

NEW JERSEY SECURE CHOICE SAVINGS BOARD

Minutes of the Meeting

March 13, 2026

Minutes of the Board meeting of the New Jersey Secure Choice Savings Board (the “Board”) held via Zoom on Friday, March 13, 2026, at 10:06 AM Eastern Time.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD IN ATTENDANCE

- Todd Hassler, Executive Director, Secretary, New Jersey Secure Choice Savings Program
- Andrea Spalla, Chair Person, Assistant Treasurer of the State of New Jersey, Department of the Treasury
- Shirley Emehelu, ex-officio Member; Acting State Comptroller
- Tariq Shabazz, ex-officio Member; Acting Director of the Office of Management and Budget
- Evelyn Liebman, Public Member
- Charles Hall, Jr., Public Member

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES

- Jeffrey Padgett, Deputy Attorney General, Department of Law and Public Safety, Division of Law
- Samuel Kovach-Orr, Office of the Governor, Authorities Unit
- Charles Vellenga, Secure Choice Savings Program
- Johanna Colapinto, Secure Choice Savings Program
- Peter Moak, Secure Choice Savings Program
- Yon Brown, Secure Choice Savings Program
- Janet Basellyous, Secure Choice Savings Program

Chair Andrea Spalla presided over the meeting and Todd Hassler, Executive Director, kept the minutes.

Chair Spalla called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM. Chair Spalla introduced herself and made the following statement:

Welcome everyone, I hereby call the March 13th. 2026 meeting of the New Jersey Secure Choice Savings Program Board to order. I’m Andrea Spalla, chair of the Secure Choice Savings Program Board as the designee of the new state treasurer Aaron Binder.

I wish to announce that adequate notice of this meeting was provided in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act. Notice of today’s meeting was filed with the Secretary of State; distributed by press release to at least two daily newspapers in New Jersey; and also posted on the bulletin board for the Secretary of State.

I will now ask Program Assistant Director, Charles Vellenga, to please call the roll.

Charles Vellenga, Secure Choice Savings Program took roll call:

*Andrea Spalla
Tariq Shabazz
Shirley Emehelu
Charles Hall
Evelyn Liebman*

We have a quorum present.

Chair Spalla continued:

Welcome to everyone in attendance. I would like to extend a very special welcome to our new board member Shirley Emehelu, who is the new acting state Comptroller and thus serves on this board ex-officio. We welcome you and look forward to working with you.

If there are any members of the public in attendance who wish to speak at this meeting, please note that the Board will open the floor for public comment at the end of the meeting before we adjourn.

I ask members of the Board to identify themselves before making or seconding a motion because this is a virtual meeting.

First order of business, I would like to request a motion to adopt the Resolution approving the minutes of action taken at the December 12, 2025, board meeting. Those minutes were emailed to the Board approximately March 5, 2026, and a copy of the Resolution and minutes are included in your Board package under "Exhibit 4A".

May I have a motion to approve the minutes of the Board meeting held on December 12, 2026, board meeting?

Charles Hall moved to approve the minutes.
Evelyn Liebmann seconded the motion.

There was no discussion from the Board.

The motion passed with all 5 board members in attendance voting to approve the minutes.

Chair Spalla opened for a motion for executive session for legal questions.

There was no discussion from the Board.

No motion was made to move to executive session.

I would like to invite the Program's Executive Director Todd Hassler to provide the Board and the public with a program update.

Todd Hassler provided a status update on the New Jersey Secure Savings Program:

Thank you, Andrea, and Thank you everyone for attending the New Jersey Secure Choice Savings Program March 2026 board meeting.

I don't know if it's an apology that I offer in advance, but I will let you know that this will be a little bit longer than our typical meeting, as there has been a substantial amount of activity with the Program over the last quarter and we'll be reviewing that today.

In addition, we'll be providing an overview of the operations, program investments, review of marketing efforts and some matters requiring board action.

I would like to first begin by acknowledging some of these changes that I talked about in the past quarter. To begin with, our governor, Mikie Sherrill, has appointed Aaron Binder as the State Treasurer, and I would like to congratulate him and welcome him to the Secure Choice Savings Program Board. We are also very grateful and fortunate that Treasurer Binder has reappointed Andrea Spalla to serve as his designee on the board. We cannot be happier about that, thank you, and we're very grateful that you'll be with us again, Andrea.

Additionally, Governor Sherrill has appointed Shirley Emehelu as the acting state Comptroller. We'd like to welcome you to the program board as well today. You'll unfortunately be having several other activities that we will talk about later on that you'll be working with, but your skills and abilities are going to be very valued as part of those committees as well.

As a matter of best practice, we are also coordinating fiduciary training for the board members. This training will be conducted by our counsel, Ice Miller. Staff have already engaged the board members to schedule these trainings out. They're going to be in multiple sessions to make sure we're not gathering as a board independently.

Additionally, the Legislature has made substantial changes and updates to our program that were signed into law. We would like to thank everyone involved for their commitment and support of our agency and our program. We will be reviewing these changes in the update today.

Moving onto Program's operational updates we'd like to begin with an update on the audit. The annual program audit was launched on December 10, 2025. Our auditor Landmark provided an audit packet with an engagement letter and an audit planning letter. These documents specify the scope of the program audit and the initial required data.

On January 12th, the Secure Choice Savings Program staff provided all requested documents and data to Landmark. The Audit Committee was provided with copies of these documents as well and met in their initial committee meeting on March 2nd. This committee has been updated to include our new Comptroller, Shirley Emehelu. As the audit progresses, we will continue to provide updates to the board. We have met with the auditor; they said that everything has been received in good order and are expecting to be able to provide us with a draft audit letter here in the month of April.

The item everybody is waiting for is legislative updates. I'm going to try and review these as quickly as I can because they are substantial but also as thoroughly so that you have enough information and time to digest it.

The largest change that has occurred within our statute under Section 2 of the statute is the program threshold for mandated employers to facilitate. The program has been changed from 25 employees to 10 employees. This is a substantial change; it increases the covered community for the Program by nearly 100% so more than 500,000 more citizens are covered by the program. It's a huge advancement and it's something to be celebrated by the Board. Your commitment to it but also all of our partners including AARP, there's so many to thank out there. It is a great advancement for the citizens of New Jersey.

Under Section 6, the board will be allowed to maintain their positions until a board successor has been appointed. This has been a problem for us in the past, I'm happy to say that we are allowed to have holdovers going forward in the future.

Section 8 of the statute, the program fees, have also been updated. This is a substantial change we'll be talking a little bit about this later on in our matters requiring board actions essentially through our prior fee structure wasn't as contemporary as the fee structures of present. It did not marry up to our contracts, the new fee structure provides a maximum fee of \$26.00 per account and a maximum of 25 basis points for each account. We'll be talking about this. This is something that we're taking very seriously within the program. It will not be implemented until we have an action plan for that that the Board is comfortable with.

Section 8 also has been updated provides the ability to enter into Multi-State and Regional agreements. This is a big advancement for us as it gives us the ability to enter into partnerships with other states to create scales of economy and actually provide services to other states, where maybe applicable. This is also something that would require us to work with the Board and a committee to determine the feasibility of this. It is not a decision we would rush into but we have the ability to do that going forward.

Section 8 grants the program the ability to enter into MOUs and MOAs and contracts with other State agencies and outside organizations to share data and perform other necessary tasks. Data is really the fuel that runs our program, collecting it is very challenging for us right now with the Secure Choice Savings Program. We have some great partners that we've been working with, specifically the Department of Labor, we will be expanding upon that. This is really a piece of the later changes to the statute.

Section 13 the Secure Choice Savings Program will assume the responsibility of providing program materials to Savers. This responsibility previously under our old statute was assigned to the employers of this state. We're taking this administrative duty back as we can do it efficiently and there's no reason that we asked for our employers to own that responsibility so we're happy that this was passed.

Section 14, Savers can elect to change their contribution amounts at any time. Employers must implement these changes at least once quarterly. Previously, this was not the standard, we had

this updated to make sure that it's consistent with our structure and really gives off more flexibility to the savers. The good news is that the program has developed controls to manage this. so if an employer misses one of these communications to increase or decrease the savers deferral election, we actually catch it here with RetireReady NJ so it's a great change that is complemented by internal controls.

One area where we're exceptionally happy about the change. There is an adoption under Section 14 for auto escalation as a default feature of the program. Previously savers were being defaulted at a 3% savings rate and that rate may stay in place for their entire career. We know we have found through the industry that a 3% savings rate is really insufficient to prepare somebody for a dignified retirement. Auto escalation will increase the savings rate each year in January by 1% systematically. That increase will continue until the saver reaches a maximum of 10% and not only automates the process but eases saver into these higher savings rates.

Under section 14 as well, the program shall work with the Department of Labor. The New Jersey Department of Labor to collect employer and employee deficit necessary to administer the program in addition this will include the update of form WR-30 to report payroll deduction. This change in our law gives us the ability to collect more data we can identify employers who are underneath our threshold and do advanced outreach and invite them to participate in the program will also be able to track the employee community more efficiently and most importantly safeguard them if an employer is failing to submit the contribution as timely, we'll be able to identify that and take proactive steps to engage that employer. We do have some examples of that we'll talk about later today, but this is a huge advancement in our ability to administer the program properly and protect the interests of the savers and their beneficiaries.

Section 14 as well the Department of Labor shall share employer information necessary to administer the program is just a clean up saying that the Department of Labor will be working with us on this matter.

Additionally, under Section 14 of the Department of Treasury Division of Taxation shall share our data with the program necessary to administer the program. This is also an advancement of our ability to collect data and we'll be able to utilize that data to work more effectively with the employer community there's information such as email addresses and industry types that will help us better isolate this employer community and tailor our communications and more effectively work with them in the future.

Section 19 employers who register and failed to deduct and remit payments shall be considered as failing to remit funds to the program. This was a gap previously identified where an employer could register but not actually take the deductions. They will fall under the same enforcement provisions as if they took the deductions and did not remit the funds. This is a good way for us to be able to identify collectively for enforcement purposes.

Under section 19 as well which is our enforcement provisions we did ask for a change where any penalties prescribed shall be the maximum penalty that the program can enforce. The Program in its discretion can reduce or eliminate penalties. This is something we felt very strongly about, we were very happy to see passed. It gives us the ability to work with small employers who may not

realize they're even violating the law to work proactively and where in good faith we can prescribe a penalty less than the maximum that is out there for enforcement purposes. We do have an example of this that we'll be talking about later on today where mistakes were made, and instead of damaging a small business we were able to get a collective measure that was really in the interest of the Saver.

With that said, I know I've gone through a number of changes here. I don't expect that the board is going to be ready to speak on each one of these matters right now I will invite you at the end to ask any questions that you may have. I do encourage that but there were substantial changes. I will say that these changes increase our ability to administer the program more effectively work with the community not only the Savers but the Employers of the State more effectively and really represent the interest of the Savers here in New Jersey. With these changes the program expansion will be implemented with the same care and prudence that was demonstrated with the initial rollout. That is our number one goal. The law was crafted in a way to allow us to use an agile process that releases these changes in independent rollouts. We don't expect that this is all going to unfold at one time.

This will help the program package these releases with concrete communication strategies. It will also allow the agency to introduce these changes to the employers and the savors of the state with the appropriate education resources so they can facilitate and utilize them to the best of their abilities as well. An agile approach will stage these expansions in a way that does not overwhelm the small employers and savers of the state we don't want them to receive all the information at one time and expect them to fully understand and be able to work with them all at one time as well. We understand this, we're going to take our time with the expansion it's going to be done it will be done expeditiously but prudently as well.

We expect this expansion is going to begin with the introduction of auto escalation. We're beginning with this one because it will demonstrate our ability to communicate effectively to the affected population. It will also give us the ability to introduce change with maximum period of time. Auto-Escalation will be a default feature, it will give individuals the maximum amount of time to make a decision on whether they want to use it or not. There will be a secondary communication that will go out towards the end of the year informing them of the anticipated increase so we will be beginning with auto-escalation there.

We expect to follow that with the changes in fee structure and then expansions of our memorandums of agreements for data sharing with partners such as the Department of Labor and the Treasury Department.

The reduction in threshold for mandated employers from 25 to 10 will occur upon the completion of other dependent variables. We need data on these employers before we can expand and expect them to begin registering with us, so it will be staged in a methodical way. We are going to do it in a way that makes sense and also gives us the ability to most effectively communicate to the employers and the savers. NJ Secure Choice Savings Program has begun working with the community to communicate the expectations of expansion to the employer communities and savers. We want the employers and savers and their service community to know about the upcoming change that is coming but we have not assigned an implementation date. Once we that has been

assigned, we will communicate it out. We're going to have a very aggressive communication strategy but we want to make sure that we meet all these other dependent variables before we start moving forward.

One of the elements that we would like to introduce to the board, we will be asking the board to prepare a committee for the marketing RFP for a marketing consultant of the program. We are asking this to create awareness of the upcoming change. We would like to issue this RFP for a marketing resource during the initial rollout. Our marketing consultant will be invaluable at creating awareness of the program and promoting the program to the community. We are asking the board to establish an evaluation committee to help with the selection process. We're in the process of developing this request for proposal with the assistance of the Attorney General's office.

Moving on to program investments. The Program investment committee met on December 15th. Our investment advisor Segal Marco has provided investment reports to the committee. During this meeting, it was identified that one of our investment alternatives is underperforming its benchmark. This is the first time we've incurred this so we're trying to provide a structured approach for the board to inform you of these changes and we'll also be making a recommendation at the end of my presentation today. The investment in question is Wasatch small cap value fund. It's an institutional class investment. The fund is an actively managed fund which means that instead of following an index passively in a way that just tracks that index fund, the fund manager has a bit more control, they can make changes to it within the confines of their perspectives. It's this fund that specifically seeks to create long term growth of capital by investing primarily in common stock of small capitalized companies listed in the Russell 2000 index fund. This fund has been in our portfolio since the program launch.

It's underperforming due to current market conditions. This is the readout that we received from Segal. Segal believes that the long term performance of the investment will recover as the market normalizes. This is still a concern for the investment committee. The investment has about 26 savers and roughly \$16,000.00 in assets so it is a minimum exposure both from the number of savers that are utilizing it and also the dollars that are invested in it.

With this in mind, the committee is recommending that the fund be placed on watch. We'll be providing a formal request for that at the end of the update today.

Moving onto marketing updates since December 12th board meeting, the marketing team has been very active with the program. We've had over 111 posts across all 3 social media sites. We've hosted four employer webinars and four saver webinars. One of these saver webinars was actually conducted after hours 8:00 o'clock at night I believe was the time, or 9:00 o'clock at night. With the time that we hosted this webinar it was received with great enthusiasm by the public. It really created some inclusion for savers who work alternative hours. We have dubbed this RetireReady after dark. We expect to be doing more, it's a great way to create inclusion with the community. The team really enjoyed it. I'm anticipating to see more of these going forward.

We also attended and participated in one in-person event with the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Normally this time of the year is a little bit slower with chamber events, this will be picking up. Last year, I think we attended roughly 30 events in person. We expect to be doing or

having the same engagement this year. We also attended a virtual event with the New Jersey State Library system. Another fabulous event, we had great attendance at both of these programs.

One of the areas we are particularly happy with is with some events or some webinars conducted by our service provider Vestwell. Vestwell is our program administrator as you know and they conducted 7 employer training webinars. These trainings are designed to help the employer community learn how to utilize our systems register and upload their employee data and also remit contributions during these trainings. 108 employers here in New Jersey attended the training 98 of them have now registered with RetireReady NJ. 67 of them have submitted their first contributions already. There is a lag period, I would like to remind everybody of a waiting period for these employers to begin remitting but with these 67 who have remitted, this is open access to RetireReady NJ for 3532 of our citizens to begin saving for retirement. Of this population, 1252 of them have begun funding their accounts. These contributions have totaled \$516,861.00 in a very short period of time. I'd like to thank Vestwell for their contribution it's a very thoughtful way of engaging the employer community and helping them facilitate RetireReady for our citizens.

Moving on to employer engagement and enforcement from a RetireReady perspective. As we discuss in every meeting RetireReady is actively working to identify engage and influence employers to comply with the Secure Choice Savings Program act. Some specific areas where we have developed reporting capabilities and communication plans are non-contributing employers. These are employers who have registered and are not contributing. These individual employers that are not contributing may have registered with the program and just maybe not attended one of the trainings. Additionally, there are employers with savers, individual savers, who are not being funded so maybe they are facilitating the program and a change has come through, somebody has elected to begin savings and they missed that communication.

Further there are groups with small account balances and opt outs. A lot of times an individual will automatically enroll make a decision that they do not want to save with RetireReady NJ. Maybe they have a different method of saving for retirement, they opt out of the program, they withdraw their funds from the program, but the employer fails to stop those contributions.

Lastly, is a failure to remit contributions by an employer. We're going to talk a little bit about each of these, I'm going to try and keep this as brief as possible.

Employers not contributing since we've begun our outreach. We've sent to 716 employers emails, since engaging them through email and physical mail, 296 are now contributing, and 34 of the 716 have exempted out as a result of these engagements. Close to 100 employees have opted out of the program and we've received 60% resolution on our population of employers who are not contributing to the program. These are individuals who have just registered and not contributed. We've taken roughly 60% of them off the table. This is a great start. We'd like to get that number to 100% but I got to commend the team. These are very passive communications. We're sending out email communications proactively and not utilizing our enforcement provisions to achieve compliance with these employers.

Employers with individual Savers who are not being funded. This is an area that we're very excited about with RetireReady, these are engaged employers who are already facilitating the program,

but they missed one employee. For this initiative we've sent out 694 emails to employers affecting roughly 10,000 Savers. These employers have updated their records to show 1,275 employees as terminated. This is just bad data, and getting our data cleaned up, it's going to make us more effective here with RetireReady since sending these out 166 employees have had the opportunity to opt out of the program. Another 968 have chosen to save through the program. The other individuals who are now savings through RetireReady and the bottom line to this which is most important to the board, is that since we've implemented this we've received \$145,000 in contributions from these savers. It's a great way for us to engage the employer community to make them aware of how our program is facilitated when they've missed different communications and ultimately resulting in a return on our efforts. We're seeing individuals begin receiving contributions and seeing how those contributions are accumulating into real retirement savings for the individuals here in New Jersey. We have since January started doing independent outreach phone calls to these employers. It is at a much lower scale because of the time involved. We've reached out directly to 63 employers as a result of this 32 of the employees have been updated to terminated. 16 of the savers are now contributing, they've just started contributing but we can see contributions of close to \$3,000 and really it's only been about a month's time working on this project.

Moving onto small account balances and opt-outs. Once again these are individuals who have opted out of our program and distributed their funds but have received residual contributions due to lag and communication between the Program and the payroll systems. We've needed to contact 58 employers, there's only been 58 employers affected by this. 57 of them have stopped these contributions on behalf of the employees, that's great, that's a fantastic response rate. There is still one employer who is contributing, we are actively working with that employer, we expect that will be resolved momentarily since then. These 58 employers have affected 297 savers. We have reached out to the savers as well, 85 of them have distributed these residual assets. 212 have left them in the fund.

I know this seems like a small population, but this will become more relevant when we start looking at fees going forward but in the interim, it's important for the program to become effective at identifying these type of issues and addressing them along the way. Right now, we're happy that we're able to have such engagement and such influence we expect to continue to work with these employers and savers going forward.

Lastly and this is an area where we'll talk a little bit more about enforcement, we have had situations where the employers have failed to timely remit contributions to the program they've taken out of the employees' paychecks but failed to submit them in a timely fashion so would even argue delayed the contributions. RetireReady already has developed processes to identify these employers recently we've had an engagement which I thought was a good example for the board. An Employer was identified who had failed to remit contributions timely. It affected roughly 23 payrolls for their savers and affected roughly 38 savers within the program. We reached out to this employer and were able to utilize one of our new tools under the program where we were able to get the employer to make the deposited contributions and in lieu of assigning penalties under our statute that would have resulted in fines that really would have damaged the company. The employer was able to make the roughly \$35,000 in contributions to the accounts almost immediately and provided lost earnings for these contributions so they brought the participants

whole, this is a much better result for the savers for them to have their money and be made whole instead of the program assessing penalties against an employer and potentially hurting both the employer and savers here in New Jersey so we were very happy with that outcome. We'd like to thank our partners we did receive guidance from the AGs office in facilitating this and working with this employer but ultimately the employer was able to make the administrative correction and create a great resolution for the Savers of the program.

Moving onto saver outreach and education, I am happy to say we have a little bit of material here which will give a break from me speaking. We'll be sharing in this section the program has developed some saver processes and communications to increase enrollment outreach and education to the savers community, it has been focused in the following areas, one of them is the Know Your Customer approval process in order for us to open accounts for individuals, we need to know our customer base so when we receive a savers information we need to be able to verify the data that the individual is a real person, we have their address so that we can communicate with them and we know about them we can assign a suitable contribution deferral alternative for them a default investment.

Sometimes the data isn't the cleanest that we receive and we need to find ways to work through that we'll talk about that here in a moment, auto-escalation education, know with our new statute changes there is going to be some automation to this but there's always a good reason to have outreach and education, this is an example that I'd like to share with the board today opt out Saver engagement, how we're engaging the community who have elected not to utilize our program. Under the know your customer account approval the program has subscribed to a software package that allows us to independently audit and confirm and validate the savers' information. I am very pleased the staff was able to review 2725 saver profiles that were evaluated by using this new software and we were able to approve and offer the program to auto enroll these individuals into the program as a result of this we were still performing at a roughly 30% rate close to 700 savers have elected to contribute into the program. This is a new feature that only went into effect really towards the end of the calendar year. AS a result of this engagement though we've received approximately \$160,000 in contributions so the program is really finding creative ways and systematic ways to engage in a way that result in contributions to the program.

Along with that, we've begun the process of engaging the savers to create awareness of auto-escalation. We've sent out 14,000 emails to savers who are not utilizing this feature within the program. This communication included a video.

Shows Video

These videos have been very effective in working with the Saver community here in New Jersey. It provides something that is concrete and informative. These communications can be distributed electronically in a very passive communication style and have been accepted by the community well. Through this passive communication we've seen 13 savers adopt the auto-escalation feature. I know this number seems low, but we have to remember this has cost the agency literally nothing to implement and it goes out electronically to the Saver community who are utilizing the program. This type of communication strategy is low cost, effective, and we expect to continue to build upon it as we move forward.

In addition, we have started doing communications to individuals who have opted out of the program. The program has sent out 10,000 emails to individuals who have opted out of RetireReady NJ saving program. We've named this initiative the 1% challenge, begin with 1% use tools like auto-escalation, gives you the ability to begin saving for retirement. The campaign only began last month, through this path of communication, 7 savers have started contributing and we've seen more than \$1000 in contributions. This is one month worth of effort, once again into a process that is almost entirely automated, there's next to no cost for the program to facilitate and obviously it's having some effect or influence on the decisions of our saver communities who are not saving for retirement, so creating awareness, engagement, and preparing them to utilize these services.

With that said, I'd like to move onto program analytics and I'm going to remind the board that we've experienced a very harsh market environment in the last month or so that does have an influence on the program, that being said, I do not come to you today with bad news. The program continues to grow, we're seeing more adoption each month, roughly 1000 to 1500 new savers a month and more than 81 employers have begun facilitating the program since we last met. As a result of these advancements, the adoption by the employers and the savers, we have 26,500 savers in the program presently voluntarily and participation and contributing on a pay period basis into RetireReady. This is huge, I am humbled by it, if we think a short time ago, we were just launching this program, now we have close to approaching 27,000 Savers as a result of these registered employers and their employes have been able to save for retirement through RetireReady NJ.

We're receiving around \$1,500,000 a month into the program. A year ago, we were happy that we reached \$1,000,000 we're doing roughly \$1,000,000 and a half a month into the program, our current funding level is \$19,233,260.04. This is enormous, we are humbled by it I would like to congratulate the board, the staff, and everyone who has contributed to this. This is the beginning, we've talked about legislative changes we expect that through the advancement of these changes, employees of smaller employers are going to have access to the program. We expect that these contribution totals and adoptions will increase dramatically over the coming year.

I know that was a very long readout for us today and I apologize. I'm also very proud and happy with what we had to present today. I do have resolutions that require board actions today. With that I'd like to present Resolution 7A to amend our board's bylaws. We have a resolution to amend the program bylaws, there are really 2 main changes, to this first, no fewer than 3 members will be on a committee and 2 of the members must be board members. This change is to prevent inadvertent board quorums right now as we are at a very lean board, while we wait for some appointments to go through. But during this period when we have committees, we want to make sure we don't violate our bylaws and establish a quorum inadvertently.

Additionally, we would like to make the investment committee responsible for the evaluation of our current fees for the program and the creation of a fee policy statement. With the new fee structure, we would like to establish a fee policy similar to our investment policy, they will work in concert together, so it makes sense to have these 2 matters evaluated by the same committee instead of establishing 2 committees and bringing them together separately.

Under Resolution 7B, the program board to approve an Investment Advisor RFP. There is a

contract between the board and Segal Marco that expires on December 31, 2026. The board and Segal have the option of renewing up to 3 times for periods of one-year intervals. If the board elects to consider other bids, I'd like to make them aware it will be committed to accepting the new contract whether the costs are higher or lower than the current contract extension. As a matter of best practice, I do recommend the board and the program solicit an RFP. This recommendation is based on our fiduciary commitments to the Savers of the program. The RFP will provide a service comparison to qualified bidders considerate of the future state of the program, which includes larger asset base as a result of the expansion or change of our employer mandated threshold and the increased complexity with the potential of establishing partner state arrangements. With that we do present 7B for your consideration.

The next resolution is 7C, the program board to approve the investment policy statement. The investment committee has provided a recommendation to place the Wasatch small cap value fund to a watch status. This is a result of underperformance relative to its benchmark, the Russell 2000 value as we spoke about earlier.

Our last matter requiring board action Resolution 7d memorandum of understanding between the Secure Choice Savings Program Board and the State Treasurer. This MOU delegates tasks assigned to the Department of Treasury to the NJ Secure Choice Savings Program. The term is for a period of 2 years. It will require the addition of staff for the Secure Choice Savings Program, specifically the hiring of a hearing officer as we move into enforcement phases the hearing officer would give an opportunity to review disputes of findings. This position will be trained and actually situated within the Department of the Treasury's Administrative staff. This is to help provide training and oversight to conform with the standards of the Treasury Department.

With that being said this brings my update to a conclusion. Thank you for your patience if the board has any questions for me at this time, I'd be happy to respond to them.

Charles Hall asked about the RFP for a new Investment Advisor, specifically the benefits of seeking a new Investment Advisor vs retaining the current one by extending the contract.

Todd Hassler stated that by going to RFP now, it may reduce the cost to the program long term as the assets of the program will only go up, which may result in increased cost to the program. Additionally, the doubling of the availability of the program, will increase the contributions and assets under management, which would prompt these higher costs. Finally, with the Multi-State partnership agreements, is not built into the RFP with Segal, we may face higher costs by requiring questions that are outside the scope of the contract. We were just launching the program when the Investment Advisor was selected previously and we may see additional competitive bids due to the success of the program.

Charles Hall's second question involved the Underperformance of the Wasatch small cap value fund, specifically the length of the underperformance and by how much are they underperforming to their benchmark.

Todd Hassler, remarked that our Investment Advisor has stated this is an anomaly and he expects the underperformance to recover as the market does. This is the second quarter the fund has been

underperforming so it was recommended to be placed on a watch list for further monitoring.

Chair Spalla, asked that the Board be given a bullet list of Legislative Changes for their review.

Chair Spalla then turned to Resolution 7A, the resolution to update the board's by-laws.

Evelyn Liebmann made a motion, which was seconded by Tariq Shabazz, and was voted unanimously by all 5 members in attendance.

Chair Spalla then moved to Resolution 7B, the resolution to make the decision to solicit RFP bids for an Investment Advisor.

Charles Hall made a motion, which was seconded by Evelyn Liebmann, and was voted unanimously by all 5 members in attendance.

Chair Spalla moved onto Resolution 7C, the resolution to approve the Investment Policy.

Shirley Emehelu made a motion, which was seconded by Charles Hall and was voted unanimously by all 5 members in attendance.

Chair Spalla moved onto Resolution 7D, the resolution to approve a Memorandum of Understanding between the Board and the Department of the Treasury.

Evelyn Liebmann made a motion, which was seconded by Tariq Shabazz, and was voted unanimously by all 5 members in attendance.

Chair Spalla asked about any old business from the board.

Chair Spalla moved to new business of the board.

Todd Hassler provided explanations on the appointment of an Evaluation Committee needing to be made in the future when the Board receives responses from the RFP solicitation process.

Todd Hassler briefly discussed the Fee Policy Statement that will be crafted by the members of the Investment Committee.

Chair Spalla then opened the meeting up for public comment, of which there was none.

There being no further business, on a motion from Charles Hall, which was seconded by Evelyn Liebmann, and carried by voice vote from members present voting in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 11:27 AM.