



Update

Dear Friends,

May 8, 2024

Since my election to the KPERS Board of Trustees I have a new disclaimer that I must include in these updates from now on: "The views expressed in this update represent my views and/or the views of the Coalition. They do not in any way represent the views of KPERS Board of Trustees nor do I speak for them." (Ernie Claude)

The next meeting of KCPR will be held on Wednesday, June 19, 2024, via Zoom. The 9:00 AM KCPR MEETING WILL BE FOLLOWED AT 9:45 AM by the Lobby Day 2025 Committee Meeting

Please note that this meeting has been changed from the normal 2nd Wednesday date because of conflict with the KARSP & Kansas Council of Firefighters Conventions.

KCPR May 8, 2024, UPDATE

Some of our discussions and actions at today's meeting were as follows:

1. **Plases save this date: We are going to make every attempt to schedule the 2025 Lobby Day, Rally Day, or whatever the committee chooses as a name to be scheduled on February 12, 2025! Please make every effort to be present in the Kansas Capitol on that day!!**
2. Initial discussions on what to propose for a benefit increase in the 2025 session were held. It had been noted that a 13th check would not be a good choice for those who had been retired a long time. Some legislators in the past have thought that a 13th check would be of great benefit to that group. After some quick thought, we determined that this was not the case. If you have plausible (affordable) ideas, please let us know.
3. We reviewed what we know of the upcoming primary elections.
 - A. Be sure you are registered and vote.
 - B. Early June is the deadline for confirming candidacy. If you have been considering running or know someone you wish would, note that time is running out!
 - a. We have noted that several have a primary opponent. Be sure that you talk to those people and find their position on fixing KPERS. Require promises on their position!
 - b. I want to repeat that in my discussions with numerous legislators, leadership has been repeatedly blamed by those on both sides of the aisle for the continual blocking of benefit increases and Tier III improvement. Please consider using that line of questioning as well.
4. We are also reaching out to all the groups that have expressed interest in the past in supporting our efforts!
5. The LOBBY DAY COMMITTEE for 2025 held its first meeting today following the adjournment of the KCPR meeting.

Legislative Updates:

1. KPERS RELATED changes include:

Increase the working after retirement threshold for the employer contribution of 30% from the current \$25,000 to \$40,000.

Increase the Kansas Police and Fire Retirement System (KP&F) working after retirement income level for returning to the same employer from \$25,000 to \$40,000.

Add a retirement exemption for licensed nurses and direct support staff at Community Developmental Disabilities Organizations (CDDOs).

Increase in the lump-sum death benefit for beneficiaries of KPERS retirees from \$4,000 to \$6,000. The results were final with Sine Die!

2. The proposed corrections of Tier III were for "TEACHERS ONLY." Following are the calculation of numbers impacted if this would have been passed. In this issue I have expanded the calculations and explanations.
 - A. PLEASE NOTE: In the end, this proposal was defeated. This, however, is information you should be aware of:
 - B. Approximately 50% of the employees in KPERS and KPERS School are involved in Tier III at this time. Therefore, all of the following numbers need to be divided by 2. Obviously that calculation still leaves a very large number!! [Because the numbers of employees can obviously change daily, the following numbers are estimates.]
 - C. There are two large groups of employees involved in KPERS and KPERS School.
 - a. State and Local KPERS employees' number 56,642. [None of these in Tier III would be included in the present proposal.]
 - b. KPERS School employees' number 87,207. Of these 43,954 are not certified. [*Yes, the licensed numbers are close.*]
 - c. Regarding KPERS School there are presently a total of 43,253 Licensed (Certified employees.) Moving of the way the original bills terminology the proposal to move them to Tier II DOES NOT INCLUDE 5157 licensed staff without 'teacher' in their title as well as 3264 of those with administrator or supervisor titles. [None of these in Tier III would be included in the present proposal.]
 - d. Only 34,821 would meet the criteria to be moved to Tier II.
 - e. Therefore, under the present proposal, only 34,820 of the total of 143,849 employees of KPERS and KPERS School employees would be moved to Tier II. Remember you need to divide each of these numbers by 2 in order to calculate the approximate actual number.
 - D. Please be reminded that approximately 50% of the present active KPERS Members are in Tier III. **The calculation on the above numbers leaves us with the following numbers:**
 - a/a. The estimated total number of active State and Local KPERS employees who are in Tier III is 28,321. None of these are included in the proposal.
 - b/b. Of KPERS School, the estimate number in Tier III is 43,603. Of this number approximately 21,977 KPERS School that are not certified (licensed).
 - c/c. Of the approximate certified (licensed) employees 21,626. The wording in the original bills DOES NOT INCLUDE 2563 licensed staff without 'teacher' in their title as well as 1,632 of those with administrator or supervisor titles.
 - d/d. Only 17,410 would meet the criteria to be moved to Tier II.
 - e/e. **Therefore, under the wording in the 2024 bills, only 17,410 of the 67,425 of those enrolled in KPERS and KPERS School would qualify to be moved to Tier II.**

Three Personal Thoughts

1. If you are involved in a group that has interest that has interest in a COLA (Benefit Increase) improving Tier III, even if it is a 'coffee klatsch' and they would like to get more involved, let me know.
2. If you need someone to talk to your group because you would like more information, let me know.
3. We have not heard this often, but some aren't interested because they don't need a benefit increase, ask them if they would consider helping you get one!

Have a wonderful Week!!!!

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