



Mailing Address:
PO Box 295
Trenton, NJ 08625-0295
Location:
50 West State Street
Trenton, New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
POLICE AND FIREMENS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
OF NEW JERSEY
(609) 292-7524 TDD (609) 292-7718
www.nj.gov/treasury/pensions

ELIZABETH MAHER MUOIO
State Treasurer

ED DONNELLY
Chairman, PFRSNJ

June 2021

TO: Certifying Officers – Police and Firemen’s Retirement System (PFRS); Patrick Colligan, PBA; Robert Fox, FOP; Steve McConlogue, PFANJ

FROM: Ed Donnelly, Chairman, Police and Firemen’s Retirement System of New Jersey (PFRSNJ) Board of Trustees

SUBJECT: Chapter 157 Filing Expiration Notice

This letter serves as notification that the deadline to submit an *Eligibility Registration Form* for Accidental Disability Retirement benefits under the Bill Ricci World Trade Center Rescue, Recovery, and Cleanup Act will soon expire.

P.L. 2019, c. 157 (Chapter 157), also known as the Bill Ricci World Trade Center Rescue, Recovery, and Cleanup Operations Act, permits active members of the Police and Firemen’s Retirement System (PFRS) to file for an Accidental Disability Retirement under certain conditions. To qualify, members must be deemed totally and permanently disabled due to a qualifying condition which is considered to be a direct result of participation in the rescue, recovery, or cleanup operations at specified sites of the World Trade Center disaster between September 11, 2001, and October 11, 2001. Members who meet the requirements must submit an *Eligibility Registration Form* within two years of the July 8, 2019, enactment date of Chapter 157, or by July 8, 2021. Failure to submit this form will render members ineligible to apply for the benefit at a later date.

Filing this form allows eligible members the right to apply for an Accidental Disability Retirement in the future, should they become qualified. The *Eligibility Registration Form* is not an application for Accidental Disability Retirement benefits. It is a required form wherein members attest to the dates and locations of service of their participation in the World Trade Center rescue, recovery, or cleanup operations. The form registers their eligibility to apply for the benefit at a later date, if they become totally and permanently disabled pursuant to the law.

MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

Members are responsible to submit the *Eligibility Registration Form* by July 8, 2021, in order to register their eligibility to apply for an Accidental Disability Retirement at a future date, should they become totally and permanently disabled per the provisions of Chapter 157. The form must be notarized. Members who do not complete the form by the July 8, 2021, deadline will not be permitted, under any circumstances, to apply for a Chapter 157 Accidental Disability Retirement benefit. The form, as well as a copy of the law, is available on the New Jersey Division of Pensions and Benefits’ website: <https://www.nj.gov/treasury/pensions/>

Once the form is on file, if and when members wish to apply for an Accidental Disability Retirement in accordance with Chapter 157, they must submit an application via the Member Benefits Online System

(MBOS) and indicate that their disability is due to the participation in the rescue, recovery, or cleanup operations at the World Trade Center attack.

EMPLOYER RESPONSIBILITIES

It is important that the information contained in this Certifying Officer letter is made available to your location's employees. Certifying Officers should forward this message to their human resources staff, benefit administrators, and any other staff members responsible for the administration of pensions for their employees.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have questions regarding any of the information provided in this letter, contact the New Jersey Division of Pensions and Benefits' Office of Client Services at (609) 292-7524, or email: pensions.nj@treas.nj.gov