

Wallis, Keri

From: Chris Vance <cvapv@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, May 14, 2012 12:31 PM
To: Bailey, Rep. Barbara; Conway, Sen. Steve
Cc: kccgprez@gmail.com; kccgvp@gmail.com; Office State Actuary, WA; Gutierrez, Aaron
Subject: 2012 Study of High Risk Employees
Attachments: Pension letters.pdf



KING COUNTY CORRECTIONS GUILD

May 14, 2012

TO: Executive Committee,
Select Committee on Pension Policy

FM: Chris Vance, KCCG Public Affairs Consultant

RE: 2012 Study of Risk Classifications of High Risk Employees

The Select Committee will soon take up the study of “*risk classifications of employees in the state retirement systems that entail either high degrees of physical or psychological risk to the members own safety, or unusually high physical requirements that result in elevated risks of injury or disablement for older employees*” as mandated by SB 6378.

We believe that Corrections Officers – who are required to work until age 60 under both PERS and PSERS - are precisely the type of high risk employees contemplated by this study.

As you discuss your process to undertake this study we would ask that we be permitted to provide input, and to be kept apprised as to your process. We would like to be helpful in any way possible.

We thank you for your continuing attention to this issue. Attached is our past correspondence with you on our retirement issue.

Please contact me if you have questions, or to coordinate our members’ participation. I can be reached at 253-347-9713.

Wallis, Keri

From: Mark Gjurasic [mgjurasic@comcast.net]
Sent: Thursday, June 02, 2011 12:36 PM
To: Schoesler, Sen. Mark; Seaquist, Rep. Larry; Davis, Randy; Office State Actuary, WA
Cc: Wallis, Keri
Subject: PSERS Retirement Request
Attachments: 090109 Letter to SCPP.PDF



KING COUNTY CORRECTIONS GUILD

Thursday, June 2, 2011

TO: **Sen. Mark Schoesler** - Chair– Schoesler.mark@leg.wa.gov
Rep. Larry Seaquist - Larry.Seaquist@leg.wa.gov
Vacant - Vice Chair
Steve Hill, DRS Director – SCPP Request to Forward
Randy Davis, TRS Actives - marysvillecoach@hotmail.com
Glenn Olson, PERS Employers – SCPP Request to Forward
Robert Thurston, WSPRS Retirees – SCPP Request to Forward
Matt Smith, State Actuary – state.actuary@leg.wa.gov

Dear Sen. Schoesler and Rep. Seaquist:

I am following up on my previous request to have the **Select Committee on Pension Policy** to review the **Public Safety Employees Retirement System** (PSERS) which was created in 2004.

As representing the **King County Adult Corrections Guild** (KCACG), we are respectfully **asking for a few minutes** on your **June 21 meeting**, should you have one, or **July 19 meeting** to make a request why PSERS which has not been reviewed since 2004 should be studied to ensure it maintains good public policy.

Since its formulation in 2005, in 2007 the Washington State Legislature changed PSERS Plan II and III. The change allows, with members of 30 years of service, to retire at age 62, instead of 65 without a reduction in benefits. We believe that there should be further review, to see whether the intent, at that time and today, should have been to lower their retirement age to a lower level. For further background information and rationale, please see the attached letter dated September 1, 2009 to then Rep. Steve Conway that further outlines this exploratory request.

Again, the purpose of this letter is to **request that we make a presentation** at the **Select Committee on Pension Policy** on this issue and whether it should be further studied by the Pension Policy Committee and its staff.

Thank you for your time reviewing this information and addressing this policy question.

We would appreciate a spot on the agenda for discussion.

Many thanks.

Mark Gjurasic

King County Adult Corrections Guild Lobbyist

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September 1, 2009

Representative Steve Conway
Select Committee on Pension Policy
PO Box 40914
Olympia, WA 98504-0914

Dear Representative Conway,

As you know, the Public Safety Employees' Retirement System in Washington, (PSERS) was created by legislation in the year 2004 to create a separate retirement system for certain public employees whose jobs contain a high degree of physical risk to their own personal safety. PSERS was created to appropriately distinguish these employees serving in high risk positions from other employees in the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) who do not work under conditions that are so dangerous and harsh.

In creating PSERS, the legislature recognized the additional risk that Washington's Public Safety Employees endure, and distinguished these employees by allowing them to retire five years earlier without a reduction of benefits. The standard age for retirement under PERS Plans 2 and 3 was 65 years of age, and the new PSERS plan set the standard retirement age at 60 years of age. It was clear that the legislature believed that allowing these public safety employees to retire five years earlier was an appropriate and sufficient distinction given because of the additional risks and hardships that come with the regular work responsibilities of these public safety employees.

In 2007, the Washington State Legislature changed PERS Plans 2 and 3. This change lowered key PERS standard retirement age requirements, and now allows certain employees that are members of PERS 2 and 3 the ability to retire three years earlier without a reduction to their retirement benefits. The change allows PERS 2 and 3 members with 30 years of service to retire at age 62 instead of 65 without a reduction in benefits. We have also seen the standard retirement age in the Law Enforcement Officers' and Fire Fighters' (LEOFF) Plan 2 lowered from 58 years, to 55 years, and has most recently to 53 years of age for LEOFF members to retire without a loss of benefits.

The public safety employees in Washington that are members of PERS now have a standard 60 year age limitation for them to retire without a reduction in benefits. The five year earlier retirement distinction that the Legislature believed was appropriate in 2000 has been reduced to a two year difference between PERS and PSERS.

I would like to request the Select Committee on Pension Policy review the question of:
Is there still an appropriate and sufficient distinction between the PERS, PSERS, and LEOFF retirement systems?

Thank you for your time reviewing this information and addressing this policy question.
We appreciate your commitment to helping make our state a good place to work and live.

With Best Regards,

Sergeant Doug Justus
President
King County Corrections Guild