



**PEBA**<sup>SM</sup>  
SC Retirement Systems  
and State Health Plan

# Judges and Solicitors Retirement System Member Handbook

**Fiscal year  
2025**

*Serving those who serve South Carolina*

## Disclaimer

Benefits administrators and others chosen by your employer to assist you with your participation in the employee benefit programs administered by the South Carolina Public Employee Benefit Authority (PEBA) are not agents or employees of PEBA and are not authorized to bind PEBA or make representations on behalf of PEBA.

## General information

### 9-8-20

The Judges and Solicitors Retirement System (JSRS) was created July 1, 1979, to provide a defined benefit retirement plan for South Carolina's public judges and solicitors. Circuit public defenders were included in the membership of JSRS effective June 27, 2007, and may receive the same JSRS benefits as solicitors, where applicable. The definition of judge was expanded to include administrative law judges effective June 6, 2014. This handbook provides an overview of your benefits along with the respective citations from Title 9, Chapter 8, of the South Carolina Code of Laws.

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# Membership and definitions

## 9-8-40

Membership is mandatory upon taking office as Chief Justice of the South Carolina Supreme Court, Associate Justice of the South Carolina Supreme Court, Court of Appeals Judge, Circuit Court Judge, Family Court Judge, Administrative Law Judge, Solicitor or Circuit Public Defender, prior to age 72.

## 9-8-10(16)

"Judge" means a justice of the Supreme Court or a judge of the Court of Appeals, Circuit Court, Family Court or Administrative Law Court of the state of South Carolina.

## 9-8-10(17)

"Solicitor" means the person holding office as described under Section 1-7-310 of the 1976 South Carolina Code of Laws.

## 9-8-10(19)

"Circuit Public Defender" means a person holding office defined in Section 17-3-5 as the head of a public defender office providing indigent defense representation within a given judicial circuit of this state.

## Member contribution rate

### 9-8-130(1), 9-8-130(4) and 9-8-240

If you are an active JSRS member, you contribute a tax-deferred 10% of gross pay into your JSRS retirement account. If you have not retired or become inactive, your account earns 4% interest compounded annually on your account balance as of the previous June 30.

## Employer contribution rate

### 9-8-140

The employer contribution rate is set by the PEBA Board of Directors based on annual actuarial valuations of JSRS.

# Active member benefits

## Earned service

### 9-8-10(18)

Earned service is defined as paid employment as justice, judge, solicitor or circuit public defender, during which regular JSRS contributions were made to the system.

## Service purchases

### 9-8-50(A)(B), 9-1-1140

While you are an active contributing JSRS member, you may establish service credit for various types of previous employment, leaves of absence and up to five years of non-qualified service as allowed pursuant to Section 9-1-1140. Service credit may be established by making a lump-sum payment, an installment service purchase (pre- or post-tax, plus interest) or a tax-deferred rollover from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA), a 401(k) plan, a 401(a) eligible plan, a 403(b) plan or a 457 plan. The interest rate for an installment service purchase is calculated based on the prime rate plus 2%. Installments initiated July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, will be calculated at 10.5%. The interest rate is fixed for the term of the installment. Pretax installment service purchases are subject to restrictions that prohibit additional principal payments or early payoff except upon termination of employment or retirement.

You may purchase each type of service credit once within a fiscal year. If you are purchasing service to meet retirement eligibility, please contact Customer Service at 803.737.6800 or 888.260.9430 for more information. Payment for service purchases must be remitted in full prior to your retirement date or date of termination from your employer's payroll.

Some types of purchased service may not be used in determining insurance eligibility. If you are covered by state health insurance, contact PEBA at 803.737.6800 or 888.260.9430 for eligibility information.

## 16-year service purchase maximum

### 9-8-50(A)

Section 9-8-50(A) provides that a member of JSRS may not purchase more than 16 years of service credit in JSRS. Additionally, the purchase of service credit under this section may not result in a justice or judge exceeding 25 years total service credit in JSRS, or a solicitor or circuit public defender exceeding 24 years of total service credit in JSRS. For example, if a judge has 10 years of service in JSRS, they may not purchase more than 15 years of additional service credit, so as not to exceed 25 years of total service credit at the time of the service purchase.

In determining your service purchase options, please keep in mind any applicable JSRS earned service requirements for a deferred annuity (Page 10) or JSRS service retirement annuity (Page 11).

# Types of service purchases

## Transfer from SCRS, PORS or GARS

**9-8-50(B)** If you are a former member of the South Carolina Retirement System (SCRS), the Police Officers Retirement System (PORS) or the General Assembly Retirement System (GARS), you may transfer your non-concurrent service to your JSRS account. The amount of contributions and interest in the account from which you are transferring service for the applicable period of service being established in JSRS will be transferred directly to your JSRS account to offset the total payment required. Generally, contributions and interest associated with service credit not transferred to JSRS will remain on deposit in SCRS, PORS or GARS, unless you file for a refund.

*The cost is a payment to the system equal to the current member contribution required for earned service in JSRS for each year of service transferred, prorated for periods of less than a year.*

## Public service

As an active member, you may establish JSRS service credit for any period of paid public service as an employee of a federal, state or local governmental entity in the United States. You may not purchase service for a period of public service for which you may receive a retirement annuity from another defined benefit retirement plan or which would violate Section 415 or any other provision of the Internal Revenue Code.

*The cost is a payment to the system equal to the current member contribution required for earned service in JSRS for each year of service purchased, prorated for periods of less than a year.*

## Educational service (K-12)

As an active member, you may establish service credit for any period of paid classroom teaching consisting of kindergarten through grade 12 in a public, private or sectarian school. You may not purchase service for a period of educational service for which you may receive a retirement annuity from another defined benefit retirement plan or which would violate Section 415 or any other provision of the Internal Revenue Code.

*The cost is a payment to the system equal to the current member contribution required for earned service in JSRS for each year of service purchased, prorated for periods of less than a year.*

## Leave of absence

If you return to covered employment as an active member within four years of an employer-approved leave of absence, you may purchase service credit for the employer-approved leave period for which you do not already have service credit, up to a maximum of two years per leave of absence. The leave of absence must be with an employer covered by one of the retirement systems administered by PEBA.

*The cost is a payment to the system equal to the current member contribution required for earned service in JSRS for each year of service purchased, prorated for periods of less than a year.*

*The cost is a payment to the system equal to the current member contribution required for earned service in JSRS for each year of service purchased, prorated for periods of less than a year.*

*The cost is based on contributions plus interest using your earnable compensation at the time of injury.*

*You must repay the amount you withdrew plus interest to the date your request is received.*

*The cost, which is determined by PEBA's independent actuary, will not be less than 35% of your career highest fiscal year earnable compensation for each year purchased.*

*The cost is a payment to the system equal to the current member contribution required for earned service in JSRS for each year of service purchased, prorated for periods of less than a year.*

## **Military service**

As an active member, you may establish up to six years of service credit for any period of military service for which you do not already have service credit. This includes service in the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, Select Reserves and Army or Air National Guard. Your discharge from service must be under conditions other than dishonorable. Under guidelines set forth by the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA), you may also arrange in advance with your employer to continue contributing to your account while on active duty military leave, or you may make contributions for your period of military service after you return from active duty for a period three times longer than your military service, but not longer than five years.

## **Workers' compensation**

As an active member, you may establish service credit for a period while on leave of absence and receiving workers' compensation benefits. You may also arrange in advance with your employer to continue contributing to your account while you are receiving workers' compensation benefits.

## **Previously withdrawn service**

If you left employment and received a refund of your contributions plus interest from PEBA, you may re-establish this service upon returning to active membership. You can also establish previously withdrawn service from SCRS, PORS or GARS into JSRS. Previously withdrawn JSRS earned service that is re-established in JSRS through the service purchase process is considered earned service for the determination of the JSRS minimum service requirement for benefit eligibility.

## **Non-qualified service**

After you have reached five or more years of earned service credit as an active, contributing member, you may then establish up to five years of non-qualified service by making an actuarially neutral payment to PEBA. The cost calculation is based in part on your current age and service credit, as well as your career highest fiscal year earnable compensation at the time PEBA receives your service purchase request.

## **State ORP participation**

Active contributing members may purchase and establish service credit for their years of participation in the State Optional Retirement Program (State ORP) PEBA administers. You may not purchase service for a period of State ORP participation for which you may receive a retirement annuity from another defined benefit retirement plan or which would violate Section 415 or any other provision of the Internal Revenue Code.

# Active JSRS member

## Applying for a GARS annuity at age 62

### 9-8-125

An active JSRS member who is at least 62 years of age and eligible to receive benefits from GARS but for their current JSRS position may elect to receive their GARS retirement annuity while still employed with a JSRS-covered employer. The application for GARS benefits may be submitted up to six months prior to, but no more than 90 days after, the effective GARS retirement date.

## Receiving an SCRS or a PORS annuity

### 9-1-650, 9-11-40(9)

Because JSRS is not a correlated system with SCRS and PORS, an individual may participate as an active member in JSRS while receiving an SCRS or PORS retirement annuity, if otherwise eligible for the receipt of the annuity under the provisions governing SCRS and PORS.

## Leaving JSRS-covered employment

Upon termination of JSRS-covered employment, you may elect to receive a refund of your contributions and interest or leave your contributions and interest on deposit and earn 4% interest until your account becomes inactive. Your JSRS account is considered inactive when no contributions have been made to the account in the preceding fiscal year. If you leave your contributions and interest on deposit, you may, at a later date:

- Return to employment as a justice, judge, solicitor or circuit public defender, and once again become an active contributing member of JSRS;
- Receive a refund of your contributions and interest;
- Receive a deferred annuity if and when you are eligible;
- Become an active SCRS, PORS or GARS member and transfer your non-concurrent JSRS service credit by withdrawing your JSRS contributions and interest and purchasing the non-concurrent JSRS service as public service in your active SCRS, PORS or GARS account; or
- If you do not qualify for a deferred annuity, you may elect to transfer your JSRS service credit and contributions to SCRS pursuant to Section 9-8-50(D)(3).



# Deferred JSRS annuity

## 9-8-50(E)(1)(2)(3)

A justice or judge who has 10 years of earned JSRS service as a justice or judge; a solicitor who has eight years of JSRS earned service as a solicitor; or a circuit public defender who has eight years of JSRS earned service as a circuit public defender may apply for a deferred annuity upon reaching:

- Age 55 if they began service as a justice, judge or solicitor prior to July 1, 2004; or
- Age 65 if they began service as a justice, judge, solicitor or circuit public defender after June 30, 2004.

## Deferred annuity calculation

PEBA uses a four-step formula to calculate a deferred monthly retirement benefit for the standard (maximum) plan.

### Step 1

Multiply the current active salary for the respective position of justice, judge, solicitor or circuit public defender by 71.3% (0.713).



### Step 2

Determine the percentage of the deferred annuity that is payable by creating a fraction in which the retiring member's credited service in JSRS is the numerator and the denominator is 24 years.



### Step 3

Multiply the annuity amount from Step 1 by the percentage from Step 2 to obtain the annual amount of a member's deferred annuity.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>A JSRS member's total deferred annuity may not exceed the regular service retirement benefit calculated for the member under Section 9-8-60 or 9-8-70.



### Step 4

Divide the result of Step 3 by 12 to calculate the monthly benefit amount.

## Standard deferred annuity payment plan example

Family court judge who makes \$186,902 with 14.5 years of JSRS service

Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4
<b>\$186,902</b>	<b>14.5 years</b>	<b>\$133,261.13</b>	<b>\$80,511.84</b>
<b>× 0.713</b>	<b>÷ 24 year rqmt</b>	<b>× 0.604166</b>	<b>÷ 12 months</b>
<b>\$133,261.13</b>	<b>0.604166</b>	<b>\$80,511.84</b>	<b>\$6,709.31 per month</b>

If the retiree selects the optional survivor annuity payment plan (see Page 12), multiply the deferred annuity amount from Step 3 by the applicable actuarial reduction factor based on the retiring member's age at the time of retirement and the age of the member's designated beneficiary. Because survivor reduction factors vary, please contact Customer Service at 803.737.6800 or 888.260.9430 or by selecting the Contact link at [peba.sc.gov](http://peba.sc.gov) for a deferred annuity estimate.

# Service retirement annuity

Your application for service retirement benefits may be submitted up to six months before, but no more than 90 days after, your desired effective date of retirement. As a JSRS member, you must retire no later than the end of the calendar year in which you reach age 72.

## Retirement annuity eligibility

### 9-8-60(1)

To qualify for a service retirement annuity, a JSRS member:

1. Must no longer be in the service of the State, except for service as a member of the South Carolina General Assembly;<sup>2</sup>
2. Must have at least 10 years of earned service as a judge, have at least eight years of earned service as a solicitor or public defender or have been in service as a judge or solicitor on July 1, 1984; and
3. Must meet one of the following age and service requirements:
  - 25 years of service credit as a justice or judge;
  - 24 years of service credit as a solicitor or circuit public defender;
  - Age 65 with at least 20 years of service credit in JSRS; or
  - Age 70 with at least 15 years of service credit in JSRS.

<sup>2</sup>Please see Returning to covered employment on Page 16 for information pertaining to the option to begin receiving your retirement annuity and continue employment.

## Documents needed at retirement

To retire, you must complete an [Application for Service Retirement Benefits](#) (Form 6101J), a [Withholding Certificate for Periodic Pension or Annuity Payments](#) (IRS Form W-4P), a [Withholding Certificate for Monthly Benefit Payments](#) (Form 7202) and a [Direct Deposit Authorization](#) (Form 7204). You may also complete a [Retired Public Safety Officers' Insurance Payment Program Deduction Form](#) (Form 7700).

Regardless of the payment plan you select, you must include copies of your birth certificate and your current driver's license or state-issued identification card. Original documents will not be returned unless you request that PEBA do so. If you select the optional survivor annuity payment plan, you must also include with your application a copy of proof of birth for each of your designated beneficiaries.

# Payment plans

## Type I: standard annuity

### 9-8-60(2)(5), 9-8-110(2)

The Standard Annuity Payment Plan benefit is equal to 71.3% of the current active salary for the position you held at retirement plus an additional 2.67% of salary for each year of service earned in JSRS after attaining 25 years of service credit for judges or 24 years of service credit for solicitors and circuit public defenders. The total annuity cannot exceed 90% of the current active salary for the position you held at retirement.

Upon the death of a married retiree who elected the standard annuity payment plan, one-third of the retiree's annuity will be paid automatically to their surviving spouse for life unless the retiree designated a beneficiary other than their spouse to receive a refund of any remaining member contributions.

Upon the death of an unmarried retiree who elected the standard annuity payment plan, their designated beneficiary or estate will receive a refund of any remaining member contributions.

## Additional benefit payout request

### 9-8-60(6)

A JSRS member whose annuity as calculated at retirement exceeds the 90% maximum annuity may complete the *JSRS Additional Benefit Payout Request* (Form 4103) to request an additional lump sum benefit at retirement. If you are younger than age 60 and are retiring and continuing to work, see additional information below. The additional benefit is equal to the member's contributions and interest paid in to the system after the member attained sufficient service credit to be eligible to receive the maximum annuity of 90% of the current active salary. The 90% maximum annuity amount is generally reached when the following JSRS service credit is obtained:

- 32 years for justices and judges; and
- 31 years for solicitors and circuit public defenders.

This refund is not payable until after retirement and may be distributed as either a taxable, single-sum refund or a rollover to a qualified retirement plan or IRA.

## Type II: optional survivor annuity

### 9-8-70

With this payment plan, a member may provide a survivor annuity to a non-spousal beneficiary or multiple beneficiaries that may or may not include a spouse. The retiree's annuity is permanently reduced from the standard annuity payment plan by an actuarial factor. At the member's death, a benefit of one-third of the member's annuity continues to the member's beneficiary or beneficiaries.

The reduction factor is derived from actuarial group annuity mortality tables and is based on your age and the age of your designated beneficiary as of your date of retirement. If you designate multiple beneficiaries, their average age is used in this calculation. Since survivor reduction factors vary, please contact Customer Service at 803.737.6800 or 888.260.9430 or by selecting the Contact link at [peba.sc.gov](http://peba.sc.gov) for an estimate.

## Additional payout for members younger than age 60 who retire and continue to work

### 9-8-60(7)(c)

If you are younger than age 60 and have retired while continuing to work under the JSRS Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP), you are not eligible to receive this refund of additional contributions until you reach age 60. This refund is not automatic. When you reach age 60 you must complete and submit Form 4103 to PEBA to receive this additional benefit payout.

## Standard annuity payment plan calculation

PEBA uses a four-step formula to calculate a standard annuity payment plan benefit. The total annual annuity of the standard annuity payment plan cannot exceed 90% of the current active salary for the position the member held at retirement. See Page 12 for more information.

### Step 1

Multiply the current active salary for the respective position of justice, judge, solicitor or circuit public defender by 71.3% (0.713).

.....

### Step 2

Calculate the additional benefit by multiplying the respective salary by 2.67% (0.0267) for each year of earned service over 25 for a judge or over 24 for a solicitor or circuit public defender.

.....

### Step 3

Add the results from Step 1 and Step 2.

.....

### Step 4

Divide the result of Step 3 by 12 to calculate the monthly benefit amount.

## Standard annuity payment plan example

Family court judge who makes \$186,902 with 27 years of JSRS service

Step 1	Step 2a	Step 2b	Step 3	Step 4
<b>\$186,902</b>	<b>\$186,902</b>	<b>\$4,990.28</b>	<b>\$133,261.13</b>	<b>\$143,241.69</b>
<b>× 0.713</b>	<b>× 0.0267</b>	<b>× 2 (years over 25)</b>	<b>+ \$9,980.56</b>	<b>÷ 12 months</b>
<b>\$133,261.13</b>	<b>\$4,990.28</b>	<b>\$9,980.56</b>	<b>\$143,241.69</b>	<b>\$11,936.81 per month</b>

# Disability retirement

## Eligibility

### 9-8-60(3)

To be eligible for disability retirement, a member must:

- Have a minimum of five years of earned JSRS service;
- Be totally and permanently disabled, either physically or mentally, or both, from rendering useful and efficient service in the position of judge, solicitor or circuit public defender; and
- Have their claim approved by the South Carolina Supreme Court.

If a member's claim is approved, their benefit would be calculated using the standard annuity payment plan formula on Page 13 unless an optional payment plan is selected.

# Death benefits

## In-service survivor allowance

### 9-8-110(1)(2)(3)

If a JSRS member who named their spouse as beneficiary for their active JSRS account dies in service after reaching retirement eligibility, but prior to retiring, the surviving spouse is eligible to receive one-third of the annuity that would have been payable to the member if they had retired on their date of death. For the payment of this spousal death benefit, the earned service requirement for retirement eligibility may be waived if the member met all other retirement eligibility requirements for any JSRS (regular or deferred) annuity as of their date of death. The surviving spousal beneficiary may select the one-third lifetime annuity in-service death payment option in lieu of a refund of the deceased member's JSRS contributions and interest.

If a JSRS member who designated a non-spousal beneficiary or multiple beneficiaries (which may include a spouse) dies in service after reaching retirement eligibility, but prior to retiring, the beneficiary may elect to receive one-third of the annuity that would have been payable under the

optional survivor annuity payment plan if the JSRS active member had retired on the date of death. The election of this lifetime annuity is in lieu of a lump-sum refund of the member's contributions and interest. Multiple beneficiaries receive equal shares of one-third of the annuity. If a beneficiary dies, the deceased beneficiary's share ends and the remaining beneficiaries continue to receive their normal monthly annuity for life. A monthly annuity cannot be paid to an estate.

If the member's beneficiary is not a living person or if the member did not meet the requirements for the payment of a survivor annuity upon their death, the only benefit payable is a refund of the member's contributions and interest.

## Non-retired incidental death benefit

### 9-8-110(5)

If an active contributing member dies in service with at least one year of service credit, a payment equal to the member's annual compensation may be paid to the member's designated beneficiary. If the member's death results from a job-related injury, the one-year requirement is waived.

# Post-retirement information

## Monthly annuity payments

Monthly annuity payments are directly deposited into your bank account on the last business day of each month. We strongly encourage all payees to participate in direct deposit; however, if you do not have a bank account into which benefits may be automatically deposited, you may receive a paper check each month. If you do not receive your check within five business days of the last business day of the month, please contact PEBA. It is also very important to notify PEBA in writing of any change to your home mailing address.

## Taxes

Your monthly annuity is subject to federal and state income taxes, but there is a South Carolina state income tax deduction for retirement income based on your age. If you do not have taxes withheld from your retirement check, you might need to file estimated taxes each quarter. Check with an accountant or a tax adviser regarding your tax liability. A benefit recipient can make changes to the amount of taxes withheld by logging into PEBA's secure [Member Access](#) portal or by submitting IRS Form W-4P (federal) or Form 7202 (state). You can also visit the South Carolina Department of Revenue's website at [dor.sc.gov](http://dor.sc.gov) and the Internal Revenue Service's website at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) for more information related to taxability of benefits.

## Beneficiary and option changes

### 9-8-70, 9-8-110

In certain circumstances, you may be eligible to change the payment plan and/or beneficiary for your retirement benefits after your retirement. A retiree who elected the standard annuity payment plan can generally change beneficiaries at any time. However, a JSRS retiree who elected the optional survivor annuity payment plan under Section 9-8-70 is limited in their ability to change the form of their benefits. Please contact PEBA for more information.

## Retiree incidental death benefit

### 9-8-110(7)

As a retiree, at your death, a benefit based on your service credit at retirement will be paid to your beneficiaries as follows:

Years of service credit	Incidental death benefit payment
10 to 19 years	\$1,000
20 to 29 years	\$2,000
30 or more years	\$3,000

## Benefit adjustments

### 9-8-90

#### Member or spousal survivorship beneficiary

The retirement benefit of a retired member or a member's surviving spousal beneficiary is increased by the same percentage as the increase in current salary for the JSRS position from which the member retired.

#### Beneficiary under the optional survivor annuity payment plan

The retirement benefit for a non-spousal beneficiary, or for a spouse designated as one of multiple beneficiaries under the optional survivor annuity payment plan, could be increased periodically. The cost of living adjustment is based on whether the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers as published by the United States Department of Labor has increased by more than 3% since the last time a benefit increase was awarded.

## Returning to covered employment

### Retiring and continuing to work

#### 9-8-60(7)

A JSRS member who is older than 60 years old, but younger than 72 years of age, and eligible to retire and receive the 90% maximum JSRS annuity, may retire and receive a retirement benefit while continuing to serve as a judge, solicitor or circuit public defender.

A JSRS member who has not reached age 60, but is eligible to retire and receive the 90% maximum JSRS annuity, may retire under the Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP) and continue to serve as a judge, solicitor or circuit public defender. As a DROP participant, your monthly annuity will be deferred, without interest, until you reach age 60, at which time the accumulated benefits can be distributed. Payout of the deferred annuity is not automatic.

If your annuity is deferred under the DROP, please contact PEBA prior to turning age 60 for your payout options and any applicable tax liability information. You may also wish to consult with your tax adviser or financial planner prior to entering the JSRS DROP or prior to receiving a payout from a DROP.

Employee and employer contributions must continue to be paid for a member who retires and continues to serve in a covered position, but no additional service is earned. The maximum continuous employment period after retirement is until the end of the calendar year in which you reach age 72, and any such employment is contingent upon re-appointment or re-election.

### Election within 30 days of retirement

#### 9-8-120(3)(4)

Within 30 days of a member's retirement, a justice or judge must notify the Chief Justice and the South Carolina Supreme Court of their election to either engage in the practice of law or be eligible for appointment by the Chief Justice as a justice or a judge in the courts of South Carolina. An election to practice law is irrevocable.

### Engaging in the practice of law

#### 9-8-120(4)

A justice or judge who is receiving a JSRS annuity and is engaged in the practice of law may not serve as a justice or

judge in any court in the state of South Carolina. If, within 30 days of retirement, a member elects to be eligible for appointment by the Chief Justice to serve as a justice or judge in the courts of this state and not to practice law, the member may irrevocably change their election at any time if they decide to engage in the practice of law.

### Returning to state service as a justice or a judge

#### 9-8-120(3)

Subject to the limitations contained in Section 14-1-215, a retired justice or judge may be called upon and appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court to perform judicial duties in the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, circuit courts and family courts. A retired justice or judge serving as an acting associate justice or as a judge shall serve without pay except for their actual expenses while serving. If a retired justice or judge has performed full judicial duties as an acting associate justice or as a judge for a period of three or more consecutive months, their retirement pay for each full month during this period must be increased by an amount equal to the difference between the member's retirement payment and current active pay for the respective position. This difference is not paid by PEBA. Upon certification by the Chief Justice of the number of full months of the service, the State Treasurer shall make payment accordingly.

### Returning to state service as a solicitor or circuit public defender

#### 9-8-120(1)

If a retired JSRS member returns to state service as a solicitor or circuit public defender, the member's retirement annuity ends and the member becomes a contributing member of JSRS again, credited with all service credit as of their date of retirement. The retirement allowance payable upon the member's subsequent retirement shall be based on the total service rendered before and after their return to service.

### Member of General Assembly

#### 9-8-60(1)

In certain circumstances, a retired JSRS member who is elected to the General Assembly may continue to receive their JSRS retirement annuity while serving in the General Assembly. As a member of the General Assembly, they may

participate in the applicable retirement system or elect not to participate in a retirement plan. Please contact PEBA for more information.

## Returning to state service in a position other than as a judge, solicitor or circuit public defender

### 9-8-120(2)(a)(b)(c)(d)

A retired JSRS member who has separated from all state service and who has been retired for at least 30 consecutive calendar days may be hired and return to employment covered by the South Carolina Retirement System (SCRS) or the Police Officers Retirement System (PORS) and earn up to \$10,000 per year without affecting their monthly retirement allowance. If the retired member continues in service after earning \$10,000 in a calendar year, their allowance must be discontinued during their period of service in the remainder of the calendar year. If a retired member returns to employment covered by SCRS or PORS sooner than 30 days after retirement, their retirement allowance is suspended while they remain employed by the participating employer.

The earnings limitation does not apply if the member meets at least one of the following qualifications:

- The member retired before July 1, 2014;
- The member was at least 62 years old at retirement; or
- Compensation received by the retired member from the covered employer is for service in a public office filled by the appointment of the Governor and with confirmation by the Senate, by appointment or election by the General Assembly or by election of the qualified electors of the applicable jurisdiction.

A member retiring before July 1, 2014, is not subject to the 30-day separation from service requirement.

If a retired member returns to covered employment under SCRS or PORS, the retired member and their employer must pay the employee and employer contributions that would be required if the member were an active contributing member of the applicable system. A retired member so employed may not become a member of SCRS or PORS and does not accrue service credit in either system by reason of their contributions.

## More information

Be sure to visit PEBA's website at [peba.sc.gov](https://peba.sc.gov) for additional information, resources and tools. You can also estimate your retirement benefit in [Member Access](#).

PEBA uses various social media platforms to communicate with employers, members, the media and other stakeholders. We invite you to take advantage of these communications tools by liking us on [Facebook](#) and following us on [X, formerly known as Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#). We encourage you to join the conversation.

You may also contact PEBA at 803.737.6800, 888.260.9430 or [peba.sc.gov/contact](https://peba.sc.gov/contact).



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**South Carolina Public Employee Benefit Authority**

*Serving those who serve South Carolina*

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