



Legislative Changes to Impact Members

The recent enactment of Amended Sub. House Bill 520 includes changes to survivor benefits, refunds and the OPERS Law Enforcement and Public Safety division.

Law Enforcement and Public Safety Division

Five new classifications have been established for the OPERS Law Enforcement and Public Safety division:

- Special police officer for a municipal airport
- Special police officer for a port authority
- Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation investigators
- Ohio Department of Taxation investigators
- Ohio Casino Control Commission gaming agents

These changes apply to new hires in these positions and current members in these positions may elect to contribute to law enforcement or public safety going forward.

Survivor benefits

OPERS no longer requires a child, ages 18 to 22, to be attending an institution of learning or training in order to receive survivor benefits. If certain conditions are met, OPERS will resume paying survivor benefits to qualifying children under age 22 whose benefits were terminated because they were not in school. Qualified survivors must contact OPERS to obtain and complete the *Survivor Benefit Application for Child Over 18* (SB-18YRAPP) form by April 6, 2018. The benefit will be effective on the first of the month following OPERS' receipt of the application and will continue until the survivor reaches age 22 or the end of eligibility. Benefits will not be paid retroactively.

If an OPERS member is also a member of the State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio and/or the School Employees Retirement System of Ohio, OPERS will honor the most recent beneficiary designation if the member is eligible for a combined survivor benefit.

Refunds

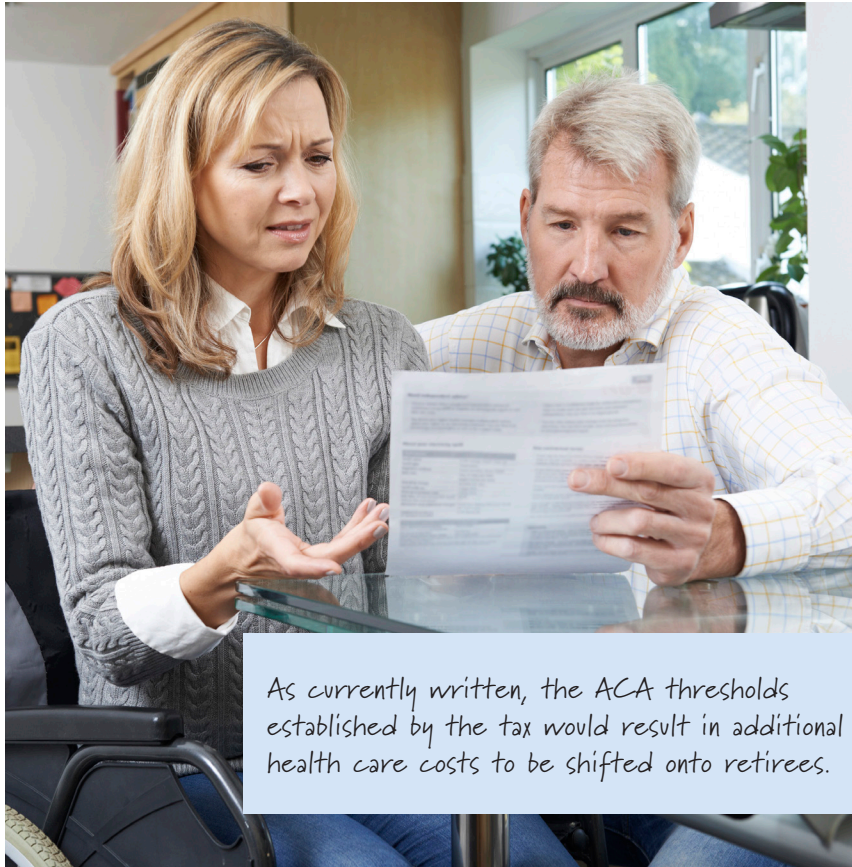
The period of time that must elapse before an OPERS member may apply for a refund has been reduced from three months to two months.

Additional changes

A new method of calculating the mitigating rate for the Alternative Retirement Plan, which some OPERS members who work at state universities and colleges can select instead of one of our retirement plans, was established in the law. The new rate is 2.44 percent and takes effect July 1, 2017.

Certain members with service in OPERS and the Ohio Police & Fire Pension Fund will be able to combine service and retire from OPERS even if they have more service credit at OP&F. Special criteria must be met by the member in order to qualify for the transfer.

To read more about these changes, visit the Publications page of opers.org to view one of our informational leaflets.



As currently written, the ACA thresholds established by the tax would result in additional health care costs to be shifted onto retirees.

OPERS Continues to Monitor Repeal of the Cadillac Tax

With the House passage of health care legislation (HR 1628) in early May, Congress continues to work on a replacement solution for the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

The bill is now before the Senate and reportedly faces an uncertain future. OPERS continues to monitor the legislative activity closely. We remain concerned about the potential impact of the ACA's excise tax on high cost health plans, otherwise known as the "Cadillac tax," could have on OPERS health plan for retirees under age 65 who are not yet Medicare eligible. HR 1628 further delays implementation of the tax from 2020 to 2026. But despite delays in the implementation of the Cadillac tax, OPERS must proceed with our Health Care program planning as long as the tax remains in the law. As currently written, the ACA thresholds established by the tax would result in additional health care costs to be shifted onto retirees.

Two stand-alone Cadillac tax repeal bills have been reintroduced in the House and Senate, HR 173 and S 58. Working together with our partners as part of the Fight the 40 coalition, OPERS has been urging members of the Ohio delegation who previously supported repeal of the Cadillac tax to co-sponsor the new bills.

As information becomes available about the ACA and/or a potential replacement, OPERS will keep our members and retirees informed. Please watch your OPERS newsletter, opers.org and your in box for any updates.

OPERS News

OPERS News is a quarterly newsletter providing news and information to active and retired members of the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System. This publication allows us to communicate vital information concerning retirement benefits to our members.

This newsletter is written in plain language for use by members of the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System. It is not intended as a substitute for federal or state law, nor will its interpretation prevail should a conflict arise between it and the Ohio Revised Code, Ohio Administrative Code or Internal Revenue Code. If you have questions about this material, please contact our office or seek legal advice from your attorney.

Contact information:

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newsfeedback@opers.org

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OPERS Board of Trustees

For more information on the OPERS Board of Trustees, visit opers.org.

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Karen Carraher
Executive Director

Elections Being Held for Three Seats on the OPERS Board of Trustees

Elections for seats on the OPERS and Ohio Deferred Compensation Boards of Trustees will be held this year. Those elected will serve four-year terms beginning Jan. 1, 2018.

The three seats up for election in 2017 include one representative for each of the following groups:

- **County Employees** – Representing approximately 87,600 members working at a county job within the state.
- **Miscellaneous Employees** – Representing approximately 46,000 members not included in one of the other groups, employers such as: park districts, conservancy districts, sanitary districts, health districts, townships, metropolitan housing authorities, state retirement systems, public libraries, county law libraries, union cemeteries, joint hospitals or institutional commissaries within the state.
- **Retirees** – One of two seats representing approximately 177,500 age and service, disability, Member-Directed and Combined plan and re-employed retirees.

Any active OPERS member, with the exception of one receiving a disability

benefit, is eligible for election to represent the members of their employee group on the OPERS Board of Trustees. Re-employed retirees along with age and service, disability and Member-Directed and Combined plan retirees are eligible to run for the Retiree seat.

For interested candidates

Nominating petition packets are available through your employer, at www.opers.org/elections or by calling 1-800-222-7377. Completed nominating petitions, biographical statements and certification by candidates must be received at the OPERS office to the attention of Julie Becker no later than 4:30 p.m., Monday, July 31, 2017. Petitions postmarked on or before this date, but received later, are invalid.

Voting information

A ballot will be mailed to your home in late August. All votes must be received by midnight, Friday, Sept. 29, 2017. The election count is scheduled for Monday, Oct. 2, 2017. The final results will be certified by the office of the Ohio Secretary of State.

Your retirement and your representation on the OPERS Board are important, so please be an active participant in the election process and cast your vote.

2017 OPERS BOARD OF TRUSTEES ELECTION

The OPERS Board is comprised of 11 trustees—seven individuals are elected by the specific group each represents. Five individuals represent employee groups and two represent retirees. Three individuals with investment expertise are appointed by Ohio's Governor, Treasurer and jointly by the Ohio Legislature. The Director of the Ohio Department of Administrative Services also serves on the Board of Trustees by virtue of office. Individuals elected to the OPERS Board also automatically serve on the Ohio Public Employees Deferred Compensation Program Board.



Does Your Child Work for an OPERS-covered Employer?

Parents, do you have a child who just started working in an OPERS-covered position? Whether it's their first job after college or summer employment, it's important they pick the right OPERS retirement plan – and you can help! Visit the home page of opers.org to view a brief video about how you can help them select the right plan. It's never too early to start saving for retirement!



Ohio Public Employees Retirement System
277 East Town Street Columbus, OH 43215-4642

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OPERSNEWS

News and information for active members in the
OPERS Combined Plan.



*If you no longer wish to receive a paper copy of your newsletter and would like to receive the electronic version, log into your OPERS online account and **update your correspondence preferences to electronic.***

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