

Retiree NEWSLETTER

DELAWARE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

JULY 2022

POST-RETIREMENT BENEFIT INCREASES

The 151st General Assembly passed Senate Bill 251 during the legislative session ending June 30, 2022, which includes a Post-Retirement Benefit Increase based on the pensioner's effective date of retirement. Pensioners will receive the increase in their July pension payment.

Effective Date of Retirement	Increase
Prior to 7/1/1992	3%
7/1/1992 - 6/30/2017	2%

Who is entitled to receive the PRI?

- State Employees' Pension Plan
- New State Police Pension Plan
- State Judiciary Retirement Plan
- County and Municipal Plan – Police/Firefighters



A NEW LOOK:

After more than 50 years, we are proud to announce the launch of a new Delaware Public Employees' Retirement System logo. This logo represents our mission to serve those who served Delaware. While we embrace the availability of technology to better serve you, we maintain our customer service focus and hope that this new logo will help you easily recognize future communications from our office.

ONE-TIME SALARY SUPPLEMENT/BONUS

The General Assembly also passed Senate Bill 251, which includes a one-time bonus of \$500 for pensioners who retired on or before October 21, 2022. The one-time payment will be included with eligible pensioner's November monthly pension benefit. (Note: this bonus is taxable and will be included in your year-to-date earnings on your 2022 tax document)

Eligible plans include:

- State Employees' Pension Plan
- New State Police Pension Plan
- State Judiciary Retirement Fund

Pensioners that have returned to work as a casual/seasonal, temporary or substitute employee may receive the \$500 one-time bonus as an active employee. Any pensioner who receives the \$500 one-time active member bonus will not be eligible to receive another \$500 bonus as a pensioner.

Of special note: For any retirees working in casual/seasonal, temporary, or substitute positions, this \$500 bonus will count toward your \$40,000 annual earnings limit.



RETURN TO WORK EARNINGS LIMIT INCREASE

In addition, House Substitute I for House Bill 478, increased the annual earnings limit from \$30,000 to \$40,000 per calendar year (January – December). This earnings limit applies to State Employees' Pension Plan retirees who work in non-pension creditable positions as a temporary, casual, seasonal, or substitute employee, or a substitute teacher. It does not pertain to retirees working in private sector employment who have no earnings or hourly limits.

Note: If correspondence was sent to you stating you were over the \$30,000 limit in 2021, and it has been determined that you were under the updated limit of \$40,000, you will receive corrected correspondence.

Spring Open Enrollment Changes

Open Enrollment this year for Dental, Vision, and Non-Medicare Health plans ran from May 2nd-18th this year. If you submitted any changes to be made for any of these plans, they will come into effect July 1st, 2022. Any changes in your deductions will be reflected in your July 29th check.



Introducing: Highmark Freedom Blue PPO Medicare Advantage Plan

The State of Delaware Office of Pensions is excited to introduce the new Medicare Advantage Plan for all Medicare-eligible Pensioners and dependents: The Highmark Freedom Blue PPO Plan. The State of Delaware will transition from the current Highmark Special Medicfill to the Freedom Blue PPO Plan effective January 1, 2023. The Medicare Advantage plan (with prescription through SilverScript) will be the only State of Delaware Medicare health plan option after January 1, 2023.

Why is this a positive change?

The monthly cost of the Medicare Advantage Plan is less than half of the current cost for Special Medicfill, while providing the same benefits, provider network and having the same out-of-pocket costs. The Freedom Blue PPO Plan also offers additional benefits including SilverSneakers, a health and fitness program, and Post-Discharge Meal Service, a program that provides meal delivery after discharge from a hospital stay.

What do you need to do to enroll?

If you are already enrolled in Highmark Special Medicfill **with** SilverScript prescription coverage, **no action is required**. You will **automatically** be transitioned to the Highmark Freedom

Blue PPO Plan with SilverScript Part D Prescription coverage effective January 1 2023.

If you are currently enrolled in Highmark Special Medicfill **without** SilverScript prescription coverage, you will receive letters from Highmark and the Office of Pensions regarding your required action. Please call (302) 739-4208 for more information.

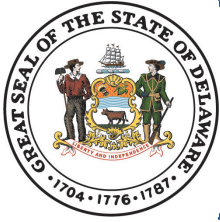
If you are not currently enrolled in the Highmark Special Medicfill plan but are interested in signing up for Highmark Freedom Blue PPO, you must enroll during the Fall Open Enrollment from October 3rd-24th. Look for more information from the Office of Pensions coming in September.

Please Note:

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) only allows enrollment in one qualified Medicare Advantage and corresponding Part D prescription drug plan. Enrollment in another plan may terminate your medical and prescription coverage with the State of Delaware.

Where can you find more information on this plan?

Highmark and the Office of Pensions will be sending out numerous mailings through the end of the year. Be sure to open any mail you receive from Highmark and the Office of Pensions for important information. Look for the State of Delaware Medicare Advantage branding on all mailings (shown on top of next page). More information can be found online at delawarepensions.com. For specific questions about plan coverage, please call Highmark's Freedom Blue PPO team at (888)328-2960.



Getting to know your Medicare Advantage Plan as a State of Delaware Pensioner

State of Delaware Medicare Advantage Plan Education Sessions

Want to learn more about the Highmark Freedom Blue PPO Medicare Advantage plan? There will be several education sessions held in August throughout the State. Further sessions will be held in October, dates and locations to be announced. Representatives from Highmark, SilverScript, Statewide Benefits Office, and the Office of Pensions will be giving a presentation about the new plan and will be available to answer any questions.

Note: All sessions will have representatives available from 12:30-6:30. Presentations will be held at 1:00 pm, 3:00 pm, and 5:00 pm

New Castle County:

Dates: Thursday, August 4 and Tuesday, August 9
Location: Wilmington Chase Center on the Riverfront, Harlen and Hollingsworth Rooms

Kent County:

Dates: Wednesday, August 3 and Wednesday, August 10
Location: Dover Modern Maturity Center

Sussex County:

Dates: Tuesday, August 2 and Thursday, August 11
Location: Georgetown CHEER Community Center



If your address has changed, please remember to update your information, in writing with your signature, with the Office of Pensions. Failure to notify the Office of Pensions of your change of address could jeopardize receiving future monthly pension benefits in a timely manner.

Sorry, We're CLOSED

The Office of Pensions will be closed on the following State holidays:

Labor Day

Monday, September 5, 2022

Veterans Day

Friday, November 11, 2022

Thanksgiving Day

Thursday, November 24, 2022

Day After Thanksgiving

Friday, November 25, 2022

Christmas Day

Monday, December 26, 2022

State Employees Charitable Campaign

September 1 – October 31

This year is the 31st annual State Employee's Charitable Campaign (SECC). SECC provides state employees and pensioners the opportunity to support local nonprofit organizations through direct payment or payroll deductions. Your generosity helps participating charities provide benefits such as nutritious meals, shelter, and clothing to Delaware's homeless, veterans, disadvantaged, and families in need. To learn more about SECC and how you can support participating charities, visit secc.delaware.gov.





Upcoming Pension Benefit Check Dates

Pension benefits are payable on the last working day of each month, except for December. The schedule for the remainder of 2022 is as follows:

- Friday, July 29, 2022
- Wednesday, August 31, 2022
- Friday, September 30, 2022
- Monday, October 31, 2022
- Wednesday, November 30, 2022
- Friday, December 23, 2022



OFFICE OF PENSION ANONYMOUS FRAUD REPORTING

Online: www.lighthouse-services.com/dpers

Hotline: (833) 590-0005

Email: reports@lighthouse-services.com
(Must include DPERS in Message)

Fax: (215) 689-3885
(Must include DPERS in fax document)



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