



PORS at a Glance (Class Three)

Refer to the [Police Officers Retirement System Member Handbook](#) for detailed information and when making retirement plan decisions.

Benefits

- Monthly retirement benefit is based on a formula (2.14% of average final compensation multiplied by years of service), not on your account balance at retirement.
- Current state law provides for an annual benefit adjustment of 1% of your annual benefit up to a maximum of \$500 per year for eligible retirees.
- Monthly retirement benefit is payable until your death.
- Service purchase options for active contributing members.
- Disability protection.
- Accidental death protection and incidental death benefit if provided by your employer.

Membership eligibility and contributions

- To be a member of PORS, you must be employed as a police officer, firefighter or peace officer for an employer that participates in PORS. Magistrates and probate judges are also eligible to participate in PORS.
- Unless your position is exempted by state law, you must earn at least \$2,000 per year and devote at least 1,600 hours per year to this work.
- You accrue service credit in PORS as long as you are not retired and are making regular contributions to PORS from compensation received from your employment with a participating employer.
- You contribute a tax-deferred 9.75% of gross pay.
- Your account earns 4% interest compounded annually until you retire or your account becomes inactive.
- An account is considered inactive when no contributions have been made to it in the preceding fiscal year and no other active, correlated system or State Optional Retirement Program (State ORP) account exists.

Accidental death benefit

- Provides a survivor monthly benefit if you die in the line of duty.
- Provides lifetime monthly benefit to spouse if you are married.
- If you have no spouse but have children younger than age 18, a monthly benefit will be paid to them until they turn 18. If you have no spouse and no children, the lifetime monthly benefit will be paid to your parents.
- Check with your employer to see if it provides this coverage.

Eligibility for retirement

Class Three members are those whose membership is effective on or after July 1, 2012.

You can retire after 27 years of service or at age 55 or older.

You must have at least eight years of earned service to receive a benefit.

Incidental death benefit

- Beneficiaries of active members and working retirees who die in service after one year of membership receive a payment equal to one year's gross salary.
- If death is a result of a job-related injury, the one-year requirement is waived.
- A beneficiary of a non-working retiree might be eligible for a benefit of \$2,000, \$4,000 or \$6,000 based on the retiree's years of service.
- Check with your employer to see if it provides this coverage.

First responder death benefit

- Line-of-duty death benefit for certain first responders (police, fire, EMS).
- Pays a one-time, lump sum benefit of \$75,000 if your death was a natural and proximate result of an injury by external accident or violence incurred while on duty as a first responder.
- Benefit increases to \$150,000 if you are killed in the line of duty and your death is either the result of an unlawful and intentional act of another person or the result of an accident that occurs:
 - As a result of your response to fresh pursuit;
 - As a result of your response to what is reasonably believed to be an emergency;
 - At the scene of a traffic accident to which you have responded; or
 - While you are enforcing what is reasonably believed to be a traffic law or ordinance.
- Check with your employer to see if it provides this coverage.

Service purchase

- You may be eligible to purchase various types of service credit, such as military service, public service, educational service and non-qualified service at an actuarially-based cost.
- You may also be eligible to purchase credit for previously withdrawn PORS service or service transferred from a correlated retirement system.

Leaving before retirement

If you terminate employment, you may either:

- Request a refund of your contributions and interest, subject to taxes and possible penalties if you are younger than age 59½ and do not roll over into an eligible plan; or
- Leave your money in PORS, where it will earn an annual 4% interest until your account becomes inactive. If you have the earned service necessary for a monthly retirement benefit and leave your funds on deposit, you can receive the benefit once you reach age eligibility.

Payment options

- Three payment options for monthly retirement benefits are available at retirement.
- Two of the three options provide survivor protection.
- You select the payment option that best suits your needs.

Retiree insurance eligibility

- Eligibility for retiree group insurance is not the same as eligibility for retirement.
- Only PEBA can make retiree insurance eligibility determinations. Contact PEBA before making final arrangements for retirement.
- The amount you pay in retiree insurance premiums is based on several factors, including your years of service, when you were hired and the type of employer from which you retire.
- Please refer to the *Retiree Insurance Eligibility, Funding* flyers for your employer type for more information.

Learn more

For more information, contact your human resources office, visit peba.sc.gov or call PEBA's Customer Service at 803.737.6800 or 888.260.9430. You can also schedule an appointment at peba.sc.gov/visit-us.