

Email Message – July 27, 2021

TO: State Biweekly, State Monthly, and Local Government Certifying Officers, Human Resources Representatives, and Benefit Administrators

FROM: New Jersey Division of Pensions & Benefits (NJDPB)

SUBJECT: Retraction of Certifying Officer Letter – Chapter 103 and the Expiration of Executive Order No. 115

This notice serves to retract the Certifying Officer letter sent on July 16, 2021, regarding P.L. 2021, c. 103 (Chapter 103) and the expiration of Executive Order No. 115 (copy attached). Executive Order No. 115 allowed 1) the waiver of reenrollment in the State-administered retirement systems for retirees hired for temporary reemployment during, and for the duration of, the COVID-19 emergency; 2) permitted retirees to return to their former employer within 180 days of retirement provided that the return to employment was not pre-planned; and 3) waived the required 60-day waiting period for employees newly hired for COVID-19-related duties to allow enrollment for immediate coverage in the State Health Benefits Program (SHBP) for the duration of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.

P.L. 2020, c. 115 (Chapter 115) allows for the continuation of employment and immediate enrollment in the SHBP in the aforementioned cases until the end date of the incident period for either the Public Health Emergency or State of Emergency, whichever is later. While Executive Order 244 ended the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency effective Friday, June 4, 2021, it did not end the State of Emergency. Therefore, the provisions of Chapter 115 remain in effect until the end of the State of Emergency.

In addition, members of the Police and Firemen's Retirement System (PFRS) and Public Employees' Retirement System Law Enforcement Officers (PERS-LEO) who were retained past the age of Mandatory Retirement under the provisions of Chapter 115, and who have filed for an August 1, 2021, retirement date based on the end of the Public Health Emergency, may choose to cancel their retirement and reapply at the end of the State of Emergency. These members should log into their Member Benefits Online System (MBOS) account and cancel their application.

If you have questions regarding any of the information provided in this email contact the NJDPB's Office of Client Services at (609) 292-7524, or email the NJDPB at: pensions.nj@treas.nj.gov