

PERS Pension Press



West Virginia Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS)



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Office Hours
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
(Monday through Friday)

First Tuesday Each
Month: Extended Hours
by Appointment Only

Executive Director **Jeffrey E. Fleck**

Serving Those Who Serve West Virginia

AUTOMATION OCCURRING AT CPRB: What should PERS members look forward to in 2017?

CPRB has now completed the initial setup, software/hardware requirements, and testing design phases of our agencywide web-based pension administration system, otherwise known as COMPASS (Consolidated Multi-Plan Pension Administration System Solution). This new pension administration system replaces CPRB's legacy mainframe system, providing more efficiency of retirement procedures and easy to use online self-service tools for retirees, plan members and your employer's benefits coordinator.



COMPASS Phase 4a (Retiree Self Service) went live on March 18, 2016. Phase 4a includes automation of retiree annuity payroll functions and retiree online access to account information (e.g. viewing payroll deductions and beneficiary information, modification of annuity tax withholding and personal contact information). At present, CPRB staff is working diligently to refine payroll procedures in relation to the implementation of Phase 4a and to communicate with retirees regarding the new online self service tools available to them via our website.

COMPASS Phase 4b is anticipated to be a much larger endeavour and will focus on **active member and employer self service** tools. Phase 4b will also allow plan members online access to their annual statement of contributions and interest, as well as the ability to update individual account information including personal contact information and pre-retirement beneficiary designations. Employer self service refers specifically to the automation of deposit functions related to employer payroll contribution reporting. In relation to Phase 4b, CPRB staff is in the preparation stages of our upcoming employer training on the functionality of COMPASS contribution reporting. CPRB anticipates that Phase 4b will be functional in 2017.

"The journey of retirement offers opportunities to transcend your dreams"

(happy-retirement-wishes.com)



"Pension is a milestone grateful glancing to the past hopeful smiling to the future"

(happy-retirement-wishes.com)

WV National Guard Military Service Credit -Time Sensitive-



During the 2016 Legislative session, Senate Bill 595 passed permitting Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) members who currently or previously served in the West Virginia National Guard to purchase up to 60 months (5 years) of Title 32 military service credit if the following conditions are met:

1. Employee provides appropriate documentation proving WV National Guard service;
2. Employee completes at least 12 consecutive months of contributory service on or after January 2015;
3. The employee submits a form requesting to purchase military service to PERS within the 12 consecutive month period or December 31, 2016, whichever occurs later; and,
4. The employee pays the actuarial reserve purchase amount within:
 - a. 48 months after January 1, 2015 if he/she was employed with a PERS employer during all 12 months of calendar year 2015 and while he/she is still employed with a PERS employer and still making contributions to PERS; or
 - b. 48 months of the first date on which the employee and employer contributions are first received by PERS after the employee has had 12 consecutive months of contributions (if he/she was not employed with a PERS employer during all 12 months of calendar year 2015) and while he/she is still employed with a PERS employer and still making contributions to PERS.

If the employee ceases employment prior to completing the purchase in full, he/she is not eligible to purchase. The purchased military service credit shall not be considered contributory service and cannot be used to meet retirement eligibility. A month of National Guard military service can be purchased for every 15 points accrued in a qualifying year.

PERS members who worked a complete year in 2015 must notify PERS in writing no later than December 31, 2016 of their request to receive a cost calculation to purchase National Guard military service. The form to request a cost calculation may be retrieved on the CPRB website under PERS forms at <https://www.wvretirement.com/PERS-forms.html>. Please include a copy of your National Guard Current Annual Statement, Point Credit Summary or other equivalent document with your request for a cost form. Members may purchase all or part of the maximum amount of military service credit he or she is eligible for in one-month increments. Military service credit granted for active duty with the Armed Forces of the United States pursuant to WV Code §5-10-15 and National Guard military service when combined cannot exceed 5 years. Employees who have both active duty service with the Armed Forces of the United States and WV National Guard service should supply PERS with all military documentation so that each employee's total military service can be considered.

Employees of PERS employers who continue **concurrently** in active service of the WV National Guard or employees who join the WV National Guard after participation in PERS has commenced may purchase up to the 5 year maximum of military service credit in every **even** calendar year following if:

1. Employee provides appropriate documentation proving WV National Guard service;
2. Employee has completed 12 consecutive months of contributory service in the prior **odd** year;
3. Employee submits a form requesting to purchase military service to PERS within the first 5 months of each **even** calendar year; and
4. Employee pays the actuarial reserve purchase amount within 3 months from the date of the cost letter and while he or she is still an employee.

Please refer to WV Code §5-10-15c for complete details.

