

EMPLOYER Notice

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System • 277 East Town Street • Columbus, Ohio 43215

Recent amendments to Chapter 145 of the Ohio Administrative Code

Who should read this notice

Finance directors, payroll professionals and human resources professionals

Situation overview

Following are summaries of the rule amendments recently approved by the OPERS Board of Trustees.

- **Interim benefit and partial lump sum option payment** (Amended Rule 145-1-65)
Paragraph (C) is amended to provide that the partial lump sum option payment (PLOP) will be issued no sooner than 90 days after the issuance of the first benefit check.

Paragraph (H) is amended to provide that members and survivors may make one change to the PLOP and one change to the retirement plan of payment prior to issuance of the PLOP or finalized retirement benefit payment. This amendment applies to all PLOPs issued on or after April 1, 2010. This rule is effective April 1, 2010

- **Mandatory direct deposit** (Rule 145-2-70)
This new rule was emergency filed effective March 1, 2010. This is the permanent rule and is effective April 5, 2010.
- **Reimbursement of Medicare part "B" premium** (Amended Rule 145-4-11)
Prior to Senate Bill 267, OPERS reimbursed Medicare B at the basic premium rate. Last year the basic premium was \$96.40. Senate Bill 267 now requires the Board to set the Medicare B reimbursement at an amount not less than \$96.40 and prohibits the Board from reimbursing any more than the recipient is actually paying for Medicare B.

The amendments to Paragraphs (A) and (B) make the rule consistent with SB 267.

New Paragraph (F) will permit OPERS to suspend the premium reimbursement if the benefit recipient does not certify the amount he or she pays for coverage.

What employers need to do

OPERS is required to notify public employers of any amendment or change to the retirement system's rules as contained in the Ohio Administrative Code. We recognize employers are an important resource for employees, our members; we ask you to review any informational items you may have on these topics to ensure you are compliant with the current rules and rule amendments.

Changes to the *Employer Manual*

No changes were made to the *Employer Manual* as a result of the information contained in this *Employer Notice*.

Note:

Employers may view the rule in its entirety by going to www.opers.org.



Who to contact for more information

After reviewing this *Employer Notice*, contact Employer Outreach with questions at (888) 400-0965, or by email at employeroutreach@opers.org.

This Employer Notice is written in plain language for use by public employers who are subject to coverage under the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System. It is not intended as a substitute for the federal or state law, namely the Ohio Revised Code, the Ohio Administrative Code, or the Internal Revenue Code, nor will its interpretation prevail should a conflict arise between it and the Ohio Revised Code, Ohio Administrative Code, or Internal Revenue Code. Rules governing the retirement system are subject to change periodically either by statute of the Ohio General Assembly, regulation of the Ohio Public Employees Retirement Board, or regulation of the Internal Revenue Code. If you have questions about this material, please contact our office or seek legal advice from your attorney.

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