**State of Wisconsin**

# DOA - DIVISION OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

*- COMPENSATION & LABOR RELATIONS BULLETIN -*

**Date:** July 23, 2015

**Locator No:** DPM-0401-CLR

**Subject:** 2016 Employee-Required Wisconsin Retirement System Contributions

The purpose of this bulletin is to inform appointing authorities of the 2016 employee-required Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) contribution rates based on the total required WRS contribution rates for 2016 approved by the Employee Trust Funds Board. **Appointing authorities are asked to provide this information to their employees.**

## SECTION I. 2016 WRS EMPLOYEE-REQUIRED CONTRIBUTIONS

A. **State Patrol Titled Classifications Hired Prior to July 1, 2011.** Employees in State Patrol titled classifications who were already in employment status on July 1, 2011, will pay 2016 WRS contributions at 1.6% of earnings. Employment status include employees in pay status, employees on approved leaves of absences, and employees on layoff but eligible for continuous service during the layoff period upon return to state service.

In accordance with 2011 Wisconsin Act 32, all new employees in State Patrol titled classifications hired on or after July 1, 2011 ("new" public safety employees), will pay 2016 WRS contributions in accordance with C., below.

"New" public safety employees include:

- Individuals new to state government;
- Individuals who leave state service and later reinstate;
- Individuals who were non-public safety employees and become public safety employees.

The following individuals would *not* be considered "new":

- Individuals who move within the public safety classifications from represented to nonrepresented or the reverse;
- Individuals who are restored to state service or return from a leave of absence, *only* if *both* the position last held *and* the position restored to are in one of the public safety classifications.

B. **Executive Category Employees.** 2015 Wisconsin Act 55 allowed the Employee Trust Funds Board to determine if executive category employees should be included with general category

employees for rate determination. At the Board's June 25, 2016 meeting, it was decided that if the above legislation was passed, the two categories would be combined for the establishment of contribution rates. Therefore, see C., below, for the combined general and executive employee contribution rate.

C. **All Other Employees.** All WRS participating employees in the general and executive categories will pay one-half of the total required 2016 WRS contribution rate of 13.2%. Therefore, employees in the general category will pay 6.6% of their earnings. Employees in the protective category, except employees covered in A., above, will pay the same percentage contribution as general category employees. Therefore, employee-paid WRS contributions will be 6.6% of earnings for all general, executive, and protective category employees (excluding employees covered in A., above) in 2016.

## SECTION II. EFFECTIVE DATE

Decreased WRS employee contributions will first be taken from paychecks dated January 7, 2016, for employees on biweekly payroll, and from paychecks dated January 2, 2016, for employees on monthly payroll.

## SECTION III. REFERRAL OF QUESTIONS

**Employee Questions:**
Employees with questions regarding the contents of this bulletin should contact their agency Human Resources or Payroll Office directly.

**Employer Questions:**
Employer questions regarding the required WRS contribution rates approved by the Employee Trust Funds Board should see http://www.etf.wi.gov/employers/bulletins_all/eba20150720.pdf or contact the Department of Employee Trust Funds.

Employer questions regarding the contents of this bulletin should be directed to Paul Ostrowski by phone at (608) 267-0343 or by e-mail at paul.ostrowski@wisconsin.gov.

Employer questions regarding ***payroll processing*** should be directed to Nancy Krueger, DOA Central Payroll, at (608) 264-9571.

Kathy Kopp

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