

Be Aware + Prepare

Retiree insurance and eligibility funding

Get Set for Retirement Insurance 2026



Serving those who serve South Carolina

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Important information

- This presentation is not a comprehensive description of the insurance benefits offered by PEBA.
- For more information, and before you make enrollment decisions, review the [Insurance Benefits Guide](#).

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Retiree insurance eligibility

- Eligibility for retiree group insurance is not the same as eligibility for retirement.
- Determining retiree insurance eligibility is complicated, and only PEBA can make that determination.
- The *Retiree Packet*, available at peba.sc.gov/forms, is a comprehensive packet that includes:
 - *Retiree Insurance Eligibility, Funding* flyers;
 - *Employment Verification Record*;
 - *Certification Regarding Tobacco or E-cigarette Use*; and
 - Other helpful information.

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Determining eligibility for retiree insurance

- You should confirm your eligibility *before* retiring. After confirmation of eligibility, you must submit the necessary forms to enroll in retiree coverage.
 - In some situations, eligibility determinations are available in [Member Access](#). PEBA will also send written confirmation of your eligibility.
- If you applied for retirement, you do not need to submit an *Employment Verification Record*, because your retirement application initiates the process to determine your eligibility for retiree insurance.
- If you plan to retire in three to six months, submit a completed *Employment Verification Record* to PEBA.
- If you plan to retire within 90 days, complete and submit to PEBA an *Employment Verification Record*, a *Retiree Notice of Election* and a *Certification Regarding Tobacco or E-cigarette Use*.
- PEBA does not confirm eligibility for retirement dates past six months.

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Requirement for any retiree coverage

- Regardless of how or when you qualify for retirement, to qualify for retiree group insurance, your last five years must be:
 - Served consecutively;
 - In a full-time, permanent position; and
 - With an employer participating in the state insurance program.
- Earned service credit is time earned and established in one of the defined benefit pension plans PEBA administers.
 - Earned service credit does not include any purchased service credit not considered earned service in the retirement plans (e.g., non-qualified service).
- For State ORP participants and members whose employer does not participate in a PEBA-administered retirement plan, eligibility is determined as if the participant were a member of the South Carolina Retirement System. This means one year of employment is equal to one year of earned service credit.

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Retiree group insurance funding

- Retirees of state agencies, public higher education institutions, public school districts, charter schools that participate in both insurance and retirement or other employers that participate in the South Carolina Retirement Health Insurance Trust Fund may be eligible to receive state funding toward their premiums if they meet certain requirements.
- Optional employers, charter schools that participate in insurance only and employers that do not participate in the trust fund determine if their retirees pay all or part of the insurance premiums. Contact your benefits administrator for your premiums.
- Changing jobs could affect your eligibility for funding.
- See *Retiree Insurance Eligibility, Funding* flyers in the [Navigating Your Benefits](#) series for more information.

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55/25 year rule

- If you are a Class Two member of SCRS who retires under the 55/25 early retirement provision, you must pay the full premium (employee and employer share) until:
 - You reach age 60; or
 - The date you would have reached 28 years of service credit had you not retired, whichever occurs first.
- You can refuse retiree insurance coverage and enroll when you become eligible for funding because you reach age 60 or at the date of what would be 28 years of service credit.

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