



STATE RETIREMENT AGENCY
120 East Baltimore Street
Baltimore, MD 21202-6700

MARYLAND
STATE RETIREMENT
and PENSION SYSTEM

410-625-5555 • 1-800-492-5909
TTY Users: call via Maryland Relay
sra.maryland.gov

December 17, 2024

KATHERINE PARRON
9261 RIDGEFIELD CIR
FREDERICK, MD 21701

Dear Ms. Parron:

Thank you for contacting the Maryland State Retirement Agency. We are responding to your request for information about your request to purchase previous service.

A review of your record reveals that you had 7 years and 5 months (89 months) of previous creditable service as a member of the pre-7/1/2011 Employees' Pension System. At resignation, this prior service was withdrawn effective 8/31/2012.

Effective 11/1/2012, you were enrolled anew as a member of the post-7/1/2011 Reformed Employees' Pension System when you accepted new employment.

During the 2018 Legislative Session, your job classification was moved from the Reformed Employees' Pension System (EPS) to the Reformed Correctional Officers' Retirement System (CORS) effective 7/1/2017 by enacted legislation.

All EPS service earned from 11/1/2012 to 7/1/2017 was transferred from the EPS plan to the CORS plan in accordance with §37 of the State Personnel and Pensions Article of the Maryland Annotated Code.

Purchase provisions pertaining to *State Redeposits* only apply if the member is redepositing member contributions and interest in the *same* System from which the member previously withdrew. Since the CORS plan and the EPS plan are different Systems under the law, redeposit rules do not apply.

Furthermore, our retirement administrator has determined that under current Maryland retirement law, this withdrawn service *is not* purchasable because the purchase provisions under the CORS plan do not permit CORS participants to purchase prior service withdrawn from the EPS plan.

While the State Retirement Agency cannot guarantee changes, we recommend contacting your elected officials in the Maryland General Assembly to propose modifications to the *purchase rules under the CORS plan* to allow this type of purchase in the future.

Alternatively, if you accept new employment in a position requiring EPS enrollment and change jobs/Systems with no break (i.e., within 30-days), you can transfer the CORS service to the EPS plan within one year (12-months) of EPS enrollment in accordance with §37 transfer rules. You can also then redeposit the previously withdrawn EPS contributions with interest to obtain credit for the pre-8/31/2012 EPS service on the active Reformed EPS account.

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However, benefit formulas and retirement eligibility rules for the respective Systems differ and these rules should be considered as well. Eligibility for retirement under the CORS plan is Age 55 or 20 years of service regardless of age. Eligibility under the Reformed EPS plan for normal service retirement is age 65 or the Rule of 90 (age and eligibility service must total 90); reduced benefits for early retirement are available at age 60 for EPS members with at least 15 years of eligibility service. For more, see the benefits handbooks for these Systems on our website at: <https://sra.maryland.gov/member-benefit-handbooks>

So, transferring from the CORS plan to EPS plan may result in a desired change in work environment but you will be required to wait longer than originally anticipated to commence payment of your retirement benefit.

While this may not have been the answer you were seeking, hopefully it provides clarification on this complex matter.

If we can be of further assistance, please contact us at 410-625-5555 or 1-800-492-5909.

Sincerely,

Shane Brown

Shane Brown
Deputy Director, Member Services

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