

VIDEO: For an overview of this information, go to sra.maryland.gov, select YouTube or Vimeo and watch "Reemployment After Retirement."

FOR RETIREES OF THE TEACHERS' RETIREMENT/PENSION, EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT/PENSION, CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS' RETIREMENT, OR LOCAL FIRE & POLICE PENSION SYSTEMS

Keep a copy of this form on file as a handy reference. You should also keep your Notice of Retirement Allowance that the State Retirement Agency sends to you as a new retiree. The Notice of Retirement Allowance lists the amount of your monthly retirement allowance, your designated beneficiary(ies) and your earnings limitation. Refer to your Notice of Retirement Allowance to identify the type of retirement you are receiving (service, ordinary disability or accidental disability) and the amount of your earnings limit. Then, apply the reemployment rules printed below to determine if an earnings limit applies for you. Once retired, you cannot enroll in another Maryland State Retirement and Pension System (SRPS) plan or the Optional Retirement Program (ORP).

Under no circumstances should your decision to retire be conditioned upon an offer of reemployment, and in fact, no offers of reemployment should be discussed by you and your employer prior to your retirement. However, if after your retirement you consider reemployment with an employer that participates in the SRPS you need to be aware of two important issues: Internal Revenue Service (IRS) guidelines regarding reemployment and Maryland retirement law regarding reemployment.

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE GUIDELINES REGARDING REEMPLOYMENT

There can be significant consequences to you and the SRPS if you retire before the normal retirement age of your plan and/or before age 59 1/2, and are reemployed with the same employer without a bona fide separation of service. Please note that all units of Maryland state government, including the University System of Maryland, are considered one employer.

The IRS can impose a significant tax penalty on your income if you are under the age of 59 1/2, retire and begin receiving your monthly retirement benefits, and are reemployed by the same employer from whom you retired. In order to avoid this penalty there must be a bona fide separation from service between you and your former employer.

If you retire before your normal retirement age, there are also serious IRS consequences to the SRPS if a bona fide separation does not take place following retirement and prior to reemployment with the same employer.

While the IRS has not specifically defined what constitutes a bona fide separation from service, it is clear that the greater the difference between your last job before retirement and the job being performed upon your reemployment, and the longer the break between the date of your retirement and the date of your reemployment, the more likely it is that there has been a bona fide separation of service. If you are reemployed to perform the same job, even if there is a reduction in your work schedule, this would not likely qualify as a bona fide separation of service unless there is a lengthy break in employment. Even arrangements where you are rehired as an "independent contractor" may not meet the IRS' standard.

MARYLAND RETIREMENT LAW REGARDING REEMPLOYMENT

Maryland law requires that there must be a minimum of **45 DAYS** between your retirement date and the date you are rehired by any employer that is a participating employer in the SRPS. This rule applies even if you retired from an employer that withdrew from the SRPS. All units of Maryland State government, including the University System of Maryland, are considered to be *one employer* under these reemployment rules.

Additionally, employment after retirement, under certain conditions, may cause your retirement allowance to be reduced.

SERVICE RETIREMENT

(FOR EXCEPTIONS AND DISABILITY RETIREMENT RULES, SEE PAGE TWO)

Applicable to all systems: If you accept employment with a participating employer, that is an employer who offers State Retirement Benefits to their employees (a list of these employers can be found on page three), you must notify the Board of Trustees in writing of your intent to accept reemployment and the amount of your anticipated compensation. If you accept employment with the *same employer* from which you retired, you are subject to an earnings limit. All units of Maryland State government, including the University System of Maryland, are considered to be *one employer* under these reemployment rules. If you are subject to an earnings limit, your allowance will be reduced only if your *reemployment earnings* exceed the earnings limitation printed on your Notice of Retirement Allowance.

Reemployment earnings are the annual reemployment compensation reported to the IRS that you received during a calendar year. Your benefit is reduced one dollar for every dollar you earn in excess of your limit, up to a maximum of the full retirement allowance. If you retired as an elected or appointed official, contact the State Retirement Agency to learn how the reemployment provisions apply to you.

Applicable only to Employees'/Teachers' Systems: Additionally, if you accept an early retirement *and* have been retired fewer than 12 months, you are subject to an earnings limit if you return to work for *any* participating employer during the first 12 months of retirement.

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I acknowledge that I have received this information about my obligation with regard to reemployment and I agree to notify the Board of Trustees of my anticipated earnings should I return to work. I also understand that, should I exceed the earnings limitations imposed by law, my monthly retirement allowance may be reduced or terminated until such time that any resulting overpayment of benefits is recovered.

SERVICE RETIREMENT: EXCEPTIONS

Applicable to all systems: Earnings limits do not apply if your average final compensation used in your retirement calculation is less than \$25,000 and you are reemployed on a permanent, temporary or contractual basis. Earnings limits do not apply if you have been retired more than five years. With the exception of a January 1st retirement date, the five year period begins on January 1st of the year following the year of retirement.

Applicable only to Teachers' Systems: Earnings limits do not apply if you are a teacher who meets all of the following criteria:

- Is or has been certified to teach in the state,
- Has verification of satisfactory or better performance in last assignment prior to retirement,
- Has been appointed in accordance with §4-103 of the Education Article, and
- Retired with normal service retirement, or retired with an early service retirement and has been retired at least 12 months

AND

Is employed as a classroom teacher, substitute classroom teacher or teacher mentor for the Maryland School for the Deaf or in a public school that

- Is not making adequate yearly progress or is a school in need of improvement as defined under the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, or
- Is receiving funds under Title 1 of the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, or
- Has more than 50% of the students attending that school who are eligible for free and reduced-price meals, or
- Provides an alternative education program for adjudicated youths or students who have been expelled, suspended or identified for suspension or expulsion from public school

AND

- Shall teach in an area of critical shortage, or a special education class for students with special needs, or a class for students with limited English proficiency, or
- Is hired to teach any subject or class or provide education services under a special limited provision granted to the superintendent.

The superintendent may also grant a special limited exception to the earnings limit if the retiree is employed at any school to teach in an area of critical shortage, a special education class with special needs, a class for students with limited English proficiency, or provide education services.

Earnings limits do not apply if you are employed: **1)** as a principal within 5 years of retirement or **2)** as a principal not more than 10 years before retirement and were employed in a position supervising principals in the retiree's last assignment prior to retirement **AND** you are rehired as a principal at a public school outlined above.

Note: Teachers and principals must receive satisfactory or better performance evaluations each year to continue with the earnings limitation exception.

If you retired directly from employment as a faculty member with a 10-month salary at the University System of Maryland, Morgan State University, St. Mary's College or a Title 16 community college and are reemployed by the same employer, the following types of compensation will not be subject to an earnings limit: bonuses, overtime, summer school or adult education salaries, temporary payments for special research, honorariums or vehicle stipends.

Applicable to Employees' Systems (rehired health care practitioners): Retirees of the Employees' Retirement and Employees' Pension Systems who are reemployed on a contractual basis as a health care practitioner by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene in a state residential center, chronic disease center, a state facility or a local health department are exempt from the earnings limitation (applies only to normal service retirement or early service retirement once the retiree has been retired for 12 months.)

Applicable to Employees' Systems (rehired as parole and probation employees): Retirees of the Employees' Retirement and Employees' Pension Systems who are reemployed on a contractual basis as parole and probation employees in positions with the Division of Parole and Probation in the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services are exempt from an earnings limit for not more than 4 years.

Applicable to Correctional Officers' Retirement System (rehired correctional officers): Retirees of the Correctional Officers' Retirement System who are reemployed on a contractual basis as a correctional officer by the Division of Corrections, the Division of Pretrial Detention and Services or the Patuxent Institution in the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services in an eligible correctional facility are exempt from the earnings limitation for a maximum of 4 years (does not apply to a disability retirement).

DISABILITY RETIREMENT

Suspension of Disability Retirement: An Ordinary or Accidental Disability allowance shall be temporarily suspended during a period of re-employment if a retiree is reemployed by any participating employer at an annual compensation that is at least equal to the retiree's average final compensation at retirement. If the disability retiree is eligible to receive a normal service retirement or began receiving a disability retirement allowance before July 1, 1998, no suspension of benefits is applied. There is no additional benefit accrued while reemployed by a participating employer.

If suspended, the retiree's allowance is reinstated on the first day of the month following the month in which the retiree ceased employment with the participating employer. Also, the retiree's allowance at time of reinstatement is adjusted to reflect the accumulated cost of living adjustments during the period of suspension.

Earnings limitation for Ordinary Disability Retirees Only: If you have not reached normal retirement age and you accept employment with a participating employer and your current earnings from the employment exceeds your earnings limitation, then your benefit is reduced. The reduction is \$1.00 for every \$2.00 over the limit, if you have been retired less than 10 years. If you have been retired 10 years or longer, the reduction will be \$1.00 for every \$5.00 over the limit. If your pension is temporarily suspended as provided above, this earnings limitation does not apply during the period of suspension.

There is no earnings limit for an Ordinary Disability Retiree who is reemployed with a non-participating employer.

The earnings limit does not apply for Accidental Disability Retirees.

Note: An additional exception to the suspension of benefits and the earnings limitation applies to law enforcement officers formerly employed by an employer that participated in the Law Enforcement Officers' Pension System. These former officers are exempt if reemployed by a participating employer in any position other than a probationary status law enforcement officer, a law enforcement officer or chief, as defined in §3-101 of the Public Safety Article.

If you have any questions, call a retirement benefits specialist at 410-625-5555 or toll free 1-800-492-5909 to understand how the reemployment provisions apply to you. We will make every effort to assist you in understanding your options, but it is your responsibility to advise us of your reemployment.

PARTICIPATING EMPLOYERS *
Maryland State Retirement and Pension System

State of Maryland
University System of Maryland
Baltimore City and All County Boards of Education (Teachers' System)
Community Colleges and All Public Libraries (Teachers' System)

Participating Governmental Units in the Employees' System as of July 1, 2015

Allegany College of Maryland	Federalsburg, Town of	Prince George's Community College
Allegany County Board of Education	Frederick County Board of Education	Prince George's County Board of Education
Allegany County Commission	Frostburg, City of	Prince George's County Crossing Guards
Allegany County Housing Authority	Fruitland, City of	Prince George's County Government
Allegany County Library	Garrett County Board of Education	Prince George's County Memorial Library
Allegany County Transit Authority	Garrett County Community Action Committee	Princess Anne, Town of
Annapolis, City of	Greenbelt, City of	Queen Anne's County Board of Education
Anne Arundel County Board of Education	Greensboro, Town of	Queen Anne's County Commission
Anne Arundel County Community College	Hagerstown, City of	Queenstown, Town of
Berlin, Town of	Hagerstown Community College	Ridgely, Town of
Berwyn Heights, Town of	Hampstead, Town of	Rock Hall, Town of
Bladensburg, Town of	Hancock, Town of	St. Mary's County Board of Education
Bowie, City of – Police Dept. (LEOPS)	Harford Community College	St. Mary's County Commission
Brunswick, City of	Harford County Board of Education	St. Mary's County, Housing Authority
Calvert County Board of Education	Harford County Government	St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission
Cambridge, City of	Harford County Library	St. Michaels, Commissioners of
Caroline County Board of Education	Housing Authority of Cambridge	Salisbury, City of
Caroline County Sheriff Deputies	Howard Community College	Shore Up!
Carroll County Board of Education	Howard County Board of Education	Snow Hill, Town of
Carroll County Public Library	Howard County Community Action Committee	Somerset County Board of Education
Carroll Soil Conservation District	Hurlock, Town of	Somerset County Commission
Catoctin & Frederick Soil Conservation District	Hyattsville, City of	Somerset County Economic Development Commission
Cecil County Board of Education	Kent County Board of Education	Somerset County Sanitary District, Inc.
Cecil County Commission	Kent County Commissioners	Southern Maryland Tri-County Community Action Committee
Cecil County Library	Kent Soil and Water Conservation District	Sykesville, Town of
Centreville, Town of	Landover Hills, Town of	Takoma Park, City of
Chesapeake Bay Commission	La Plata, Town of	Talbot County Board of Education
Chestertown, Town of	Lower Shore Private Industry Council	Talbot County Council
Cheverly, Town of	Manchester, Town of	Taneytown, City of
College of Southern Maryland	Maryland Health & Higher Education Facilities Authority	Thurmont, Town of
College Park, City of	Middletown, Town of	Tri-County Council of Western Maryland
Crisfield, City of	Montgomery College	Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore
Crisfield Housing Authority	Morningside, Town of	University Park, Town of
Cumberland, City of	Mount Airy, Town of	Upper Marlboro, Town of
Cumberland, City of - Police Department	Mount Rainier, City of	Walkersville, Town of
Denton, Town of	New Carrollton, City of	Washington County Board of Education
District Heights, City of	North Beach, Town of	Washington County Board of License Commission
Dorchester County Board of Education	Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority	Washington County Library
Dorchester County Commission	Oakland, Town of	Westminster, City of
Dorchester County Roads Board	Oxford, Town of	Worcester County Board of Education
Dorchester County Sanitary Commission	Pocomoke, City of	Worcester County Commission
Eastern Shore Regional Library	Preston, Town of	Wor-Wic Community College
Edmonston, Town of		
Emmitsburg, City of		

***NOTE:** The list of employers that participate in the Maryland State Retirement and Pension System (SRPS) is subject to change at any time. This list is updated annually. To determine whether a particular employer participates in SRPS, call a retirement benefits specialist at 410-625-5555 or toll-free at 1-800-492-5909.