



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

RETIREMENT SECURITY BOARD

CO-CHAIRS: STATE COMPTROLLER KEVIN LEMBO & STATE TREASURER DENISE L. NAPPIER

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Where can I find general information on CRSB activities including: meeting agendas, hearing dates, a list of board members, bios and other information related to the board's work?

All documents related to the work of the CRSB board can be found on the board's website www.osc.ct.gov/crsb.

When are CRSB meetings held?

Board meetings are generally the first Wednesday of every month at 9 a.m. at 55 Elm Street in Hartford, in the 7th Floor Treasurer's Conference Room, and can be found at www.osc.ct.gov/crsb.

When was the public hearing?

A public hearing was held November 19 at the Constitution Room in Memorial Hall, at Central Connecticut State University. The Board heard from invited speakers and members of the public. Testimony can be found at www.osc.ct.gov/crsb/publiccomment.html and powerpoint presentations can be found at <http://www.osc.ct.gov/crsb/meetings.html>.

How was the board created?

The Board was created by the General Assembly through Public Act 14-217. It is charged with completing a market and feasibility study to determine whether there is a need for a public retirement plan option, and if so, how the need can be met while satisfying the requirements in the statute.

What is the deadline for the board to complete its work?

The board is charged with developing a market feasibility study and reporting to the legislature and governor by January 1, 2016. A comprehensive proposal on how to implement the plan needs to be developed by April 1, 2016.

Has the Board started the market feasibility study?

Yes. The Board contracted with Mercer Consulting, Inc. and Boston College Center for Retirement Research to conduct the market feasibility study with work starting April 7, 2015.



Is further legislative action needed in order to implement the board's recommendations?

Yes. The board is charged with developing a market feasibility study and reporting to the legislature and governor by January 1, 2016. A comprehensive proposal on how to implement the plan needs to be developed and submitted to the legislature and governor by April 1, 2016. In order for the board's proposal to be implemented it must be voted into law by the legislature and signed by the governor.

Who will be covered under the state-sponsored retirement option?

The plan will serve all private sector employees without access to an employer-sponsored retirement plan. Firms with less than five employees will be exempt.

Will all businesses in the state be required to administer the state-sponsored retirement option?

No. The statute only requires that an employer administer the public retirement option if it is not already offering its own employer-sponsored retirement plan. In addition, employers that employ less than five employees will not be covered by this requirement.

Will participating businesses be subject to ERISA or bear the fiduciary responsibilities typically associated with retirement plan sponsorship?

No. The statute explicitly requires the plan not be subject to ERISA and requires employer immunity with regard to investment returns, plan design and retirement income paid to plan participants.

Will employees be required to contribute to the plan?

No, the statute requires the board to propose a plan in which employee participation is optional. However, employees who choose not to participate must actively opt out of the program.

Will employers who do not have an employer-sponsored retirement plan be required to contribute to employee accounts?

No. The legislation does not require that employers contribute to employee accounts. It only requires that employers who do not already offer a retirement option for employees offer it as a payroll deduction benefit to employees.

What will the tax status be of retirement accounts created by the plan?

The statute requires the board to develop a plan that creates Individual Retirement Accounts that qualify for favorable federal tax treatment under IRS code.