

Halverson, Beth

From: Sanders, Warren <Warren.Sanders@kingcounty.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 13, 2018 2:06 PM
To: Office State Actuary, WA
Cc: wsandershome20@comcast.net
Subject: PERS2 Early Out Restricts Wildfire Volunteers

Dear Select Committee on Pension Policy,

First, I appreciate all that you do – I see your work via DRS email distribution and I applaud sensible changes. We have a great program and my retirement future is blessed by your maintenance and wise / not too wacky improvements.

I am a 38 year King County Metro Transit employee considering a DRS PERS2 – Early Out option at the age of 61.

Since childhood, I have grown up with a property connection in Liberty WA and will spend more time there soon.

I would like to volunteer to fight wildfire with Kittitas County Fire Department. The challenge is: once on an actual fire, I will be paid by WA State Patrol – a DRS PERS contributing organization.

DRS confirms: once paid by WA State Patrol, DRS restrictions would stop my PERS2 Early Out pension check until I demonstrate a written severed relationship with WA State Patrol and Kittitas Fire.

I am aware that I could choose the other PERS2 retirement option, offering less monthly pension, free of employment or volunteer restrictions.

I propose that it would be in good interest for the great State of Washington to encourage (more, healthy, young) volunteers and enable a PERS2 Early Out retiree to offer volunteer services within organizations such as Kittitas Fire without the PERS2 Early Out pension restriction. And to allow the volunteer the minimal compensation supplement while on a fire or other qualifying emergency response event.

I appreciate your time considering this, thank you,

Warren
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