

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2010 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Revised**

House Bill 926  
Appropriations

(Delegates Proctor and Vallario)

Budget and Taxation

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**State Retirement and Pension System - Retiree Organization - Direct Mailings**

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This bill requires the Board of Trustees of the State Retirement and Pension System (SRPS) to provide mailing addresses for State retirees twice a year to a mail processing center to provide direct mailings on behalf of the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association (MRSPA). The bill also exempts MRSPA from current law requiring SRPS to notify retirees before it provides information about them to a public employee organization.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2010, and terminates June 30, 2011.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The Maryland State Retirement Agency can handle the bill's requirements with existing budgeted resources.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** MRSPA may submit two requests annually to SRPS for assistance in conducting direct mailings to SRPS retirees who are members of the organization or eligible to become members of the organization. The mailings may not be for the purpose of opposing or supporting a political party, ballot measure, or candidate for election. Instead, they must provide retirees with information that explains the services offered by MRSPA. The board is required to provide the requested data only to a mail

processing center under a secure data share agreement in which neither the mail processing center nor MRSPA has access to any names or addresses.

MRSPA is responsible for paying all costs related to generating mailing labels; inserting materials into envelopes; and sealing, labeling, and delivering materials to be mailed. The board is not liable for the content of any information contained in the mailing.

By December 31, 2010, SRPS must submit a report to the Joint Committee on Pensions detailing any complaints it receives from retirees regarding the information provided under this bill.

**Current Law:** For a fee, a retiree organization may obtain from the board a list of names and addresses of retirees of the Employees' Pension System, Employees' Retirement System, Teachers' Pension System, or Teachers' Retirement System who:

- retired or began receiving a vested allowance in the past year;
- died in the past year; or
- changed addresses in the past year.

Before releasing the names or addresses of any retiree, the board must notify the retiree and provide an opportunity to refuse to have their name and address released. An employee organization may not release any information that it obtains through such requests.

**Background:** The Maryland State Retirement Agency advises that it currently deducts dues and, for some organizations, insurance, for six employee and retiree organizations. The agency asks new retirees to indicate on the retirement application form whether they authorize the release of information. The agency periodically responds to requests for information about new retirees, but only if the retiree has agreed to release that information.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland State Retirement Agency, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 7, 2010  
ncs/rhh Revised - House Third Reader - March 30, 2010  
Revised - Enrolled Bill - June 1, 2010

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