



Application for Retirement Allowance

**Public Employees' Retirement System
Teachers' Pension and Annuity Fund**

**State of New Jersey
Division of Pensions and Benefits**

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NOTICE TO ALL APPLICANTS

It is your responsibility to ensure that all forms or documents indicated with a check mark “✓” are submitted to the Division of Pensions and Benefits.

- ✓ ***Application for Retirement Allowance***
- ✓ ***Authorization for Direct Deposit of Benefit Payment***
- ✓ ***Employer Certification of Service and Final Salary***
- ✓ A copy of your birth certificate if you have not already submitted it to the Division of Pensions and Benefits.

**IF YOU NEED HELP IN COMPLETING THIS APPLICATION,
CONTACT THE OFFICE OF CLIENT SERVICES AT**

(609) 292-7524

OR VISIT OUR OFFICE AT

**50 WEST STATE STREET
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY**

Retirement Benefits and Qualifications

Public Employees, Retirement System / Teachers Pension and Annuity Fund

READ FACT SHEET #4

This booklet includes Fact Sheet #4, *Applying for Retirement*. **Read this fact sheet first** to determine if you qualify for retirement. If you qualify, continue reading and follow the instructions to complete the application. If, after reading this information, you have questions about the qualifications for retirement, call the Division of Pensions and Benefits at (609) 292-7524.

INTRODUCTION

This booklet includes all the information and forms needed to apply for retirement from the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) or the Teachers' Pension and Annuity Fund (TPAF).

The forms and other documents indicated with a check mark "✓" (in the list below) must be completed and submitted to the Division of Pensions and Benefits. **It is your responsibility to ensure that all forms are submitted to the Division within 90 days of the Division's receipt of your retirement application.** Otherwise, your retirement application will be canceled and you will need to submit another application for a future retirement date.

This booklet contains:

- **Retirement Benefits and Qualifications** — an introduction to retirement and information about the application process.
- **Fact Sheet #4, *Applying for Retirement*.**
- **Fact Sheet #5, *Pension Options*.**
- **Fact Sheet #13, *Conversion of Group Life Insurance*.**
- **Fact Sheet #6, *Your Retirement Checklist*.**
- **Fact Sheet #12, *Taxation of Retirement Benefits*.**
- **Fact Sheet #18, *Cost-of-Living Adjustments*.**
- ✓ ***Application for Retirement Allowance*** — to be completed by the employee.
- ✓ ***Authorization for Direct Deposit of Benefit Payment*** — Direct deposit of your benefit payment is **mandatory**.
- ✓ ***Employer Certification of Service and Final Salary*** — to be completed by the employer.
- ***Change of Retirement*** form.

You should also submit:

- ✓ **A photocopy (not the original document) of your birth certificate** if you have not already submitted it to the Division of Pensions and Benefits.

MAIL THESE DOCUMENTS TO:

**The Division of Pensions and Benefits
PO Box 295
Trenton, NJ 08625-0295**

DISABILITY RETIREMENT

You cannot use this application to file for a disability retirement. For information on disability retirement, please see Fact Sheet #15, *Disability Retirement Benefits*. You can view this fact sheet on the Division's Web site at: www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions

If you do not have Internet access, you can request that this fact sheet be sent to you by calling the Division at (609) 292-7524 or by sending an e-mail to: pensions.nj@treas.state.nj.us

RETIREMENT ESTIMATES

Obtain a retirement estimate. Members within 2 years of retirement can obtain an estimate of retirement benefits using the **Member Benefits Online System (MBOS)**. MBOS is a set of Internet based applications that allow registered members access to information about their pension. Register with MBOS at: www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions (select "Online Member Services - MBOS").

To hear an estimate of retirement benefits over the phone, you may call the Division of Pensions and Benefits Automated Information System at (609) 777-1777.

You may also submit a *Request for Retirement Estimate* form which is available from your benefits administrator, the Division's Web site (select "Forms and Publications"), or by calling (609) 292-7524. The form must be forwarded to the Division. Please allow four to six weeks for manual processing.

RETIREMENT PROCESS

The retirement process starts with the filing of your *Application for Retirement Allowance* with the Division of Pensions and Benefits.

All retirements are effective on the first of a month. You can submit your *Application for Retirement Allowance* no more than one year before your retirement date – and as late as the last business day prior to your retirement date – however, four to six months advance filing is recommended because **there is no provision for an interim benefit between your last day of salary and your first pension check.** Under no circumstances can a retirement become effective prior to the date the application is received by the Division of Pensions and Benefits.

Once your retirement application is processed by the Division of Pensions and Benefits, you will receive a *Quotation of Retirement Allowance* that outlines your retirement benefits and life insurance benefits. Your application will then be presented to the PERS or TPAF Board of Trustees for approval. You will receive written notification of the Board's approval of your application.

NOTIFYING YOUR EMPLOYER

It is important that you notify your employer of your retirement plans since, before we can process your retirement, your employer must submit the *Certification of Service and Final Salary*. Your retirement cannot be processed until the Division of Pensions and Benefits receives this certification.

OUTSTANDING LOANS AT RETIREMENT

If you have a loan balance at retirement, you must decide whether you wish to carry monthly payments into retirement until the balance, with interest, is satisfied, or pay off the entire loan in a lump sum prior to receiving retirement benefits.

THE DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN, SACT, AND THE DCRP

Contact the **State Employees Deferred Compensation Plan** at 1-866-NJSEDCP if you participate in the plan.

Contact the **Supplemental Annuity Collective Trust (SACT)** at (609) 633-2031 if you participate in SACT.

Contact the **Defined Contribution Retirement Program (DCRP)** at 1-866-653-2771 if you participate in the DCRP.

YOUR FIRST RETIREMENT CHECK

The earliest your first retirement check can be paid is the first of the month following your retirement date or 30 days after approval by the PERS or TPAF Board of Trustees, whichever is later. This is when your retirement becomes "due and payable."

For example, a member who files his or her application well in advance for a June 1 retirement date, and is approved by the Board of Trustees at the Board meeting in May, would receive the first retirement check on July 1 (this check pays the amount due for the month of June). If approval of the retirement is delayed, the first check will be paid later but is retroactive to the original June 1 date of retirement.

Enclosed in this packet is a form for initiating the direct deposit of your retirement checks. Direct deposit of your benefit payment is **mandatory**. (Except for foreign mailing addresses.) Complete the *Authorization for Direct Deposit of Benefit Payment* and send it to the Division of Pensions and Benefits along with your retirement application.

CHANGING YOUR RETIREMENT

If, after applying for retirement, you wish to change your retirement date, retirement option selection, or cancel your retirement, you must forward written notice to the Division's Retirement Bureau within 30 days of the approval of your retirement by the Board of Trustees or the effective retirement date, whichever is later. After that time, you cannot change your retirement date or your retirement option.

NOTE: Changing or canceling your retirement does not guarantee continued employment with your employer.

Changes can be requested by letter or by using the *Change of Retirement* form included in this booklet. If requesting a change of retirement date, your employer must also complete the service and salary certification on the back of the change form.

Applying for Retirement

Public Employees' Retirement System • Teachers' Pension and Annuity Fund

BEFORE YOU RETIRE

You should inquire about retirement at least six months before your retirement date. This will give you enough time to review your benefits and options. You may also request an *Estimate of Retirement Benefits*, which estimates your monthly retirement allowance, the benefits payable to your beneficiary upon your death under the various retirement options, and your life insurance benefits.

Obtain a Retirement Estimate

Members within two years of retirement can obtain an estimate of retirement benefits using the **Member Benefits Online System (MBOS)**. Estimates obtained through MBOS provide the most accurate information available by using the service and salary information currently posted to your account. You must be registered with MBOS. Registration is free.

To begin the registration process, go to:
www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/mbosregister.shtml
(select "Online Member Services - MBOS").

You can also hear an estimate of retirement benefits over the phone by calling the Division of Pensions and Benefits' Automated Information System at (609) 777-1777.

Or you can submit a *Request for Retirement Estimate* form which is available from your benefits administrator, the Division's Web site (select "Forms and Publications"), or by calling the Office of Client services at (609) 292-7524. The form must be forwarded to the Division. Please allow four to six weeks for manual processing.

If you provide us with the name and birth date of your beneficiary, we will estimate your Maximum Allowance along with alternate payment options to your beneficiary.

SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION

Applying for Retirement

You must meet all of the eligibility requirements for retirement and cannot submit an application more than one year prior to your retirement date. (Members eligible for a Deferred Retirement may file more than one year in advance upon termination of employment.)

The *Application for Retirement Allowance* can be submitted online using the Member Benefits Online System (MBOS). This is an easy, secure, and accurate way to apply for retirement.

You can also obtain an *Application for Retirement Allowance*:

- by printing it from the Division of Pensions and Benefits Web site at:
www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions
- by writing to the Division of Pensions and Benefits, PO Box 295, Trenton, NJ 08625-0295;
- by contacting the Office of Client Services at (609) 292-7524; or
- by e-mail request to:
pensions.nj@treas.state.nj.us

Whether you apply for retirement online through MBOS or by written application, be sure to carefully read the instructions and the fact sheets about retirement prior to submission.

All retirements are effective the first of a month. Your application must be received by the Division of Pensions and Benefits before your retirement date. **Under no circumstances can a retirement become effective prior to the date the application is received by the Division of Pensions and Benefits.**

It is your responsibility to file for retirement. Four to six months advance filing is recommended.

Processing times vary and cannot begin until we have received all the necessary information from both you and your employer. **Your employer will be notified that you have filed an application for retirement.**

If you have not furnished proof of your age to the Division of Pensions and Benefits, you must submit a photocopy of your proof of age to the Division.

Proof of age for your beneficiary is required under Options A, B, C, D, 2, 3, and 4. For an explanation of your options at retirement see Fact Sheet #5, *Pension Options*.

Note: Members should allow additional processing time for Option 4 retirements with multiple beneficiaries.

If you retire with an outstanding loan balance, you must decide how you wish to repay your loan. You may:

- pay the loan *in its entirety* prior to receiving any benefits; or
- continue your monthly loan repayment schedule into retirement until the loan balance *plus interest* has been repaid.

TYPES OF RETIREMENT

With the passage of recent legislation the enrollment and retirement criteria has changed for PERS and TPAF members enrolled as of certain dates. These differences in PERS and TPAF membership — referred to as “**membership tiers**” are defined as follows:

- **Membership Tier 1** — Members who were enrolled *prior to* July 1, 2007.
- **Membership Tier 2** — Members who were eligible to enroll *on or after* July 1, 2007 and *prior to* November 2, 2008 — pursuant to the provisions of Chapters 92 and 103, P.L. 2007.
- **Membership Tier 3** — Members eligible to enroll *on or after* November 2, 2008 and *on or before* May 21, 2010 — pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 89, P.L. 2008.
- **Membership Tier 4** — Members eligible to enroll *after* May 21, 2010 and *before* June 28,

2011 — pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 1, P.L. 2010.

- **Membership Tier 5** — Members eligible to enroll *on or after* June 28, 2011— pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 78, P.L. 2011.

Please note: Age requirements and benefit formulas for certain types of retirement vary by membership tier.

There are several types of retirement for which you may qualify.

Service Retirement

Available to **Tier 1** and **Tier 2** members upon reaching age **60** or older; or to **Tier 3** and **Tier 4** members upon reaching age **62** or older; or to **Tier 5** members upon reaching age **65**. No minimum amount of pension service credit is required.

The formula to calculate the maximum annual pension for **Tier 1, Tier 2** and **Tier 3** is:

$$\frac{\text{Years of Service}}{55} \times \text{Final Average Salary} = \text{Maximum Annual Allowance}$$

The formula to calculate the maximum annual pension for **Tier 4** and **Tier 5** is:

$$\frac{\text{Years of Service}}{60} \times \text{Final Average Salary} = \text{Maximum Annual Allowance}$$

For example: A **Tier 1** member with 22 years of service would receive 22/55 or 40% of Final Average Salary. You receive a slightly higher percentage for each additional month of service.

‘**Years of Service**’ means the amount of membership credit you have accumulated in your account.

‘**Salary**’ means the base salary on which your pension contributions are based. It does not include extra pay for overtime or money given in anticipation of your retirement.

‘**Final Average Salary**’ for a PERS or TPAF member enrolled under membership **Tier 1, Tier 2,** or **Tier 3,** is the average salary for the 36 months (30 months for employees with 10 month contracts) immediately preceding your retirement. If your last three years are not your highest years of salary,

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your allowance will be calculated using your three highest fiscal years (July - June) of salary. If this is the case, you must indicate it on your retirement application.

For a PERS or TPAF member enrolled under **Tier 4** or **Tier 5**, Final Average Salary is the average of your salary for the last **60 months** (50 months for employees with 10 month contracts) immediately preceding your retirement. If your last **five** years are not your highest years of salary, your allowance will be calculated using your five highest fiscal years (July - June) of salary.

Note: If your last years of salary are not your highest years, you must indicate it on the retirement application.

Early Retirement

Available to members who have **25 years** or more of pension membership service credit before reaching age **60** for **Tier 1** and **Tier 2** members, or before age **62** for **Tier 3** and **Tier 4** members; or with **30 years** or more of pension membership service credit before age **65** for **Tier 5** members. The benefit is calculated using the Service Retirement formula that applies to the membership tier.

- **For Tier 1 members** who retire before age **55**, your allowance is reduced 1/4 of 1 percent (3 percent per year) *for each month under age 55*.

For example: If you retire at age 54, you will receive 97 percent of your full retirement allowance. If you retire between the ages of 55 and 60, there is no reduction.

- **For Tier 2 members** who retire before age **60**, your allowance is reduced 1/12 of 1 percent (1 percent per year) *for each month under age 60* through age 55, **and** 1/4 of 1 percent (3 percent per year) *for each month under age 55*.

For example: If you retire at age 54, you will receive 92 percent of your full retirement allowance. If you retire at age 57 you will receive 97 percent of your full retirement allowance.

- For **Tier 3** and **Tier 4** members who retire

before age **62**, your allowance is reduced 1/12 of 1 percent (1 percent per year) *for each month under age 62* through age 55, **and** 1/4 of 1 percent (3 percent per year) *for each month under age 55* (*Note: While the age reduction amount for Tier 3 and Tier 4 is the same, the retirement calculation formulas are different. See Service Retirement on page 2*)

For example: If you retire at age 54, you will receive 90 percent of your full retirement allowance. If you retire at age 57 you will receive 95 percent of your full retirement allowance.

- **For Tier 5 members** who retire before age **65**, with at least **30 years of service**, your allowance is reduced 3 percent per year (1/4 of 1 percent per month) *for each year under age 65*.

For example: if you retire at age 60, you will receive 85 percent of your full retirement allowance. If you retire at age 62, you will receive 91 percent of your full retirement allowance.

Veteran Retirement

Available to qualified military veterans. If you are not already listed as a veteran on the Division of Pensions and Benefits' records, you should submit a copy of your *Form DD 214* or discharge papers showing both your induction and discharge dates to:

NJ Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

ATTN: DVP-VBB

PO Box 340

Trenton, NJ 08625-0340

Attach a note to the discharge papers indicating that you want to obtain veteran status for pension purposes and include your address on the note.

For additional information see Fact Sheet #17, *Veteran Status*.

Qualified veterans must be in active employment until the effective date of retirement or must have met the requirements for a Veteran Retirement as of their termination date. The age requirements for calculating a Veteran retirement are the same for mem-

bership **Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 3, Tier 4,** and **Tier 5.** A qualified veteran may retire with:

- 25 years of service credit at age 55 or older; or
- 20 years of service credit at age 60 or older; or
- 35 years of service credit at age 55 or older.
- Veterans meeting the age requirement with between 20 and 34 years of service credit will retire with an annual benefit equal to 54.5 percent of the salary upon which pension contributions were based during the last year of employment or highest 12 consecutive months of base salary.
- Veterans with 35 or more years of service credit at age 55 or older are entitled to an annual allowance based on the following formula:

$$\frac{\text{Years of Service}}{55} \times \frac{\text{Highest 12 Consecutive Months of Salary}}{12} = \text{Maximum Annual Allowance}$$

Veteran members may retire on a Service Retirement if that provides a higher benefit.

Deferred Retirement

Available to members who have at least 10 years of pension membership service credit (but less than 25 years) and who are not yet **60** years of age for **Tier 1** or **Tier 2** members; or **62** years of age for **Tier 3** or **Tier 4** members; or **65** years of age for **Tier 5**, when they terminate employment.

You must file an *Application for Retirement Allowance* **before** the Deferred Retirement can become effective and payments can begin. After filing and upon reaching age 60 (age 62 for Tier 3 and Tier 4 members or age 65 for Tier 5 members), you will begin to receive a retirement allowance based on the Service Retirement formula. If you do not file before you attain age 60 (age 62 for Tier 3 and Tier 4 members, or age 65 for Tier 5 members), your retirement will be effective on the first on the month *after* the Division of Pensions and Benefits receives your properly completed retirement application.

If you return to PERS or TPAF covered employment before your Deferred Retirement becomes effective, you may cancel your retirement and are eligible to maintain your original membership tier status provided you have not withdrawn your membership and it has not been more than two consecutive years since your last pension contribution. If, however, there has been a break in service of more than two consecutive years since your last pension contribution, or if you have withdrawn your account, you will be enrolled in a new PERS or TPAF account under the “membership tier” in effect at the time you return to employment.

Your group life insurance coverage is not in effect between the time you terminate employment and your Deferred Retirement becomes effective. If you die between the time you terminate employment and your retirement becomes effective, the beneficiary on your Deferred Retirement application will receive the return of your pension contributions with interest. If you have terminated employment and not filed for Deferred Retirement, the last named beneficiary on your account will receive the return of your pension contributions with interest. There is no other death benefit under these circumstances. At any time before your Deferred Retirement becomes effective you may change your mind and apply for withdrawal of your contributions instead. Once you cancel your Deferred Retirement and withdraw your contributions, all rights and privileges of pension membership end.

If a member is removed from employment for cause on charges of misconduct or delinquency, the member would be **ineligible** for deferred retirement benefits.

DISABILITY RETIREMENT

Disability retirement benefits are **only** available for **Tier 1, Tier 2** and **Tier 3** members. See Fact Sheet #15, *Disability Retirement*, for additional information.

Tier 4 and **Tier 5** members *may* be eligible for disability insurance coverage. See your employer or contact the Division of Pensions and Benefits, Office of Client Services for more information.

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SURVIVOR BENEFITS

Payment options are available that provide a portion of your pension benefit for a surviving spouse/partner, child, or other beneficiary. Please see Fact Sheet #5, *Pension Options*, for more information.

GROUP LIFE INSURANCE

Group Life Insurance for retired members of the PERS or TPAF who enrolled on or after July 1, 1971, is payable only if the member retired with 10 or more years of pension membership credit or retired on a disability retirement.

RETIRED GROUP LIFE INSURANCE**PERS Insurance Coverage While Retired**

Type of Retirement	Death Before Age 60	Death After Age 60
Disability	1½	3/16
Early & Veteran	3/16	3/16
Deferred Service	None	3/16
	N/A	3/16

TPAF Insurance Coverage While Retired

Type of Retirement	Member with Both Noncontributory and Contributory Insurance			
	Member with Noncontributory Insurance Only	Member with Both Noncontributory and Contributory Insurance	Member with Both Noncontributory and Contributory Insurance	Member with Both Noncontributory and Contributory Insurance
	Death Before Age 60	Death After Age 60	Death Before Age 60	Death After Age 60
Disability	1½	3/16	1¼	7/16
Early & Veteran	3/16	3/16	7/16	7/16
Deferred Service	None	3/16	None	7/16
	N/A	3/16	N/A	7/16

Note: The fractions shown on page 4 apply to the total base salary upon which pension contributions were based during the year preceding retirement (or for TPAF members only the highest contractual year).

Designating a Beneficiary

At retirement, you are asked on your application to name a beneficiary(ies) for pension benefits and separately name beneficiaries for group life insurance benefits. Some restrictions apply to who may be named for pension benefits, however, you may name any person, organization, your estate, or trust as beneficiary for group life insurance benefits. When a retired member dies, the named beneficiaries are entitled to the payment of any group life insurance benefits (certain restrictions apply in cases of divorce, see Fact Sheet #42, *Divorce and Your Retirement Benefits*, for details). Please note that the beneficiary designation indicated on your retirement application will supersede all prior designations, even if your retirement is not yet effective or if you cancel your retirement. The Division of Pensions and Benefits will honor this as your most recent beneficiary designation on file, unless another *Designation of Beneficiary* form is filed **after** the retirement application.

You may change your group life insurance designation at any time during your retirement by filing a properly completed *Designation of Beneficiary* form. The *Designation of Beneficiary* form can be obtained by contacting the Division or on our Web site at: www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions

If you have additional questions regarding designations, please see Fact Sheet #68, *Designating a Beneficiary*.

For your protection, beneficiary designations cannot be accepted or confirmed over the telephone or by e-mail. The Division will only accept a written request from the member.

Note: If, after you file your retirement application, you die prior to your retirement date, any retirement benefits payable to a beneficiary cannot be paid until the retirement date that you designated on your retirement application (Chapter 221, P.L. 1995).

Conversion

For most members, group life insurance is reduced at retirement. You have 31 days after termination of employment to convert the amount of insurance that was reduced to private individual insurance coverage. If you wish to supplement this coverage with

either a conversion policy from the Prudential Life Insurance Company, or a policy from another insurance carrier, it is best to begin exploring your options at least four to six months prior to your retirement. However, **you cannot file to convert your life insurance any earlier than six months prior to your retirement date.**

To estimate the cost of conversion to a private policy with the Prudential Life Insurance Company, contact a Prudential agent or use the conversion calculator on the Division of Pensions and Benefits Web site. For additional information see Fact Sheet #13, *Conversion of Group Life Insurance*.

HEALTH BENEFITS

Your Application for Retirement Allowance does not automatically enroll you in retired health benefits coverage.

Employees who are covered by the State Health Benefits Program (SHBP) or School Employees' Health Benefits Program (SEHBP) through their employer will be offered retired group SHBP or SEHBP coverage when they retire. In addition, some employers have agreed to pay for some or all the cost of SHBP or SEHBP coverage for retirees with 25 or more years of service credit (and in some cases retirees on disability retirements).

If eligible for SHBP or SEHBP retired group coverage, you will receive a letter approximately three months before your retirement date offering you enrollment in the SHBP or SEHBP.

Fact Sheet #11, *Enrolling in Health Benefits Coverage When You Retire*, provides information about continuing your SHBP or SEHBP coverage in retirement.

If you are not covered by the SHBP or the SEHBP, contact your employer about your options for continuing your health benefits coverage.

COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENTS

With the passing of Chapter 78, P.L. 2011, Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA) are suspended for all current and future retirees of all retirement systems. No further COLA increases will be granted. The law does not reduce any COLA increases that have already been added to retiree benefits.

For more information see Fact Sheet #18, *Cost-of-Living Adjustments*, for more information.

CANCELLING OR CHANGING YOUR RETIREMENT DATE

The following are some important points to remember if you consider changing your retirement to a later date or canceling your retirement:

- You may change or cancel your retirement up until 30 days immediately following your retirement date, or 30 days after the approval of your retirement by the Board of Trustees, whichever is later.

Note: You cannot cancel or change the date for a *disability retirement* once it has been approved by the Board of Trustees.

- If you cancel or change your retirement date, it is your responsibility to notify your employer to ensure that any active health benefits are not canceled and your employment remains uninterrupted.
- Canceling or changing your retirement date does not guarantee continued employment with your employer.

EMPLOYMENT AFTER RETIREMENT

Most *private employment* will not affect your retirement benefits.

However, returning to *public employment* in New Jersey after your retirement may jeopardize your retirement benefits.

If you return to employment in a position *covered by the same retirement system* from which you retired, you should expect to cancel your retirement and reenroll in the retirement system.

In addition:

- Retirees who returns to public employment before age 59½ may be subject to 10 percent additional federal tax withholding for an in service distribution under the Internal Revenue Code.
- if you *pre-arrange* with your employer to return to employment in any capacity, **or** it is otherwise determined that your retirement is not "bona fide" **or** the employer/employee relation-

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ship was not completely severed, your retirement may be determined to be invalid and you would be required to reimburse the retirement system for the amount of any retirement benefits you received from the date of retirement.

Before you consider returning to any public employment, see Fact Sheet #21, *Employment After Retirement (PERS)* or Fact Sheet #28, *Employment After Retirement (TPAF)*, for the limitations and procedures for returning to public employment in New Jersey.

This fact sheet has been produced and distributed by:

**New Jersey Division of Pensions and Benefits • PO Box 295 • Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0295
(609) 292-7524 • TDD for the hearing impaired (609) 292-7718**

URL: <http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions> • E-mail: pensions.nj@treas.state.nj.us

This fact sheet is a summary and not intended to provide total information.

Although every attempt at accuracy is made, it cannot be guaranteed.

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Pension Options

Public Employees' Retirement System • Teachers' Pension and Annuity Fund

ESTIMATING YOUR RETIREMENT ALLOWANCE

If you are within two years of retirement, you may obtain an estimate of your retirement benefits online using the **Member Benefits Online System (MBOS)**. Estimates obtained through MBOS provide the most accurate information available by using the service and salary information currently posted to your account. Before you can begin using the system, you must be registered with MBOS. Registration is free. To begin the MBOS registration process go to:

www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/mbosregister.shtml

You may also call the Division of Pensions and Benefits' Automated Information System at (609) 777-1777 to hear an estimate of your retirement benefits over the phone. Please have your Social Security number available when you call.

Or you can obtain a retirement estimate by completing a *Request for Retirement Estimate* form, available from your employer or the Division of Pensions and Benefits.

If you provide us with the birth date of your beneficiary, we will estimate not only the Maximum Option but also the alternate payment options described in this fact sheet. (Telephone estimates are not available for members of the PERS Prosecutors Part, Workers' Compensation Judges, or PERS Law Enforcement Officers-LEOs.)

If you are more than two years from retirement, you may calculate your own retirement allowance using the online retirement estimate calculator on the Division of Pensions and Benefits Web site: www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions or using the worksheet and instructions in Fact Sheet #54, *Calculating Your Own Retirement Allowance*.

PENSION PAYMENT OPTIONS

When planning for retirement, you must be familiar with the pension payment options available to you from the retirement system. You should also consider your financial needs in retirement, your health, your beneficiary's health, the need to provide survivor benefits, life insurance benefits, and income from other sources such as Social Security benefits, investments, etc.

When you apply for retirement, you will have to choose one of nine ways to receive your retirement benefits. Please be sure you understand the different payment options available to you because, **once you have made your choice and your retirement becomes due and payable (usually when your first check is issued), you cannot change your payment option.**

Maximum Option - No Pension Benefit to a Beneficiary

The Maximum Option, also called a single-life annuity, is the highest amount payable and provides a retirement benefit to you for the remainder of your life. If you are not concerned with providing either a lump-sum benefit or providing a monthly income to another person after your death, the Maximum Option may be the most appropriate payment choice for you. The benefit payments continue for your lifetime only. Upon your death, benefits end and your survivors do not receive a pension allowance.

If you die before receiving, through your retirement allowance, the amount that you paid into the retirement system while working (including interest on those contributions), the balance of your contributions will be paid to your beneficiary.

OPTIONS OTHER THAN THE MAXIMUM

Under Options A, B, C, or D you receive a smaller monthly benefit than that provided under the Maximum Option so that, upon your death, your beneficiary will receive a lifetime monthly pension. The percentage of reduction is based on the life expectancies of both you and your beneficiary at the time of your retirement and the option selected. Therefore, the younger your beneficiary, the greater the percentage of reduction in your benefit. Your beneficiary under these options must be an individual. You may not designate a charity, institution, your estate, etc. as a beneficiary.

Option A - 100% to Beneficiary - Increase to Maximum Option

Option A, also called a 100% joint and survivor benefit, provides a lifetime monthly payment to you. If your beneficiary is living at the time of your death, your beneficiary will receive 100% of your monthly retirement

allowance for life. If your beneficiary dies before you, your retirement allowance will increase to the Maximum Option. You can name only one beneficiary for this benefit and your beneficiary can never be changed after retirement.

Option B - 75% to Beneficiary - Increase to Maximum Option

Option B, also called a 75% joint and survivor benefit, provides a lifetime monthly payment to you. If your beneficiary is living at the time of your death, your beneficiary will receive 75% of your monthly retirement allowance for life. If your beneficiary dies before you, your retirement allowance will increase to the Maximum Option. You can name only one beneficiary for this benefit and your beneficiary can never be changed after retirement.

Option C - 50% to Beneficiary - Increase to Maximum Option

Option C, also called a 50% joint and survivor benefit, provides a lifetime monthly payment to you. If your beneficiary is living at the time of your death, your beneficiary will receive half of your monthly retirement allowance for life. If your beneficiary dies before you, your retirement allowance will increase to the Maximum Option. You can name only one beneficiary for this benefit and your beneficiary can never be changed after retirement.

Option D - 25% to Beneficiary - Increase to Maximum Option

Option D, also called a 25% joint and survivor benefit, provides a lifetime monthly payment to you. If your beneficiary is living at the time of your death, your beneficiary will receive 25% of your monthly retirement allowance for life. If your beneficiary dies before you, your retirement allowance will increase to the Maximum Option. You can name only one beneficiary for this benefit and your beneficiary can never be changed after retirement.

Option 1 - Reducing Retirement Reserve to a Beneficiary

Option 1 provides a lifetime monthly payment to you. Your retirement allowance is reduced from what you could collect under the Maximum Option. It is also different from the Maximum Option in that it *may* provide a lump-sum payment to your beneficiary after your death. At the time of your retirement, the amount

expected to be paid to you in retirement benefits over your lifetime is calculated. This is called your retirement reserve. If you die before you receive monthly retirement benefits equal to your retirement reserve, your beneficiary is entitled to the balance. The balance will be paid in a lump sum or the beneficiary may request payment in equal monthly payments over 5, 10, 15, or 20 years or as a life annuity.

You may name more than one beneficiary for this option and you can change your beneficiary at any time. Your beneficiary may be a person, a charity, an institution, or your estate.

For example, if your monthly retirement allowance is \$2,000 and your retirement reserve is \$230,400, your beneficiary would be entitled to the following payment depending on when you died (16 or 120 months after retirement as shown below).

Retirement Reserve	\$ 230,400
Retirement Benefits Paid (death at 16 months)	\$ 32,000
Beneficiary Benefit	\$ 198,400

Retirement Reserve	\$ 230,400
Retirement Benefits Paid (death at 120 months)	\$ 240,000
Beneficiary Benefit	\$ 0

Since the retirement reserve is based on your retirement allowance and your life expectancy, your own reserve may be much different than this example.

Under Options 2, 3, or 4 you receive a smaller monthly benefit than that provided under the Maximum Option so that, upon your death, your beneficiary will receive a lifetime monthly pension. The percentage of reduction is based on the life expectancies of both you and your beneficiary at the time of your retirement and the option selected. Therefore, the younger your beneficiary, the greater the percentage of reduction in your benefit. Your beneficiary under these options must be an individual. You may not designate a charity, institution, your estate, etc. as a beneficiary.

Option 2 - 100% to Beneficiary - Permanent Reduction

Option 2, also called a 100% joint and survivor benefit, provides a lifetime monthly payment to you. If your beneficiary is living at the time of your death, your benefi-

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ciary will receive 100% of your monthly retirement allowance for life. You can name only one beneficiary for this benefit and your beneficiary can never be changed after retirement. This is similar to Option A except that if your beneficiary dies before you, you will continue to receive the reduced retirement allowance you had been receiving under this option.

Option 3 - 50% to Beneficiary - Permanent Reduction

Option 3, also called a 50% joint and survivor benefit, provides a lifetime monthly payment to you. If your beneficiary is living at the time of your death, your beneficiary will receive one-half of your monthly retirement allowance for life. You can name only one beneficiary to receive this benefit and the beneficiary can never be changed after retirement. This is similar to Option C except that if your beneficiary dies before you, you will continue to receive the reduced retirement allowance you had been receiving under this option.

Option 4 - Choice of Amount to Beneficiary - Permanent Reduction

If the preceding payment options do not meet your financial needs, you may want to consider this option. Option 4 provides a lifetime monthly payment to you. If your beneficiary is living at the time of your death, your beneficiary will receive whatever monthly allowance you decide for life. (This can be no more than your own allowance.) You can name one beneficiary or multiple beneficiaries to receive this benefit

and the beneficiary(ies) can never be changed after retirement. If your beneficiary dies before you, you will continue to receive the reduced retirement allowance you had been receiving under this option.

Age Limits on Nonspouse Beneficiaries

For all options, you can name your spouse as your beneficiary regardless of your spouse's age. For Options C, D, 1, or 3, you can name someone other than your spouse as beneficiary regardless of age.

For Options 2, A, or B, if you are naming a beneficiary who is not your spouse, Internal Revenue Service regulations restrict the age of your beneficiary.

Note: Because the Internal Revenue Service is a federal agency, a civil union partner, or domestic partner as defined under New Jersey State law does not qualify as a "spouse" under these circumstances and would be subject to the age limitations described.

For Options 2 and A (100% to beneficiary):

- If you are age 70 or older at retirement, your nonspouse beneficiary can be no more than 10 years younger than you.
- If you are under age 70 at retirement, determine 1.) the number of years difference between your age at retirement and age 70; and 2.) the number of years difference between your age at retirement and the age of your nonspouse beneficiary. Subtract the age 70 difference from the difference in age between yourself and your beneficiary. The resulting age difference can be no more than 10 years (younger than you).

Pension Benefit to Beneficiary Upon Death of Retiree

	None	Lump Sum	100% of Retirement Allowance	75% of Retirement Allowance	50% of Retirement Allowance	25% of Retirement Allowance
Maximum	X					
Option A			X			
Option B				X		
Option C					X	
Option D						X
Option 1		X				
Option 2			X			
Option 3					X	
Option 4 [†]				X	X	X

[†]Under Option 4 you can name any dollar amount less than your allowance to be paid to a beneficiary.

For Option B (75% to beneficiary):

- If you are age 70 or older at retirement, your non-spouse beneficiary can be no more than 19 years younger than you.
- If you are under age 70 at retirement, determine 1.) the number of years difference between your age at retirement and age 70; and 2.) the number of years difference between your age at retirement and the age of your nonspouse beneficiary. Subtract the age 70 difference from the difference in age between yourself and your beneficiary. The resulting age difference can be no more than 19 years (younger than you).

If you name a nonspouse beneficiary under **Option 4**, and the dollar amount of your beneficiary's pension is more than half of your allowance, restrictions on your beneficiary's age apply.

Proof of Age Documentation

If you choose Option 2, 3, 4, A, B, C, or D, proof of age documentation is required for both you and your designated beneficiary. You should submit photocopies of the proof of age documentation at the time you submit your *Application for Retirement Allowance*.

Power-of-Attorney and Option Selection

A person acting on behalf of a member, other than a legal guardian, cannot choose a pension option other than the Maximum Option (and cannot name themselves as a life insurance beneficiary). However, a person with legal **Power-of-Attorney** on behalf of a retiring member can:

- Apply for retirement on behalf of a member;
- Choose any Pension Option; and
- Name themselves as the beneficiary for that Pension Option.

Note: For the Group Life Insurance, the Power-of-Attorney documentation must specifically state that the person acting as Power-of-Attorney has the right to designate or change beneficiaries for group life insurance and, additionally, must specifically grant them the right to name themselves.

IF THE BENEFICIARY DIES BEFORE THE RETIREE

Under Options 2, 3, and 4, if your beneficiary dies before you, your retirement allowance remains at the reduced option level. Under Options A, B, C, and D, if your beneficiary dies before you, your retirement increases to the Maximum Option. Options A through D provide a smaller retirement allowance to you and your beneficiary, when compared to similar Options 2, 3, and 4, to pay for the larger retirement allowance you would collect if your beneficiary dies before you.

Retiree Allowance Upon Death of Beneficiary

	Stays at Reduced Option Allowance	Increases to Maximum Allowance
Maximum	N/A	N/A
Option A		X
Option B		X
Option C		X
Option D		X
Option 1	X	
Option 2	X	
Option 3	X	
Option 4	X	

LIFE INSURANCE AFTER RETIREMENT

Most members of the PERS and TPAF are covered by group life insurance while employed. At retirement, those members receive a reduced life insurance benefit to be paid to their beneficiary upon their death, provided that they have credit for at least 10 years of service in the pension plan.

You may want to leave a pension option benefit to your beneficiary in addition to the life insurance.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If, after reading this fact sheet, you have questions about your pension options, contact the Division of Pensions and Benefits Office of Client Services at (609) 292-7524, or send e-mail to: pensions.nj@treas.state.nj.us

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 Although every attempt at accuracy is made, it cannot be guaranteed.

Conversion of Group Life Insurance

All Funds

If you are covered by group life insurance while employed, the coverage ends 31 days after you cease employment (whether for reason of retirement, termination of employment, or leave of absence without pay).

You have the option to convert your group life insurance coverage to an individual policy with the Prudential Insurance Company when you retire, terminate employment, or lose coverage while on a leave of absence without pay. **This conversion to a Prudential policy is guaranteed (you cannot be denied coverage for health or other reasons), but it may be more expensive or less suitable to your needs than other policies for which you may qualify from Prudential or other insurance carriers.** You can estimate the cost of converting your policy by using the Group Life Insurance Conversion Calculator on the Division of Pensions and Benefits Web site at: www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/conversion-calc.shtml

You should contact other insurance carriers and compare the available policies and costs before you decide to purchase the conversion policy. (Other carriers may accept or reject your application based on their evaluation of the status of your health and other factors.) **If you wish to purchase a conversion policy, you have a one time option to do so prior to the 31st day after you cease employment. After that date, you will not be eligible to purchase a conversion policy.**

You may convert your life insurance to any individual, non-group policy customarily offered by Prudential. However, you cannot convert to term insurance or a policy containing disability benefits. Under a guaranteed conversion, you pay premiums at Prudential's "standard" rates for the type of policy to which you would be converting. The individual policy will be effective at the end of the 31 day conversion grace period. If you do not convert to an individual policy by the end of the 31 day period, your coverage will end.

To initiate the purchase of a conversion policy, you must contact the Prudential Insurance Company (not the Division of Pensions and Benefits) at 1-877-889-2070 or 1-800-262-1112, or through any of Prudential's local offices. You will need your group insurance policy number, as follows:

- G-14800 - This is the policy number for the basic (noncontributory) group life insurance for the following retirement systems: ABP¹, PERS², TPAF³, JRS⁴, PFRS⁵, SPRS⁶, DCRP⁷
- G-13900 - This is the policy number for the contributory group life insurance for PERS
- G-14300 - This is the policy number for the contributory group life insurance for TPAF

The conversion policy can be for any amount of insurance up to the amount that you had while employed. (In the case of a retirement the maximum amount that you can purchase will be reduced by the amount of any life insurance that you will automatically receive in retirement under your retirement plan. See example under Retirement.) *To protect your conversion privilege it is suggested that you send your application for conversion to Prudential with at least one month's premium, at the time you file your retirement application with the Division of Pensions and Benefits (however, you cannot file to convert your life insurance any earlier than six months prior to your retirement date).*

The following provides detailed information about conversion policies for the specific situations of retirement, i.e., deferred retirement, disability retirement, and termination of employment, or leave of absence.

RETIREMENT

If you retire with 10 or more years of service credit in the retirement system, the amount of your group life insurance will be substantially reduced when you retire. The amount of your coverage will be listed in the *Quotation of Retirement Benefits* that you will receive prior to your retirement. It will be identified as the "Lump Sum Death Benefit." You will automatically be covered by this insurance and do not need to do anything to qualify.

¹ABP — Alternate Benefit Program

²PERS — Public Employees' Retirement System

³TPAF — Teachers' Pension and Annuity Fund

⁴JRS — Judicial Retirement System

⁵PFRS — Police and Firemen's Retirement System

⁶SPRS — State Police Retirement System

⁷DCRP — Defined Contribution Retirement Program

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If you retire with less than 10 years of service credit in the retirement system, you will not receive any group life insurance coverage (for the exception, see "Disability Retirement" below).

The reduction (or elimination) of your life insurance coverage will be effective 31 days after your date of termination. If you wish to supplement this coverage with either a conversion policy from Prudential or another type of policy from Prudential or another insurance carrier, it is best to begin exploring your options four to six months prior to your retirement.

EXAMPLE: If you had group life insurance of \$96,000 through the retirement system while employed, and that life insurance coverage drops to \$6,000 at retirement, you can purchase up to \$90,000 in life insurance coverage under an individual non-group policy by contacting a Prudential agent before 31 days following your termination of employment.

Deferred Retirement*

Your life insurance coverage will end 31 days after termination of employment. Any life insurance coverage to which you are entitled upon retirement will not take effect until you reach the normal retirement age for your retirement system and begin to receive retirement benefits (age 60 for Tier 1 and Tier 2 or age 62 for Tier 3 or Tier 4 of the PERS or TPAF; age 60 for JRS; age 55 for PFRS or SPRS).

You have a one-time option to purchase a conversion policy prior to **the 31st day after termination of employment** (*not at the time that you reach normal retirement age*). The maximum amount of coverage you may purchase will be the difference between the amount of coverage you had while employed and the amount of coverage you will automatically receive when you begin to receive retirement benefits.

Disability Retirement*

If you are approved for a disability retirement you will be automatically covered by life insurance until you reach age 60 for PERS, TPAF, and JRS, or age 55 for PFRS and SPRS. The amount of this coverage will be equal to the amount of the noncontributory insurance coverage you had while employed.

**Does not apply to the ABP or the DCRP.*

You will have the option to purchase a conversion policy up until the day you reach normal retirement age for your retirement system. The maximum amount of coverage you may purchase will be the difference between the amount of noncontributory coverage you had while employed and the amount of coverage you will automatically receive when you reach the normal retirement age.

If you also had contributory life insurance while employed, you may convert the amount of your contributory insurance until 31 days after termination of employment. Whether or not you exercise this option, you will still have the option to convert the noncontributory portion of your life insurance up until the day that you reach normal retirement age.

TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT OR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

If you terminate employment without applying for retirement or your insured period during a leave of absence expires, you will continue to be covered for the next 31 days. Up until the end of that 31 day period, you may convert your group life insurance, without medical examination, to any individual policy customarily offered by Prudential except term insurance or a policy containing disability benefits.

EXAMPLE: If you had group life insurance of \$96,000 through the retirement system while employed, that life insurance coverage is eliminated when you terminate employment. You can purchase up to \$96,000 in life insurance coverage under an individual non-group policy by contacting a Prudential agent before 31 days following your termination of employment.

RETURN TO PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

If you return to public employment after purchasing a conversion policy, you must discontinue your individual conversion policy. Otherwise, you are required to submit satisfactory proof of insurability before you can be covered again in full under a group life insurance policy.

The Division of Pensions and Benefits cannot provide premium rates for converted life insurance policies. Please contact a Prudential agent for this information.

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Your Retirement Checklist

All Funds

When planning for retirement, it is important to give yourself enough time to review your benefits and options. The time frames in this checklist are a guide, however, actual processing times vary and cannot begin until the Division of Pensions and Benefits receives all the necessary information and forms from both you and your employer.

6-8 MONTHS BEFORE RETIREMENT

- ✓ **Obtain a Retirement Estimate** — Members within 2 years of retirement can obtain an estimate of retirement benefits using the **Member Benefits Online System (MBOS)**. MBOS is a set of Internet based applications that allow registered members access to information about their pension. Register with MBOS at: www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions (select "Online Member Services - MBOS").

To hear an estimate of retirement benefits over the phone, call the Division of Pensions and Benefits' Automated Information System at (609) 777-1777.

You may also submit a *Request for Retirement Estimate* form which is available on the Division's Web site (select "Forms and Publications"), or by calling (609) 292-7524. The form must be forwarded to the Division for manual processing. Please allow 4-6 weeks for processing and mailing.

If you provide us with the name and birth date of your beneficiary, we can estimate the payment options for your beneficiary.

4-6 MONTHS BEFORE RETIREMENT

- ✓ **Apply for retirement** — You cannot submit an application more than one year prior to your retirement date (members eligible for a Deferred Retirement may file more than one year in advance upon termination of employment).

Registered MBOS users can apply for retirement online. This is an easy and secure way to apply for retirement.

If you do not have Internet access you can obtain an *Application for Retirement Allowance* from your benefits administrator or the Division of Pensions and Benefits.

Whether you apply for retirement online through MBOS or by written application, be sure to carefully read the instructions and the available fact sheets about retirement prior to submission. (see page 4).

- ✓ **All members must provide proof of age** prior to retirement. Acceptable proofs of age include a photocopy of any of the following: birth certificate, baptismal certificate, passport, naturalization or immigration papers, or other records including military records, census records, school or business records, age recorded on marriage licenses and insurance, or children's birth records. Registered users can verify if proof of age is on file using MBOS.

If your proof of age is not already on file with the Division of Pensions and Benefits, you should attach a photocopy of your birth certificate, or other proof of age document, to your retirement application. (MBOS applicants should mail proof of age to the Retirement Bureau, Division of Pensions and Benefits, PO Box 295, Trenton, NJ 08625-0295.) Please also include your name, pension membership number, retirement date, and daytime telephone number on the photocopy.

- ✓ **For Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) and Teachers' Pension and Annuity Fund (TPAF) only** — If you are choosing Options A, B, C, D, 2, 3, or 4, you must also submit proof of your beneficiary's birth date (see above for acceptable forms of proof). Please include your (the retiree's) name, pension membership number, retirement date, daytime telephone number, on the photocopy of your beneficiary's proof of age and attach it to your retirement application or mail it to the Division's Retirement Bureau (see paragraph above for

address). **Your retirement application will not be processed until the Division receives the required copies of birth date evidence.**

- ✓ **PERS and TPAF only** — If applying for a **Veteran Retirement**, you must qualify as a veteran for pension purposes. Registered users can verify if veteran status is on file using MBOS. If you are not already listed as a veteran on the Division of Pensions and Benefits' records, you must send a photocopy of your military discharge (*Form DD 214*) to the NJ Department of Military and Veteran Affairs (NJDMAVA), at the following address:

**NJ Department of Military and
Veteran Affairs
ATTN: DVP-VBB
PO Box 340
Trenton, NJ 08625-0340**

Since the NJDMAVA also makes determinations of veteran's preference for Civil Service and property tax appeals, a note should be attached to say that the discharge is being sent for pension purposes. For more information see Fact Sheet #17, *Veteran Status*.

- ✓ **If you have applied for a purchase of additional service credit** in the past six months, and are not submitting an online retirement application through MBOS, please write "Purchase Pending" across the top of your *Application for Retirement Allowance* prior to sending it to the Division.
- ✓ **The amount of your group life insurance coverage** through the retirement system decreases at retirement or terminates if you have less than 10 years of service credit. You may convert the dollar difference between the coverage you had before retirement and the coverage you will have after retirement to a non-group life insurance policy by applying to a Prudential Insurance Company agent **within 31 days of your termination of employment**. No physical examination is required to prove insurability. The cost of the coverage will be at the standard rate for someone your age. For further information about conversion, you can contact Prudential at 1-877-889-2070 or at 1-800-262-1112. You should contact other

insurance carriers and compare the available policies and costs before you decide to purchase the conversion policy.

- ✓ **Ask your employer** to submit a *Certification of Service and Final Salary* to the Division of Pensions and Benefits.
- Please note: Your employer will be notified that you have filed an application for retirement.**
- ✓ **Contact the NJ State Employees Deferred Compensation Plan** office at 1-866-NJSEDCP, or the **Supplemental Annuity Collective Trust (SACT)** office at (609) 633-2031, or the **Defined Contribution Retirement Program (DCRP)** at 1-866-653-2771, if you participate in these plans.
 - ✓ **You will receive a letter** from the Division of Pensions and Benefits acknowledging receipt of your retirement application. Included with the letter are answers to some frequently asked retirement questions.

APPROXIMATELY 3 MONTHS BEFORE RETIREMENT

You will receive a letter offering you enrollment in the State Health Benefits Program (SHBP) or the School Employees' Health Benefits Program (SEHBP) if you are:

- ✓ A member already covered by the SHBP or SEHBP through their employer. (If you are not eligible for State-paid or employer-paid coverage, you may continue the coverage into retirement by paying the appropriate premium.);
- ✓ A member employed by a board of education or a county college who retiring with 25 or more years of service credit in one or more State- or locally-administered retirement system or who retire on a disability retirement, even if their employer did not participate in the SEHBP. This includes members who elected Deferred Retirement with 25 or more years of service credit in one or more State- or locally-administered retirement system. Eligibility is limited to full-time employees as defined by N.J.A.C. 17:9-4. The State pays for the health benefit cost if you qualify under this category (See "Chapter 78, P.L. 2011" on page 3);

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- ✓ Members eligible for Medicare who retired from full-time employment at a board of education, vocational/technical school, or special services commission that does not participate in the SEHBP, provided you are participating in the health benefit plan of your employer **and** are enrolled in Medicare Part A and Part B. You will be required to pay the full cost of the coverage;
- ✓ Part-time State employees and part-time faculty at institutions of higher education that participate in the SHBP or SEHBP if enrolled in the SHBP or SEHBP at the time of retirement. You will be required to pay the full cost of the coverage;
- ✓ A PERS or Alternate Benefit Program (ABP) member retiring from a school board of education or county college with 25 or more years of service credit in the pension fund or retiring on a disability retirement;
- ✓ A police officer, firefighter, or PERS Law Enforcement Officer (LEO) retiring with 25 years or more of service credit in the retirement system or retiring on a disability retirement, **and** whose employer does not provide any payment towards the retiree's health coverage or reimbursement of Medicare Part B premiums, may be eligible for retired group SHBP or SEHBP coverage under the provisions of Chapter 330, P.L. 1997 (see Fact Sheet #47, *Health Benefits Retired Coverage under Chapter 330*).

Note: Enrollment for coverage as a retiree in the SHBP or SEHBP is not automatic. **You must submit a health benefits *Retired Coverage Enrollment Application* to enroll.**

- ✓ If you are age 65 or older, contact the local Social Security Administration office for full Medicare enrollment. You must be covered by both Part A and Part B of Medicare to be eligible to enroll in the SHBP or SEHBP in retirement. Most Medicare eligible retirees, in the SHBP or SEHBP, and/or their Medicare eligible dependents, need not enroll in Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage. While some SHBP or SEHBP members who qualify for low income subsidy programs may find it beneficial to enroll in Medicare Part D, once you and/or a

dependent enroll in a Medicare Part D plan, the person enrolled in Medicare Part D will lose their SHBP or SEHBP prescription drug coverage. In addition, the SHBP and SEHBP will not cover the costs of any drugs that are not covered by the Medicare Part D plan.

- ✓ You may need to obtain a written statement from your employer certifying that you have been covered under an employer group health plan. The statement should indicate when and why coverage as an active employee will end.
- ✓ If you will not be eligible for post-retirement medical coverage through the SHBP or SEHBP, be sure to discuss any coverage options that are available to you with your employer.

APPROXIMATELY 2 MONTHS BEFORE RETIREMENT

- ✓ **You will receive a *Quotation of Retirement Benefits* letter** which shows your monthly retirement allowance with:
 - the option you selected; (for PERS and TPAF)
 - a quote of any outstanding loan balance with repayment options; and
 - a quote of any outstanding arrears (purchase) balance and/or shortages.
- ✓ **If you will be retiring with an outstanding loan balance**, you must decide how you wish to repay your loan. You may:
 - pay the loan **in its entirety** prior to receiving any benefits; or
 - continue your monthly loan repayment schedule into retirement until the loan balance **plus interest** has been repaid.
- ✓ **Any outstanding arrears or shortages must be paid** before your retirement check can be issued. Failure to respond to these issues will delay your retirement benefits.

APPROXIMATELY 1 MONTH BEFORE RETIREMENT

- ✓ **Your retirement will be presented to the retirement system's Board of Trustees for approval.** You will receive a board approval letter

and will have 30 days from the board approval date or 30 days from your effective retirement date (whichever is later) to change your retirement date and or your option selection. If you make any changes after board approval, your new selection must again be approved by the Board of Trustees. This may delay your first check.

- ✓ **You may choose to cancel your retirement** within 30 days of your retirement date or 30 days of your board approval date (whichever is later). This request must be in writing to the Division of Pensions and Benefits. If you cancel or change your retirement date and submit a new application with a later retirement date, it is your responsibility to notify the employer to ensure your active health benefits (if any) are not canceled and that your employment remains uninterrupted. Canceling your retirement does not guarantee continued employment with your employer.
- ✓ If you are not eligible for health benefit coverage after retirement, you should discuss with your employer the possibility of continuing medical, prescription drug, dental, or vision coverage under the provisions of COBRA.

SHORTLY AFTER YOUR RETIREMENT DATE

- ✓ **You will receive a letter** confirming your retirement and death benefits called the *Statement of Retirement Allowance*. The letter will also supply figures needed in filing your income tax return. Keep this with your important papers.
- ✓ **Your first retirement check** cannot be issued earlier than 30 days following your retirement date. If processing of your retirement is delayed, your first check will be retroactive to the date of your retirement. Regular retirement checks are dated on the first of the month to cover the allowance for the previous month. For example, if you retire on July 1, your first retirement check would be due and payable on August 1 and is payment for the month of July.
- ✓ **Your retirement is not considered “bona fide”** until your retirement becomes “due and payable” and the employer/employee relationship is

completely severed. This normally occurs after — but is not limited to — a break in employment without pay of at least 30 days following your retirement date, or 30 days following the approval of your retirement by the retirement system’s Board of Trustees, whichever is later.

- ✓ **If you return to a position covered by the retirement system before the 30 days have elapsed** — on either a paid or voluntary basis — **or if you *pre-arrange*** with your employer to return to employment in any capacity, **or** if it is otherwise determined that your retirement is not “bona fide,” the employer/employee relationship is not completely severed and your retirement may be determined to be invalid. In this case you will remain an active employee and reenrolled in the retirement system. You will also be required to reimburse the retirement system for the amount of any retirement benefits you received from the date of retirement.
- ✓ **You will receive forms for withholding federal and New Jersey State income tax.** If you are a registered MBOS user you can make changes to your tax withholding online.
- ✓ **If you did not submit the *Authorization for Direct Deposit*** form when you applied for retirement, the form will be sent to you by mail. Direct deposit of your benefit payment to your bank account is **mandatory** (except for foreign mailing addresses).

You may also sign up for direct deposit, or make changes to an existing direct deposit, anytime after retirement using the Direct Deposit/Electronic Funds Transfer application available on MBOS. Please allow approximately 60 days for a new direct deposit or changes to begin.

FACT SHEETS ABOUT RETIREMENT

Listed below are fact sheets pertaining to retirement and related issues. These fact sheets are available on our Web site at: www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions (select “Forms and Publications”). You can also obtain fact sheets from the Division’s Office of Client Services at (609) 292-7524.

Purchasing Service Credit

#1, Purchasing Service Credit (PERS, TPAF &

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PFRS)

#2, Estimating the Cost of Purchasing Service Credit (PERS & TPAF)

#3, Estimating the Cost of Purchasing Service Credit (PFRS)

Retirement Planning

#4, Applying for Retirement (PERS & TPAF)

#5, Pension Options (PERS & TPAF)

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Taxation of Retirement Benefits

All Funds

HOW ARE MY PENSION BENEFITS TAXED FOR FEDERAL PURPOSES?

Pension benefits (except for Accidental Disability retirement and Accidental Death benefits) are subject to federal income tax; however, if you paid tax on any of your contributions to the pension plan, that portion of your monthly benefits representing a return of your previously-taxed contributions is not taxable.

Contributions made to the pension plan prior to January 1, 1987 were already taxed as were any purchases of optional pension membership credit made before 2002. After January 1, 2002 some purchases may have been made with previously-taxed money. Therefore, if you began contributing to the pension plan prior to January 1, 1987, or if you purchased pension membership since then, all or a portion of your total contributions may have been previously subject to federal tax.

The rate at which you can recover your previously-taxed contributions is determined in part by your retirement date.

If you retired before August 1, 1986 — you were able to fully recover your contributions before having to pay tax on your benefits. Once you recovered your contributions, your benefits became fully taxable. *The exception is if you did not fully recover your contributions within the first three years of retirement. In that case, you had to recover your contributions under the IRS expected return rule explained below.*

If you retired on or after August 1, 1986 — you must recover your contributions under the expected return rule. Under this rule, you recover your contributions evenly over your expected lifetime or the combined lifetime of you and your pension beneficiary. This means that only a small portion of each monthly benefit is considered a return of your previously-taxed contributions and is tax-free.

CALCULATING THE NON-TAXABLE AMOUNT

If you retired after July 1, 1986 and before November 1, 1996 — your monthly nontaxable amount is determined using life expectancy tables found in *IRS Publication 939*.

If you retired on or after November 1, 1996 — the following tables are used to determine your monthly nontaxable amount:

TABLE A

Benefits Payable To Retiree Only*

Age of Retiree (at retirement)	Number of Payments
55 or less	360
56-60	310
61-65	260
66-70	210
71 or more	160

**For those retired on or after November 1, 1996 and before December 1, 1997, Table A is used even if benefits are payable to the retiree and the retiree's survivor.*

TABLE B

Benefits Payable To Retiree and Beneficiary

Combined Age of Retiree (at retirement) & Beneficiary	Number of Payments
110 or less	410
111-120	360
121-130	310
131-140	260
141 or more	210

The following examples illustrate how the monthly nontaxable amount is computed using Tables A and B:

Example 1 — A PERS member whose previously-taxed contributions equaled \$12,000 retires at age 62 and chooses to receive the maximum allowance

(designating no monthly pension to a surviving beneficiary). **Table A** is used because benefits are payable to the retiree **only**. The \$12,000 is divided by 260 which produces a monthly tax-free amount of \$46.15. The balance of the monthly pension is subject to federal income tax.

Example 2 — A TPAF member whose previously-taxed contributions equaled \$15,000 retires at age 60 and chooses to receive benefits under Option 2 (designating the same monthly pension to the surviving beneficiary). **Table B** is used because benefits are payable to the retiree **and** the retiree's beneficiary. The designated beneficiary is the same age as the retiree. The \$15,000 is divided by 360 which produces a monthly tax-free amount of \$41.67. The balance of the monthly pension is subject to federal income tax.

HOW LONG WILL THE NON-TAXABLE PORTION CONTINUE?

For those who retired after December 31, 1986 the monthly nontaxable amount remains in effect until all of your previously-taxed contributions are fully recovered. At that point your benefits become fully taxable.

For those who retired before December 31, 1986 the monthly nontaxable amount is effective for as long as you or your survivor receive benefits.

If benefits cease before your previously-taxed contributions are fully recovered, the remaining balance can be claimed as a deduction on the income tax return of the last recipient, provided you retired on or after July 1, 1986. If you retired before July 1, 1986, no deduction is allowed for unrecovered contributions.

WITHHOLDING FEDERAL INCOME TAX FROM YOUR PENSION CHECK

Each new retiree will automatically receive a federal withholding tax *Form W-4P* near the date of retirement. The Division of Pensions and Benefits is required by federal law to **automatically withhold federal income tax** from your pension check, based on a status of married with three allowances if you do not complete a *W-4P*. The *W-4P* allows you to elect no withholding or, if you want withholding, to inform us of your tax filing status so that we can withhold the proper amount.

WITHHOLDING NJ STATE INCOME TAX FROM YOUR PENSION CHECK

If you live in New Jersey you will automatically receive a New Jersey State withholding tax *Form NJ W-4P* near the date of retirement. Most retirees will not be subject to New Jersey income tax until they recover in pension checks the amount of the contributions which they made to the pension plan while working. If you will not recover your total contributions within three years of retirement, refer to the instructions for the *Form NJ-1040* to determine how your pension is taxed. You can find information on both the three year rule and the general rule methods in the instructions for the *Form NJ-1040*.

If you are at least 62 or considered disabled by Social Security, you may exclude the following amounts of retirement income from New Jersey income tax for the tax year indicated below:

Retirement Income Exclusions

<u>Tax Year</u>	<u>Married Filing Jointly</u>	<u>Single</u>	<u>Married Filing Separately</u>
2000	\$12,500	\$9,375	\$6,250
2001	\$15,000	\$11,250	\$7,500
2002	\$17,500	\$13,125	\$8,750
2003 and beyond	\$20,000	\$15,000	\$10,000

Note: Beginning with tax year 2005, the "Retirement Income Exclusions" listed above are limited to taxpayers with gross income of \$100,000 or less. Please see the instructions for the *Form NJ-1040* or contact the New Jersey Division of Taxation or a professional tax advisor for further information.

Unlike federal income tax, **withholding for New Jersey income tax is completely voluntary**. No New Jersey income tax will be withheld unless you authorize it by completing a *Form NJ W-4P*. The amount withheld must be at least \$10.00 per month and in even dollar amounts (no cents). If you need help deciding whether or not to have New Jersey income tax withheld or how much tax to have withheld, you can contact the New Jersey Division of Taxation at 1-800-323-4400.

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If you live outside New Jersey, you are not required to pay New Jersey income tax on the pension you receive from the retirement system. The Division of Pensions and Benefits does not withhold income tax for other states. Check with your home state's tax office to determine if your pension is taxable in your state of residence.

CHANGING YOUR WITHHOLDING AMOUNT

Retirees can now quickly and easily change their tax withholdings online using the Member Benefits Online System (MBOS). Find out more about MBOS at: www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions

To change your withholding you must submit a new *Form W-4P* or *NJ W-4P* to the Division of Pensions and Benefits. Forms can also be found on the Internet at: www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions. If you do not have Internet access, you can contact the Division of Pensions and Benefits at (609) 292-7524 to obtain the form.

QUESTIONS COMMONLY ASKED AFTER RETIREMENT

Will I receive a statement of pension income for tax purposes?

Yes. retirees receive *Form 1099-R* at the end of January each year, covering the previous tax year. This shows the gross retirement allowance; how much is subject to federal income tax; and the amounts, if any, that were withheld for federal and New Jersey income tax.

Am I taxed on the reimbursement of Medicare premiums?

No. Some State employees and all employees of boards of education or county colleges who retired

with 25 or more years of service, or on a disability retirement, who are enrolled in the State Health Benefits Program are reimbursed in their pension checks for the Medicare Part B premiums they pay to Social Security. If you receive this Medicare reimbursement, the gross amount of your pension checks will be greater than the gross amount shown on your *Form 1099-R* because the Medicare reimbursement is not taxable. The Medicare premium reimbursement is subtracted from your total gross income to determine the gross pension reported to the IRS.

Why doesn't my gross allowance equal 12 times the amount of my December 1 check?

When you receive a cost-of-living increase, your pension is changed each year with the February 1 check. Therefore, the gross allowance for your January 1 check is usually less than your next 11 checks.

Is my disability pension taxable?

If you are receiving a disability pension, your benefits are not subject to New Jersey income tax until you reach age 65.

If you are receiving an *Accidental* Disability pension, — or if you are a survivor receiving *Accidental Disability* or *Accidental Death* benefits — the Division of Pensions and Benefits reports your benefit as exempt from federal income tax.

Ordinary Disability pensions are subject to federal tax to the same extent as other pensions.

Any additional questions should be referred to the IRS at the number listed below.

**THE DIVISION OF PENSIONS AND BENEFITS CANNOT GIVE TAX ADVICE.
CONSULT THE IRS (1-800-TAX-1040), OR THE NJ DIVISION OF TAXATION (1-800-323-4400 in NJ),
OR YOUR TAX ADVISOR FOR ASSISTANCE.**

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Cost-of-Living Adjustments

Public Employees' Retirement System • Teachers' Pension and Annuity Fund
 Police and Firemen's Retirement System • State Police Retirement System • Judicial Retirement System
 Consolidated Police and Firemen's Pension Fund • Prison Officers' Pension Fund

On June 28, 2011, Governor Christie signed Chapter 78, P.L. 2011, the Pension and Health Benefit Reform Law. This law provides for changes to the manner in which the State-administered retirement systems operate and to the benefit provisions of those systems.

Under a provision of Chapter 78, P.L. 2011, future Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA) are suspended for retirees and benefit recipients of all retirement systems. Please be assured, there is no reduction to any COLA increases that were already added to retiree benefits prior to the effective date of the law.

Chapter 78 also provides for the establishment of Pension Committees for the retirement systems that are open to new members, which may consider reinstating the COLA when the retirement system reaches a "target funded ratio" established by the law. At that time, the Pension Committees are to give the reactivation of the COLA priority consideration.

"Target funded ratio" means a ratio of the value of assets against the accrued liabilities of 75% and increasing annually by equal increments over seven fiscal years to a ratio of 80%.

Prior to the enactment of Chapter 78, P.L. 2011, the Pension Adjustment Program provided a cost-of-living adjustment (or COLA) to retirees and their eligible survivors if receiving a monthly retirement allowance from one of the state-administered retirement systems. The first COLA was paid in the 25th month after the date of retirement. Subsequent cost-of-living adjustments were computed annually and the adjustment was reflected in the February 1st check (which is payment for the month of January). If

a beneficiary was entitled to receive a monthly pension upon a retiree's death, the COLA was applied to that benefit based upon the year of retirement.

To calculate the COLA, the Division of Pensions and Benefits used the CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W), U.S. City Average, All Items, 1982-84=100. The rate of increase was equal to 60 percent of the percentage of change between the average CPI for the calendar year in which the member retired and the average CPI for the 12 month period ending August 31st immediately preceding the year when the adjustment was payable.

For COLA recipients who retired in 2007 and earlier the 2011 COLA calculation was offset by an amount equal to the reduction that should have occurred in 2010. For additional information about the "offset calculation," see the Divisions' Web site at: www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/cola-2011.shtml

Example: To calculate the COLA due February 1, 2011 for members who retired in 2007 or earlier:

A member retired in 2000 with a monthly retirement allowance of \$1,278.35*. The average CPI for the twelve months ending December 31, 2000 was 168.9. The average CPI for the twelve months ending August 31, 2010 was 212.94.

- To calculate the change in the CPI, subtract 168.9 from 212.94.

$$212.94 - 168.9 = 44.04$$

- To calculate the percentage change in the CPI between the retirement year 2000 and the 12 months ending August 31, 2010, divide 44.04 by 168.9. The result equals 26.075%.

$$44.04 \div 168.9 = 26.075\%$$

*If the member chose Option 1, the COLA would be calculated on the Maximum Option.

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- The cost-of-living adjustment rate for February 1, 2011 equals 60% of 26.075%, or 15.645%.
 $60\% \times 26.075\% = 15.645\%$
- To calculate the percentage change in the CPI decrease, divide -0.42** by 168.9. The result equals -0.249%.
 $-0.42 \div 168.9\% = -0.249\%$
- The cost of living adjustment offset for February 1, 2011 equals 60% of -0.249%, or -0.149%.
 $60\% \times -0.249\% = -0.149\%$
- The cost of living adjustment offset for this member equals -0.149% of \$1,278.35, or -\$1.90.
 $\$1,278.35 \times -0.149\% = -\1.90
- Therefore, the cost of living adjustment for this member equals 15.645% of \$1,278.35 less the 2010 COLA offset:
 $\$1,278.35 \times 15.645\% =$
 $\$200.00 - \$1.90 = 198.10$
- Total monthly benefit equals \$1,476.45.
 $\$1,278.35 + \$198.10 = \$1,476.45$
- To calculate the percentage change in the CPI between the retirement year 2009 and the 12 months ending August 31, 2010, divide 3.31 by 209.63. The result equals 1.579%.
 $3.31 \div 209.63 = 1.579\%$
- The cost-of-living adjustment rate for February 1, 2011 equals 60% of 1.579%, or 0.947%.
 $60\% \times 1.579\% = 0.947\%$
- Therefore, the cost-of-living adjustment for this member equals 0.947% of \$2,500.00, or \$23.68.
 $\$2,500.00 \times 0.947\% = \23.68
- The total monthly benefit equals \$2,523.68
 $\$2,500.00 + \$23.68 = \$2,523.68$

The cost-of-living adjustment amount can be found under the "Current Earnings" section on your retirement benefit check stub. **You can view your COLA amount at any time through the Member Benefits Online System (MBOS).** Registration information for MBOS is available on the Division of Pensions and Benefits Web site: www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions After you complete the MBOS registration process, simply log on to MBOS and select the "Retired Account Information" button on the MBOS home page.

You can also verify your current allowance and deduction information at any time by calling our Automated Information System, (609) 777-1777. When calling, you will be asked to enter your Social Security number.

For COLA recipients who retired in 2008 and 2009 there was no offset since no COLA was paid to these retirees in 2010.

Example: To calculate the COLA due February 1, 2011 for members who retired in 2008 or 2009:

A member retired in 2009 with a monthly retirement allowance of \$2,500.00*. The average CPI for the twelve months ending December 31, 2009 was 209.63. The average CPI for the twelve months ending August 31, 2010 was 212.94.

- To calculate the change in the CPI, subtract 209.63 from 212.94.
 $212.94 - 209.63 = 3.31$

* If the member chose Option 1, the COLA would be calculated on the Maximum Option.

** The decrease in the average CPI for the 12 month period ending August 31, 2008 (COLA payable in calendar year 2009) from the average CPI for the 12 month period ending August 31, 2009 (COLA payable in calendar year 2010) equals -0.42.

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**PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM AND TEACHERS' PENSION AND ANNUITY FUND
NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF PENSIONS AND BENEFITS**

APPLICATION FOR RETIREMENT ALLOWANCE

**PLEASE READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS AND FACT SHEETS #4 AND #5
CAREFULLY BEFORE COMPLETING THIS APPLICATION.
PLEASE DETACH THE APPLICATION FROM THE BOOKLET BEFORE MAILING.**

When to File — All retirements are effective on the first of the month. File this application with the Division of Pensions and Benefits before your retirement date or you will lose benefits. Four to six months advance filing is recommended. You must terminate employment before your retirement date. Mail your completed application to the New Jersey Division of Pensions and Benefits, PO Box 295, Trenton, NJ 08625-0295.

INSTRUCTIONS

PLEASE PRINT — BLACK INK PREFERRED — OR TYPE

PART ONE:

ITEM 1: PENSION FUND – Indicate the pension fund of which you are a member, the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS), or the Teachers' Pension and Annuity Fund (TPAF).

ITEM 2: MEMBERSHIP NUMBER – Enter your pension fund membership number. If you are not sure of your number, it is shown on your annual statement, or else contact your personnel or payroll office.

ITEM 3: SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER – Enter your Social Security number.

ITEM 4: DATE OF BIRTH – Insert the month, day, and year of your birth. You should submit a photocopy of your birth or baptismal certificate to the Division of Pensions and Benefits. *(Do not delay filing the application if this document is not readily available).*

ITEM 5: NAME – Enter your full name.

ITEM 6: ADDRESS – Enter your present mailing address. Report any change of address before you begin receiving a pension to the Retirement Bureau at the address shown above. Provide your Social Security number and retirement date in the letter. Or, you may change your address over the Internet by using our online change of address form for pending retirees at: www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions

ITEM 7 AND 8: TELEPHONE NUMBERS – Enter your home and work telephone numbers. Include your area code.

ITEM 9: HOME E-MAIL ADDRESS – Enter your home e-mail address, if you have one.

PART TWO:

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF RETIREMENT – You must agree to and sign the terms and conditions when applying for retirement. If you fail to sign the acknowledgement, your *Application for Retirement Allowance* will not be processed.

PART THREE:

ITEM 10: RETIREMENT DATE – Enter the month and year you wish to retire. All retirements are effective on the first of a month. The earliest retirement date available to you is the first of the month following the Division's receipt of your application. Your application must be received in this office prior to your retirement date. Your first retirement check will be dated no earlier than the first of the month after your retirement date or 30 days after approval by the PERS or TPAF Board of Trustees, whichever is later.

ITEM 11: PURCHASE INFORMATION – If you have applied to purchase service credit within six months of your filing this retirement application, check “yes.”

ITEM 12: TYPE OF RETIREMENT – Check the appropriate box indicating the type of retirement you are applying for.

ITEM 13: SALARY INFORMATION – Your retirement allowance is based on the last three years of salary or the three fiscal years (July - June) during which your earnings were the highest. If your last three years were your highest years of salary, check “Yes.” If you earned more during previous years than you did during your last three years, check “No” and indicate the dates of the three highest fiscal years.

ITEM 14 AND 15: SPOUSE, CIVIL UNION PARTNER OR DOMESTIC PARTNER’S NAME AND ADDRESS – If you are currently married or have entered into a civil union or domestic partnership,* provide your spouse or partner’s name. Provide your spouse or partner’s address if it is different from your address entered in item 6.

PART FOUR:

CHOOSE A RETIREMENT PAYMENT OPTION – See Fact Sheet #5, *Pension Options* (included in this booklet), for an explanation of the available payment options. **Mark only one box.**

MAXIMUM OPTION AND OPTION 1 – If you select the Maximum Option or Option 1, name a beneficiary (or beneficiaries) in the space provided. Please include the beneficiary’s full name, relationship to you (if not related, write “friend”), date of birth, Social Security number (optional), and mailing address.

Even if you choose the Maximum Option, it is to your benefit to name a beneficiary. The beneficiary named in this section will receive any undistributed

pension contributions and any issued, but uncashed pension checks remaining at your death. The beneficiary will also receive any Option 1 benefits that may be payable if you selected that option.

Under the Maximum Option and Option 1, you may name any person or persons as well as an institution, charity, organization, your estate, etc., as a beneficiary. *If you designate an institution, charity, or organization, in order to insure that this designee is a legal entity, we require the beneficiary's tax identification number.*

If you choose the Maximum Option, you must sign the application in the space indicated to acknowledge your understanding that **no monthly benefit is payable to a spouse or beneficiary upon your death.** The law also requires that the Division notify your spouse or partner* if you choose the Maximum Option. If you are currently married or have entered into a civil union or domestic partnership, please enter your spouse or partner's name and mailing address (if different than yours) in items 14 and 15.

PART FIVE:

ADDITIONAL OPTIONS THAT PROVIDE A MONTHLY PAYMENT TO A SURVIVING BENEFICIARY – **To provide a monthly benefit to a spouse or other beneficiary**, you may choose one of the following options: A, B, C, D, 2, 3, or 4. Selecting an option other than the Maximum Option will reduce your retirement allowance to provide a benefit to a beneficiary upon your death. The higher your beneficiary's allowance, the more your allowance will be reduced. Your option selection is irrevocable (cannot be changed under any circumstances) once your retirement becomes “due and payable” (see “Your First Retirement Check” on page 2).

* “Spouse” means a person of the opposite sex to whom you are legally married. A photocopy of the *Marriage Certificate* is required for verification.

“Civil Union Partner” is a person of the same sex with whom you have entered into a Civil Union. A photocopy of the *New Jersey Civil Union Certificate* or a valid certification from another jurisdiction that recognizes same-sex civil unions is required for verification.

“Domestic Partner” is a same-sex domestic partner, as defined under Chapter 246, P.L. 2003, the Domestic Partnership Act, of any state employee, State retiree, or an eligible employee or retiree of a local public entity if the local governing body adopts a resolution to provide Chapter 246 benefits. A copy of the *New Jersey Certification of Domestic Partnership* dated prior to February 19, 2007 or a valid certification from another jurisdiction that recognizes same-sex domestic partners is required for verification.

Name your beneficiary in the space provided.

- If you select Option A, B, C, D, 2, or 3, you may name only one person as a beneficiary.
- If you select Option 4, you may name multiple beneficiaries to share the benefit. A separate beneficiary designation area is provided if you choose this option (to name 3 or more beneficiaries, list the beneficiary information on an additional sheet, sign it, and attach it to your application).

Please include the beneficiary's full name, relationship to you (if not related, write "friend"), date of birth, Social Security number (optional), and mailing address.

For Options A, B, C, D, 2, 3, or 4, please also attach a photocopy of the beneficiary's birth certificate.

The designation of beneficiary becomes effective when your *Application for Retirement Allowance* is received by the Division of Pensions and Benefits and supersedes all prior designations.

If you do not understand your payment options, call the Division of Pensions and Benefits for assistance at (609) 292-7524.

MEMBER'S SIGNATURE AND DATE – Sign and date the option selection page where appropriate. Your application cannot be processed without your signature.

PART SIX:

DESIGNATION OF GROUP LIFE INSURANCE BENEFICIARY – Most members of the retirement systems are covered by group life insurance. See Fact Sheet #4, *Applying for Retirement*, for more information about group life insurance coverage while retired.

You may name any person or persons as well as an institution, charity, organization, your estate, etc., as a life insurance beneficiary. *If you designate an institution, charity, or organization, in order to insure that this designee is a legal entity, we require the beneficiary's tax identification number.*

You may also name multiple beneficiaries for this benefit. You may change your group life insurance beneficiary at any time. For additional details about special designations see Fact Sheet #68,

Designating a Beneficiary, which is available from the Division of Pensions and Benefits or on our Web site.

You should name a Primary Beneficiary(ies) and a Contingent Beneficiary(ies) for this benefit. If you find it necessary to use additional sheets to complete this section, write "see attached" in the beneficiary area of the application. The attachments, which you should label "Life Insurance Beneficiaries," must also be signed and dated.

Primary Beneficiary(ies) – List the full name, relationship to you (if not related, write "friend"), birth date, Social Security number (optional), and address of the individual(s)/entity(ies) you want to receive your life insurance proceeds. If you name more than one Primary Beneficiary, the "lump sum" insurance proceeds will be divided equally among those listed. If you do not wish to divide the proceeds equally, please contact the Division of Pensions and Benefits for assistance.

Contingent Beneficiary(ies) – List the full name, relationship to you (if not related, write "friend"), birth date, Social Security number (optional), and address of the individual(s)/entity(ies) you want to receive your life insurance proceeds should your primary beneficiaries not be living at the time of your death. If you name more than one Contingent Beneficiary, the "lump sum" insurance proceeds will be divided equally among those listed. If you do not wish to divide the proceeds equally, please contact the Division of Pensions and Benefits for assistance.

The designation of beneficiary becomes effective when your *Application for Retirement Allowance* is received by the Division of Pensions and Benefits and supersedes all prior designations.

The amount by which your group life insurance is reduced at retirement **may be converted** at retirement to a non-group policy. Conversion must be done **within 31 days** of the termination of employment. If you need further information about conversion, see Fact Sheet #13, *Conversion of Group Life Insurance* (included in this booklet).

MEMBER'S SIGNATURE AND DATE – Sign and date this page. Your application cannot be processed without your signature.

AUTHORIZATION FOR DIRECT DEPOSIT

Included in this packet is a form for initiating the direct deposit of your retirement checks. Direct deposit of your benefit payment is **mandatory**. Complete the *Authorization for Direct Deposit of Benefit Payment* and send it to the Division of Pensions and Benefits along with your retirement application.

Having your retirement check directly deposited into your checking or savings account eliminates the possibility of a check being lost or stolen.

Upon verification of your account information with your bank, your retirement check will be directly deposited in your checking or savings account and you will receive a *Statement of Allowances and Deductions* in the mail. Thereafter, you will receive a *Statement of Allowances and Deductions* each December that summarizes your allowance and deduction information for the year. You

will also receive the statement anytime there is a change to your financial information, bank information, or your address. Otherwise, monthly statements are not sent, however, your monthly allowance and deduction information is always available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by calling the Division's Automated Information System at (609) 777-1777. Past and current payment information can also be seen on the Member Benefits Online System (MBOS).

EMPLOYER CERTIFICATION

It is important that you notify your employer of your retirement plans since your employer must complete the *Certification of Service and Final Salary - Retirement*. The Division will request the certification from your employer. Your retirement cannot be processed until the Division of Pensions and Benefits receives this certification.

PART THREE: RETIREMENT INFORMATION

10. **RETIREMENT DATE** — To be effective the first day of _____
Month Year

11. **PURCHASE INFORMATION** — Have you applied to purchase pension service credit within the past six months?
 YES NO

12. **TYPE OF RETIREMENT**

SERVICE RETIREMENT – You must be age 60 or older (age 62 or older if a Tier 3 or Tier 4 member) to qualify for a Service Retirement. No minimum amount of service credit is required.

EARLY RETIREMENT – You must be under age 60 (age 62 if a Tier 3 or Tier 4 member) and have a minimum of 25 years of service credit. If you are under 55 years of age, your benefit will be reduced (see Fact Sheet #4, *Applying for Retirement*).

VETERAN RETIREMENT – You must be a qualified military veteran and meet minimum age and service credit requirements. (see Fact Sheet #4, *Applying for Retirement*).

DEFERRED RETIREMENT – You must be under age 60 (age 62 if a Tier 3 or Tier 4 member) and have a minimum of 10 years of service credit upon termination of employment. A Deferred Retirement becomes effective at age 60/62 if you have filed an *Application for Retirement Allowance* prior to that date.

13. **SALARY INFORMATION** — Were your last years of service also the years you earned the highest salaries?

YES NO (If no, list the fiscal years, July - June, in which you earned the highest salaries. Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 members list three years, Tier 4 members list five years.)

_____ Year 1 Year 2 Year 3 Year 4 Year 5

14. **SPOUSE, CIVIL UNION PARTNER, OR DOMESTIC PARTNER’S NAME** (If naming a partner, submit a photocopy of your *Civil Union Certificate* or *Certificate of Domestic Partnership* along with this application.)

NAME _____
Last First Middle

15. **SPOUSE, CIVIL UNION PARTNER, OR DOMESTIC PARTNER’S ADDRESS** (If different from yours.)

ADDRESS _____
Street Apt. No.

_____ City State Zip

MEMBER'S NAME _____ MEMBERSHIP NUMBER _____

PART FOUR: CHOOSE A RETIREMENT PAYMENT OPTION AND NAME A BENEFICIARY

USE THIS PAGE FOR THE MAXIMUM OPTION OR OPTION 1 ONLY — Additional payment options are listed on the following page.

Indicate whether your choice for a method of payment is the Maximum Option or Option 1. Maximum Option and Option 1 beneficiaries share the benefit equally. Refer to Fact Sheet #5, *Pension Options* (in this booklet) for an explanation of each option. You will receive a monthly retirement allowance for your lifetime, regardless of which option you choose. **Choosing an option other than the Maximum will reduce your retirement allowance.** You cannot change your payment option once your retirement becomes "due and payable" (see *Your First Retirement Check* on page 2).

MARK ONLY ONE BOX.

MAXIMUM OPTION — NO PENSION BENEFIT TO BENEFICIARY — Largest allowance paid to you with no pension benefit paid to a beneficiary upon your death. _____
(You must sign here)

OPTION 1 — REDUCING RETIREMENT RESERVE TO A BENEFICIARY — Your beneficiary receives the balance of a reserve set up to pay your retirement allowance if you die **before the reserve is depleted.** You can name more than one beneficiary and you can change your beneficiary(ies) at any time after retirement.

NAME A RETIREMENT OPTION BENEFICIARY (OR BENEFICIARIES) FOR THE MAXIMUM OPTION OR OPTION 1

PRIMARY BENEFICIARY(IES)

	BENEFICIARY NAME(S)	RELATIONSHIP	BIRTH DATE	SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER (Optional)
1.	_____	_____	_____	_____
	ADDRESS _____			
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
	ADDRESS _____			

CONTINGENT BENEFICIARY(IES) — If no Primary Beneficiary is living at my death, payment is to be made to:

	BENEFICIARY NAME(S)	RELATIONSHIP	BIRTH DATE	SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER (Optional)
1.	_____	_____	_____	_____
	ADDRESS _____			
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
	ADDRESS _____			

(Attach additional sheets for 3 or more beneficiaries. Additional sheets must be signed and dated.)

MEMBER'S SIGNATURE

DATE

_____, 20____

I attest that the information provided on this application is true and correct.

SIGN THIS PAGE IF SELECTING THE MAXIMUM OPTION OR OPTION 1 AND THEN CONTINUE TO PART SIX OTHERWISE, CONTINUE TO PART FIVE, ON THE NEXT PAGE FOR ADDITIONAL PAYMENT OPTIONS

PART FIVE: OPTIONS THAT PROVIDE A MONTHLY PAYMENT TO A SURVIVING BENEFICIARY

If you did not select the Maximum Option or Option 1, indicate your choice on this page for method of payment. Refer to Fact Sheet #5, *Pension Options* (in this booklet) for an explanation of each option. You will receive a monthly retirement allowance for your lifetime, regardless of which option you choose. **Choosing an option other than the Maximum will reduce your retirement allowance to provide a monthly benefit to a beneficiary upon your death.** The higher your beneficiary's allowance, the more your allowance will be reduced. You cannot change your payment option once your retirement becomes "due and payable" (see *Your First Retirement Check* on page 2).

Under **Options A, B, C, or D**, you can name only one beneficiary and you cannot change your beneficiary after retirement. If your beneficiary dies before you, your retirement allowance will increase to the Maximum Option.

- OPTION A — 100% TO BENEFICIARY - INCREASE TO MAXIMUM OPTION** — Upon your death, your beneficiary receives a lifetime monthly retirement allowance equal to 100% of your monthly allowance.
- OPTION B — 75% TO BENEFICIARY - INCREASE TO MAXIMUM OPTION** — Upon your death, your beneficiary receives a lifetime monthly retirement allowance equal to 75% of your monthly allowance.
- OPTION C — 50% TO BENEFICIARY - INCREASE TO MAXIMUM OPTION** — Upon your death, your beneficiary receives a lifetime monthly retirement allowance equal to 50% of your monthly allowance.
- OPTION D — 25% TO BENEFICIARY - INCREASE TO MAXIMUM OPTION** — Upon your death, your beneficiary receives a lifetime monthly retirement allowance equal to 25% of your monthly allowance.

Under **Options 2, 3, and 4**, you cannot change your beneficiary after retirement. Options 2 and 3 pay you a larger monthly retirement allowance than the corresponding Options A and C. However, under Options 2 and 3, if your beneficiary dies before you, you continue to receive the reduced allowance provided by that option.

- OPTION 2 — 100% TO BENEFICIARY - PERMANENT REDUCTION** — You can name only one beneficiary. Upon your death, your beneficiary receives a lifetime monthly retirement allowance equal to 100% of your monthly allowance.
- OPTION 3 — 50% TO BENEFICIARY - PERMANENT REDUCTION** — You can name only one beneficiary. Upon your death, your beneficiary receives a lifetime monthly retirement allowance equal to 50% of your monthly allowance.

RETIREMENT OPTION BENEFICIARY — For Options A, B, C, D, 2, and 3 you may list only ONE beneficiary.

BENEFICIARY NAME	RELATIONSHIP	BIRTH DATE	SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER <small>(Optional)</small>
------------------	--------------	------------	---

ADDRESS _____

- OPTION 4 — CHOICE OF AMOUNT TO BENEFICIARY - PERMANENT REDUCTION** — You can name one beneficiary or multiple beneficiaries. Upon your death, your beneficiary(ies) receives the lifetime monthly retirement allowance indicated.

OPTION 4 BENEFICIARIES (Attach an additional sheet for 3 or more beneficiaries. Additional sheets must be signed and dated.)

BENEFICIARY NAME(S)	RELATIONSHIP	BIRTH DATE	SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER <small>(Optional)</small>
---------------------	--------------	------------	---

1. _____

ADDRESS _____

ENTER AMOUNT \$ _____ (Can be no more than the Option 2 allowance.)

2. _____

ADDRESS _____

ENTER AMOUNT \$ _____ (Can be no more than the Option 2 allowance.)

MEMBER'S SIGNATURE

DATE

_____, 20____
I attest that the information provided on this application is true and correct.

SIGN THIS PAGE AND CONTINUE TO PART SIX ON THE NEXT PAGE

MEMBER'S NAME _____ MEMBERSHIP NUMBER _____

PART SIX: DESIGNATION OF GROUP LIFE INSURANCE BENEFICIARY(IES)

Members with 10 or more years of membership credit are covered by group life insurance at retirement. This section is used to name a beneficiary(ies) for your group life insurance, if any. Please be sure to name both a Primary and Contingent beneficiary. **Complete this section even if the beneficiary you name is the same as in Part Three.** This designation becomes effective when received by the Division of Pensions and Benefits.

PRIMARY INSURANCE BENEFICIARY(IES)

	BENEFICIARY NAME(S)	RELATIONSHIP	BIRTH DATE	SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER (Optional)
1.	_____	_____	_____	_____
	ADDRESS _____			
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
	ADDRESS _____			
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
	ADDRESS _____			
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
	ADDRESS _____			

CONTINGENT INSURANCE BENEFICIARY(IES) — *If no Primary Beneficiary is living at my death, payment is to be made to:*

	BENEFICIARY NAME(S)	RELATIONSHIP	BIRTH DATE	SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER (Optional)
1.	_____	_____	_____	_____
	ADDRESS _____			
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
	ADDRESS _____			
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
	ADDRESS _____			
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
	ADDRESS _____			

MEMBER'S SIGNATURE

DATE

_____, 20____

I attest that the information provided on this application is true and correct.

**Return this application to:
Division of Pensions and Benefits
PO Box 295
Trenton, NJ 08625-0295**

RM-0018-0411

STATE OF NEW JERSEY - DIVISION OF PENSIONS AND BENEFITS

AUTHORIZATION FOR DIRECT DEPOSIT OF BENEFIT PAYMENT

INSTRUCTIONS:

- A: Read the terms and conditions listed below.
- B: Enter your name, mailing address, retirement number (for retirement payment and survivor benefit), Social Security number, and home telephone number.
- C: Mark the appropriate payment and account type boxes, and print the financial institution's account number, routing number, and name and address where indicated. Be sure to double-check your account and 9-digit routing numbers before submitting this form — inaccurate information will delay processing of this application or your payment.
- D: You and all other parties to this account must sign the form.
- E: Attach a VOIDED check if using a checking account and return the completed form to the Division of Pensions and Benefits.

MAIL TO:
Direct Deposit
Division of Pensions
and Benefits
PO Box 295
Trenton, NJ 08625-0295

RECIPIENT INFORMATION — Please Print Legibly

Your Name: _____

Your Address: _____

Fund: PERS TPAF PFRS SPRS JRS

Retirement No: _____
 (For Retirement Payment and Survivor Benefit Only)

Social Security No: _____

Home Phone No: _____

TYPE OF PAYMENT: RETIREMENT PAYMENT/SURVIVOR BENEFIT

 Your Account Number

TYPE OF ACCOUNT: CHECKING SAVINGS

 Financial Institution's 9-digit Routing Number

 Name of Financial Institution

 Street of Financial Institution

 City, State, Zip of Financial Institution

 Your Signature and Date

 Signature(s) of Other Persons On Account and Date(s)

Please read the terms and conditions below and
ATTACH A VOIDED CHECK IF AUTHORIZING A CHECKING ACCOUNT
 (used to verify your financial institution's routing and account number)

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Benefit Recipient

I authorize the New Jersey Division of Pensions and Benefits and the financial institution indicated to directly deposit my net retirement allowance or survivor benefit each month to the account specified. Direct deposit under this authorization is full satisfaction and discharge of the amount then due and payable under the retirement system or benefit program. I understand that the provisions of the statutes governing the pension funds prohibit the deposit of retirement payments to a trust fund. I understand that any retirement allowance or survivor benefit forwarded to the financial institution with a due date after my death will be refunded to the appropriate retirement system. I agree that the financial institution shall have the right of offset for such a refund.

I further understand that this agreement may be changed by me upon written notification to the Division of Pensions and Benefits. The change will be processed for the pay period following receipt of the notice by the Division. I understand that a change in the title of this account which alters the interest of any party terminates this authorization, a notification must then be submitted. I understand that it is my responsibility to inform the Division of Pensions and Benefits of address changes immediately. I authorize the financial institution to provide the Division of Pensions and Benefits with my home address.

Other Parties to the Account

As a party to this account, I understand that I am personally liable, both individually and as a member of the group of parties to this account, for the full amount of all retirement allowances or survivor benefit payments with due dates after the death of the benefit recipient withdrawn from the account. This liability is to the retirement system or benefit program. If I am entitled to any benefit from the retirement system or benefit program as a beneficiary of the benefit recipient, the amount of my liability may be deducted from the amount payable to me. I agree that the financial institution shall have the right of offset for such a refund and I authorize the financial institution to provide the Division of Pensions and Benefits with my home address.

RM-0018-0411

**PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM – TEACHERS' PENSION AND ANNUITY FUND
CERTIFICATION OF SERVICE AND FINAL SALARY — RETIREMENT**

THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETED BY EMPLOYING AGENCY — SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE SIDE

PENSION FUND PERS TPAF

1. NAME OF MEMBER _____
2. MEMBERSHIP NO. _____ 3. SOCIAL SECURITY NO. _____
- 4a. EMPLOYING AGENCY _____ 4b. EMPLOYER LOCATION NO. _____
5. Date service terminated ____/____/____ Applicant will not render any service to, or earn salary from this agency after date service terminated. This date must be before the retirement date.
6. Was the member considered a part-time employee? NO YES
7. a) Is the member currently on suspension? NO YES If yes, give date of suspension _____
Is suspension Paid or Unpaid
- b) Is the applicant facing or recently been considered for disciplinary action or indictment? NO YES If yes, attach copies of the preliminary and final notices of disciplinary action or their equivalents or a copy of the indictment.
8. List unpaid leaves of one month (pay period for state locations) or more, without pay, within the last 12 working months.
- | REASON FOR ABSENCE | DATE OF ABSENCE (FROM - TO) | REASON FOR ABSENCE | DATES OF ABSENCE (FROM - TO) |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| | TO | | TO |
| | TO | | TO |

9. Base salary subject to pension fund contributions paid for the last full year of service ending on the date of termination (line 5 above); please list number of months at the particular salary range, and show a total of 12 months for a 12-month employee or 10 months for a 10-month employee.
- | # | months @ \$ | from | to | \$ | TOTAL |
|-------|-------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
- TOTAL BASE SALARY PAID FOR LAST YEAR OF SERVICE \$ _____**

10. If the member received a significant annual salary increase in the last three years of employment, please attach a detailed explanation along with supporting documentation such as salary guides, contracts, and ruling body minutes. If the explanation or documentation is not attached, the processing of the member's retirement will be delayed until the Division receives it.

11. Has there been any retroactive salary paid to the employee within the past three years? If so, please describe below:
- | AMOUNT OF PAYMENT | DATE OF PAYMENT | COVERING THE DATES (FROM - TO) | PENSION DEDUCTION | NEW ANNUAL BASE SALARY |
|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| \$ _____ | | TO | \$ _____ | \$ _____ |
| \$ _____ | | TO | \$ _____ | \$ _____ |
| \$ _____ | | TO | \$ _____ | \$ _____ |

12. The following deductions have been made or will be made from the member's base salary during the final two quarterly periods including the quarter in which service terminated (see QUARTERLY REPORT OF CONTRIBUTIONS).
State biweekly reporting agencies should attach a screen print of TREADHOC biweekly certification with salaries projected until termination date in lieu of Item 12.

QUARTER ENDING	BASE SALARY SUBJECT TO CONTRIBUTIONS THIS QUARTER	PENSION CONTRIBUTION	LOAN REPAYMENT	BACK DEDUCTIONS		ARREARS AND/OR PURCHASES	TOTAL PENSION DEDUCTIONS
				NO. PAYMENTS	AMOUNT		
	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____		\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____		\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____

COMPLETED BY: _____ PHONE NUMBER _____
E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

By signing this statement I am certifying, under penalty of perjury, to the truthfulness of the information contained herein.

SIGNATURE OF CERTIFYING OFFICER _____ DATE _____

INSTRUCTIONS

This form must be completed by the employer when a member files an application for retirement benefits. Failure to provide this information will delay processing the member's retirement application.

ITEMS REQUIRING SPECIAL ATTENTION

- ITEM 5:** A member must terminate employment **before** his or her retirement date. For example, if a member is retiring April 1, he or she cannot be on payroll on April 1. In addition, an employee or employer may not make any pre-arrangements for the employee to return to employment after retirement – in any capacity – with that same employer on either a paid or volunteer basis.
- ITEM 7:** If the member was dismissed under suspension or formal indictment, place an (X) in the YES block. You must also indicate with an (X) if the suspension is paid or unpaid. If the YES box is indicated in 7b, copies of the preliminary and final notices of disciplinary action or their equivalents, or a copy of the indictment must be attached. This information is required before processing the retirement application.
- ITEM 9:** Indicate the following: (1) number of months, (2) amount of monthly base salary, (3) the beginning and ending dates of that salary, and (4) the total base salary for the period. A total of 12 months (10 months for those applicable) of salary must be indicated.

Example:

4 months @ \$ 4,000 from 9/1/99 to 12/31/99 \$ 16,000

5 months @ \$ 3,850 from 4/1/99 to 8/31/99 \$ 19,250

3 months @ \$ 3,700 from 1/1/99 to 3/31/99 \$ 11,100

Total base salary paid for last year of service \$ 46,350

- ITEM 10:** If the Division finds that there has been a significant salary increase in the last three years of employment and an explanation and supporting documentation is not included with this certification, the Division will request the information and will not process the application until the information is received. This will delay the payment of retirement benefits to the member.
- ITEM 11:** Indicate any retroactive salary increases within the last 3 years. Include: (1) amount of payment, (2) the date of payment, (3) the beginning and ending dates for each increase, (4) the pension deduction, and (5) the new annual base salary.
- ITEM 12:** Indicate the actual or projected base salary subject to pension contributions for the last two quarters preceding the termination date. It is important to indicate all deductions withheld (pension, loan, back deductions, and arrears payments). Failure to do so could result in incorrect benefits being paid. The base salary should reflect the number of months worked in that quarter.

State biweekly reporting agencies must attach a screen print of the member's TREADHOC biweekly certification with salaries projected until termination date in lieu of completing Item 12.

**SUBMIT THIS CERTIFICATION TO: RETIREMENT BUREAU
DIVISION OF PENSIONS AND BENEFITS
PO BOX 295
TRENTON NJ 08625-0295**

CHANGE RETIREMENT APPLICATION

These changes can only be made before the retirement is due and payable.

If you have applied for a *disability retirement* that has been approved by the Board of Trustees, you cannot change your retirement date or cancel your retirement.

Check one: Public Employees' Retirement System Police and Firemen's Retirement System
 Teachers' Pension and Annuity Fund

MEMBERSHIP NUMBER _____ SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

_____ Check here if this is a new address.

I previously filed an *Application for Retirement Allowance* with the Division of Pensions and Benefits and wish to make the following change to that application (check box that applies):

CHANGE RETIREMENT DATE — I wish to change the effective date of my retirement from: _____ to _____. New retirement date **must be** the first day of any month after the receipt date of this change form. **Your employer must complete the salary certification on the back of this form.**

CHANGE RETIREMENT TYPE — I wish to change the type of my retirement from: _____ to _____. To change to a disability retirement you must complete an *Application for Disability Retirement*.

CHANGE OPTION SELECTION (PERS & TPAF only) — I wish to change my option selection from: _____ to _____. I understand that once my retirement is due and payable, no further change in option will be permitted. My signature indicates that I understand that if I choose the Maximum Option, there are no pension benefits payable to my spouse or other beneficiary. (If you wish to **change the option recipient** you **must** file a new *Application for Retirement Allowance*.)

CANCEL RETIREMENT — I wish to cancel my retirement which was to be effective on: _____. I will continue in employment. I understand that my original application **cannot** be reinstated and that I must file a new retirement application when I apply again on a future date.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF RETIREMENT

- I understand that I must meet all of the eligibility requirements for retirement and **cannot submit an application more than one year before my retirement date** (if eligible for Deferred Retirement, I may file more than one year in advance upon termination of employment).
- I understand that if I cancel or change my retirement date **it is my responsibility** to notify my employer to ensure that any active health benefits are not canceled and that my employment remains uninterrupted.
- I understand that changing or canceling my retirement date **does not** guarantee continued employment with my employer.
- I understand that I cannot make pre-arrangements with my employer to return to employment in any capacity.
- I understand that the beneficiary designation I indicated on my original retirement application **supersedes all prior designations**, even if my retirement is not yet effective or if I cancel my retirement. The Division of Pensions and Benefits will honor this as my most recent beneficiary designation on file, unless another beneficiary designation is made after the retirement application.
- **(PERS & TPAF only)** I understand that if I die prior to a new retirement date as indicated on this change request form, any retirement benefits that may be payable to a beneficiary **cannot be paid until the retirement date selected**.

MEMBER'S SIGNATURE

DATE

_____, 20____

I have read and agree to the "Terms and Conditions of Retirement", have not pre-arranged with my employer to return to employment in any capacity, and attest that the information provided on this application is true and correct.

CHANGE OF RETIREMENT EMPLOYER CERTIFICATION

1. _____

NAME OF EMPLOYEE	NAME OF EMPLOYER
SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER	EMPLOYER'S PHONE NUMBER
MEMBERSHIP NUMBER	EMPLOYER LOCATION NUMBER

The employee named above has elected to change his/her retirement date to the date shown on the front of this form.

- **If you have already submitted** a *Certification of Service and Final Salary – Retirement* for the former date to the Division of Pensions and Benefits, please complete this form and return it to the Division.
- **If you have not already submitted** a *Certification of Service and Final Salary – Retirement*, **YOU CANNOT USE THIS FORM.** Instead, you **must** complete a *Certification of Service and Final Salary – Retirement* in its entirety and return it with this *Change of Retirement* form to the Division.

2. **DATE EMPLOYEE'S SERVICE TERMINATED** (Applicant will not render any service to or earn salaries, wages, fees or other compensation from this agency after this date.) _____

3. **BASE SALARY SUBJECT TO PENSION FUND CONTRIBUTIONS** paid for the last full year of service ending on the date of termination (line 2 above); please list number of months at a particular salary and show a total of 12 months for a 12-month employee or 10 months for a 10-month employee.

TOTAL

# _____ months @ \$ _____	from _____	to _____	\$ _____
# _____ months @ \$ _____	from _____	to _____	\$ _____
# _____ months @ \$ _____	from _____	to _____	\$ _____
# _____ months @ \$ _____	from _____	to _____	\$ _____

TOTAL BASE SALARY PAID FOR LAST YEAR OF SERVICE \$ _____

4. **THE FOLLOWING DEDUCTIONS HAVE BEEN MADE** or will be made from the member's base salary during the final two quarterly periods including the quarter in which service terminated (see **Quarterly Report of Contributions**).

State biweekly reporting agencies should attach a screen print of TREADHOC biweekly certification with salaries projected until termination date in lieu of Item 4.

QUARTER ENDING	BASE SALARY SUBJECT TO CONTRIBUTIONS THIS QUARTER	PENSION CONTRIBUTION	LOAN REPAYMENT	BACK DEDUCTIONS		ARREARS AND/OR PURCHASES	TOTAL PENSION DEDUCTIONS
				NO. PAYMENTS	AMOUNT		
\$		\$	\$		\$	\$	\$
\$		\$	\$		\$	\$	\$

NAME OF CERTIFYING OFFICER _____ **PHONE NUMBER** (____) _____

By signing this statement I am certifying, under penalty of perjury, to the truthfulness of the information contained herein.

CERTIFYING OFFICER'S SIGNATURE _____ **DATE** _____

RM-0018-0411