MEMORANDUM HR13-18

TO: Agency Administrators
FROM: Carolyn Horwich, Esq., Director of Human Resources
THROUGH: Rip Colvin, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Retirement Related Legislation
DATE: April 16, 2018

Attached please find an Information Release from the Department of Management Services, Division of Retirement.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you.
DIVISION OF RETIREMENT
INFORMATION RELEASE

Release # 2018-204
April 12, 2018

TO: All FRS Agency Heads and Retirement Coordinators

FROM: Elizabeth Stevens
State Retirement Director

SUBJECT: 2018 Legislation

During the 2018 Regular Legislative Session, the Florida Legislature passed legislation that affects members of the Florida Retirement System (FRS) and other state-administered retirement plans. Legislation summaries and links to the bills that became law are on the Legislation page of the Division of Retirement’s website at www.frs.MyFlorida.com. To access the summaries and links from the division’s website, please click on Legislation and then 2018 Retirement Legislation.

It is very important that this information release be immediately distributed to the appropriate staff within your agency. Legislative changes are summarized below by subject area. You are notified as policies and procedures are established so that you can implement the changes necessary to comply with new legislation.

Contribution Rates

HB 5007 (Chapter 2018-012, Laws of Florida) provides the total contribution rates by membership class and reporting plan code to be paid starting with the first payroll dated on or after July 1, 2018, for the 2018-2019 plan year for FRS members as well as rates for other state-administered retirement programs:

- The total contribution rate for FRS members includes required FRS employee and employer contributions, the Retiree Health Insurance Subsidy Program (HIS) contribution rate, and the administrative assessment for the FRS Investment Plan and the Financial Guidance Program.

- The total contribution rates for State University System Optional Retirement Program (SUSORP), Senior Management Service Optional Annuity Program (SMSOAP), and State Community College System Optional Retirement Program (SCCSORP) members include required employer and employee contributions, the applicable administrative assessment, and an unfunded actuarial liability contribution for the FRS Pension Plan. The members of these programs may also contribute optional employee contributions up to the same percentage as the required employer contribution rate that is deposited to the members’ accounts.

- The total contribution rates for reemployed retirees without renewed membership include employer contributions for the unfunded actuarial liability contribution for the FRS membership class covering the position and the HIS.

- The entire payroll is subject to a delinquent fee if the payroll is submitted late.
Information Release 2018-203, which includes the total contribution rates by reporting plan code, is also available on the Information Releases subpage under the Employer page of the division’s website at www.frs.MyFlorida.com.

Workers Compensation

Senate Bill 376 (Chapter 2018-124, Laws of Florida) expands Workers’ Compensation Law to cover mental or nervous injuries for law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, and paramedics, regardless of whether the mental or nervous injuries are accompanied by physical injuries requiring medical treatment effective October 1, 2018.

Reemployment Limitations

Senate Bill 7026 (Chapter 2018-003, Laws of Florida) eliminates reemployment limitations for retired law enforcement officers reemployed by an FRS employer during the seventh through twelfth months after their retirement date or after their DROP termination date if reemployed as a school resource officer. Retired law enforcement officers reemployed as school resource officers can receive both their retirement benefit and salary from the employer in the same month, effective March 9, 2018. These retirees must still meet the definition of termination during the first through sixth months after their effective retirement date or their DROP termination date.

Public Records Exemptions and Disclosures

The following public records exemptions apply to information held by the employing agency. The Division of Retirement cannot exclude any exempt information from public records requests for information about members unless we receive a request for exemption from either the employer on behalf of its employees in eligible positions (this can be done via the payroll report) or directly from the employees in eligible positions.

Public records exemptions are provided for personal identifying information including home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and photographs of employees, as noted below. In addition to the employee’s information, an exemption is provided for information about the spouse and children, including home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, places of employment, and locations of schools and daycare facilities their children attend. Legislation passed this year made the following changes:

- Current or former public guardians and employees with fiduciary responsibility, in addition to the other information noted above, effective July 1, 2018.
  [Senate Bill 268 (Chapter 2018-016, Laws of Florida)]

- Current or former directors, managers, supervisors, and clinical employees of a child advocacy center and the members of a child protection team whose duties include supporting the investigation of child abuse or sexual abuse, child abandonment, child neglect, and child exploitation or members who provide services as part of a multidisciplinary case review team, in addition to the other information noted above, effective July 1, 2018.
  [House Bill 417] (Chapter 2018-147, Laws of Florida]

- The address of a victim of an incident of mass violence, effective March 9, 2018.
  [Senate Bill 7024 (Chapter 2018-002, Laws of Florida)]

- United States Census Bureau address information, including maps showing structure location points, agency records that verify addresses, and agency records that identify address errors or omissions, effective March 21, 2018.
  [House Bill 7053 (Chapter 2018-077, Laws of Florida)]

If you have questions, call the Division of Retirement’s employer line toll free at 877-377-1266 or 850-907-6540 if you are in the Tallahassee local calling area.