

## Service Retirement & DROP

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Your eligibility for a service retirement depends on your service credit or your age.

Service Retirement:

- Age 50 or
- 25 years of eligibility service at any age

If you are married on the date of retirement, you must select the Basic Allowance. This provides you with the largest monthly allowance during your lifetime. Upon your death following retirement, your spouse will receive 50% of your monthly allowance for the remainder of his or her lifetime. If you have no spouse but have children who are under age 26 or disabled, the children will receive this benefit until each child is age 26 or no longer disabled. If you have no spouse, children under age 26 or disabled children, no survivor's allowance is payable and monthly payments cease at your death.

Officers who are unmarried on the date of retirement may elect the Basic Allowance or one of six additional options which provide varying levels of survivor protection to their beneficiaries.

### *Deferred Retirement Option Program*

The Deferred Retirement Option Program (“DROP”) is available for eligible members of LEOPS. Under this voluntary program, you can “retire” and begin accumulating your retirement benefits in a DROP account while you continue to work and draw a paycheck with your same employer. While in DROP, your retirement benefits are deposited in a DROP account within the Maryland State Retirement and Pension System. DROP accounts earn tax deferred interest of 4% compounded annually for as long as you remain in DROP.

When your DROP participation ends, you must terminate employment with your employer. You will then begin receiving your monthly retirement allowance plus the accumulated balance in your DROP account will be paid to you as a one-time payment.

Vested Retirement: If you leave employment after you have earned at least 10 years of eligibility service but

before you reach age 50 or 25 years of eligibility service, you are eligible to receive a future benefit based on your service at your termination. You should contact the Retirement Agency a few months prior to reaching age 50 to receive information about applying for your vested benefit.

If you leave employment before you reach age 50, you have not earned at least 10 years of eligibility service, and you don't anticipate returning to membership, you may contact the agency to receive a refund of your balance of accumulated contributions and interest.

If you withdraw your balance of accumulated contributions and interest, you will forfeit your right to a future benefit.

### During Retirement

As a retiree, once you have been retired one full year as of July 1, your retirement allowance may be adjusted each July to help your benefit payments keep pace with inflation.

### Resources

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Register for the Retirement Agency's secure online participant portal, mySRPS, to view your account information, create estimates of your service retirement benefits, and communicate securely with the Retirement Agency. You may begin the registration process for mySRPS by visiting the Retirement Agency's website, [sra.maryland.gov](http://sra.maryland.gov), and clicking on the mySRPS Login button.

The Retirement Agency's website also has lots of additional information for you, including newsletters, member handbooks, printable forms, and updates on the system's financial performance.

To visit the office or write a letter:  
Maryland State Retirement Agency  
120 East Baltimore Street  
Baltimore, MD 21202-6700

Email inquiries to [sra@sra.state.md.us](mailto:sra@sra.state.md.us)

To speak with a retirement benefits specialist:  
410-625-5555 or 1-800-492-5909

[sra.maryland.gov](http://sra.maryland.gov)

[sra.maryland.gov](http://sra.maryland.gov)

# Welcome to the Law Enforcement Officers' Pension System\*



Diamondback Terrapin  
Maryland State Reptile

\* For members enrolled on or after July 1, 2011

Maryland State Retirement  
and Pension System  
120 East Baltimore Street  
Baltimore, MD 21202-6700

410-625-5555  
1-800-492-5909

[sra.maryland.gov](http://sra.maryland.gov)

# Welcome!

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The Maryland State Retirement and Pension System has a long history of providing retirement benefits to law enforcement officers, employees and teachers of Maryland state and local employers.

This overview deals with the highlights of the Law Enforcement Officers' Pension System ("LEOPS"). Please refer to your system handbook on our website at [sra.maryland.gov](http://sra.maryland.gov) for more details about any of these topics.

A retirement coordinator, usually someone in your human resources department, can help you file enrollment forms and answer basic questions about your benefits. The Maryland State Retirement Agency ("Retirement Agency") also maintains a staff of retirement benefits specialists to answer questions from members and retirees.

## Enrollment

Membership in LEOPS is mandatory.

To properly enroll, you must submit to the Retirement Agency an *Application for Membership* (Form 1) and a valid proof of birth date document. You are strongly encouraged at the time of your enrollment to also submit to the Retirement Agency a *Designation of Beneficiary* (Form 4). These forms are available from your retirement coordinator or on our website.

If you have membership credit in another Maryland state or Maryland local retirement/pension system, you may be able to transfer that service credit to your new record in LEOPS. To qualify for the transfer, your employment must be continuous and you almost always must apply to transfer your service within one year of becoming a member in LEOPS. Contact a retirement benefits specialist if this situation applies to you.

## Employee Contributions

You contribute 7% percent of your annual compensation to LEOPS.

## Service Credit

You earn service credit toward your retirement benefits each day you work and pay your required contribution. Your service credit and age determine when you are eligible for retirement and how much your retirement benefit will be.

Eligibility service is used to determine when you are eligible for a benefit. You earn one year of eligibility service during any fiscal year when you work a minimum of 500 regular hours, excluding overtime.

Creditable service is used to determine the amount of your retirement benefit. A full-time employee will earn one month of creditable service for each month of employment. Creditable service also can include purchased prior service, qualifying military service, and accrued sick leave that is unused as of your retirement date.

## Your Benefits

LEOPS provides survivor, disability and service retirement benefits. Please see the LEOPS handbook on our website for more detailed information.

## Survivor Benefits

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If you die while in active membership and after you have earned at least one year but less than two years of eligibility service, and death does not occur in the performance of duty, your beneficiaries are eligible to receive a one-time payment of your annual salary plus your accumulated contributions and interest.

If you die while in active membership and you have earned at least two years of eligibility service, and death does not occur in the course of duty and occurs without willful negligence, a monthly benefit equal to 50% of the ordinary disability retirement allowance is payable. This benefit is payable to the first of the

following who survives you: your spouse, your children who are under age 26 or disabled, or your dependent parents. Also, a return of your balance of accumulated contributions with interest will be paid to your designated beneficiaries.

In lieu of these survivor benefits, if you are killed in the line of duty and without willful negligence, a monthly benefit equal to two-thirds of your average final compensation is payable. This benefit is payable to the first of the following who survives you: your spouse, your children who are under age 26 or disabled, or your dependent parents. Also, a return of your balance of accumulated contributions with interest will be paid to your designated beneficiaries.

## Disability Benefits

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If you are permanently and totally disabled from performing your job duties, as determined by the System's medical board and Board of Trustees, you may be eligible for a lifetime monthly disability retirement benefit.

### *There are two types of disability benefits:*

**Ordinary:** For a physical or mental condition that permanently disables you from performing the duties of your job. To file for ordinary disability, you must have accrued five years of eligibility service.

**Accidental:** For a physical or mental condition that permanently disables you from performing the duties of your job, and which arises out of and in the course of performance of duty without your willful negligence. As an active member, you are eligible to file for accidental disability from your first day on the job.

Your retirement coordinator can provide you with the necessary forms to file for a disability retirement benefit. These forms are also available on our website.