

Important:

Review your records to ensure you are compliant with the new law that reclassifies all public safety directors.

Legislation changes public safety directors' division

Who should read this notice

Those processing retirement contributions

Situation overview

Recently, Senate Bill 267 was enacted that affects the OPERS division in which public safety directors are classified. Effective March 24, 2009, public safety directors are no longer eligible to contribute under the public safety classification of the law enforcement division.

As background, since September 2005, city and village public safety directors were eligible to contribute to OPERS at the higher public safety contribution rate if the director served full time and was required to supervise the activities of the police and fire departments.

The new law has re-classified public safety directors into the city/village local division, which means these employees will contribute at the local contribution rate.

What you need to do

To ensure accurate reporting and remitting of contributions, employers must:

- Review records to identify any public safety directors employed by your organization who are reported under the public safety employer code.
- With the first full pay period after March 24, 2009, employers must deduct and report retirement contributions for the public safety directors at the local contribution rate of 10%. This is a change from their public safety contribution rate of 10.1%.

Note: This change is for affected individuals only—meaning those city and village public safety directors who are currently contributing at the public safety rate. All other public safety personnel should continue to be reported as is done currently.

The service credit earned by the public safety directors while contributing under the public safety classification will remain in their OPERS account as public safety service.

To ensure every employee is classified and reported accurately—and to ensure the accurate contribution amount is remitted—we encourage employers to review their employee records for those performing duties related to public safety and law enforcement.

Why this is important

Accurate reporting is always important—to help ensure a secure retirement for your employees and to prevent completing time consuming corrections for employers. Reviewing records and changing contribution rates with the first full pay period after March 24, 2009 will ensure both goals.



1-888-400-0965

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Changes to *Employer Manual*

Changes to the Employer Manual have been made to accurately reflect this information. Specifically, the information found on pages 2.7 - 2.9 has been modified. Both the main table of contents and the Section 2-specific table of contents also have been modified. Those employers who maintain a print copy of the manual should download those pages.

Who to contact for more information

After you review this *Employer Notice*, contact your Employer Outreach representative with questions or comments at 1-888-400-0965 or via the Internet at employeroutreach@opers.org.

This Employer Notice is written in plain language for use by public employers who are subject to coverage under the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System. It is not intended as a substitute for the federal or state law, namely the Ohio Revised Code, the Ohio Administrative Code, or the Internal Revenue Code, nor will its interpretation prevail should a conflict arise between it and the Ohio Revised Code, Ohio Administrative Code, or Internal Revenue Code. Rules governing the retirement system are subject to change periodically either by statute of the Ohio General Assembly, regulation of the Ohio Public Employees Retirement Board, or regulation of the Internal Revenue Code. If you have questions about this material, please contact our office or seek legal notice from your attorney.



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