

WAC 415-110-560 Appointed officials—Eligibility and application for retirement service membership. (1) For purposes of this section and WAC 415-110-570, and pursuant to RCW 41.35.030 and 41.35.010, "appointed" officials means only those individuals who are active SERS members or were previously active SERS members and are appointed directly by the governor to any position, including but not limited to, agency directorships and memberships on a state committee, board or commission.

(2) An individual must be a gubernatorial appointee or be appointed to serve in a position that meets the requirements of RCW 41.35.010 in order to be eligible for membership and service credit.

(3) Pursuant to RCW 41.35.030, appointed officials are exempted from retirement system membership but may apply for membership during the official's current appointed term of office. To apply for membership, the official shall submit a written application directly to the department. If the department approves the application, the official is entitled to establish membership and service credit retroactive to the first day of the official's current term of appointed service. To establish such membership, the official shall pay the required employee contributions for the official's current term of appointed service with interest as determined by the department.

(4) Upon establishing membership for the official's current term of appointed service, the official is entitled to establish membership retroactive to the first day of any previous elected term or terms of office. To exercise this option, the official shall apply to the department pursuant to subsection (3) of this section. If the department approves the application, the official shall:

(a) Pay the required employee contributions for such previous term or terms of elected service with interest as determined by the department; and

(b) Pay the required employer contributions for such previous term or terms of elected service with interest as determined by the department. The employer may, at its discretion, pay the required employer contributions plus interest in lieu of the employee making payment of this amount.

(c) "Current term of appointed service" includes an appointed official's entire current term of service. If the official has not been appointed to a position with a set term of office, "current term of appointed service" includes all uninterrupted service in the official's current appointed position.

(5) If an appointed official is employed in an eligible position at the time of appointment to office and will hold the two positions concurrently, the official may:

(a) Apply to the department to participate in membership pursuant to the appointed position as provided in subsection (3) of this section; or

(b) Choose not to participate pursuant to the official's appointed position while continuing membership through the nonappointive position.

(6) Once an appointed official has exercised the option of becoming a member of the retirement system either at the start of the official's initial term or at a successive term, the official shall be a member until the official separates from all eligible public employment. An appointed official does not separate from public employment when that official's term of office ends and the official commences another term of office in the same or a different position for the

same employer without a break in service. An appointed official does not separate from service if the official resigns from the appointed position and is later reappointed to the position during the same term.

(7) The department will apply this section to service by appointed officials which occurred prior to the effective date of this section.

[Statutory Authority: Chapters 41.32, 41.34, 41.35, 41.50 RCW. WSR 01-01-059, § 415-110-560, filed 12/12/00, effective 1/12/01.]