

# South Carolina National Guard Supplemental Retirement Plan (SCNG)

ACTUARIAL VALUATION REPORT  
AS OF JULY 1, 2024





December 4, 2024

Public Employee Benefit Authority  
South Carolina Retirement Systems  
P.O. Box 11960  
Columbia, SC 29211-1960

**Subject: Actuarial Valuation as of July 1, 2024**

Dear Members of the Board:

This report describes the current actuarial condition of the South Carolina National Guard Supplemental Retirement Plan (SCNG), determines the calculated employer contribution requirement, and analyzes changes in the System's financial condition. In addition, the report provides various summaries of the data.

A separate report is issued with regard to valuation results determined in accordance with Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement Nos. 67 and 68. Results of this report should not be used for any other purpose without consultation with the undersigned. Valuations are prepared annually as of July 1, the first day of the plan year for SCNG. This report was prepared at the request of the Board of Directors of the South Carolina Public Employee Benefit Authority (Board) and is intended for use by the Public Employee Benefit Authority (PEBA) staff and those designated or approved by the Board.

Under South Carolina State statutes, the Board must certify the employer contribution annually. This amount is determined actuarially, based on the Board's funding policy. The contribution is determined by a given actuarial valuation and becomes effective twelve months after the valuation date. In other words, the contribution amount determined by this July 1, 2024 actuarial valuation will be used by the Board when certifying the employer contribution amount for the year beginning July 1, 2025. If new legislation is enacted between the valuation date and the date the contribution becomes effective, the Board may adjust the calculated amount before certifying them, in order to reflect this new legislation. Such adjustments are based on information supplied by the actuary.

#### **FINANCING OBJECTIVES AND FUNDING POLICY**

The principle objectives in the funding policy that is maintained by the Board include:

- Establish a contribution amount that remains relatively level over time.
- To set an amount so that the measures of the System's funding progress which include the unfunded actuarial accrued liability, funded ratio, and funding period will be maintained or improved.
- To determine an employer contribution amount equal to the sum of the employer normal cost (which pays the current year's cost) and an amortization amount which will result in the UAAL to be funded by June 30, 2036.

### **PROGRESS TOWARD REALIZATION OF FINANCING OBJECTIVES**

The funded ratio (the ratio of the actuarial value of assets to the actuarial accrued liability) is a standard measure of a plan's funded status. In the absence of benefit improvements, it should increase over time, until it reaches at least 100%. The funded ratio of the System increased from 62.9% at July 1, 2023 to 68.3% as of July 1, 2024.

If market value of assets had been used in the calculation instead of actuarial (smoothed) value of assets, the funded ratio for the System would have increased from 62.3% in 2023 to 69.3% in 2024, primarily due to the State's contribution effort to improve the financial security of the System. Specifically, plan assets earned a 10.49% return on a time weighted-basis (net of fees) as reported in the financial statement of the South Carolina Retirement Systems for the year ending June 30, 2024. The 10.0% return documented in this report was determined on a dollar-weighted basis and assumes mid-year cash flows.

### **ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODS**

South Carolina State Statute requires an experience analysis of the economic and demographic assumptions be performed at least every five years. An experience study was performed for the five-year period ending June 30, 2023, and the Board has adopted the assumptions recommended in that report for first use in the July 1, 2024 actuarial valuation. The investment return assumption is a prescribed assumption in Section 9-16-335 in South Carolina State Code and remains at 7.00% for the July 1, 2024 actuarial valuation. The only assumption updated as a result of the experience study is the mortality improvement assumption.

It is our opinion that the current assumptions are internally consistent and reasonably reflect the anticipated future experience of the System. The combined effect of the assumptions used in this valuation is expected to have no significant bias.

The results of the actuarial valuation are dependent on the actuarial assumptions used. Actual results can, and almost certainly will, differ as actual experience deviates from the assumptions. Even seemingly minor changes in the assumptions can materially change the liabilities, calculated contribution rate, and funding periods. The actuarial calculations are intended to provide information for rational decision making.

This report was prepared using our proprietary valuation model and related software, which in our professional judgment has the capability to provide results that are consistent with the purposes of the valuation. We performed tests to ensure that the model reasonably represents that which is intended to be modeled.

### **BENEFIT PROVISIONS**

The benefit provisions reflected in this valuation are those which were in effect on July 1, 2024. There have been no changes in plan provisions since the preceding actuarial valuation.

### **DATA**

Member data for retired, active and inactive members was supplied as of July 1, 2024, by the PEBA staff. The staff also supplied asset information as of July 1, 2024. We did not audit this data, but we did apply a number of tests to the data, and we concluded that it was reasonable for use in preparing the actuarial valuation. GRS is not responsible for the accuracy or completeness of the information provided to us by PEBA.



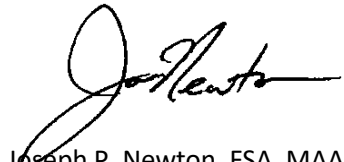
**CERTIFICATION**

We certify that the information presented herein is accurate and fairly portrays the actuarial position of SCNG as of July 1, 2024.

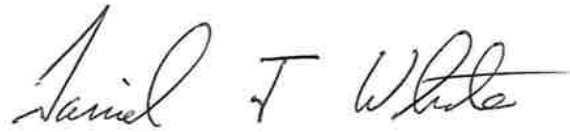
All of our work conforms with generally accepted actuarial principles and practices and complies with the Actuarial Standards of Practice issued by the Actuarial Standards Board. In our opinion, our calculations also comply with the requirements of South Carolina Code of Laws and, where applicable, the Internal Revenue Code, ERISA, and the Statements of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. The undersigned are independent actuaries and consultants. All three are also Enrolled Actuaries and Members of the American Academy of Actuaries and meet the Qualification Standards of the American Academy of Actuaries. Each are experienced in performing valuations for large public retirement systems.

Sincerely,

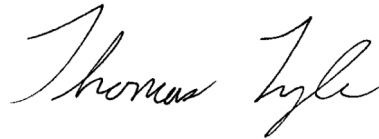
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# SECTION A



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

# Executive Summary

(Dollar amounts expressed in thousands)

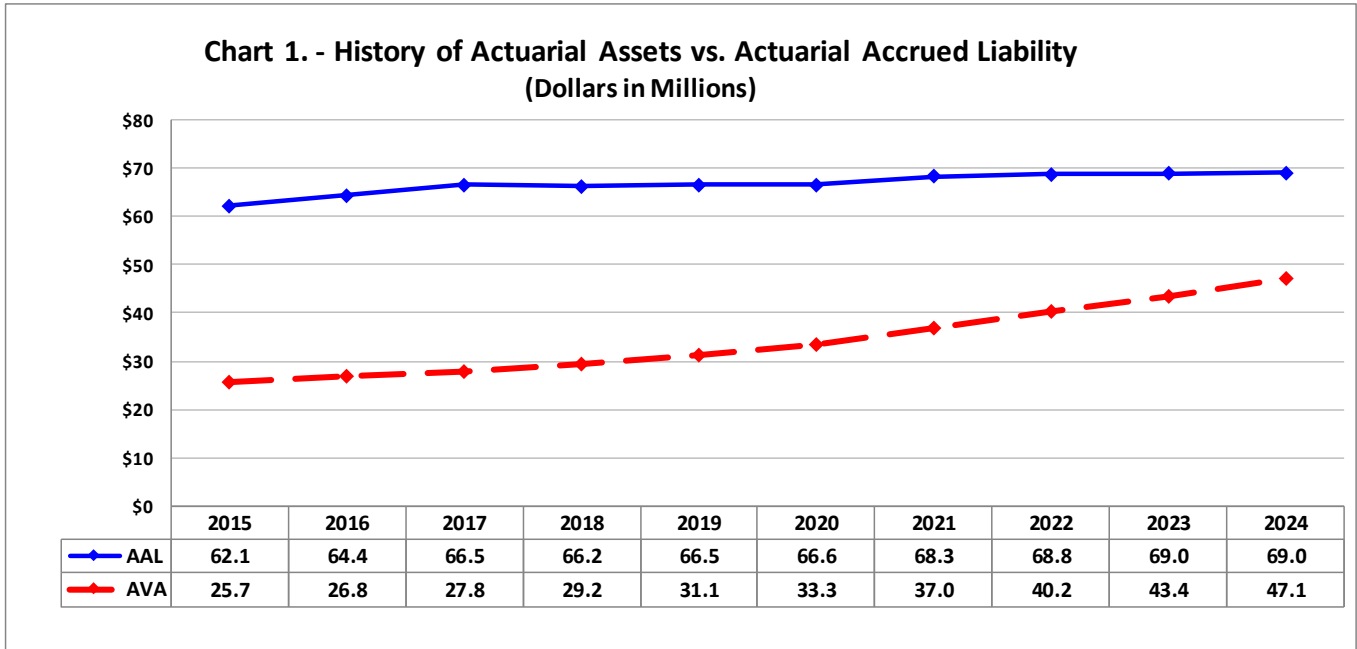
Valuation Date:	July 1, 2024	July 1, 2023
<b>Membership</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Active Members</li> <li>- Retirees</li> <li>- Inactive Members</li> <li>- Total</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	12,620 5,211 <u>1,292</u> 19,123	12,071 5,161 <u>1,400</u> 18,632
<b>Annual Required Contribution</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member</li> <li>• Employer contribution<sup>1</sup></li> </ul>	\$0 \$3,402	\$0 \$3,621
<b>Assets</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Market value</li> <li>• Actuarial value</li> <li>• Return on market value</li> <li>• Return on actuarial value</li> <li>• Ratio - actuarial value to market value</li> <li>• External cash flow %</li> </ul>	\$47,789 47,096 10.0% 7.2% 98.5% 1.2%	\$42,943 43,401 7.0% 6.4% 101.1% 1.5%
<b>Actuarial Information</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Normal cost</li> <li>• Actuarial accrued liability (AAL)</li> <li>• Unfunded actuarial accrued liability (UAAL)</li> <li>• Funded ratio</li> <li>• Amortization period</li> </ul>	\$859 68,988 21,892 68.3% 12	\$801 68,975 25,574 62.9% 13
<b>Reconciliation of UAAL</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beginning of Year UAAL               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Interest on UAAL</li> <li>- Amortization payment</li> <li>- Assumption/method changes</li> <li>- Asset experience</li> <li>- Other liability experience</li> <li>- Legislative changes</li> </ul> </li> <li>• End of Year UAAL</li> </ul>	\$25,574 1,790 (4,646) 114 (108) (832) <u>0</u> \$21,892	\$28,580 2,001 (4,650) 0 256 (613) <u>0</u> \$25,574

<sup>1</sup> The contribution amount determined by the actuarial valuation is effective for the following fiscal year. The calculated contribution requirement for FY 2024 was \$3,837 thousand. However, the state's actual appropriation for FY 2024 was \$5,290 thousand.



## Executive Summary (Continued)

The unfunded actuarial accrued liability decreased by \$3.7 million since the prior year’s valuation to \$21.9 million. The largest source of this decrease since the prior year was due the State’s contribution to finance the unfunded actuarial accrued liability. Below is a chart with the historical actuarial value of assets and actuarial accrued liability for SCNG.



Due to the Board’s funding policy to finance the unfunded actuarial accrued liability over a closed period, we expect the unfunded actuarial liability for the System to continue to decrease and the funded ratio to steadily increase in future years.

The recommended employer contribution decreased by \$0.219 million dollars to \$3.402 million for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026. Absent legislative changes or liability and investment experience that are significantly different than assumed, we expect the contribution requirement to be relatively stable in future years.



## **SECTION B**

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### **DISCUSSION**

## Discussion

The results of the July 1, 2024 actuarial valuation of the South Carolina National Guard Supplemental Retirement Plan are presented in this report. The purposes of the valuation report are to depict the current financial condition of the System, determine the annual required contribution, and analyze changes in the System's financial condition. In addition, the report provides various summaries of the members participating in the plan.

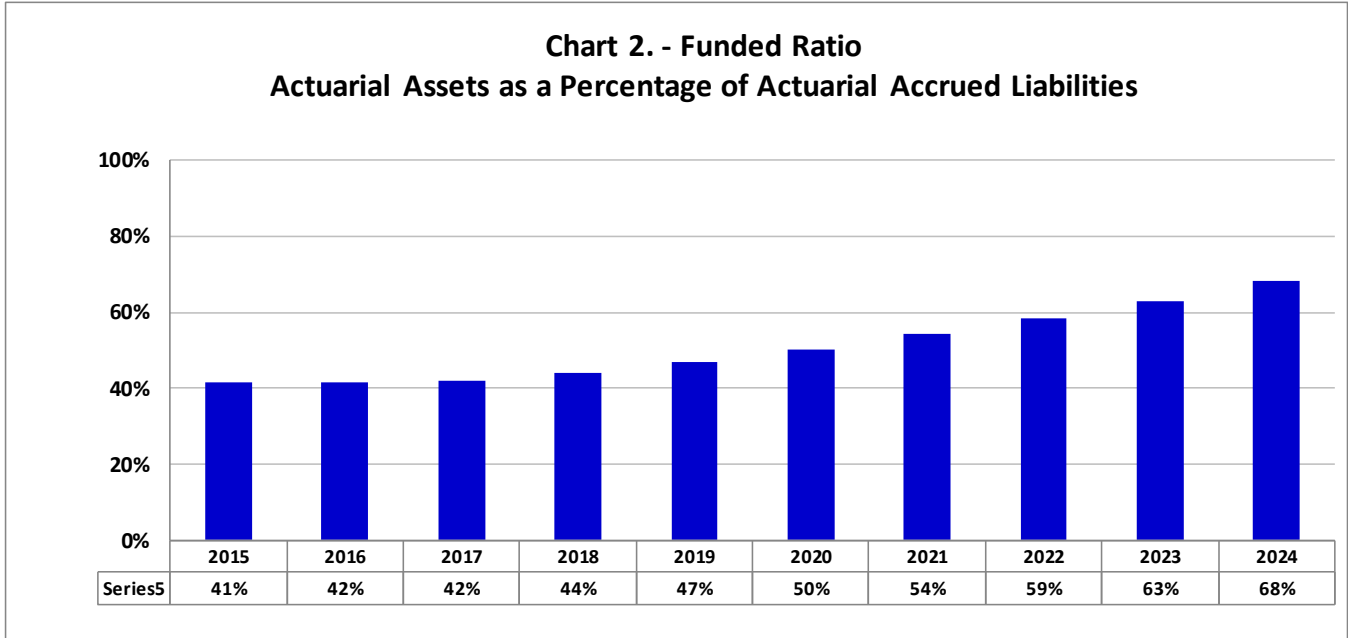
This section discusses the determination of the current funding requirements and the System's funded status, as well as changes in financial condition of the retirement system.

All of the actuarial and financial tables referenced by the other sections of this report appear in Section C. Section D provides member data and statistical information. Section E provides an assessment and disclosure of risk as required by Actuarial Standards of Practice No. 51. Appendices A and B provide summaries of the principle actuarial assumptions and methods and plan provisions. Finally, Appendix C provides a glossary of technical terms that are used throughout this report.



## Funding Progress

The funded ratio increased from 62.9% to 68.3% since the prior valuation and has generally trended upward over the last several years as shown in the graph below. Table 10, Schedule of Funding Progress, in the following section of the report provides additional detail regarding the funding progress of the Retirement System.

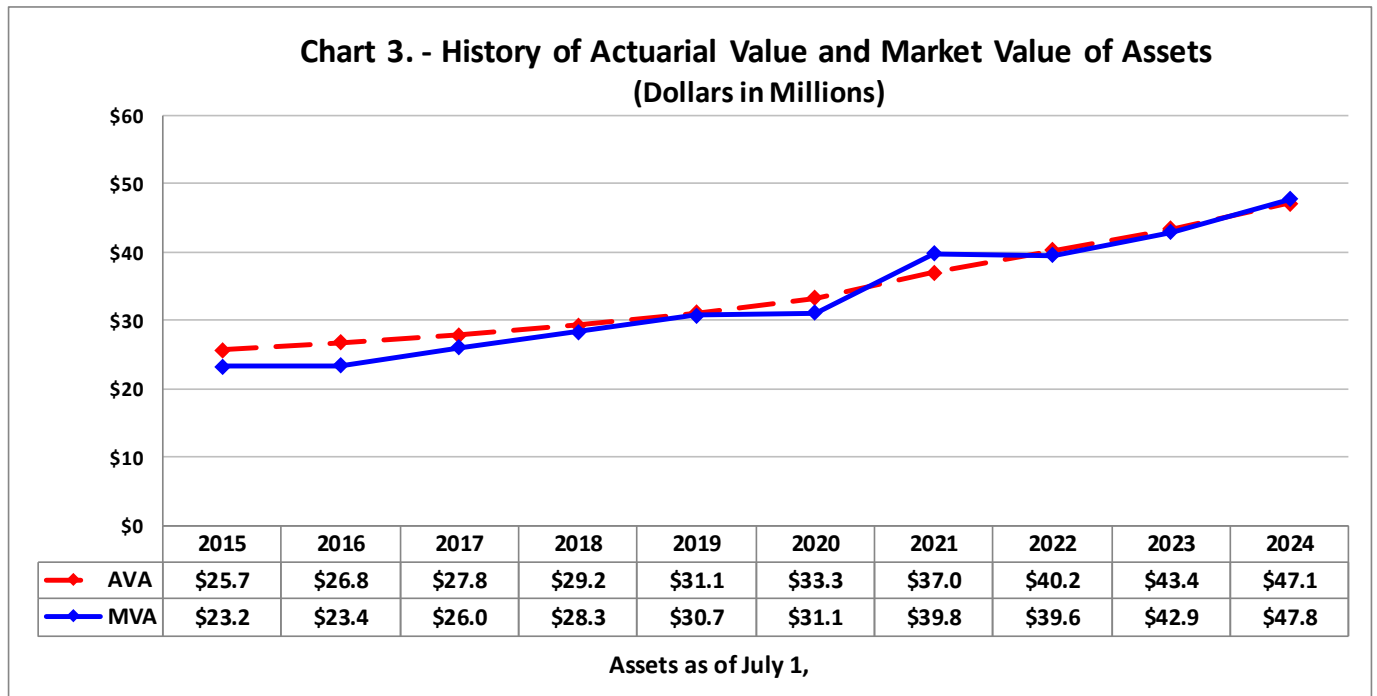


The contribution policy established by the Board is to fully amortize the unfunded actuarial accrued liability (UAAL) over a 30-year period from July 1, 2006. Under this funding policy, there are 12 years remaining in the funding period from the valuation date. The total State appropriation required to be made for FY 2026 is \$3,401,687.

## Asset Gains/ (Losses)

The actuarial value of assets (“AVA”) is based on a smoothed market value of assets, using a systematic approach to phase-in the difference between the actual and expected investment return on a market value of asset basis (adjusted for receipts and disbursements during the year). This is appropriate because it dampens the short-term volatility inherent in investment markets. The returns are computed net of investment expenses. The actuarial value of assets increased from \$43.4 million to \$47.1 million since the prior valuation. Table 8 in the following section of the report provides the development of the actuarial value of assets.

The rate of return on the mean market value of assets in fiscal year 2024 was 10.0%, which is greater than the 7.00% investment return assumption. However, because of the offset and recognition of deferred investment losses that occurred in prior years, the actuarial (smoothed) asset value returned is 7.2%. This difference in the estimated return on market value and actuarial value illustrates the smoothing effect of the asset valuation method.



Tables 6 and 7 in the following section of this report provide asset information that was included in the annual financial statements of the System. Also, Table 9 shows the estimated yield on a market value basis and on the actuarial asset valuation method.

## Actuarial Gains/ (Losses) and the Contribution Requirement

The annual actuarial valuation is a snapshot analysis of the benefit liabilities, assets and funded position of the System as of the first day of the plan year. In any one fiscal year, the experience can be better or worse from that which is assumed or expected. The actuarial assumptions do not necessarily attempt to model what the experience will be for any one given fiscal year, but instead try to model the overall experience on average over many years. The demographic experience for the last year is briefly summarized in the chart below.

The unfunded actuarial accrued liability (UAAL) has decreased from \$25.574 million in 2023 to \$21.892 million in 2024. The table below shows the source of the gains and losses and the impact of those gains and losses on the UAAL.

<b>Reconciliation of UAAL</b>	
<b>(Dollars in thousands)</b>	
• Beginning of Year UAAL	\$25,574
- Interest on UAAL	1,790
- Amortization payment	(4,646)
- Assumption / method change	114
- Asset experience	(108)
- Liability experience	(832)
- Legislative changes	<u>0</u>
- Total change	(\$3,682)
• End of Year UAAL	\$21,892

The single largest source of the net \$2.9 million net reduction in the unfunded actuarial accrued liability is due to the State's contribution effort to improve the financial security of the System, which is equal to the amortization payment less the interest on the UAAL.

## Actuarial Gains/ (Losses) and the Contribution Requirement (Continued)

The following table provides a reconciliation of the change in the recommended contribution from the 2023 valuation to the 2024 valuation. The \$166 thousand dollar decrease in the expected change in contribution requirement is primarily attributable to the State's contribution to the System in FY 2024 being more than the actuarial determined contribution.

Change in Recommended Contribution	
• Prior year valuation	\$3,621
- Expected change	(166)
- Assumption / method change	0
- Asset experience	(14)
- Liability experience	(39)
- Legislative changes	<u>0</u>
- Total change	(\$219)
• Current year valuation	\$3,402

Absent changes in plan provisions and assumptions, we expect future contribution requirements to remain relatively constant for the several years.

## Actuarial Assumptions and Methods

In determining costs and liabilities, actuaries use assumptions about the future, such as probabilities of retirement, termination, death and disability, and an annual investment return assumption. South Carolina State Code requires an experience analysis of the economic and demographic assumptions be performed at least every five years. An experience study was performed for the five-year period ending June 30, 2023, and the Board has adopted the assumptions recommended in that report for first use in the July 1, 2024 actuarial valuation. The investment return assumption is a prescribed assumption in Section 9-16-335 in South Carolina State Code and remains at 7.00% for the July 1, 2024 actuarial valuation. The only assumption updated as a result of the experience study is the mortality improvement assumption.

It is our opinion that the current assumptions are internally consistent and reasonable reflect the anticipated future experience of the System. Appendix A includes a summary of the actuarial assumptions and methods used in this valuation.

Future actuarial measurements may differ significantly from the current measurements presented in this report due to such factors as the following: plan experience differing from that anticipated by the economic or demographic assumptions; changes in economic or demographic assumptions; increases or decreases expected as part of the natural operation of the methodology used for these measurements (such as the end of an amortization period or additional cost or contribution requirements based on the plan's funded status); and changes in plan provisions or applicable law. This report does not include a more robust assessment of the risks of future experience not meeting the actuarial assumptions. Additional assessment of risks was outside the scope of this assignment.

An actuarial valuation assumes that all assumptions will be met in future years, including a 7.00% return on the actuarial value of assets determined as of the actuarial valuation date. Establishing the contribution rates, other financial metrics on an actuarial value of asset basis is consistent with applicable actuarial standards of practice, industry prevalence, and applicable provisions in South Carolina State Code.

Emerging experience due to liabilities or investments that is different than assumed (including the recognition of previously deferred investment losses) may result in a change in the required contribution rate that is different than expected based on the prior actuarial valuation.



## Benefit Provisions

Appendix B of this report includes a summary of the benefit provisions for SCNG. There have been no changes in the benefit provisions since the prior valuation.

### Summary of Retirement Provisions

- All members of the South Carolina National Guard are covered by the Supplemental Retirement Plan.
- The retirement benefit amount is equal to \$50 per month for 20 years' creditable service with an additional \$5 per month for each additional year of service. The total pension is limited to \$100 per month.
- Members with 20 years of military service are eligible for retirement after they have (i) attained age 60, or (ii) completed 30 years of creditable service. Eligible member may commence benefits at age 60.
- Member contributions are not required or permitted.





## SECTION C

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### ACTUARIAL TABLES

# Actuarial Tables

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**Summary of Cost Items**  
(Dollar amounts expressed in thousands)

	<u>July 1, 2024</u>	<u>July 1, 2023</u>
	(1)	(2)
1. Normal Cost		
a. Total normal cost	\$ 859	\$ 801
b. Less: member contribution	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
c. Employer normal cost	\$ 859	\$ 801
2. Actuarial Accrued Liability for Active Members		
a. Present value of future benefits	\$ 30,921	\$ 29,834
b. Less: present value of future normal costs	<u>7,530</u>	<u>6,950</u>
c. Actuarial accrued liability	\$ 23,391	\$ 22,884
3. Total Actuarial Accrued Liability		
a. Retirees	\$ 37,163	\$ 37,031
b. Inactive members	8,434	9,060
c. Active members (Item 2.c.)	<u>23,391</u>	<u>22,884</u>
d. Total	\$ 68,988	\$ 68,975
4. Actuarial Value of Assets	\$ 47,096	\$ 43,401
5. Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability (UAAL) (Item 3.d. - Item 4.)	\$ 21,892	\$ 25,574
6. Annual Required Contribution		
a. Normal cost	\$ 859	\$ 801
b. Amortization of the UAAL	<u>2,544</u>	<u>2,820</u>
c. Total contribution	\$ 3,403	\$ 3,621



**Actuarial Present Value of Future Benefits**  
(Dollar amounts expressed in thousands)

	July 1, 2024 (1)	July 1, 2023 (2)
1. Active members		
a. Service retirement	\$ 6,035	\$ 5,842
b. Deferred termination benefits <sup>1</sup>	24,886	23,992
c. Survivor benefits	0	0
d. Disability benefits	0	0
e. Total	\$ 30,921	\$ 29,834
2. Retired and Inactive members		
a. Members in payment status	\$ 37,163	\$ 37,031
b. Inactive vested members	8,434	9,060
c. Total	\$ 45,597	\$ 46,091
3. Total actuarial present value of future benefits	\$ 76,518	\$ 75,925

<sup>1</sup> Attributable to members who terminate after attaining 20 years of service and prior to age 60, the age when retirement benefits commence.



**Analysis of Normal Cost**  
(Dollar amounts expressed in thousands)

	<u>July 1, 2024</u> (1)	<u>July 1, 2023</u> (2)
1. Total normal cost		
a. Retirement benefits	\$ 91	\$ 85
b. Deferred termination benefits	748	701
c. Survivor benefits	0	0
d. Disability benefits	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
e. Total	839	786
2. Administrative expense	\$ 20	\$ 15
3. Less: member contributions	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>
4. Net employer normal cost	\$ 859	\$ 801



**Results of July 1, 2024 Valuation**  
(Dollar amounts expressed in thousands)

	July 1, 2024
	(1)
1. Actuarial Present Value of Future Benefits	
a. Present Retired Members	\$ 37,163
b. Present Active and Inactive Members	39,355
c. Total Actuarial Present Value	\$ 76,518
2. Present Value of Future Normal Contributions	
a. Member	\$ 0
b. Employer	7,530
c. Total Future Normal Contributions	\$ 7,530
3. Actuarial Liability	\$ 68,988
4. Current Actuarial Value of Assets	\$ 47,096
5. Unfunded Actuarial Liability	\$ 21,892
6. Unfunded Actuarial Liability Liquidation Period <sup>1</sup>	12 years

<sup>1</sup> There are 12 years remaining in the amortization of the unfunded liability due to plan experience from valuation date.

**Actuarial Balance Sheet**  
(Dollar amounts expressed in thousands)

	July 1, 2024 (1)	July 1, 2023 (2)
1. Assets		
a. Current assets (actuarial value)	\$ 47,096	\$ 43,401
b. Present value of future member contributions	0	0
c. Present value of future employer contributions		
i. Normal contributions	\$ 7,530	\$ 6,950
ii. Accrued liability contributions	21,892	25,574
iii. Total future employer contributions	\$ 29,422	\$ 32,524
d. Total assets	\$ 76,518	\$ 75,925
2. Liabilities		
a. Benefits to be paid to retired members	\$ 37,163	\$ 37,031
b. Benefits to be paid to former members entitled to deferred pensions	8,434	9,060
c. Benefits to be paid to current active members	30,921	29,834
d. Total liabilities	\$ 76,518	\$ 75,925



**System Net Assets**  
**Assets at Market or Fair Value**  
(Dollar amounts expressed in thousands)

Item (1)	July 1, 2024 (2)	July 1, 2023 (3)
1. Cash and cash equivalents (operating cash)	\$ 11,029	\$ 9,161
2. Receivables	548	263
3. Investments		
a. Short-term securities	\$ 212	\$ 128
b. Fixed income (global)	1,139	1,672
c. Global public equity	17,948	15,761
d. Alternative investments	17,053	16,821
e. Total investments	<u>\$ 36,352</u>	<u>\$ 34,382</u>
4. Securities lending cash collateral invested	\$ 275	\$ 2
5. Prepaid administrative expenses	1	0
6. Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
7. Total assets	\$ 48,205	\$ 43,808
8. Liabilities		
a. Due to other systems	\$ 0	\$ 0
b. Accounts payable	32	808
c. Investment fees payable	4	3
d. Obligations under securities lending	275	2
e. Deferred retirement benefits	0	0
f. Due to South Carolina Retiree Health Insurance Trust Fund	0	0
g. Benefit payable	3	4
h. Other liabilities	102	48
i. Total liabilities	<u>\$ 416</u>	<u>\$ 865</u>
9. Total market value of assets available for benefits (Item 7. - Item 8.i.)	\$ 47,789	\$ 42,943
10. Asset allocation (investments) <sup>1</sup>		
a. Net Invested cash	24.4%	20.2%
b. Fixed income	2.4%	3.9%
c. Public equities	37.5%	36.7%
d. Alternative investments	35.7%	39.2%
e. Total investments	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>100.0%</u>

<sup>1</sup> These asset allocations are calculated based on the dollar amounts shown in items 1. through 9. above and, due to cash flow and rebalancing timing, may be slightly different than the allocation percentages reported by the South Carolina Retirement System Investment Commission.





**Reconciliation of System Net Assets**  
(Dollar amounts expressed in thousands)

	Year Ending	
	July 1, 2024 (1)	July 1, 2023 (2)
1. Value of assets at beginning of year	\$ 42,943	\$ 39,567
2. Revenue for the year		
a. Contributions		
i. Member contributions	\$ 0	\$ 0
ii. Employer contributions	5,290	5,290
iii. Total	\$ 5,290	\$ 5,290
b. Income		
i. Interest, dividends, and other income	\$ 1,079	\$ 807
ii. Investment expenses	(439)	(423)
iii. Net	\$ 640	\$ 384
c. Net realized and unrealized gains (losses)	3,676	2,392
d. Total revenue	\$ 9,606	\$ 8,066
3. Expenditures for the year		
a. Disbursements		
i. Refunds	\$ 0	\$ 0
ii. Regular annuity benefits	4,738	4,669
iii. Other benefit payments	0	0
iv. Transfers to other Systems	0	0
v. Total	\$ 4,738	\$ 4,669
b. Administrative expenses and depreciation	22	21
c. Total expenditures	\$ 4,760	\$ 4,690
4. Increase in net assets (Item 2.d.- Item 3.c.)	\$ 4,846	\$ 3,376
5. Value of assets at end of year (Item 1. + Item 4.)	\$ 47,789	\$ 42,943
6. Net external cash flow		
a. Dollar amount	\$ 552	\$ 621
b. Percentage of market value	1.2%	1.5%



**Development of Actuarial Value of Assets**  
(Dollar amounts expressed in thousands)

		<u>Year Ending</u> <u>June 30, 2024</u>		
1. Actuarial value of assets at beginning of year	\$	43,401		
2. Market value of assets at beginning of year	\$	42,943		
3. Net new investments				
a. Contributions	\$	5,290		
b. Disbursements		(4,760)		
c. Subtotal		530		
4. Market value of assets at end of year	\$	47,789		
5. Net earnings (Item 4. - Item 2. - Item 3.c.)	\$	4,316		
6. Assumed investment return rate for fiscal year		7.00%		
7. Expected return (Item 6. x (Item 2. + 1/2 Item 3.c))	\$	3,025		
8. Excess/(Deficit) return (Item 5. - Item 7.)	\$	1,291		
9. Excess/(Deficit) return on assets as of June 30, 2024:				
	<u>Fiscal Year</u> <u>Ending June 30,</u>	<u>Excess/(Deficit)</u> <u>Return</u>	<u>Percent</u> <u>Deferred</u>	<u>Deferred</u> <u>Amount</u>
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
a. 2024		\$ 1,291	80%	\$ 1,033
b. 2023		(15)	60%	(9)
c. 2022		(3,686)	40%	(1,474)
d. 2021		5,717	20%	1,143
e. 2020		(2,604)	0%	0
f. Total				\$ 693
10. Actuarial value of assets as of June 30, 2024 (Item 4. - Item 9.f.)	\$			47,096
11. Expected actuarial value as of June 30, 2024	\$			46,988
12. Asset gain (loss) for year (Item 10. - Item 11.)	\$			108
13. Asset gain (loss) as % of the actuarial value of assets				0.2%
14. Ratio of actuarial value to market value				98.5%



**Estimation of Yields**  
(Dollar amounts expressed in thousands)

	Year Ending	
	July 1, 2024 (1)	July 1, 2023 (2)
1. Market value yield		
a. Beginning of year market assets	\$ 42,943	\$ 39,567
b. Contributions to fund during the year	5,290	5,290
c. Disbursements	(4,760)	(4,690)
d. Investment income (net of investment expenses)	<u>4,316</u>	<u>2,776</u>
e. End of year market assets	\$ 47,789	\$ 42,943
f. Estimated dollar weighted market value yield	10.0%	7.0%
2. Actuarial value yield		
a. Beginning of year actuarial assets	\$ 43,401	\$ 40,221
b. Contributions to fund during the year	5,290	5,290
c. Disbursements	(4,760)	(4,690)
d. Investment income (net of investment expenses)	<u>3,165</u>	<u>2,580</u>
e. End of year actuarial assets	\$ 47,096	\$ 43,401
f. Estimated actuarial value yield	7.2%	6.4%



**Schedule of Funding Progress**  
**(Dollar amounts expressed in thousands)**

July 1,	Actuarial Value of	Actuarial Accrued	Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability	Funded Ratio	Annual Covered	UAAL as % of
(1)	Assets (AVA)	Liability (AAL)	(UAAL) (3) - (2)	(2)/(3)	Payroll	Payroll (4)/(6)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
2010	19,458	54,153	34,695	35.9%	N/A	N/A
2011	20,138	60,388	40,250	33.3%	N/A	N/A
2012	20,814	60,942	40,128	34.2%	N/A	N/A
2013	22,208	61,576	39,368	36.1%	N/A	N/A
2014	24,029	62,100	38,071	38.7%	N/A	N/A
2015	25,727	62,141	36,414	41.4%	N/A	N/A
2016	26,751	64,445	37,694	41.5%	N/A	N/A
2017	27,807	66,506	38,699	41.8%	N/A	N/A
2018	29,246	66,192	36,946	44.2%	N/A	N/A
2019	31,122	66,523	35,401	46.8%	N/A	N/A
2020	33,299	66,597	33,298	50.0%	N/A	N/A
2021	36,958	68,332	31,374	54.1%	N/A	N/A
2022	40,221	68,801	28,580	58.5%	N/A	N/A
2023	43,401	68,975	25,574	62.9%	N/A	N/A
2024	47,096	68,988	21,892	68.3%	N/A	N/A



## Summary of Principle Assumptions and Methods

Below is a summary of the principle economic assumptions, cost method, and the method for financing the unfunded actuarial accrued liability:

Valuation date	July 1, 2024
Actuarial cost method	Entry Age Normal
Amortization method	Level dollar
Amortization period for recommended contribution	12-year closed period
Asset valuation method	5-Year Smoothing
Actuarial assumptions:	
Investment rate of return <sup>1</sup>	7.00%
Projected salary increases	None
Inflation	2.25%
Cost-of-living adjustments	0.00%
Retiree mortality	The gender-distinct South Carolina Retirees 2020 Mortality Tables projected on a fully generational basis by 80% of Scale UMP. Male rates are multiplied by 127% and female rates are multiplied by 107%.

<sup>1</sup> This is a prescribed assumption in Section 9-16-335 of South Carolina State Code.

## Solvency Test

(Dollar amounts expressed in thousands)

July 1,	Actuarial Accrued Liability				Valuation Assets	Portion of Aggregate Accrued Liabilities Covered by Assets		
	Active Member	Retirants & Beneficiaries	Active & Inactive Members	(Employer Financed)		Active	Retirants	ER Financed
	Contributions	(3)	(4)			(5)	(6)	(7)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	
2010	0	28,492	25,661	19,458	N/A	68.3%	0.0%	
2011	0	32,038	28,350	20,138	N/A	62.9%	0.0%	
2012	0	32,989	27,953	20,814	N/A	63.1%	0.0%	
2013	0	33,590	27,986	22,208	N/A	66.1%	0.0%	
2014	0	33,739	28,361	24,029	N/A	71.2%	0.0%	
2015	0	33,521	28,620	25,727	N/A	76.7%	0.0%	
2016	0	34,562	29,883	26,751	N/A	77.4%	0.0%	
2017	0	35,391	31,115	27,807	N/A	78.6%	0.0%	
2018	0	35,132	31,060	29,246	N/A	83.2%	0.0%	
2019	0	35,589	30,934	31,122	N/A	87.4%	0.0%	
2020	0	35,756	30,841	33,299	N/A	93.1%	0.0%	
2021	0	36,316	32,016	36,958	N/A	100.0%	2.0%	
2022	0	36,714	32,087	40,221	N/A	100.0%	10.9%	
2023	0	37,031	31,944	43,401	N/A	100.0%	19.9%	
2024	0	37,163	31,825	47,096	N/A	100.0%	31.2%	



## SECTION D

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### MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

# Membership Information

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## Summary of Membership Data

	July 1, 2024	July 1, 2023
	(1)	(2)
1. Active members		
a. Males	9,759	9,459
b. Females	2,861	2,612
c. Total members	12,620	12,071
d. Average age	32.4	32.8
e. Average service	10.7	11.0
2. Vested inactive members		
a. Number	1,292	1,400
b. Total annual deferred benefits	\$ 1,038,720	\$ 1,128,480
c. Average annual deferred benefit	\$ 804	\$ 806
3. Service retirees		
a. Number	5,211	5,161
b. Total annual benefits	\$ 4,732,680	\$ 4,680,180
c. Average annual benefit	\$ 908	\$ 907
d. Average age	72.6	72.4
e. Average age at retirement date	60.0	60.0



## Summary of Historical Active Membership

July 1,	Number of Employers	Number of Members	Annual Payroll	Average Pay	Percentage Increase in Average Pay	Average Age	Average Service
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
2010	1	12,445	N/A	N/A	N/A	31.9	9.0
2011	1	12,271	N/A	N/A	N/A	32.0	9.3
2012	1	12,041	N/A	N/A	N/A	31.8	9.2
2013	1	11,997	N/A	N/A	N/A	32.0	9.5
2014	1	12,221	N/A	N/A	N/A	32.1	9.7
2015	1	12,165	N/A	N/A	N/A	32.2	9.7
2016	1	12,253	N/A	N/A	N/A	32.2	9.7
2017	1	12,116	N/A	N/A	N/A	32.3	9.8
2018	1	11,853	N/A	N/A	N/A	32.4	9.9
2019	1	12,100	N/A	N/A	N/A	32.2	9.7
2020	1	12,099	N/A	N/A	N/A	32.2	9.7
2021	1	12,146	N/A	N/A	N/A	32.2	10.4
2022	1	12,047	N/A	N/A	N/A	32.6	10.8
2023	1	12,071	N/A	N/A	N/A	32.8	11.0
2024	1	12,620	N/A	N/A	N/A	32.4	10.7



## Distribution of Active Members by Age and by Years of Service

Attained Age	Years of Credited Service												Total
	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5-9</u>	<u>10-14</u>	<u>15-19</u>	<u>20-24</u>	<u>25-29</u>	<u>30-34</u>	<u>35 &amp; Over</u>	
Under 20	359	379	73	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	811
20-24	218	417	482	569	556	786	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,028
25-29	53	83	57	139	206	1,669	265	0	0	0	0	0	2,472
30-34	30	45	30	61	66	492	947	175	0	0	0	0	1,846
35-39	9	8	14	21	30	178	360	651	149	0	0	0	1,420
40-44	6	1	6	2	5	55	119	230	457	72	0	0	953
45-49	0	1	1	1	2	14	54	101	224	211	33	0	642
50-54	0	0	0	0	0	4	24	56	220	177	160	53	694
55-59	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	20	161	158	96	146	587
60-64	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	36	45	33	35	151
65 & Over	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	4	5	4	16
Total	675	934	663	793	865	3,199	1,777	1,234	1,248	667	327	238	12,620



**Distribution of Annuitants by Age  
as of July 1, 2024**

<u>Age</u> (1)	<u>Number of Annuitants</u> (2)	<u>Total Annual Benefits</u> (3)	<u>Average Annual Benefits</u> (4)
Under 50	0	0	N/A
50 - 54	0	0	N/A
55 - 59	0	0	N/A
60 - 64	1,089	\$ 993	\$ 912
65 - 69	954	854	895
70 - 74	1,104	984	891
75 - 79	1,266	1,149	908
80 & Over	<u>798</u>	<u>753</u>	<u>944</u>
Total	5,211	\$ 4,733	\$ 908

Dollar amounts, except averages, are expressed in thousands.

## Schedule of Retirants Added to And Removed from Rolls

(Dollar amounts except average allowance expressed in thousands)

July 1, (1)	Added to Rolls		Removed from Rolls		Rolls End of the Year		% Increase in Annual Benefit (8)	Average Annual Benefit (9)
	Number (2)	Annual Benefits (3)	Number (4)	Annual Benefits (5)	Number (6)	Annual Benefits (7)		
2010	267	237	101	99	3,951	3,674	3.9%	930
2011	399	351	98	93	4,252	3,932	7.0%	925
2012	259	228	92	87	4,419	4,073	3.6%	922
2013	244	211	122	116	4,541	4,168	2.3%	918
2014	195	165	108	103	4,628	4,230	1.5%	914
2015	155	142	136	122	4,647	4,250	0.5%	915
2016	195	172	133	125	4,709	4,297	1.1%	912
2017	222	197	142	137	4,789	4,357	1.4%	910
2018	192	174	160	150	4,821	4,381	0.6%	909
2019	241	213	139	129	4,923	4,465	1.9%	907
2020	211	191	153	141	4,981	4,515	1.1%	906
2021	243	217	197	182	5,027	4,550	0.8%	905
2022	232	213	162	145	5,097	4,618	1.5%	906
2023	225	207	161	145	5,161	4,680	1.3%	907
2024	213	194	163	141	5,211	4,733	1.1%	908



## **SECTION E**

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### **ASSESSMENT AND DISCLOSURE OF RISK**

## **Risks Associated with Measuring the Accrued Liability And Actuarially Determined Contribution**

**(As Required by ASOP No. 51)**

The determination of SCNG accrued liability and actuarially determined contribution requirement requires the use of assumptions regarding future economic and demographic experience. The risk measures illustrated in this section are intended to aid stakeholders in understanding the effects when future experience differs from the assumptions used in performing an actuarial valuation. These risk measures may also help with illustrating the potential volatility in the funded status and actuarially determined contributions that result from differences between actual experience and the expected experience based on the actuarial assumptions.

Future actuarial measurements may differ significantly from the current measurements presented in this report due to such factors as the following: plan experience (economic and demographic) differing from the assumptions, changes in assumptions due to changing conditions, changes in contribution requirements due to modifications to the funding policy, and changes in the liability and cost due to changes in plan provisions or applicable law. The scope of an actuarial valuation does not include an analysis of the potential range of such future measurements.

Examples of risks that may reasonably be anticipated to significantly affect the System's future financial condition include:

- Investment risk – actual investment returns may differ from expected returns;
- Longevity risk – members may live longer or shorter than expected and receive pensions for a time period different than assumed;
- Other demographic risks – members may terminate, retire or become disabled at times or with benefits other than assumed resulting in actual future accrued liabilities and contributions differing from expected;
- Asset/Liability mismatch – changes in assets may be inconsistent with changes in liabilities, thereby altering the relative difference between the assets and liabilities, which may alter the funded status and contribution requirements;
- Contribution risk – actual contributions may differ from expected future contributions. For example, actual contributions are not made in accordance with the System's funding policy or Statute, other anticipated payments to the plan are not made, or material changes occur in the anticipated number of covered employees, covered payroll, or another relevant contribution base.

On the other hand, effects of certain experience can generally be anticipated. For example, if the investment return since the most recent actuarial valuation is less (or more) than the assumed rate of return, the funded status of the plan can be expected to decrease (or increase) more than anticipated.



## Employer Risk with Contribution Requirements

Under South Carolina State Statute, the Board must certify the employer contribution requirement annually. This amount is determined actuarially, based on the Board's funding policy.

The funding policy is intended to finance the unfunded actuarial accrued liability over a reasonable time period and provide stability in the employer contribution rates so employers are better able to budget their pension cost in future years. The greater the difference between the calculated funding period based on the contribution rate specified in State Code and the maximum specified funding period, the greater the ability for the System to incur some adverse experience without requiring an increase in the employer contribution rate.

However, providing stability in the contribution requirements means that projecting the year the fund actually attains a 100% funded ratio becomes less certain. If actual experience is more favorable than assumed, then the year the fund attains a 100% funded ratio will be earlier than projected, but the projected year the fund attains a 100% funded ratio will be later than projected if actual experience is less favorable than assumed.

## Plan Maturity Measures

Risks faced by a pension plan evolve over time. A relatively new plan with virtually no assets and paying few benefits will experience lower investment risk than a mature plan with a significant amount of assets and large number of members receiving benefits. There are a few measures that can assist stakeholders in understanding and comparing the maturity of a plan to other systems, which include:

- **Ratio of active to retired members:** A relatively mature open plan is likely to have close to the same number of actives to retirees resulting in a ratio that is around 1.0. On the other hand, a super-mature plan, or a plan that is closed to new entrants will have more retirees than active members resulting in a ratio below 1.0. As this ratio declines, a larger portion of the total actuarial accrued liability in the System is attributable to retirees. This metric also typically moves in tandem with the liability to payroll metric, which provides an indication of potential contribution volatility.
- **Ratio of net cash flow to market value of assets:** A negative net cash flow means that benefit payments exceed contributions and the plan is depending on investment earnings and possibly existing funds to make payments to retirees. A certain amount of negative net cash flow is expected to occur when benefits are prefunded and the plan has matured. However, a relatively large negative net cash flow as a percent of assets may be an indication of the need for additional contributions for a plan with a low funded ratio.



The following exhibit provides a summary of these measures for SCNG. We have also included these metrics for the prior four years so stakeholders can identify how these measures are trending.

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>July 1, 2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Ratio of actives to retirees and beneficiaries	2.42	2.34	2.36	2.42	2.43
Ratio of net cash flow to market value of assets	1.3%	1.5%	1.7%	2.0%	2.5%



## Low-Default-Risk Obligation Measure

Actuarial Standards of Practice No. 4 (ASOP No. 4) was revised and reissued in December 2021 by the Actuarial Standards Board (ASB). It includes a new calculation called a low-default-risk obligation measure (LDROM) to be prepared and issued annually for defined benefit pension plans. The transmittal memorandum for ASOP No. 4 includes the following explanation:

*“The ASB believes that the calculation and disclosure of this measure provides appropriate, useful information for the intended user regarding the funded status of a pension plan. The calculation and disclosure of this additional measure is not intended to suggest that this is the “right” liability measure for a pension plan. However, the ASB does believe that this additional disclosure provides a more complete assessment of a plan’s funded status and provides additional information regarding the security of benefits that members have earned as of the measurement date.”*

The LDROM estimates the amount of money the plan would need to invest in low risk securities to provide the benefits with greater certainty. The current model expects lower costs but with higher investment risk, which creates less certainty and a possibility of higher costs. Thus, the difference between the two measures (Valuation and LDROM) is one illustration of the possible costs the sponsor could incur if there was a reduction in the investment risk in comparison to the current diversified portfolio. However, the downside risk would be limited in the scenarios where the current portfolio would fail to achieve returns in excess of the low-default-risk discount, in this case 5.32%.

The following information has been prepared in compliance with this new requirement. Unless otherwise noted, the measurement date, actuarial cost methods, and assumptions used are the same as for the funding valuation covered in this actuarial valuation report.

South Carolina National Guard Supplemental Retirement Plan	
Valuation Accrued Liability	LDROM
\$68.988 Million	\$84.800 Million

Again, the difference between the two measures, or \$15.812 million, is one illustration of the savings the sponsor anticipates by assuming investment risk in a diversified portfolio.

Disclosures: Discount rate used to calculate LDROM: 5.32% Intermediate FTSE Pension Discount Curve as of June 30, 2024. This measure may not be appropriate for assessing the need for or amount of future contributions as the current portfolio is expected to generate significantly more investment earnings than the low-default-risk portfolio. This measure is also not appropriate for assessing the sufficiency of plan assets to cover the estimated cost of settling the plan’s benefit obligation as this measure includes projections of salary increases and the ability for current members to continue to accrue eligibility and vesting service.



## **APPENDIX A**

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### **ACTUARIAL ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODS**

## Summary of Actuarial Assumptions and Methods

The following presents a summary of the actuarial assumptions and methods used in the valuation of the South Carolina National Guard Supplemental Retirement Plan.

### Investment Rate of Return

Assumed annual rate of 7.00% net of investment and administrative expenses composed of a 2.25% inflation component and a 4.75% real rate of return, net of investment expenses. This is a prescribed assumption in Section 9-16-335 of the South Carolina State Code.

### Rates of Annual Salary Increase

No increases in salary are assumed. The benefit is not related to pay.

### Active Member Decrement Rates

- a. Assumed rates of service retirement are shown in the following table. Members who retire prior to age 60 are assumed to defer retirement benefits until age 60.

Age and Service Based Retirement Rates			
Age	Years of Service		
	20	21 - 29	30+
Age < 60	10%	5%	100%
Age > 59	100%	100%	100%

Members who reach age 60 with less than 20 years of service are assumed to retire at age 60 without a benefit from the plan.

- b. An abbreviated table with the assumed rates of disability and mortality while employed is shown below. There is no active employment withdrawal assumption.

Age	Disability Rates		Pre-Retirement Mortality	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
25	0.1200%	0.1200%	0.0500%	0.0260%
30	0.1600%	0.1600%	0.0550%	0.0360%
35	0.3000%	0.3000%	0.0620%	0.0490%
40	0.4000%	0.4000%	0.0780%	0.0660%
45	0.6000%	0.6000%	0.1090%	0.0900%
50	0.7500%	0.7500%	0.1590%	0.1230%
55	0.0000%	0.0000%	0.2330%	0.1670%
60	0.0000%	0.0000%	0.3510%	0.2270%
64	0.0000%	0.0000%	0.4990%	0.2900%
Multiplier	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Note: The multiplier has been applied to the decrement in the illustrative table.



### Post Retirement Mortality

Healthy retirees and beneficiaries – The gender-distinct South Carolina Retirees 2020 Mortality Tables. The rates are projected on a fully generational basis by 80% of Scale UMP to account for future mortality improvements and adjusted with multipliers based on plan experience. The following are sample rates of the base table:

Annuitant Mortality Rates Before Projection		
Age	Males	Females
50	0.2513%	0.2192%
55	0.4246%	0.2824%
60	0.7530%	0.3863%
65	1.1471%	0.5616%
70	1.8988%	0.9097%
75	3.3311%	1.7869%
80	6.1765%	3.5220%
85	11.1742%	6.8204%
90	19.6279%	12.8871%
Multiplier	127%	107%

The following table provides the life expectancy for individuals retiring in future years based on the assumption with full generational projection:

Life Expectancy for an Age 65 Retiree In Years					
Gender	Year of Retirement				
	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045
Male	19.0	19.3	19.6	19.9	20.2
Female	23.1	23.4	23.6	23.9	24.1

### Asset Valuation Method

The actuarial value of assets is equal to the market value, adjusted for the five-year phase in of the actual investment return in excess of (or less than) the expected investment return on a market value of asset basis. The actual return is calculated net of investment expenses, and the expected investment return is equal to the assumed investment return rate multiplied by the prior year’s market value of assets, adjusted for contributions, benefits paid, and refunds.

### Actuarial Cost Method

The Entry Age Normal actuarial cost method allocates the System’s actuarial present value of future benefits to various periods based upon service. The portion of the present value of future benefits allocated to years of service prior to the valuation date is the actuarial accrued liability, and the portion allocated to years following the valuation date is the present value of future normal costs. The normal cost is determined for each active member as the level dollar amount necessary to fully fund the expected benefits to be earned over the career of each individual active member. The normal cost is partially funded with active member contributions with the remainder funded by employer contributions.



An unfunded accrued liability exists in the amount equal to the excess of accrued liability over valuation assets. The amortization period of the System is the number of years required to fully amortize the unfunded accrued liability, on an actuarial value of asset basis, with the expected amount of employer contributions in excess of the employers' portion of the normal cost.

Note, the principle financial measurement calculations in this actuarial valuation, which include the unfunded actuarial accrued liability, funded ratio, contributions rates, and funding period, are based on an actuarial value of assets (smoothed value) basis. The actuarial value of assets is a calculated asset value which may be greater than or less than the market value of assets and is used to dampen some of the volatility in the market value of assets. As a result, many of these measures would be different if they were determined on a market value of asset basis.

### ***Future Cost-of-Living Increases***

No increases are assumed.

### ***Payroll Growth Rate***

None assumed.

### ***Other Assumptions***

1. The normal cost includes \$20,000 for plan incurred administrative expenses.
2. There is not a marriage assumption.
3. Decrement timing: Decrements of all types are assumed to occur mid-year.
4. Eligibility testing: Eligibility for benefits is determined based upon the age nearest birthday and service nearest whole year on the date the decrement is assumed to occur.
5. Contribution timing: Contributions are assumed to be paid in the beginning of the applicable fiscal year.

### ***Participant Data***

Participant data was securely supplied in electronic text files. There were separate files for (i) active, and (ii) members and beneficiaries receiving benefits.

The data for active members included birth date, gender, total military service and total South Carolina National Guard service. For retired members and beneficiaries, the data included date of birth, gender, spouse's date of birth (where applicable), amount of monthly benefit, date of retirement, and form of payment code.

Assumptions were made to correct for missing or inconsistent data. These had no material impact on the results presented.



## **APPENDIX B**

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### **BENEFIT PROVISIONS**

# Summary of Benefit Provisions for South Carolina National Guard Supplemental Retirement Plan (SCNG)

**Effective Date:** July 1, 1975

**Administration:** The South Carolina Public Employee Benefit Authority, is responsible for the general administrative operations and day to day management of the Plan.

**Eligibility:** All members of the South Carolina National Guard who became members on or before June 30, 1993 are covered by the System. Effective January 1, 2007, eligibility for membership has been extended to those guardsmen who became members of the South Carolina National Guard after June 30, 1993.

**Employee Contributions:** Contributions from members are not permitted.

## **Service Retirement:**

- a. **Eligibility:** Members who are honorably discharged after attaining age 60 with at least 20 years of creditable military service, which include at least 15 years, 10 of which immediately preceding retirement, with the National Guard of South Carolina.
- b. **Monthly Benefit:** \$50 per month for 20 years of creditable service with an additional \$5 per month for each additional year of service, subject to a maximum monthly benefit of \$100 per month.
- c. **Payment Form:** Life annuity.

**Disability Retirement:** None

## **Deferred Termination Benefit:**

- a. **Eligibility:** Members who are honorably discharged prior to attaining age 60 with at least 20 years of creditable military service, which include at least 15 years, 10 of which immediately preceding retirement, with the National Guard of South Carolina.
- b. **Monthly Benefit:** Upon attaining age 60, the member will receive \$50 per month for 20 years of creditable service with an additional \$5 per month for each additional year of service, subject to a maximum monthly benefit of \$100 per month.
- c. **Payment Form:** Life annuity.

**Active Member Death Benefit:** None.

**Postretirement Benefit Increases:** None.





## **APPENDIX C**

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### **GLOSSARY**

## Glossary

**Actuarial Accrued Liability (AAL):** That portion, as determined by a particular Actuarial Cost Method, of the Actuarial Present Value of Future Plan Benefits which is not provided for by future Normal Costs. It is equal to the Actuarial Present Value of Future Plan Benefits minus the actuarial present value of future Normal Costs.

**Actuarial Assumptions:** Assumptions as to future experience under the Fund. These include assumptions about the occurrence of future events affecting costs or liabilities, such as:

- mortality, withdrawal, disablement, and retirement;
- future increases in salary;
- future rates of investment earnings and future investment and administrative expenses;
- characteristics of members not specified in the data, such as marital status;
- characteristics of future members;
- future elections made by members; and
- other relevant items.

**Actuarial Cost Method or Funding Method:** A procedure for allocating the Actuarial Present Value of Future Benefits to various time periods; a method used to determine the Normal Cost and the Actuarial Accrued Liability. These items are used to determine the ADC.

**Actuarial Gain or Actuarial Loss:** A measure of the difference between actual experience and that expected based upon a set of Actuarial Assumptions, during the period between two Actuarial Valuation dates. Through the actuarial assumptions, rates of decrements, rates of salary increases, and rates of fund earnings have been forecasted. To the extent that actual experience differs from that assumed, Actuarial Accrued Liabilities emerge which may be the same as forecasted, or may be larger or smaller than projected. Actuarial gains are due to favorable experience, e.g., the Fund's assets earn more than projected, salaries do not increase as fast as assumed, members retire later than assumed, etc. Favorable experience means actual results produce actuarial liabilities not as large as projected by the actuarial assumptions. On the other hand, actuarial losses are the result of unfavorable experience, i.e., actual results that produce actuarial liabilities which are larger than projected. Actuarial gains will shorten the time required for funding of the actuarial balance sheet deficiency while actuarial losses will lengthen the funding period.

**Actuarially Equivalent:** Of equal actuarial present value, determined as of a given date and based on a given set of Actuarial Assumptions.

**Actuarial Present Value (APV):** The value of an amount or series of amounts payable or receivable at various times, determined as of a given date by the application of a particular set of Actuarial Assumptions. For purposes of this standard, each such amount or series of amounts is:

- a. adjusted for the probable financial effect of certain intervening events (such as changes in compensation levels, marital status, etc.)
- b. multiplied by the probability of the occurrence of an event (such as survival, death, disability, termination of employment, etc.) on which the payment is conditioned, and
- c. discounted according to an assumed rate (or rates) of return to reflect the time value of money.



**Actuarial Present Value of Future Plan Benefits:** The Actuarial Present Value of those benefit amounts which are expected to be paid at various future times under a particular set of Actuarial Assumptions, taking into account such items as the effect of advancement in age and past and anticipated future compensation and service credits. The Actuarial Present Value of Future Plan Benefits includes the liabilities for active members, retired members, beneficiaries receiving benefits, and inactive, nonretired members either entitled to a refund or a future retirement benefit. Expressed another way, it is the value that would have to be invested on the valuation date so that the amount invested plus investment earnings would provide sufficient assets to pay all projected benefits and expenses when due.

**Actuarial Valuation:** The determination, as of a valuation date, of the Normal Cost, Actuarial Accrued Liability, Actuarial Value of Assets, and related Actuarial Present Values for a plan. An Actuarial valuation for a governmental retirement system typically also includes calculations that provide the financial information of the plan, such as the funded ratio, unfunded actuarial accrued liability and the ADC.

**Actuarial Value of Assets or Valuation Assets:** The value of the Fund's assets as of a given date, used by the actuary for valuation purposes. This may be the market or fair value of plan assets, but commonly actuaries use a smoothed value in order to reduce the year-to-year volatility of calculated results, such as the funded ratio and the ADC.

**Actuarially Determined:** Values which have been determined utilizing the principles of actuarial science. An actuarially determined value is derived by application of the appropriate actuarial assumptions to specified values determined by provisions of the law.

**Actuarially Determined Contribution (ADC):** The employer's periodic required contributions, expressed as a dollar amount or a percentage of covered plan compensation. The ADC consists of the Employer Normal Cost and the Amortization Payment.

**Amortization Method:** A method for determining the Amortization Payment. The most common methods used are level dollar and level percentage of payroll. Under the Level Dollar method, the Amortization Payment is one of a stream of payments, all equal, whose Actuarial Present Value is equal to the UAAL. Under the Level Percentage of Pay method, the Amortization payment is one of a stream of increasing payments, whose Actuarial Present Value is equal to the UAAL. Under the Level Percentage of Pay method, the stream of payments increases at the assumed rate at which total covered payroll of all active members will increase.

**Amortization Payment:** That portion of the pension plan contribution or ADC which is designed to pay interest on and to amortize the Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability.

**Closed Amortization Period:** A specific number of years that is counted down by one each year, and therefore declines to zero with the passage of time. For example if the amortization period is initially set at 30 years, it is 29 years at the end of one year, 28 years at the end of two years, etc. See Funding Period and Open Amortization Period.

**Decrements:** Those causes/events due to which a member's status (active-inactive-retiree-beneficiary) changes, that is: death, retirement, disability, or termination.

**Defined Benefit Plan:** A retirement plan that is not a Defined Contribution Plan. Typically a defined benefit plan is one in which benefits are defined by a formula applied to the member's compensation and/or years of service.



**Defined Contribution Plan:** A retirement plan, such as a 401(k) plan, a 403(b) plan, or a 457 plan, in which the contributions to the plan are assigned to an account for each member, and the plan's earnings are allocated to each account, and each member's benefits are a direct function of the account balance.

**Employer Normal Cost:** The portion of the Normal Cost to be paid by the employers. This is equal to the Normal Cost less expected member contributions.

**Experience Study:** A periodic review and analysis of the actual experience of the Fund which may lead to a revision of one or more actuarial assumptions. Actual rates of decrement and salary increases are compared to the actuarially assumed values and modified as deemed appropriate by the Actuary.

**Funded Ratio:** The ratio of the Actuarial Value of Assets (AVA) to the Actuarial Accrued Liability (AAL). Plans sometimes calculate a market funded ratio, using the Market Value of Assets (MVA), rather than the AVA, although GASB 25 reporting requires the use of the AVA.

**Funding Period or Amortization Period:** The term "Funding Period" is used two ways. In the first sense, it is the period used in calculating the Amortization Payment as a component of the ADC. This funding period is chosen by the Board of Trustees. In the second sense, it is a calculated item: the number of years in the future that will theoretically be required to amortize (i.e., pay off or eliminate) the Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability, based on the statutory employer contribution rate, and assuming no future actuarial gains or losses.

**GASB:** Governmental Accounting Standards Board.

**GASB 67 and GASB 68:** Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statements No. 67 and No. 68. These are the governmental accounting standards that set the accounting and reporting rules for public retirement systems and the employers that sponsor, participate in, or contribute to them. Statement No. 67 sets the accounting rules for the financial reporting of the retirement systems, while Statement No. 68 sets the rules for the employers that sponsor, participate in, or contribute to public retirement systems.

**Normal Cost:** That portion of the Actuarial Present Value of pension plan benefits and expenses which is allocated to a valuation year by the Actuarial Cost Method. Any payment in respect of an Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability is not part of Normal Cost (see Amortization Payment). For pension plan benefits which are provided in part by employee contributions, Normal Cost refers to the total of employee contributions and employer Normal Cost unless otherwise specifically stated. Under the entry age normal cost method, the Normal Cost is intended to be the level cost (when expressed as a percentage of pay) needed to fund the benefits of a member from hire until ultimate termination, death, disability or retirement.

**Open Amortization Period:** An open amortization period is one which is used to determine the Amortization Payment but may not decrease by exactly one year in the subsequent year's actuarial valuation. In some instances, if the initial period is set as 30 years, the same 30-year period is used in determining the Amortization Period each year. In other instances, the amortization period may "float" from year to year, meaning it could increase, decrease, or remain relatively unchanged from the amortization period in the prior year's valuation.



**Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability:** The excess of the Actuarial Accrued Liability over the Actuarial Value of Assets. This value may be negative in which case it may be expressed as a negative Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability, also called the Funding Surplus.

**Valuation Date or Actuarial Valuation Date:** The date as of which the value of assets is determined and as of which the Actuarial Present Value of Future Plan Benefits is determined. The expected benefits to be paid in the future are discounted to this date.

