**New Bill impacts FRS Retirement**

Senate Bill 7024 was approved on June 5, 2023. This bill has changes that will impact the Florida Retirement System plans and the Retiree Health Insurance Subsidy.

Current DROP participants (who entered prior to June 5th, 2023) may apply for the continuation of DROP (from 60 months to 96 months) during the year of their DROP termination date, or approximately 90-120 days prior to your DROP termination date.  If approved, new DROP forms (DP-ELE) will need signed by the employer and submitted to the Division of Retirement prior to your current DROP termination date.

If you are interested in entering DROP, new DROP applications are in the process of revision, and will be available shortly.  We appreciate your patience, as we implement these new guidelines, forms, and procedures.

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| **Senate Bill 7024**  This bill makes the following retirement changes:  • Revises the Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP) by:  – Eliminating the restrictive entry window for eligible members to participate in DROP. It allows entry into DROP at any time after the member reaches their normal retirement date and their vesting requirement is met;  – Increasing the maximum amount of time eligible members may participate in DROP from 60 to 96 calendar months for all membership classes;  – Allowing instructional personnel, as defined in s. 1012.01(2)(a)-(d), Florida Statutes, to extend their DROP participation for up to 24 calendar months in addition to the 96 months; and  – Increasing the interest rate applied to a member’s accrued monthly benefit from 1.3% to 4%, effective July 1, 2023.  • Increases the monthly retiree Health Insurance Subsidy from $5 to $7.50 for each year of creditable service. The maximum monthly benefit is adjusted from $150 to $225 and the minimum monthly benefit is adjusted from $30 to $45, effective July 1, 2023.  • Amends the normal retirement date for Special Risk Class members initially enrolled on or after July 1, 2011, to be the earlier of 25 years of creditable service, or age 55, effective upon becoming law. |

**For more information, contact the Division of Retirement at 1-844-377-1888 (toll-free). ????**