

A large, semi-transparent graphic in the center of the page. It features the letters 'SRPS' in a large, serif font at the top. Below the letters is a stylized, abstract design consisting of several overlapping shapes, including circles and rectangles, arranged in a way that suggests a network or a complex structure. The entire graphic is rendered in shades of gray.

SRPS

Plan Summary

TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

A COMPOSITE PICTURE

	2015	2014
Total Membership		
Active Vested	986	1,276
Active Non-vested	—	—
Vested Former Members	386	442
Retired Members	28,131	28,762
Active Members		
Number	986	1,276
Average Age	64.5	63.6
Average Years of Service	39.3	38.4
Average Annual Salary	\$ 92,694	\$ 91,188
Retirees & Beneficiaries		
Number	28,131	28,762
Average Age	76.3	75.9
Average Monthly Benefit	\$ 3,067	\$ 2,985

THE TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM (TRS) was established on August 1, 1927 and is administered in accordance with the State Personnel and Pensions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. Prior to January 1, 1980, membership in the TRS was a condition of employment for State and local teachers and certain board of education, public library and community college employees, unless those who were eligible elected to participate in an optional retirement program. Effective July 1, 1971 Baltimore City teachers and retired teachers were included in the TRS.

Effective January 1, 1980, the TRS was effectively closed to new membership when the Teachers' Pension System (TPS) was established. Individuals who were members of the TRS on December 31, 1979, continue their TRS membership unless, and until, they elected to transfer to the TPS prior to January 1, 2005.

Member Contributions

All member contributions to the TRS are based on a specified percentage of annual earnable compensation. Members who elected in 1984 to receive unlimited future cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) contribute 7% if enrolled after June 30, 1973. Members enrolled before July 1, 1973 contribute the lesser of 7% or 2% more than the rate of contribution in effect on the date of their enrollment. This option is referred to as Selection A (Unlimited COLA).

Members who elected in 1984 to receive limited future COLA's contribute 5% if enrolled after June 30, 1973. Members enrolled before July 1, 1973 contribute the lesser of 5% or the rate of contribution in effect on the date of their enrollment. This option is referred to as Selection B (Limited COLA).

All other TRS members contribute **in accordance with the provisions of the Teachers' Pension System**. This option is referred to as Selection C (Combination Formula), that provides a two-part benefit calculation upon retirement. The employee contribution for Section C, Part 2 is 5%.

Members who are in Selection A, B, or C will remain in these until their retirement. As of January 1, 2005, they were no longer permitted to change selections.

Service Retirement Allowances

Eligibility — TRS members are eligible for full service retirement allowances upon attaining age 60 or upon accumulating 30 years of eligibility service regardless of age.

Allowances — Full service retirement allowances equal 1/55 (1.818%) of the highest three years' average final **compensation** (AFC) multiplied by the number of years and months of accumulated creditable service. Allowances for members who fail to make all required contributions are reduced by the actuarial equivalent of the total unpaid contributions plus interest to date of retirement. Service is accrued based on a full normal school year (ten months).

Early Retirement Allowances

Eligibility — TRS members are eligible for early service retirement allowances upon accumulating at least 25 years of eligibility service prior to attaining age 60.

Allowances — Early service retirement allowances equal the amount payable for a full service retirement reduced by 0.5% for each month by which the retirement date precedes the earlier of the date on which the member reaches age 60, or the date on which the member would have completed 30 years of service. The maximum reduction for a TRS member is 30 percent. The maximum reduction for a TRS member who elected Selection C is 30% on the first part and 42% on the second part of the benefit calculation.

Ordinary Disability Retirement Allowances

Eligibility — TRS members are eligible for ordinary disability retirement allowances upon completing five years of eligibility service and receiving certification from the Medical Board that they are permanently incapable of performing their necessary job functions.

Allowances — Ordinary disability retirement allowances generally equal 1/55 (1.818%) of the highest three years' AFC multiplied by the number of years of accumulated creditable service. However, the ordinary disability benefits can be no greater than 1.818% of AFC for each year of creditable service the members would have received had they continued to work until age 60.

Accidental Disability Retirement Allowances

Eligibility — TRS members are eligible for accidental disability benefits if the Medical Board certifies that, in the course of job performance and as the direct result of an accidental injury, they became totally and permanently disabled.

Allowances — Accidental disability allowances equal the sum of an annuity determined as the actuarial value of the members' accumulated contributions, plus 2/3 (66.7%) of AFC. Allowances may not exceed the members' AFC.

Death Benefits

Eligibility — To be eligible for death benefits, TRS members must have either accumulated at least one year of eligibility service prior to the date of death or died in the line of duty.

Benefits — The benefit provided upon death for TRS members equals the members' annual earnable compensation at the time of death plus accumulated contributions. Under certain circumstances, surviving spouses who were named as sole primary beneficiaries may elect to receive either the aforementioned lump sum payment, or a monthly allowance calculated under Option 2 (100% survivor option).

Special Death Benefit - Provides a special death benefit to the surviving spouse, dependent children, or dependent parents of employees killed in the line of duty equal to 2/3 of the deceased member's average final compensation.

Vested Retirement Allowances

Eligibility — TRS members are eligible for vested retirement allowances after separation from service and upon reaching normal retirement age, provided that at least five years of eligibility service was accumulated prior to separation.

Allowances — Vested allowances equal the normal service retirement allowances computed on the basis of the members' accumulated creditable service and AFC at the point of separation.

If members do not withdraw their contributions, and die before attaining age 60, their accumulated contributions are returned to the designated beneficiary.

Cost-of-Living Adjustments

Retirement allowances are adjusted each year based on the Consumer Price Index(CPI). Cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) are effective July 1st of each year and are applied to all allowances payable for the year. However, the method by which the annual COLAs are computed depends upon elections made by members who were active on July 1, 1984 (or within 90 days of returning to service, for members who were inactive on July 1, 1984). Each option is explained in the following column.

Selection A (Unlimited COLA) — TRS members who elected Selection A, agreed to contribute no more than 7% of earnable

compensation in return for unlimited annual COLAs after retirement.

Selection B (Limited COLA) — TRS members who elected Selection B, agreed to contribute at the required TPS employee contribution rate of earnable compensation in return for COLAs that are limited to 5% annually after retirement.

Selection C (Combination Formula) — TRS members who elected Selection C, agreed to contribute at the required TPS employee contribution rate of earnable compensation in return for COLAs that, similar to the retirement benefit, are divided into two parts.

Part 1: The COLAs are unlimited unless the member elected Selection B prior to electing Selection C, in which case COLAs are limited to 5%.

Part 2: The COLAs are limited to 3%.

In years in which COLAs would be less than zero due to a decline in the CPI, retirement allowances will not be adjusted. COLAs in succeeding years are adjusted until the difference between the negative COLA that would have applied and the zero COLA is fully recovered.

Optional Forms of Payment

Option 1: Payment guarantees a cash reserve equal to the excess of the present value of the retirement allowance at the date of retirement minus the total amount of payments (less COLAs) made to the date of death.

Option 2: 100% joint and survivor annuity.

Option 3: 50% joint and survivor annuity.

Option 4: Payment guarantees a minimum return of the members' accumulated contributions.

Option 5: 100% joint and survivor annuity with adjustment to maximum benefit if beneficiary predeceases retiree.

Option 6: 50% joint and survivor annuity with adjustment to maximum benefit if beneficiary predeceases retiree.

Except for a spouse or disabled child, the beneficiary designated under Option 2 or 5 cannot be more than 10 years younger than the retiree (IRS Regulation).

Workers' Compensation Benefits Reduction

Disability retirement allowances are generally reduced by workers' compensation benefits paid after retirement if, and to the extent that, such benefits are for the same injury and the same period of time for which the retirement benefits are payable. The workers' compensation benefit reduction cannot reduce any retirement allowance to less than the amount necessary to cover the retiree's monthly health insurance premiums.

TEACHERS' PENSION SYSTEM

A COMPOSITE PICTURE

	2015	2014
Total Membership		
Active Vested	79,707	80,319
Active Non-vested	24,833	22,875
Vested Former Members	24,155	23,778
Retired Members	43,045	40,167
Active Members		
Number	104,540	103,194
Average Age	44.9	44.9
Average Years of Service	11.7	11.7
Average Annual Salary	\$ 61,023	\$ 60,022
Retirees & Beneficiaries		
Number	43,045	40,167
Average Age	69.5	69.1
Average Monthly Benefit	\$ 1,755	\$ 1,702

THE TEACHERS' PENSION SYSTEM (TPS) was established on January 1, 1980 and is administered in accordance with the State Personnel and Pensions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. Membership in the TPS is a condition of employment for all State and local teachers and certain board of education, public library and community college employees (unless those who are eligible elect to participate in an optional retirement program).

All individuals who are members of the Teacher's Pension System on or before June 30, 2011, participate in the Alternate Contributory Pension Selection (ACPS) except for the few members who transferred from the Teachers' Retirement System after April 1, 1998 or former vested members who terminated employment prior to July 1, 1998.

All individuals who enroll in the Teachers' Pension System on or after July 1, 2011, participate in the Reformed Contributory Pension Benefit (RCPB).

Member Contributions

All ACPS members are required to contribute 7% of earnable compensation during FY2010.

Service Pension Allowances

ACPS Eligibility — Members are eligible for full service pension allowances upon accumulating 30 years of eligibility service regardless of age. Absent 30 years of eligibility service, members must meet one of the following conditions to be eligible for full service pension allowances:

- age 62, & five years of eligibility service
- age 63, & four years of eligibility service
- age 64, & three years of eligibility service
- age 65 or older, & two years of eligibility service

RCPB Eligibility — Members are eligible for full service pension allowances when their combined age and eligibility service equals at least 90 years or they attain age 65 after 10 years of eligibility service.

ACPS Allowances — Service pension allowances equal 1.2% of AFC for the three highest consecutive years as an employee for each year of creditable service accrued prior to July 1, 1998, plus 1.8% of AFC for the three highest consecutive years as an employee for each year of creditable service accrued on and after July 1, 1998.

RCPB Allowances — Service pension allowances equal 1.5% of AFC for the five highest consecutive years as an employee for each year of creditable service on or after July 1, 2011.

Early Service Pension Allowances

ACPS Eligibility — Members are eligible for early service pension allowances upon attaining age 55 with at least 15 years of eligibility service.

ACPS Allowances — Early service pension allowances equal the amount payable for a full service pension reduced by 0.5% for each month by which the retirement date precedes the date on which the members reach age 62. The maximum reduction is 42 percent.

RCPB Eligibility — Members are eligible for early service pension allowances upon attaining age 60 with at least 15 years of eligibility service.

RCPB Allowances — Early service pension allowances equal the amount payable for a full service pension reduced by 0.5% for each month by which the retirement date precedes the date on which the members reach age 65. The maximum reduction is 30%.

Ordinary Disability Pension Allowances

Eligibility — ACPS and RCPB members are eligible for ordinary disability pension allowances upon completing five years of eligibility service and receiving certification from the Medical Board that they are permanently incapable of performing their necessary job functions.

Allowances — Ordinary disability pension allowances equal the full service pension allowances if the members are at least age 62 on the date of retirement. Otherwise, the allowances equal the full service pension allowances computed as though the members had continued to accrue service credits until age 62 without any change in the rate of earnable compensation.

Accidental Disability Pension Allowances

Eligibility — ACPS and RCPB members are eligible for accidental disability pension allowances if the Medical Board certifies that, in the course of their job performance and as the direct result of an accidental injury, they became totally and permanently disabled.

Allowances — Accidental disability pension allowances equal the sum of an annuity determined as the actuarial value of the mem-

bers' accumulated contributions, and 2/3 (66.7%) of AFC. Allowances may not exceed the members' AFC.

Death Benefits

Eligibility — To be eligible for death benefits, ACPS and RCPB members must have either accumulated at least one year of eligibility service prior to the date of death or died in the line of duty.

Benefits — The benefit provided upon death of ACPS members equals the members' annual earnable compensation on the date of death plus accumulated contributions. Under certain circumstances, surviving spouses who were named as sole primary beneficiaries may elect to receive either the aforementioned lump sum payment, or a monthly allowance calculated under Option 2 (100% survivor option). If at the time of death, the members had:

- accrued at least 25 years of eligibility service, or
- attained age 55 with at least 15 years of eligibility service, or
- attained age 62, then

the survivor's allowance is determined as if the members had been eligible to retire, and had in fact retired.

Special Death Benefit - Provides a special death benefit to the surviving spouse, dependent children, or dependent parents of employees killed in the line of duty equal to 2/3 of the deceased member's average final compensation.

Vested Pension Allowances

ACPS Eligibility — Members are eligible for vested pension allowances after separation from service and upon reaching age 62, provided that at least five years of eligibility service was accumulated prior to separation. Members may be eligible for reduced vested pension allowances upon attaining age 55 with at least 15 years of eligibility service. Vested allowances are reduced by 0.5% for each month by which the allowance commencement date precedes the date on which the members attain age 62.

ACPS Allowances — Vested allowances equal the normal service pension allowances computed on the basis of the members' accumulated creditable service and AFC at the point of separation. If members do not withdraw their contributions, and die before attaining age 62, their accumulated contributions are returned to the designated beneficiary.

RCPB Eligibility — Members are eligible for vested pension allowances after separation from service and upon reaching age 65, provided that at least 10 years of eligibility service was accumulated prior to separation. Members may be eligible for reduced vested pension allowances upon attaining age 60 with at least 15 years of eligibility service. Vested allowances are reduced by 0.5% for each month by which the allowance commencement date precedes the date on which the members attain age 65.

RCPB Allowances — Vested allowances equal the normal service pension allowances computed on the basis of the members' accumulated creditable service and AFC at the point of separation. If members do not withdraw their contributions, and die before attaining age 65, their accumulated contributions are returned to the designated beneficiary.

Cost-of-Living Adjustments

Retirement allowances for ACPS members are adjusted each year based on the Consumer Price Index. COLAs are effective July 1st of each year and, are compounded annually. Effective July 1, 1998, the adjustment is capped at a maximum 3% and is applied to all benefits which have been in payment for one year.

For ACPS and RCPB retirement allowances attributable to service earned on or after July 1, 2011, the adjustment is capped at the lesser of 2.5% or the increase in CPI if the most recent calendar year market value rate of return was greater than or equal to the assumed rate. For fiscal year 2013, the assumed rate of return is 7.75%, as approved by the Board of Trustees. The adjustment is capped at the lesser of 1% or the increase in CPI if, for fiscal year 2013, the market value return was less than the assumed rate of 7.75%.

In years in which COLAs would be less than zero due to a decline in the CPI, retirement allowances will not be adjusted. COLAs in succeeding years are adjusted until the difference between the negative COLA that would have applied and the zero COLA is fully recovered.

Optional Forms of Payment

Option 1: Payment guarantees a cash reserve equal to the excess of the present value of the pension allowance at the date of retirement minus the total amount of payments (less COLAs) made to the date of death.

Option 2: 100% joint and survivor annuity.

Option 3: 50% joint and survivor annuity.

Option 4: Payment guarantees a minimum return of the members' accumulated contributions.

Option 5: 100% joint and survivor annuity with adjustment to maximum benefit if beneficiary predeceases retiree.

Option 6: 50% joint and survivor annuity with adjustment to maximum benefit if beneficiary predeceases retiree.

Except for a spouse or disabled child, the beneficiary designated under Option 2 or 5 cannot be more than 10 years younger than the retiree (IRS regulation).

Workers' Compensation Benefits Reduction

Disability retirement allowances are generally reduced by workers' compensation benefits paid after retirement if, and to the extent that, such benefits are for the same injury and the same period of time for which the retirement benefits were paid. The workers' compensation benefit reduction cannot reduce any retirement allowance to less than the amount necessary to cover the retiree's monthly health insurance premiums.

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

A COMPOSITE PICTURE

	2015	2014
Total Membership		
Active Vested	6,268	6,439
Active Non-vested	2,298	2,302
Vested Former Members	804	831
Retired Members	21,571	22,013
Active Members		
Number	8,566	8,741
Average Age	44.0	44.0
Average Years of Service	12.8	12.9
Average Annual Salary	\$ 50,108	\$ 48,503
Retirees & Beneficiaries		
Number	21,571	22,013
Average Age	73.3	73.2
Average Monthly Benefit	\$ 1,851	\$ 1,794

THE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM (ERS) was established on October 1, 1941 and is administered in accordance with the State Personnel and Pensions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. Prior to January 1, 1980, membership in the ERS was a condition of employment for all State employees (other than those eligible for participation in another system) and employees of participating governmental units. For certain elected and appointed officials, participation in ERS was optional.

Effective January 1, 1980, the ERS was effectively closed to new membership when the Employees' Pension System (EPS) was established. Individuals who were members of the ERS on December 31, 1979, continue their ERS membership unless, and until, they elect to transfer to the EPS, prior to January 1, 2005.

Member Contributions

All member contributions to the ERS are based on a specified percentage of annual earnable compensation. Members who elected in 1984 to receive unlimited future COLAs contribute 7% if enrolled after June 30, 1973. Members enrolled before July 1, 1973 contribute the lesser of 7% or 2% more than the rate of contribution in effect on their date of enrollment. This option is referred to as Selection A (Unlimited COLA).

Members who elected in 1984 to receive limited future COLAs contribute 5% if enrolled after June 30, 1973. Members enrolled before July 1, 1973 contribute the lesser of 5% or the rate of contribution in effect on the date of their enrollment. This option is referred to as Selection B (Limited COLA).

Members who are State employees as well as members whose employer elected to participate in the Employees' Pension System contribute in accordance with the provisions of the Employees' Pension System elected by the employer. This option is referred

to as Selection C (Combination Formula). The employee contribution for Section C, Part 2 is 5%.

Members who are in Selection A, B, or C will remain in these until their retirement. As of January 1, 2005, they were no longer permitted to change selections.

Service Retirement Allowances

Eligibility — ERS members are eligible for full service retirement allowances upon attaining age 60 or upon accumulating 30 years of eligibility service regardless of age.

Allowances — Full service retirement allowances equal 1/55 (1.818%) of the highest three years' AFC multiplied by the number of years and months of accumulated creditable service. Allowances for members who fail to make all required contributions are reduced by the actuarial equivalent of the total unpaid contributions plus interest to date of retirement.

Early Retirement Allowances

Eligibility — ERS members are eligible for early service retirement allowances upon accumulating at least 25 years of eligibility service prior to attaining age 60.

Allowances — Early service retirement allowances equal the amount payable for a full service retirement reduced by 0.5% for each month by which the retirement date precedes the earlier of the date on which the member reaches age 60, or the date on which the member would have completed 30 years of service. The maximum reduction for an ERS member is 30 percent. The maximum reduction for an ERS member who elected Selection C is 30% on the first part and 42% on the second part of the benefit calculation.

Ordinary Disability Retirement Allowances

Eligibility — ERS members are eligible for ordinary disability retirement allowances upon completing five years of eligibility service and receiving certification from the Medical Board that they are permanently incapable of performing their necessary job functions.

Allowances — Ordinary disability retirement allowances generally equal 1/55 (**1.818%**) of the highest three years' AFC multiplied by the number of years of accumulated creditable service. However, the ordinary disability benefits can be no greater than **1.818%** of AFC for each year of creditable service the members would have received had they continued to work until age 60.

Accidental Disability Retirement Allowances

Eligibility — ERS members are eligible for accidental disability benefits if the Medical Board certifies that, in the course of job performance and as the direct result of an accidental injury, they became totally and permanently disabled.

Allowances — Accidental disability allowances equal the sum of an annuity determined as the actuarial value of the members' accumulated contributions, plus 2/3 (66.7%) of AFC. Allowances may not exceed the members' AFC.

Death Benefits

Eligibility — To be eligible for death benefits, ERS members must have either accumulated at least one year of eligibility service prior to the date of death or died in the line of duty.

Benefits — The benefit provided upon death for ERS members equals the members' annual earnable compensation at the time of death plus accumulated contributions. Under certain circumstances, surviving spouses who were named sole primary beneficiaries may elect to receive either the aforementioned lump sum payment, or a monthly allowance calculated under Option 2 (100% survivor option).

Special Death Benefit - Provides a special death benefit to the surviving spouse, dependent children, or dependent parents of employees killed in the line of duty equal to 2/3 of the deceased member's average final compensation.

Vested Retirement Allowances

Eligibility — ERS members are eligible for vested retirement allowances after separation from service and upon reaching normal retirement age, provided that at least five years of eligibility service was accumulated prior to separation.

Allowances — Vested allowances equal the normal service retirement allowances computed on the basis of the members' accumulated creditable service and AFC at the point of separation.

If members do not withdraw their contributions, and die before attaining age 60, their accumulated contributions are returned to the designated beneficiary.

Cost-of-Living Adjustments

Retirement allowances are adjusted each year based on the Consumer Price Index. COLAs are effective July 1st of each year and are applied to all allowances payable for the year. However, the method by which the annual COLAs are computed depends upon elections made by members who were active on July 1, 1984 (or within 90 days of returning to service for members who were inactive on July 1, 1984). Each option is explained below.

Selection A (Unlimited COLA) — ERS members who elected Selection A, agreed to contribute no more than 7% of earnable compensation in return for unlimited annual COLAs after retirement.

Selection B (Limited COLA) — ERS members who elected Selection B, agreed to contribute no more than 5% of earnable compensation in return for COLAs that are limited to 5% annually after retirement.

Selection C (Combination Formula) — ERS members who elected Selection C, agreed to contribute at the required EPS employee contribution rate of earnable compensation in return for

COLAs that, similar to the retirement benefit, are divided into two parts:

Part 1: The COLAs are unlimited unless the members elected Selection B prior to electing Selection C, in which case COLAs are limited to 5%.

Part 2: Generally, the COLAs are limited to 3%; however, if the employers participate in the Non-Contributory Pension System, the COLA's are limited to 3% of the initial allowance.

Optional Forms of Payment

Option 1: Payment guarantees a cash reserve equal to the excess of the present value of the retirement allowance at the date of retirement minus the total amount of payments (less COLA's) made to the date of death.

Option 2: 100% joint and survivor annuity.

Option 3: 50% joint and survivor annuity.

Option 4: Payment guarantees a minimum return of the members' accumulated contributions.

Option 5: 100% joint and survivor annuity with adjustment to maximum benefit if beneficiary predeceases retiree.

Option 6: 50% joint and survivor annuity with adjustment to maximum benefit if beneficiary predeceases retiree.

Except for a spouse or disabled child, the beneficiary designated under Option 2 or 5 cannot be more than 10 years younger than the retiree (IRS regulation).

Workers' Compensation Benefits Reduction

Disability retirement allowances, except for employees of participating governmental units, are generally reduced by workers' compensation benefits paid after retirement if, and to the extent that, such benefits are for the same injury and the same period of time for which the retirement benefits are payable. The workers' compensation benefit reduction cannot reduce any retirement allowance to less than the amount necessary to cover the retiree's monthly health insurance premiums.

Miscellaneous Provisions for Members of the Maryland General Assembly

For individuals who are members of the Legislative Pension Plan on or before December 31, 2014, the retirement allowance is equal to 3.00% of current legislative salary for each year of creditable service (maximum 22 years, 3 months) upon attainment of age 60 and at least eight years of creditable service. Reduced benefits are payable upon attainment of age 50 and completion of 8 years of creditable service. The benefit is reduced by .005 for each month between ages 50 and 60 that the early retirement date precedes age 60.

An individual who is a member of the Legislative Pension Plan on or before December 31, 2014, with eight years of creditable service who has not attained age 60 may leave contributions in the

system and receive a retirement allowance at age 60, or a reduced benefit on or after age 50. If termination occurs before the completion of eight years of creditable service, the member may make contributions equal to the member's and the State's required contributions until the member would have completed eight years of eligibility service, (and receive 24% of creditable compensation at age 60 or a reduced benefit on or after age 50).

For individuals who join the Legislative Pension Plan on or after January 1, 2015, the retirement allowance is equal to 3.00% of current legislative salary for each year of creditable service (maximum 22 years 3 months) upon attainment of age 62 and at least eight years of creditable service. Reduced benefits are payable upon attainment of age 55 and completion of 8 years of creditable service. The benefit is reduced by .005 for each month between ages 55 and 62 that the early retirement date precedes age 62.

An individual who joins the Legislative Pension Plan on or after January 1, 2015, accrues eight years of creditable service, and who has not attained age 62 may leave contributions in the system and receive a retirement allowance at age 62, or a reduced benefit on or after age 55. If termination occurs before the completion of eight years of creditable service, the member may make contributions equal to the member's and the State's required contributions until the member would have completed eight years of eligibility service, (and receive 24% of creditable compensation at age 62 or a reduced benefit on or after age 55).

A member who is certified as disabled by the Medical Board and approved by the Board of Trustees for a disability retirement benefit after attaining at least 8 years of creditable service may resign from the General Assembly and immediately receive a retirement allowance based on their creditable service.

The member's surviving spouse receives 50% of the member's retirement allowance if the member i) is retired, ii) is eligible for a deferred vested benefit, or iii) is active and has eight years of creditable service. The surviving spouse of a member who had accrued less than eight years of creditable service and dies in office shall receive a lump sum death benefit of accumulated contributions plus an amount equal to the deceased's annual earnable compensation at the time of death.

Beginning January 1, 2015, members contribute 7% of their earnable compensation during their first 22 years, 3 months of service with contributions earning interest at 4% per year.

All retirement allowances are recalculated each time the salaries for current members of the General Assembly are increased.

Miscellaneous Provisions for State Correctional Officers

Correctional officers serving in the first six job classifications, maximum security attendants at Clifton T. Perkins Hospital Center, a Correctional Dietary, Maintenance or Supply Officer, Maryland

Correctional Enterprise Officers and Trainees, Plant Supervisors, Plant Managers, and Regional Managers; and Laundry Officers participate under this System. Effective July 1, 2006, Maryland counties may elect to participate on behalf of their detention center officers. Additionally, beginning July 1, 2014, individuals serving as a security chief, a facility administrator, an assistant warden or a warden will participate in this System.

The retirement allowance for an individual who is a correctional officer on or before June 30, 2011, is 1/55th of average final compensation for the three highest years as a member for each year of creditable service. The retirement allowance for an individual who is a correctional officer on or after July 1, 2011, is 1/55th of average final compensation for the five highest years as a member for each year of creditable service.

An immediate service retirement allowance is payable to a correctional officer if, on or before the retirement, the officer has completed 20 years of eligibility service. For individuals who are correctional officers on June 30, 2011, the vested retirement allowance of a correctional officer who has accrued at least 5 years of eligibility service in the first six job classifications commences at age 55; for the security attendant it commences at age 60. For individuals who become correctional officers on or after July 1, 2011, the vested retirement allowance for a correctional officer who has accrued at least 5 years of eligibility services in the first six job classifications commences at age 55; for the security attendant it commences at age 60.

For benefits attributable to service on or after July 1, 2011, the Cost-of-living adjustment for Correctional Officers is capped at the lesser of 2.5% or the increase in CPI if the most recent calendar year market value rate of return was greater than or equal to the assumed rate of investment return from the most recent actuarial valuation. The adjustment is capped at the lesser of 1% or the increase in CPI if the most recent calendar year market value rate of return was less than the assumed rate of investment return from the most recent actuarial valuation.

EMPLOYEES' PENSION SYSTEM

A COMPOSITE PICTURE

	2015	2014
Total Membership		
Active Vested	54,458	56,250
Active Non-vested	20,770	19,834
Vested Former Members	27,042	26,707
Retired Members	50,460	47,446
Active Members		
Number	75,228	76,084
Average Age	48.5	48.6
Average Years of Service	12.1	12.3
Average Annual Salary	\$ 51,464	\$ 49,827
Retirees & Beneficiaries		
Number	50,460	47,446
Average Age	69.0	68.7
Average Monthly Benefit	\$ 1,152	\$ 1,101

THE EMPLOYEES' PENSION SYSTEM (EPS)

The Employees' Pension System (EPS) is administered in accordance with the State Personnel and Pension Article of the Annotated Code. The EPS consists of four parts:

Non-Contributory Pension System (NCPS)

The NCPS was established on January 1, 1980 and consists only of those participating employers that did not elect membership in the Employees' Contributory Pension System (ECPS) or the Alternate Contributory Pension Selection (ACPS).

Employees' Contributory Pension System (ECPS)

The ECPS was established as of July 1, 1998 and consists of those participating employers that elected participation in the ECPS effective July 1, 1998 through July 1, 2005 and did not elect membership in the ACPS as of July 1, 2006. Employees who transferred from the ERS to the EPS after April 1, 1998 were not eligible for the benefits of the ECPS.

Alternate Contributory Pension Selection (ACPS)

The ACPS was established as of July 1, 2006 and consists of all eligible State employees and those participating employers that elected participation in the ACPS effective July 1, 2006. Employees who transferred from the ERS to the EPS after April 1, 1998 were not eligible for the benefits of the ACPS.

Reformed Contributory Pension Benefit (RCPB)

The RCPB was established as of July 1, 2011 and consists of all State employees and, employees of participating governmental units enrolling in the EPS on or after July 1, 2011. It does not apply to employees of participating governmental units participating in the NCPS or ECPS who in enroll in the Employees' Pension System on or after July 1, 2011.

Member Contributions

NCPS — Members were required to contribute 5% of earnable compensation in excess of the social security wage base.

ECPS — Members are required to contribute 2% of earnable compensation.

ACPS — Members were required to contribute 7% of earnable compensation.

RCPB — Members were required to contribute 7% of earnable compensation.

Service Pension Allowances

NCPS, ECPS, and ACPS Eligibility — Members are eligible for full service pension allowances upon accumulating 30 years of eligibility service regardless of age. Absent 30 years of eligibility service, members must meet one of the following conditions to be eligible for full service pension allowances:

- age 62, & five years of eligibility service
- age 63, & four years of eligibility service
- age 64, & three years of eligibility service
- age 65 or older, & two years of eligibility service

RCPB Eligibility - Members are eligible for full service pension allowances when their combined age and eligibility service equals at least 90 years or they attain age 65 after 10 years of eligibility service.

Allowances

NCPS - Full service pension allowance equals .8% of the highest three consecutive years AFC up to the SSIL, plus 1.5% of the AFC in excess of the SSIL, multiplied by the number of years of accumulated creditable service. For purposes of computing pension allowances, the SSIL is the average of the social security wage bases for the 35 years immediately prior to the year of retirement.

ECPS - Full service pension allowance equals 1.2% of AFC for the three highest consecutive years as an employee for each year of creditable service accrued prior to July 1, 1998 plus 1.4% of the AFC for the three highest consecutive years as an employee for each year of creditable service accrued on or after July 1, 1998.

ACPS - Full service pension allowance equals 1.2% of AFC for the three highest consecutive years as an employee for each year of creditable service accrued prior to July 1, 1998 plus 1.8% of the AFC for the three highest consecutive years as an employee for each year of creditable service accrued on or after July 1, 1998.

RCPB - Full service pension allowance equals 1.5% of AFC for the five highest consecutive years as an employee for each year of creditable service accrued on or after July 1, 2011.

Early Service Pension Allowances

NCPS, ECPS, and ACPS Eligibility — Members are eligible for early service pension allowances upon attaining age 55 with at least 15 years of eligibility service.

NCPS, ECPS, and ACPS Allowances — Early service pension allowances equal the amount payable for a full service pension reduced by 0.5% for each month by which the retirement date precedes the date on which the member reaches age 62. The maximum reduction is 42 percent.

RCPB Eligibility — Members are eligible for early service pension allowances upon attaining age 60 with at least 15 years of eligibility service.

RCPB Allowances — Early service pension allowances equal the amount payable for a full service pension reduced by .5% for each month by which the retirement date precedes the date on which the members reach age 65. The maximum reduction is 30%.

Ordinary Disability Pension Allowances

Eligibility — All EPS members are eligible for ordinary disability pension allowances upon completing five years of eligibility service and receiving certification from the Medical Board that they are permanently incapable of performing their necessary job functions.

Allowances — Ordinary disability pension allowances equal the full service pension allowances if the members are at least age 62 on the date of retirement. Otherwise, the allowances equal the full service pension allowances computed as though the members had continued to accrue service credits until age 62 without any change in the rate of earnable compensation.

Accidental Disability Pension Allowances

Eligibility — All EPS members are eligible for accidental disability pension allowances if the Medical Board certifies that, in the course of their job performance and as the direct result of an accidental injury, they became totally and permanently disabled.

Allowances — Accidental disability pension allowances equal the sum of an annuity determined as the actuarial value of the members' accumulated contributions, and 2/3 (66.7%) of AFC.

Death Benefits

Eligibility — To be eligible for death benefits, EPS members must have either accumulated at least one year of eligibility service prior to the date of death or died in the line of duty.

Benefits — The benefit provided upon death of all EPS members equals the members' annual earnable compensation on the date of death plus accumulated contributions. Under certain circumstances, surviving spouses who were named sole primary beneficiaries may elect to receive either the aforementioned lump sum payment, or a monthly allowance calculated as payment under Option 2 (100% survivor option).

If at the time of death, the members had:

- accrued at least 25 years of eligibility service, or
- attained age 55 with at least 15 years of eligibility service, or
- attained age 62, then

the survivor's allowance is determined as if the members had been eligible to retire.

Special Death Benefit - Provides a special death benefit to the surviving spouse, dependent children, or dependent parents of employees killed in the line of duty equal to 2/3 of the deceased member's average final compensation.

Vested Pension Allowances

NCPS, ECPS, and ACPS Eligibility — Members are eligible for

vested pension allowances after separation from service and upon reaching age 62, provided that at least five years of eligibility service was accumulated prior to separation. Members may be eligible for reduced vested pension allowances upon attaining age 55 with at least 15 years of eligibility service. Vested allowances are reduced by 0.5% for each month by which the allowance commencement date precedes the date on which the members attain age 62.

NCPS, ECPS, and ACPS Allowances — Vested allowances equal the normal service pension allowances computed on the basis of the members' accumulated creditable service and AFC at the point of separation. Members who elect to withdraw their accumulated contributions, remain eligible to receive the employer-provided share of the vested benefit. If members do not withdraw their contributions, and die before attaining age 62, their accumulated contributions are returned to the designated beneficiary.

RCPB Eligibility — Members are eligible for vested pension allowances after separation from service and upon reaching age 65, provided that at least 10 years of eligibility service was accumulated prior to separation. Members may be eligible for reduced vested pension allowances upon attaining age 60 with at least 15 years of eligibility service. Vested allowances are reduced by 0.5% for each month by which the allowance commencement date precedes the date on which the members attain age 65.

RCPB Allowances — Vested allowances equal the normal service pension allowances computed on the basis of the members' accumulated creditable service and AFC at the point of separation. If members do not withdraw their contributions, and die before attaining age 65, their accumulated contributions are returned to the designated beneficiary.

Cost of Living Adjustments

Retirement allowances for all EPS members are adjusted each year based on the Consumer Price Index. The Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA) are effective July 1st of each year.

For retirement allowances attributable to service earned on or before June 30, 2011:

NCPS - Limits the increase the retiree may receive to a maximum of 3% of the initial allowance annually.

ECPS - Limits the increase the retiree may receive to a maximum of 3%, compounded annually

ACPS - Limits the increase the retiree may receive to a maximum of 3%, compounded annually

For any EPS retirement allowance attributable to service earned on or after July 1, 2011, the adjustment is capped at the lesser of 2.5% or the increase in CPI if the most recent calendar year market value rate of return was greater than or equal to the assumed rate. For fiscal year 2013, the assumed rate of return is 7.75%, as approved by the Board of Trustees. The adjustment is capped at the lesser of 1% or the increase in CPI if, for fiscal 2013, the market value return was less than the assumed rate of 7.75%.

In years in which COLAs would be less than zero due to a decline in the CPI, retirement allowances will not be adjusted. COLAs in succeeding years are adjusted until the difference

between the negative COLA that would have applied and the zero COLA is fully recovered.

Optional Forms of Payment

- Option 1:** Payment guarantees a cash reserve equal to the excess of the present value of the pension allowance at the date of retirement minus the total amount of payments (less COLAs) made to the date of death.
- Option 2:** 100% joint and survivor annuity.
- Option 3:** 50% joint and survivor annuity.
- Option 4:** Payment guarantees a minimum return of the members' accumulated contributions.
- Option 5:** 100% joint and survivor annuity with adjustment to maximum benefit if beneficiary predeceases retiree.
- Option 6:** 50% joint and survivor annuity with adjustment to maximum benefit if beneficiary predeceases retiree.

Except for a spouse or disabled child, the beneficiary designated under Option 2 or 5 cannot be more than 10 years younger than the retiree (IRS regulation).

Workers' Compensation Benefits Reduction

Disability retirement allowances, except for retirees of a participating governmental unit, are generally reduced by workers' compensation benefits paid after retirement if, and to the extent that, such benefits are for the same injury and the same period of time for which the retirement benefits were paid.

The workers' compensation benefit reduction cannot reduce any retirement allowance to less than the amount necessary to cover the retiree's monthly health insurance premiums.

JUDGES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

A COMPOSITE PICTURE

	2015	2014
Total Membership		
Active Vested	243	254
Active Non-vested	64	47
Vested Former Members	8	8
Retired Members	397	395
Active Members		
Number	307	301
Average Age	58.1	57.7
Average Years of Service	8.9	8.9
Average Annual Salary	\$ 145,318	\$ 140,576
Retirees & Beneficiaries		
Number	397	395
Average Age	77.0	76.7
Average Monthly Benefit	\$ 6,296	\$ 6,057

THE JUDGES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM (JRS) was established on June 30, 1969 and is administered in accordance with the State Personnel and Pensions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. Membership is a condition of employment for all District Court, Circuit Court, Court of Appeals and Court of Special Appeals judges. Full-time masters in chancery and masters in juvenile causes appointed prior to June 30, 1989 and Workers' Compensation Commission judges are also members of the JRS.

Member Contributions

Beginning July 1, 2012, all members contribute 8% of annual earnable compensation during the first 16 years of service. After accruing 16 years of credit, no member contributions are required.

Service Retirement Allowances

Eligibility — JRS members who are members before July 1, 2012, are eligible for full service retirement allowances upon attaining age 60 or upon retirement by order of the Court of Appeals, with at least 16 years of eligibility service.

Individuals who become JRS members on or after July 1, 2012, are eligible for full service retirement allowances upon attaining age 60 and accruing at least five years of eligibility service, or upon retirement by order of the Court of Appeals, with at least 16 years of eligibility service.

All JRS members must retire at age 70.

Allowances — Full service retirement allowances equal 2/3 (66.7%) of the current salary for an active judge holding a comparable position. If members retire with less than 16 years of eligibility service, the annual retirement allowance is prorated accordingly.

Early Retirement Allowances

Eligibility — JRS members are not eligible for early service retirement allowances.

Disability Retirement Allowances

Eligibility — JRS members are eligible for disability retirement allowances upon receiving certification from the Medical Board that they are permanently incapable of performing their necessary job functions.

Allowances — The disability retirement allowances for JRS members generally equal the full service retirement allowance based on the members' actual length of service. However, for members completing at least three years of eligibility service, the disability benefit will be no less than 1/3 (33.3%) of the members' annual earnable compensation at the time of retirement.

Death Benefits

Eligibility — All JRS members, and former members, are eligible for death benefits regardless of age or length of service.

Benefits — The benefit provided upon death for JRS members, former members or retirees equals 50% of a service retirement allowance payable to the surviving spouse.

Special provisions apply in circumstances where deceased JRS members, former members or retirees have no surviving spouses, but are survived by a minor child (under age 18). In the event that deceased JRS members or former members are not survived by spouses or minor children, then all accumulated contributions are refunded to the estate.

Vested Retirement Allowances

Eligibility — JRS members who are members before July 1, 2012, are immediately vested. Members leaving the bench before attaining age 60 are eligible to receive their service retirement allowances commencing upon attaining age 60.

Individuals who become JRS members on or after July 1, 2012, are eligible for vested retirement allowances after separation from service and upon reaching age 60, provided that at least five years of eligibility service was accumulated prior to separation. For individuals joining the JRS on or after July 1, 2012 who are required to retire due to mandatory retirement and have less than 5 years of service at the time, these individuals are eligible for vested retirement allowances if they have accrued eligibility service equal to 70 minus their age when the individuals first became members of the JRS.

Allowances — Vested allowances equal the normal service retirement allowances computed on the basis of the members' accumulated creditable service and the **salary** of active judges holding comparable positions. JRS members may elect to withdraw their accumulated contributions in lieu of receiving vested retirement allowances following their termination of service on the bench.

Optional Forms of Payment

Generally, JRS retirement allowances are paid as a 50% joint and survivor annuity to the retirees' surviving spouse, or if there is no spouse, to any child under age 18. If the retirees have neither a living spouse nor children under 18 at retirement, retirees may select any one of the following six payment options.

Option 1: Payment guarantees a cash reserve equal to the excess of the present value of the retirement allowance at the date of retirement minus the total amount of payments made to the date of death.

Option 2: 100% joint and survivor annuity.

Option 3: 50% joint and survivor annuity.

Option 4: Payment guarantees a minimum return of the members' accumulated contributions.

Option 5: 100% joint and survivor annuity with adjustment to maximum benefit if beneficiary predeceases retiree.

Option 6: 50% joint and survivor annuity with adjustment to maximum benefit if beneficiary predeceases retiree.

Once retired, neither the option nor designated beneficiary(ies) may be changed. Except for a spouse or disabled child, the beneficiary designated under Option 2 or 5 cannot be more than 10 years younger than the retiree (IRS regulation).

Pension Changes

Effective July 1, 2012, the member contribution for all members of the JRS increases to 8%.

Effective July 1, 2012, for new members of the JRS vesting will require five years of eligibility service.

STATE POLICE RETIREMENT SYSTEM

A COMPOSITE PICTURE

	2015	2014
Total Membership		
Active Vested	988	998
Active Non-vested	406	353
Vested Former Members	81	82
Retired Members	2,508	2,468
Active Members		
Number	1,394	1,351
Average Age	35.3	35.5
Average Years of Service	10.9	11.0
Average Annual Salary	\$ 65,316	\$ 63,405
Retirees & Beneficiaries		
Number	2,508	2,468
Average Age	62.4	61.9
Average Monthly Benefit	\$ 3,866	\$ 3,820

THE STATE POLICE RETIREMENT SYSTEM (SPRS) was established on July 1, 1949 and is administered in accordance with the State Personnel and Pensions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. Membership is a condition of employment for all uniformed officers of the Maryland State Police. The Superintendent of the Maryland State Police may elect membership in either the SPRS or the EPS.

Member Contributions

All SPRS members contribute 8% of annual earnable compensation during employment.

Service Retirement Allowances

Eligibility — SPRS members who are members on or before June 30, 2011, are eligible for full service retirement allowances upon attaining age 50 or upon accumulating 22 years of eligibility service regardless of age. Individuals who become members on or after July 1, 2011, are eligible for full service retirement allowances upon accumulating 25 years of eligibility service or attainment of age 50. Except for the Superintendent, all SPRS members must retire at age 60.

Allowances — For individuals who are members on or before June 30, 2011, a full service retirement allowance equals 2.55% of AFC for the five highest years as a member for each year of creditable service, up to a maximum 71.4% of AFC (28 years). Individuals who become members on or after July 1, 2011, will receive a full service retirement allowance equal to 2.55% of AFC for the five highest years as a member for each of the first 29 years of creditable service. Allowances for members who fail to make all required contributions are reduced by the actuarial equivalent of the total unpaid contributions plus interest to date of retirement.

Early Retirement Allowances

Eligibility — SPRS members are not eligible for early service retirement allowances.

Ordinary Disability Retirement Allowances

Eligibility — SPRS members are eligible for ordinary disability retirement allowances upon completing five years of eligibility service and receiving certification from the Medical Board that they are permanently incapable of performing their necessary job functions.

Allowances — Ordinary disability retirement allowances generally equal 2.55% of the AFC multiplied by the number of years of creditable service up to a maximum of 28 years. The minimum ordinary disability retirement allowance is 35% of AFC.

Special Disability Retirement Allowances

Eligibility — SPRS members are eligible for special disability benefits if the Medical Board certifies that they became totally and permanently incapacitated for duty arising out of or in the actual performance of duty.

Allowances — Special disability allowances equal the sum of an annuity determined as the actuarial value of the members' accumulated contributions, and 2/3 (66.7%) of AFC. Allowances may not exceed the members' AFC.

Ordinary Death Benefits

Eligibility — To be eligible for ordinary death benefits, SPRS members must have accumulated at least one but less than two years of eligibility service prior to the date of death.

Benefits — The ordinary death benefit equals the members' annual earnable compensation at time of death plus accumulated contributions.

Special Death Benefits

Members in Service

Eligibility — To be eligible for special death benefits, SPRS members in service must have accumulated at least two years of eligibility service prior to the date of death or died in the line of duty.

Benefits — The special benefit provided upon the death of SPRS members in service equals 50% of the members' annual earnable compensation at time of death paid as an annuity plus return of accumulated contributions. In cases where the deceased members

are not survived by a spouse, the decedents' children or dependent parents, if any, will continue to receive an annuity equal to 50% of the members' annual earnable compensation until the youngest child reaches age 18, or for the life of each dependent parent. The special death benefit for troopers killed in the line of duty is 2/3 (66.7%) of AFC.

Survivor Benefit

Eligibility — To be eligible for survivor benefits, SPRS retirees must have retired on either a service retirement allowance or a disability allowance.

Benefits — The survivor benefit provided upon the death of an SPRS retiree equals 80% of the retirees' retirement allowance, paid as an annuity. In cases where the deceased members are not survived by a spouse, the decedents' children, if any, will continue to receive 80% of the retirees' allowance until the youngest child reaches age 18.

Vested Retirement Allowances

Eligibility — Individuals who are SPRS members on or before June 30, 2011, are eligible for vested retirement allowances after separation from service and upon reaching age 50, provided that at least five years of eligibility service was accumulated prior to separation. Individuals who are SPRS members on or after July 1, 2011, are eligible for vested retirement allowances after separation from service and upon reaching age 50, provided that at least 10 years of eligibility service was accumulated prior to separation.

Allowances — Vested allowances equal the normal service retirement allowances computed on the basis of the members' accumulated creditable service and AFC at the point of separation. SPRS members may elect to withdraw their accumulated contributions within two years of separation in lieu of receiving vested retirement allowances. If members do not withdraw their contributions, and die before attaining age 50, their accumulated contributions are returned to the designated beneficiary.

Cost-of-Living Adjustments

Retirement allowances attributable to service earned on or before June 30, 2011, are adjusted each year based on the Consumer Price Index.

For retirement allowance attributable to service earned on or after July 1, 2011, the adjustment is capped at the lesser of 2.5% or the increase in CPI if the most recent calendar year market value rate of return was greater than or equal to the assumed rate. For fiscal year 2013, the assumed rate of return is 7.75%, as approved by the Board of Trustees. The adjustment is capped at the lesser of 1% or the increase in CPI if, for fiscal year 2013, the market value return was less than the assumed rate of 7.75%.

In years in which COLAs would be less than zero due to a decline in the CPI, retirement allowances will not be adjusted. COLAs in succeeding years are adjusted until the difference between the negative COLA that would have applied and the zero COLA is fully recovered.

COLAs are effective July 1st of each year and are applied to all allowances payable for the year.

Optional Forms of Payment

Generally, SPRS retirement allowances are paid as an 80% joint and survivor annuity to the retirees' spouse, or if there is no spouse, to any child under age 18. If the retirees have neither a living spouse nor children under 18 at retirement, the retirees may select any one of the following six payment options.

Option 1: Payment guarantees a cash reserve equal to the present value of the retirement allowance at the date of retirement minus the total amount of payments (less COLAs) made to the date of death.

Option 2: 100% joint and survivor annuity.

Option 3: 50% joint and survivor annuity.

Option 4: Payment guarantees a minimum return of the members' accumulated contributions.

Option 5: 100% joint and survivor annuity with adjustment to maximum benefit if beneficiary predeceases retiree.

Option 6: 50% joint and survivor annuity with adjustment to maximum benefit if beneficiary predeceases retiree.

Except for a spouse or disabled child, the beneficiary designated under Option 2 or 5 cannot be more than 10 years younger than the retiree (IRS regulation).

Workers' Compensation Benefits Reduction

Disability retirement allowances are generally reduced by workers'

compensation benefits paid after retirement if, and to the extent that, such benefits are for the same injury and the same period of time for which the retirement benefits are payable. The workers' compensation benefit reduction cannot reduce any retirement allowance to less than the amount necessary to cover the retiree's monthly health insurance premiums.

Deferred Retirement Option Program

SPRS members are eligible to participate in a Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP). For SRPS members who enter DROP on or before June 30, 2011, they must have at least 22 years of creditable service, but less than 28 years, and be under age 60. For SRPS members who enter DROP on or after July 1, 2011, they must have at least 22 years of creditable service, but less than 29 years, and be under age 60. The maximum period of participation is 4 years.

For members who enter the DROP on or before June 30, 2011, the SPRS member is deemed retired and the retirement allowance is placed in an account earning 6% interest per year, compounded monthly. For members who enter the DROP on or after July 1, 2011, the SPRS member is deemed retired and the retirement allowance is placed in an account earning 4% interest per year, compounded annually. At the end of the DROP period, the lump sum held in the DROP account is paid to the SPRS retiree. The SPRS member must end employment and fully retire at the end of the DROP period.

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS' PENSION SYSTEM

A COMPOSITE PICTURE

	2015	2014
Total Membership		
Active Vested	1,840	1,832
Active Non-vested	648	652
Vested Former Members	293	283
Retired Members	1,711	1,613
Active Members		
Number	2,488	2,484
Average Age	40.9	40.8
Average Years of Service	10.6	10.5
Average Annual Salary	\$ 61,075	\$ 58,644
Retirees & Beneficiaries		
Number	1,711	1,613
Average Age	59.0	58.6
Average Monthly Benefit	\$ 2,808	\$ 2,776

THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS PENSION SYSTEM (LEOPS)

was established on July 2, 1990 and is administered in accordance with the State Personnel and Pensions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. Membership in the LEOPS is a condition of employment for all uniformed law enforcement officers of the Maryland State Department of Natural Resources; the Maryland Investigative Services Unit; the Maryland Transportation Authority Police Force; the Baltimore City Sheriff's Department; the State Fire Marshall's Office; the University System of Maryland Police Force; Morgan University Police Force; the BWI Airport Fire and Rescue Department; the Department of General Services Police Force; the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; the Motor Vehicle Administration; and the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation; the State Department of Elections; Field Enforcement Bureau; and warrant apprehension unit of the Division of Parole and Probation. In addition, membership also includes firefighters for Martin's Airport Aviators employed by the Department of State Police. Finally, membership includes law enforcement officers, firefighters, and paramedics employed by a governmental unit that elects to participate in LEOPS.

The LEOPS consists of two separate components — a retirement plan (closed to new members January 1, 2005) and a pension plan. Retirement plan provisions are applicable to those officers

who, on the date they elected to participate in the LEOPS, were members of ERS (closed as of January 1, 2005). Pension plan provisions are applicable to all other LEOPS members.

Member Contributions

All member contributions to the LEOPS are based on the members' annual earnable compensation. Members subject to retirement plan provisions that elected to receive unlimited future COLAs contribute 7%. This option is referred to as Selection A (Unlimited COLA).

Members subject to retirement plan provisions that elected to receive limited future COLAs contribute 5%. This option is referred to as Selection B (Limited COLA).

Beginning July 1, 2011, members subject to pension plan provisions contribute 6% of annual earnable compensation during employment. Beginning July 1, 2012, member contributions will increase to 7% of earnable compensation.

Service Retirement Allowances

Eligibility — LEOPS members are eligible for full service retirement allowances upon attaining age 50 or upon accumulating 25 years of eligibility service regardless of age.

Allowances — For members subject to the retirement plan provisions, full service retirement allowances equal 2.3% of AFC for the first 30 years of creditable service, plus 1.0% of AFC for each additional year.

For members subject to the pension system provisions who became members of LEOPS on or before June 30, 2011, full service pension allowances equal 2.0% of AFC for the three highest consecutive years as an employee, up to a maximum benefit of 60% of AFC (30 years of credit). For members subject to the pension system provisions who become members of LEOPS on or after July 1, 2011, full service pension allowances equal 2.0% of AFC for the five highest consecutive years as an employee, up to a maximum benefit of 60% of AFC (30 years of credit)

Allowances for members who fail to make all required contributions are reduced by the actuarial equivalent of the total unpaid contributions plus interest to the date of retirement.

Early Retirement Allowances

Eligibility — LEOPS members are not eligible for early service retirement allowances.

Ordinary Disability Retirement Allowances

Eligibility — LEOPS members are eligible for ordinary disability retirement allowances upon completing five years of eligibility service and receiving Medical Board certification as to their permanent incapacity to perform their necessary job functions.

Allowances — Ordinary disability retirement allowances for LEOPS members subject to retirement plan provisions equal the greater of the normal service retirement allowance or 25% of AFC.

Ordinary disability retirement allowances for LEOPS members subject to pension plan provisions equal the full service pension allowance if the member is at least age 50 on the date of retirement. Otherwise, the allowances equal full service pension allowances computed as though the member had continued to work until age 50 without any change in the rate of earnable compensation.

Accidental Disability Retirement Allowances

Eligibility — LEOPS members are eligible for accidental disability benefits if the Medical Board certifies that they became totally and permanently incapacitated for duty arising out of or in the actual performance of duty.

Allowances — Accidental disability allowances equal the sum of an annuity determined as the actuarial value of the members' accumulated contributions, and 2/3 (66.7%) of AFC. Allowances may not exceed the members' AFC.

Ordinary Death Benefits

Eligibility — To be eligible for ordinary death benefits, LEOPS members must have accumulated at least one but less than two years of eligibility service prior to the date of death.

Benefits — The ordinary death benefit equals the members' annual earnable compensation at the time of death plus accumulated contributions.

Special Death Benefits

Members in Service

Eligibility — To be eligible for special death benefits, LEOPS members in service must have accumulated at least two years of eligibility service prior to the date of death or died in the line of duty.

Benefits — The special death benefit provided upon death for LEOPS members in service equals 50% of the applicable ordinary disability allowance. In cases where the deceased members are not survived by a spouse, the decedents' children, if any, will continue to receive the special death benefit until the youngest child reaches age 18. The special death benefit for officers killed in the line of duty is 2/3 (66.7%) of AFC.

Survivor Benefits

Eligibility — To be eligible for survivor benefits, LEOPS retiree must have retired on either a service retirement allowance or a disability allowance.

Benefits — The survivor benefit provided upon death for LEOPS retiree equals 50% of the retiree' retirement allowance, paid as an annuity. In cases where the deceased members are not survived by a spouse, the decedents' children, if any, will continue

to receive 50% of the retiree' allowance until the youngest child reaches age 18.

Vested Pension Allowances

Eligibility — Members who join LEOPS on or before June 30, 2011, are eligible for vested pension allowances after separation from service and upon attaining age 50, provided that they accumulated at least five years of eligibility service prior to separation. Members who join LEOPS on or after July 1, 2011, are eligible for vested pension allowances after separation from service and upon attaining age 50, provided that they accumulated at least 10 years of eligibility service prior to separation.

Allowances — Vested allowances equal the normal service retirement or pension allowances computed on the basis of the members' accumulated creditable service and AFC at the date of separation.

Cost-of-Living Adjustments

Retirement allowances are adjusted each year based on the Consumer Price Index. COLAs are effective July 1st of each year and are applied to all allowances payable for the year. For LEOPS members subject to retirement plan provisions, annual COLAs are determined under the various methods applicable to ERS members. Each method is explained below:

Selection A (Unlimited COLA) —LEOPS members who elected Selection A (while enrolled in the ERS), agreed to contribute 7% of earnable compensation in return for unlimited annual COLAs after retirement.

Selection B (Limited COLA) — LEOPS members who elected Selection B (while enrolled in the ERS), agreed to contribute no more than 5% of earnable compensation in return for COLAs which are limited to 5% annually after retirement. For all other LEOPS members, the annual COLA for retirement allowances attributable to service earned on or before June 30, 2011, is limited to 3% of the annual allowance. For retirement allowances attributable to service earned on or after July 1, 2011, the adjustment is capped at the lesser of 2.5% or the increase in CPI if the most recent calendar year market value rate of return was greater than or equal to the assumed rate. For fiscal year 2013, the assumed rate of return is 7.75%, as approved by the Board of Trustees. The adjustment is capped at the lesser of 1% or the increase in CPI if, for fiscal year 2013, the market value return was less than the assumed rate of 7.75%.

In years in which COLAs would be less than zero due to a decline in the CPI, retirement allowances will not be adjusted. COLAs in succeeding years are adjusted until the difference between the negative COLA that would have applied and the zero COLA is fully recovered.

Optional Forms of Payment

Generally, LEOPS retirement allowances are paid as a 50% joint and survivor annuity to the retiree' spouse, or if there is no spouse, to any child under age 18. If the retiree have neither a living spouse nor children under 18 at retirement, the retiree may select any one of the following six payment options.

Option 1: Payment guarantees a cash reserve equal to the excess of the present value of the retirement allowance at the date of retirement minus the total amount of payments (less COLAs) made to the date of death.

Option 2: 100% joint and survivor annuity.

Option 3: 50% joint and survivor annuity.

Option 4: Payment guarantees a minimum return of the members' accumulated contributions.

Option 5: 100% joint and survivor annuity with adjustment to maximum benefit if beneficiary predeceases retiree.

Option 6: 50% joint and survivor annuity with adjustment to maximum benefit if beneficiary predeceases retiree.

Except for a spouse or disabled child, the beneficiary designated under Option 2 or 5 cannot be more than 10 years younger than the retiree (IRS regulation).

Workers' Compensation Benefits Reduction

Disability retirement allowances are generally reduced by workers' compensation benefits paid after retirement if, and to the extent that, such benefits are for the same injury and the same period of time for which the retirement benefits are payable. The workers' compensation benefit reduction cannot reduce any retirement allowance to less than the amount necessary to cover the retiree' monthly health insurance premiums.

Deferred Retirement Option Program

LEOPS members are eligible to participate in a Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP). To participate, the LEOPS member must have at least 25 years of creditable service, but less than 30 years. The maximum period of participation is 5 years. For members who enter the DROP on or before June 30, 2011, the LEOPS member is deemed retired and the retirement allowance is placed in an account earning 6% interest per year, compounded monthly. For members who enter the DROP on or after July 1, 2011, the LEOPS member is deemed retired and the retirement allowance is placed in an account earning 4% interest per year, compounded annually. At the end of the DROP period, the lump sum held in the DROP account is paid to the LEOPS retiree. The LEOPS member must end employment and fully retire at the end of the DROP period..

STRIPS

