

# Important Points To Know...

## about *Internal Revenue Code 415(b) limits*

Please review the following information when planning and filing for retirement.  
For retirement counseling call: 410-625-5555 or 1-800-492-5909.

Internal Revenue Code Section 415(b) imposes a dollar limit on the benefit amount the Maryland State Retirement Agency can pay from tax-deferred plan funds.

Because some members may retire at a relatively early age with a high percentage of highest average final compensation, a few may encounter this limit.

The IRC 415(b) limit increases as the age at retirement increases. The abbreviated table at right applies for persons retiring in 2019. The table outlines the annual benefit limitation amounts for non-disability, non-police retirees.

Prior to retirement, the following four steps may help you determine if the 415(b) limit will apply to you:

- ① Request an estimate of your retirement allowance by submitting an *Application for an Estimate of Service Retirement Allowance*. This form is available online at [sra.maryland.gov](http://sra.maryland.gov) or from your Retirement Coordinator.
- ② Once you have received a Notice of Retirement Allowance Estimate, compare the estimated amount listed as your Basic Allowance to the amount in the table on the right for the retirement age used to estimate your benefit. Remember to annualize (multiply by 12) the amount listed as your Basic Allowance since the abbreviated 415(b) table reflects annual allowances.
- ③ If your annualized estimated Basic Allowance is less than the amount shown in the table, you should not be subject to the 415(b) limit. However, the limit may be further reduced if at retirement you select a payment option other than the Basic Allowance.
- ④ If your annualized estimated Basic Allowance is more than the amount shown in the table, you may be subject to the 415(b) limit.

If item 4 applies to you, further analysis by the Retirement Agency's actuary will be required to determine if your benefit will be limited. The analysis will be completed when the Retirement Agency receives your retirement application. If the actuary determines that your benefit exceeds the 415(b) limit, the Retirement Agency will pay you directly the maximum amount permitted under 415(b). Please be aware that cost-of-living adjustments are also subject to the 415(b) limits as adjusted.

Before retirement, make certain to obtain a current Notice of Retirement Allowance Estimate and consult with a qualified tax adviser who is familiar with your finances, including your participation in any other retirement plans. Maryland State Retirement Agency staff cannot provide tax advice.

*This document provides general information about the effect of Internal Revenue Code Section 415(b) limits on Maryland State Retirement and Pension System benefits. Your rights, benefits and obligations under this system are governed by the State Personnel & Pensions Article of the Maryland Annotated Code, the rules of the Maryland State Retirement and Pension System and federal law, all of which take precedence over any interpretations provided here.*

### Abbreviated Table of Section 415 Limits for 2019

Limit increases each  
month a member ages

<u>Age</u>	<u>Limit (\$)</u>
50	100,454
51	106,867
52	113,777
53	121,233
54	129,292
55	138,015
56	147,474
57	157,748
58	168,927
59	181,115
60	194,429
61	209,006
62	225,000
63	225,000
64	225,000
65	225,000

Limitation amounts  
are based upon annual  
retirement allowance.  
(Monthly x 12)