

From: [Gutierrez, Aaron](#)
To: [@SCPP Members](#); [MacEwen, Sen. Drew](#)
Cc: [@SCPP Assistants](#)
Subject: FW: PERS II retirement age concerns
Date: Wednesday, February 22, 2023 10:10:30 AM

Members of the Select Committee on Pension Policy,

I am forwarding the message below at the request of Director Guerin.

Thank you,

Aaron Gutierrez, MPA, JD
Senior Policy Analyst
Office of the State Actuary
P.O. Box 40914
Olympia, Washington 98504-0914
<http://osa.leg.wa.gov/>
Phone 360.786.6152
Fax 360.586.8135

"Supporting financial security for generations."

From: Dave S. <brahmalonghorn@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2023 10:13 PM
To: DRS Legislation <drs.legislation@drs.wa.gov>
Cc: Lovick, John <John.Lovick@leg.wa.gov>; Berg, April <April.Berg@leg.wa.gov>
Subject: PERS II retirement age concerns

External Email

Please see below, the message sent to Governor Inslee regarding my concerns of requiring persons in PERS with 30 years or more to wait until 62 years of age to retire, even if their 30 years of service credits is reached before the age 62.

"Governor,

First, this isn't really an issue with a state agency but that is the closest "subject" selection to what I want to speak about. Also, although I may mention working for a jurisdiction, I am not contacting you as an employee for any municipality; I'm contacting you as a resident of Washington State who works in civil service.

I started in the building code industry at 25 years old in 2001 (unheard of at the time) and I will have 30 years in this industry at 55 years old; roughly 7 years from now. Given that I have proudly served Washington State communities as an building inspector, fire inspector, code compliance officer, plans examiner and (now) Building Official, I'm confused why I will not be able to retire at 55 (when I have 30 years of service credits) with full PERS II entitlements. Currently, if I retire at 55 I will be afforded 79% of my earned entitlements (3% reduction for every year before 62), simply because I will not be 62 or older. I feel like I'm being punished for beginning my very successful career early in life.

Fire service and law enforcement can retire at the age of 53, provided they have at least 5 years of service. Is this because they have jobs in community safety and it is believed that we do not?

I am currently a Building Official for one of the fastest growing communities in Washington State, a role I take very seriously. Through authorities granted to me in state and local laws, I enforce/administer state and local building/municipal codes (laws) everyday. While code industry personnel do not always play an active role in community safety (like first responders), we do occasionally need to close buildings due to unsafe conditions, we perform post-fire event investigations to determine if buildings are safe to enter, and you wouldn't believe how many vehicles hit and damage buildings every year that we need to perform post-damage assessments on. Any building that is damaged, regardless of how, goes through a post-damage assessment. Further, through the WASAFE program, many of us (including myself) are certified to inspect buildings to determine if they are safe or need further engineering evaluations following a seismic, wind or flood event. Additionally, we also play a role in keeping communities safe every day by conducting thorough plan reviews of submitted plans and inspections of buildings within our jurisdictions through the permitting process. This to say, code industry personnel are vital and critical to buildings being built safely (and energy efficient) and being maintained as such.

I am requesting revision of rules/laws the DRS follows to allow persons enrolled in PERS I and PERS II (and PERS III, if possible) to retire and be provided with full entitlements (regardless of age) if they have served the state, a county or city for 30 years or more as Building Inspectors, Plans Examiners/Reviewers, Building Officials, Code Compliance/Code Enforcement Officers and Permit Coordinators/Technicians, or titles similar thereto these in classification (there are several categories and subcategories that are used for these positions including Senior and Deputy or Assistant levels). Further, I am requesting those with over 20 years be given the opportunity to retire early with a 1% reduction per year instead of 3%.

While I enjoy my profession and who I work with everyday, I want time to enjoy life with my family and there are places I want to see. There are also code industry related advocacies I want to pursue that I can't as a full time jurisdictional employee; including advocacy/investigations for accessibility/ADA issues and violations to help those that require the use of accessibility features.

Lastly, please be aware that the average life expectancy for US citizens is 76.1 years old; only 14 years from when people are allowed to retire with full DRS entitlements and they won't even have the benefit of Social Security/Medicare until 6 years later.

I have also sent similar communication to Senator Lovick and Representative Berg, as a

constituent of their areas.

Thank you for your time,"

Dave Swasey
Snohomish, WA
425-374-9488

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Legislature. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Legislature. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.