

Rule Making Guide

The Ohio Public Employees Retirement System is the largest state pension fund in Ohio, the 12th-largest public retirement system and 15th-largest retirement system in the U.S. OPERS serves more than 1 million members, and one out of every 12 Ohioans relies on OPERS for retirement, disability and survivor benefits.

OPERS' mission is to provide financial security for our members in retirement. We do that by accepting contributions throughout an individual's working career. These contributions are then carefully and systematically invested to maximize earnings and the compounding effect of long-term contributions. In more than 80 years, OPERS has always made its benefit payments.

THE OPERS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The OPERS Board of Trustees is the System's governing body. Its members are responsible for establishing governing policies for OPERS. The 11-member Board meets monthly to review and formulate policies concerning the members, contributors and benefit recipients of OPERS, and the OPERS staff. The Board members also authorize the investments made with System funds.

Seven of the members are elected by the groups they represent: retirees; employees of the state, counties, municipalities; non-teaching employees of state colleges and universities; and miscellaneous employees.

In addition to the seven elected members, three members are appointed by the Governor, Treasurer of State and the General Assembly. The director of the Department of Administrative Services is the only statutory member of the Board.

The Board is responsible for the appointment of an executive director who is in charge of the administration and management of OPERS. Administrative and technical staff serve the contributors and benefit recipients in the areas of accounting, health care, communications, investments and related activities.

RULE-MAKING PROCESS

OPERS is authorized to adopt rules as necessary to carry out its mission. Because benefits are set by statute and the administration of programs is fairly constant, the necessity for rule-making is limited. The primary responsibility for rules review and drafting is assigned to the General Counsel.

The rule-making process is not complex and consists of the following:

1. Staff review existing rules or determine the need for new rules. This activity occurs as a result of statutory changes: a set schedule for review; requests of OPERS staff familiar with the rules and their effect on System participants; comments received from System participants; or matters coming before the Board.
2. Proposed rules are reviewed by the Board at regularly scheduled monthly meetings, which are open to the public. A person may request notice of the Board's meetings, which includes the Board's agenda, by contacting OPERS. Comments from System participants on existing or proposed rules should be made to the OPERS staff prior to the Board meeting at which the rules will be reviewed. Occasionally, a separate public hearing is required.
3. Proposed rules are filed with the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (JCARR).
4. There is a final filing of the rules after JCARR's jurisdiction ends.
5. OPERS communicates rules amendments to appropriate parties.

Copies of OPERS' statutes and rules are codified in Chapter 145 and are available from any public library in Ohio. They also can be found online at codes.ohio.gov. More information about OPERS is available on our website, www.opers.org.