate Their Prior PERS Credit Into WSPRS

- Legislation in 2002
- Trooper given one year to decide
- Trooper required to pay full actuarial cost
 - Must pay cost by retirement or 2010, whichever came first
- Only covered troopers with prior CVEO service who received commission between July 1, 2000, and June 30, 2001
 - Some former CVEOs became commissioned troopers outside that window

Recent Legislation

- In 2010, a non-SCPP bill nearly identical to the 2002 bill
 - Received hearing in Senate Transportation
 - Did not pass
- Identical provisions, applied to different windows
 - Would have covered former CVEOs who received their commission on, or before July 1, 2000
 - Trooper would have until retirement or 2018 to pay cost
- 2010 bill was amended in committee to add troopers with prior service as COs



Communications Officers

- Limited-authority officers
 - Duties include
 - Handling dispatch and emergency 911 calls, meeting with the public
 - Do not have general law enforcement authority
 - Are not armed
- No transition class for COs to become troopers
- Troopers with prior service as COs were never given the opportunity to consolidate prior service credit

Transferring Service Credit From PERS To WSPRS Creates A Cost

- Trooper requesting the transfer bears most of the cost
 - All employer and employee contributions made to PERS will be transferred to WSPRS
 - Trooper must pay full actuarial cost of any difference between contributions and actual cost of benefits
 - Amount owed must be calculated individually, based on service
 - For comparison
 - Out-of-pocket cost to troopers in the 2002 bill ranged from \$25,000 to \$190,000
 - Of the troopers eligible in 2002, only one made the transfer



Cost To The System

- No expected cost to the system
- Actuarial funding is based on assumptions
 - Depending how much experience meets with those assumptions, a cost or savings could arise
- As close to zero cost to the system as we can get

Policy Questions

- Is an exception to dual membership provisions needed?
- Are CVEOs and COs substantially similar to commissioned troopers?
- Will other dual members want to consolidate their service?
- Is this a question of fairness and equity?



Is An Exception To Dual Membership Provisions Needed?

- Dual membership is the state's general policy for those with service credit in more than one system
- Exceptions have been made for public safety personnel where new position is substantially related to previous position
 - For example
 - WSP cadets
 - Cadet service is earned in PERS, and transferred to WSPRS upon commissioning
 - Department of Fish and Wildlife enforcement officers
 - Moved from PERS to LEOFF as duties changed

Are CVEOs And COs Substantially Similar To Commissioned Troopers?

- No single definitive answer
- Policy makers may wish to decide if one, or both groups are substantially similar to troopers
- Possible questions for consideration
 - Are they armed?
 - To what extent do they have enforcement authority?
 - To what extent are they in harm's way?
- Current policy treats CVEOs and COs differently
 - CVEOs are members of PSERS
 - COs are members of PERS



Will Other Dual Members Want To Consolidate Their Service?

- Many dual members in the various systems may prefer to have all their service in one system
- May be other dual members in WSP
 - For example, troopers with prior service as a CVEO, with service credit in PSERS instead of PERS
 - Troopers could also have prior service in other job classifications or other agencies

Is This A Question Of Fairness And Equity?

- At the time of the 2002 legislation, approximately ten troopers with prior service as CVEOs were left out
- No indication in the record if there was a specific reason



Recap

- Dual membership is the state's general policy for those with service credit in more than one system
 - Exceptions have been granted when prior service is substantially similar to new service
- CVEO and CO service may or may not be substantially similar to being a commissioned trooper
- Other dual members may want to consolidate their service credit
- Some similarly-situated troopers were left out of 2002 bill

Next Steps

- SCPP may wish to decide if an exception to dual membership is needed
 - If so, staff will prepare options as directed

