

January 28, 2020 NHRS Board of Trustees' Benefits Committee Minutes

NOTE: These minutes from the January 28, 2020 Benefits Committee meeting were approved at the March 27, 2020 Benefits Committee meeting.

**Benefits Committee
Board of Trustees
January 28, 2020**

Public Minutes

**New Hampshire Retirement System
54 Regional Drive
Concord, NH 03301**

Committee Members present telephonically: Trustees George Walker, Christopher Coates, Bill Hart, and Don Roy. *Absent:* Melvin Friese.

Staff present: George Lagos, *Executive Director;* Tim Crutchfield, *Chief Legal Counsel;* Mark Cavanaugh, Esq., *Associate Counsel & Compliance Officer;* Margaret Astles, *Executive Assistant.*

Having established a quorum, Chair Walker called the Benefits Committee meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Next, Chair Walker called for a motion to accept the public minutes of the November 8, 2019 Benefits Committee meeting. On a motion by Trustee Hart, seconded by Trustee Walker, the Committee voted to approve the minutes, as presented, on a roll call, with Trustees Walker and Hart voting in the affirmative, and Trustee Roy abstaining.

Tim Crutchfield, Chief Legal Counsel, updated the Committee on the Department of Corrections reclassifications, noting that recently the Board approved 52 DOC positions for reclassification, but only 38 of those positions are currently occupied. NHRS has received all of the proper reclassification paperwork for the 38 positions and the system has been updated. Staff has received oral confirmation from the Department of Administrative Services that the appropriate Group II contribution rates have been applied but NHRS will not be able to confirm those proper rates until the January contributions are received next month.

Trustee Coates joined the meeting at 9:03 am.

Mr. Crutchfield replied to Trustee Hart's question that the remaining 14 positions that are not currently filled would be considered Group II positions from the start of employment.

Associate Counsel and Compliance Officer, Mark Cavanaugh updated the Committee on the prospective waiver of the Gainful Occupation (GO) filing requirement for certain disability recipients. He noted that in January 2019, the Board adopted an amendment to Administrative Rule Ret 309.01(c), providing that “the board of trustees shall waive the annual gainful occupation filing requirement in limited cases such as . . . [w]here the recipient has reported no income for the prior 5 years for which he or she was required to file hereunder”. Mr. Cavanaugh explained that GO filings have now been processed on PensionGold for five years and the information is available to determine which recipients are eligible for waiver. IT will contact LRS to reprogram PensionGold to identify those impacted retirees who have reported no income in order to generate a letter to inform them of the filing requirement waiver; however, if any impacted retiree has any earnings from gainful occupation in future calendar years, he/she would be required to notify NHRS promptly. Lastly, Mr. Cavanaugh reported that, as a result of the application of this waiver, almost 2/3 of the recipients will no longer be required to file, significantly reducing the administration associated with the GO filing process.

On a motion by Trustee Coates, seconded by Trustee Hart, the Committee voted to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3, II(c) to discuss a matter that would likely adversely affect the reputation of a person other than a member of this public body, on a unanimous roll call vote.

On a motion by Trustee Hart, seconded by Trustee Coates, the Committee voted to conclude non-public session, on a unanimous roll call vote.

No action was taken in the non-public session.

With no further business to discuss, on a motion by Trustee Hart, seconded by Trustee Roy, the Committee voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 am, on a unanimous roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret M. Astles, Executive Assistant