

Paying Retiree Group Insurance Premiums



As a new retiree who meets the eligibility requirements for retiree group insurance, the type of employer from which you retired determines how you pay your premiums in retirement.

State agencies, public higher education institutions and public school districts

If you receive a monthly annuity from a PEBA-administered defined benefit retirement plan, such as the South Carolina Retirement System (SCRS) or the Police Officers Retirement System (PORS), PEBA deducts your health, dental and vision premiums from the monthly annuity payment. Premiums are deducted after taxes are taken out of your benefit. If you do not receive a monthly annuity from SCRS or PORS, PEBA will send you a monthly bill for your retiree insurance premium.

When you retire, your insurance premiums may be due before your annuity payments begin. If this happens, PEBA will send you a monthly bill for your insurance premiums until you receive your first annuity payment. If you have not paid your premiums by the time your annuity is issued, the premiums will be deducted from your annuity payment.

Your annuity is paid on the last business day of each month, and your insurance premiums are paid at the beginning of the month. For example, your insurance premiums for April are deducted from your March annuity payment. Depending on when your retirement paperwork is processed, more than one month's premium may be deducted from your first annuity payment. If at any time the total premiums due add up to an amount greater than the amount of your annuity payment, PEBA will bill you for the full amount and not deduct any of the premium amount from your annuity.

Optional employer retirees

You pay your health, dental and vision premiums to your former employer. Your former employer remits the premiums to PEBA. Contact your benefits office for information about your insurance premiums in retirement.

Charter school retirees

If your charter school participates in a PEBA-administered retirement plan, PEBA deducts your health, dental and vision premiums from the monthly annuity payment you receive from PEBA. If your charter school does not participate in a PEBA-administered retirement plan, you pay your health, dental and vision premiums to the charter school. The charter school remits the premiums to PEBA. Contact your benefits office for information about your insurance premiums in retirement.

Failure to pay premiums

Health, dental and vision premiums are due by the 10th of each month. If premiums are not paid in full, including the tobacco-user premium, if it applies, PEBA will cancel all your coverage, including coverage for which you may not pay a premium, such as Basic Dental. If you are remitting premium payments to your former employer, contact your former employer's benefits office for more information.

Life insurance

If eligible, you may choose to continue or convert your life insurance through MetLife, the vendor that underwrites PEBA's life insurance program. MetLife will mail a continuation/conversion packet to you, and you must make your elections within 31 days of the date your coverage as an active employee ended or upon receipt of the packet from MetLife, whichever is later. Life insurance premiums are remitted directly to MetLife and cannot be deducted from your pension check.

Eligibility for retiree insurance

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. It is very important to contact PEBA before making final arrangements for retirement.

For more information, please refer to the [Insurance Benefits Guide](#), [Navigating Your Benefits webpage](#) or call PEBA Customer Service at 803.737.6800 or 888.260.9430.