Governor Patrick has filed another “pension reform” bill (HB4440) which is currently in the hands of the Joint Committee on Public Service. You may recall that Chapter 21, “An Act Providing Responsible Reforms in the Pension System” was enacted last June.

This next round of “pension reform” legislation includes many of the proposals from the Special Commission to Study Massachusetts Retirement Systems’ report which was released last fall. Most of the provisions in the bill would only impact new hires (those hired after July 1, 2010) but there are some changes that could potentially impact current employees. Existing retirees are not impacted.

**For New Hires (hired after 7/1/10)**
- Capping the regular compensation used in retirement calculations to 43% of the federal compensation limit
- Increasing the three year salary average to five years for retirement calculation purposes
- Raising “normal” retirement age two years for all groups. For example, normal retirement age for Group 1 employees would increase to 67 from 65 (Group 2: 60 to 62 and Group 4: 55 to 57)
- Eliminating termination allowances
- Reducing the employee contribution rate from 9% to 8.5%
- Increasing the age reduction factors used in benefit calculations for retirements earlier than “normal” retirement (for example, retirements occurring prior to age 67 for Group 1 employees) from 0.1% to 0.125%.

**Also for new hires and potentially current employees**
- Prorating pension benefits based on years of service in each group classification
- Capping salary increases, for retirement calculation purposes, to 7% of the average salary for the preceding two years. This limit would not apply to salary increases due to a change in hours or a change in position
On January 13, 2010, the Massport Retirement System hosted its 5th Employee Financial Fair at the Logan Office Center. Massport employees were able to visit with representatives from a variety of organizations and attend education sessions on Social Security, college financing, and budgeting.

We would like to thank all those who attended and helped to make this year’s fair a success!

**2010 Financial Raffle Fair Winners**

**Retirement**
- Helen Mao
  - $10 Dunkin Donuts Gift Card
- Pamela Vocas
  - $10 Dunkin Donuts Gift Card
- Jeff Gotham
  - $25 Macy’s Gift Card
- Keith Beasley
  - $25 Macy’s Gift Card

**AllOne Health**
- Lisa Gaimari
  - $25 Sears Gift Card

**Financial Planning Association**
- Pauline Roberts
  - $25 Stop & Shop Gift Card

**Metro Credit Union**
- Emerson Cunningham
  - Fleece blanket

**Mass State Employees Credit Union**
- Janeen Hansen
  - $25 Stop & Shop Gift Card

**First Priority Credit Union**
- Pamela Carnovale
  - iPod Shuffle

**American Consumer Credit Counseling**
- Fred Gavriel
  - Polo Shirt & Mug

**AARP**
- Valerie Williams
  - Tote bag

**SalemFive Bank**
- Joanne Gallagher
  - Dustin Pedroia Autographed Baseball
Open Enrollment - Health & Dental Insurance Benefits

Annual Open Enrollment gives employees and retirees the opportunity to review and make changes to their health plans. Active Massport employees can pick up open enrollment material along with their benefit statements at the HR Open House on Wednesday, April 14th. Be sure to stop by to pick up this important information!

For our retirees, open enrollment material will be mailed in mid April so be sure to check your mail for the open enrollment package!
Retirees’ Corner

Still Receiving Your Check via Snail Mail?

Beginning in February, we’ll be mailing monthly retirement allowance checks the day before the last business day of the month. This is to ensure that funds are available when you deposit or cash your check. Retirement checks are payable on the last business day of the month and not sooner.

If you’re interested in getting your monthly payment in the quickest and most hassle-free method possible, switch to direct deposit. With direct deposit, your money is automatically deposited in your bank account each month. You don’t have to wait for the mail and you don’t have to make a special trip to the bank. The vast majority of our retirees utilize direct deposit and if you’re one of the few still receiving your monthly check in the mail, we encourage you to consider the alternative. In our opinion direct deposit is the safer and more efficient option. For more information, please contact the retirement office.

Health Insurance Imposters

You are probably well aware of the threat Identity Theft poses to your bank accounts and credit reports, but did you know that ID Theft is sneaking its way into hospitals and doctor’s offices as well? Identity thieves around the country are increasingly using stolen social security numbers and health insurance information in order to obtain free medical treatment – everything from checkups and prescriptions to major surgeries, potentially at your expense! This is known as Medical Identity Theft. The bills that result from these fraudulent doctor and hospital visits can be large, and take months to clear up. Even worse, an ID thief, treated using your identity, can cause incorrect medical information (such as allergies, medications, and blood type) to be entered into your medical record, potentially risking your health.

Experts tell us it’s important to be on the alert for any discrepancies in your records. Inspect any “Explanation of Benefits” or bills you receive from your insurance company for treatments that you didn’t receive. Do the same with a complete listing of benefits paid on your health plan, which you should request from your insurance company on an annual basis. Get a hard copy of your health records, even if you have to pay for them. That way you’ll have proof if your medical charts are later altered. It’s also important to keep an eye on your credit report for fraudulent medical bills. If you believe you are a victim of Medical ID theft, you should notify the local police, your insurance company, and the FTC, and then take steps to correct any errors in your medical records and your credit report. A helpful guide on fixing the damage caused by Medical ID Theft is available at http://www.worldprivacyforum.org/FAQ_medicalrecordprivacy.html.

Transitions

Condolences

We regret to inform you that the following retirees have passed away:

- John Cullinane
- Robert DiToro
- Anne Ennis DiCicco
- Frederick Gates

We also offer our condolences to the family and friends of Richard A. Walsh of Massport’s Parking Operations department who passed away on February 6, 2010.

Congratulations

The following people retired recently and we wish them all the best for a successful future:

- Dan Amaral
- Leo Buono
- Chris Chandler
- Bill D’Angelo
- Bob Fringuelli
- Zafrullah Haneef
- Tim Heywood
- Dennis Kay
- Steve Lauria
- Ed Longo
- Nathaniel Myers
- Dominic Rozzi
- Harry Ruffner
Web Watch

For those of you who have access to the Internet, there is a wealth of information to be found there. In this section we highlight web sites that we have found helpful, informative, interesting or just plain fun.

Cut Down the Junk Mail

Day after day, our mailboxes are stuffed to bursting with junk mail. Is this really necessary? No, it certainly isn’t – and you can finally put a stop to it. The Direct Marketing Association, the trade industry for junk mailers, has set up a website where you can opt-out of catalogs, magazine subscription offers, newsletters, sale promotions, bank offers, and even those odd pieces of mail addressed to “Current Resident.” Register for free at dmachoice.org, and over 3,600 participating companies will have no choice but to leave your address off of their mailing lists. Want to get rid of pre-approved credit card offers, too? Check out optoutprescreen.com.

* Legal note: The Retirement System is not responsible for the content of these web sites or for the accuracy and completeness of the information contained in them.

Legislative Update

Governor Patrick Files Municipal ERI

As part of a local relief package, Governor Patrick recently filed a Municipal Early Retirement Incentive (ERI) Program. This legislation, if approved, will only apply to cities and towns. Massport, other quasi-governmental agencies and the State is not included in this legislation. The Authority would therefore not be eligible to participate if and when this bill passes.

This municipal ERI is structured a bit different than the other ERI’s legislated in the past. The incentive gives cities and towns the option to offer certain employees an additional three years to be added to age, creditable service or a combination of both for purposes of calculating a retirement benefit. This would be in exchange for the employee retiring by a certain date. In order to be eligible, employees must have 20 years of creditable service and be willing to forfeit any accrued sick and vacation time.

The decision whether or not to offer this ERI is to be determined by each municipality’s chief executive officer (CEO) and the sponsoring legislative body must approve the CEO’s plan. The CEO has additional constraints having to limit position backfills as well as comply with other filing and reporting requirements.
Book Corner

The retirement library at the Logan Office Center houses a wide variety of books on personal finance topics including retirement planning, saving, budgeting, investing, estate planning, homebuying, and basic money management themes. Stop by and check them out.

■ What Color Is Your Parachute for Retirement
by Richard N. Bolles and John E. Nelson

Spring is the season of choice for cleaning your home top-to-bottom, and it’s also a great time for a big-picture review of your retirement plans. What Color Is Your Parachute for Retirement, a spinoff of the popular job-seeker’s “Parachute” series, touches on financial topics but digs deep into the process of planning how you will live once you’ve retired. The book presents six elements of well-being (Financial, Medical, Biological, Psychological, Social, and Geographical) and breaks them down into manageable little pieces for your consideration. Each chapter is filled with worksheets, thought exercises, and a good list of additional resources to help you expand your exploration of each topic.

Calendar

March
20
Spring begins
29
Passover begins at sundown
30
Retirement checks mailed
31
Retirement Board Meeting: Logan Office Center Board Room, 9:00 a.m.

April
2
Good Friday
4
Easter Sunday
14
HR Open House - LOC
15
Tax day!
16
Quarterly employer match to 457 plan
19
Patriots Day; Massport offices closed
21
Retirement Board Meeting: Logan Office Center Board Room, 9:00 a.m.
27
Retirement checks mailed
31
Memorial Day: Massport offices closed

June
17
Bunker Hill Day: Massport offices open
20
Father’s Day
21
Summer begins
29
Retirement checks mailed
30
Retirement Board Meeting: Logan Office Center Board Room, 9:00 a.m.

Retirement Board & Staff

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