

---

**SENATE BILL 5114**

---

**State of Washington**

**69th Legislature**

**2025 Regular Session**

**By** Senator Boehnke; by request of Select Committee on Pension Policy

Prefiled 12/23/24.

1 AN ACT Relating to paying state retirement benefits until the end  
2 of the month in which the retiree or beneficiary dies; adding a new  
3 section to chapter 41.50 RCW; creating a new section; and providing  
4 an effective date.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that when a retiree  
7 or beneficiary of state retirement benefits dies, the department of  
8 retirement systems only pays benefits up to the precise date of that  
9 individual's death. If the retiree or beneficiary has already  
10 received payment for that month by the time the death occurs, the  
11 department of retirement systems requires repayment of any benefits  
12 received after the death. For example, if death occurs on the 25th  
13 day of a 30-day month, the beneficiary's estate may be required to  
14 refund five days' worth of benefits.

15 The legislature intends to change that practice by paying  
16 benefits until the end of the month in which the death occurs.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 41.50  
18 RCW to read as follows:

19 (1) When a retiree or beneficiary under chapter 2.10, 2.12,  
20 41.26, 41.32, 41.35, 41.37, 41.40, or 43.43 RCW dies, the department

1 must continue paying benefits until the end of the month in which  
2 death occurred. Survivor benefits, when applicable, will begin on the  
3 first day of the following month.

4 (2) This section applies to any and all benefit payments issued  
5 by the department including optional annuities.

6 (3) The department must continue to require the beneficiary,  
7 survivor, or estate of the deceased to refund any benefit payments  
8 made following the month of death.

9 (4) This section applies prospectively only and not  
10 retroactively. No beneficiary, survivor, or estate that has been  
11 subject to repayment of benefits before January 1, 2026, has a right  
12 to receive a refund of those repayments.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act takes effect January 1, 2026.

--- END ---