

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy establishes SBCERA's process for administering pension benefit forfeiture in accordance with applicable law.

The Public Employees' Pension Reform Act of 2013 (PEPRA) added two ~~f~~Felony ~~f~~Forfeiture ~~s~~Statutes applicable to all public employees as of January 1, 2013.

1. Government Code section 7522.72 applies to public employees who were first employed, appointed, or elected before January 1, 2013.
2. Government Code section 7522.74 applies to public employees who were first employed, appointed, or elected on or after January 1, 2013.

(Collectively, these statutes are referred ~~hereinafter to in this policy~~ as the "Felony Forfeiture Statutes.")

For purposes of this policy, "Member" refers to any individual who is a member of SBCERA at the time of the conduct and conviction described herein. A "conviction" includes a guilty verdict, guilty plea, or plea of nolo contendere. The "date of conviction" is the date on which a guilty plea is entered or a verdict is rendered by a court of competent jurisdiction, regardless of any subsequent sentencing or modification of the conviction. The "earliest date of commission" refers to the earliest date on which the underlying felony conduct occurred, as determined by court records or other reliable documentation.

Both Felony Forfeiture Statutes provide that when a public employee (Member) is convicted on or after January 1, 2013 by a state or federal trial court of any felony under the law, it mandates forfeiture of benefits under the following circumstances:

- a. The felony arises~~For conduct arising~~ out of, or in the performance of, ~~the Member's [the public employee's]~~ official duties; in pursuit of the Member's office or appointment ~~[of the public employee];~~ or in connection with obtaining salary, disability retirement, service retirement, or other benefits. (Gov. Code §§ 7522.72, subdiv. (b)(1) & 7522.74, subdiv. (b)(1).) The felony must have a direct connection to the Member's official duties, and conduct that is unrelated to the Member's employment does not trigger forfeiture under the Felony Forfeiture Statutes.
- b. The Member, whose official duties include~~If a public employee who has~~ contact with children, ~~as part of his or her official duties~~ is convicted of a felony ~~that was~~ committed within the scope of ~~his or her official~~those duties against or involving a child with whom the Member~~he or she~~ has contact ~~with~~ as part of ~~those his or her official~~ duties. (Gov. Code §§ 7522.72, subdiv. (b)(2) & 7522.74, subdiv. (b)(2).)

If ~~T~~the result of the Member's is convicted of a felony conduct and subsequent conviction due to such conduct as described above, ~~mandates that~~ the Member shall forfeit all accrued rights and benefits in any public retirement system of which he or she is a Member of at the time the felony was committed.

The forfeiture of benefits is applied retroactively to the ~~first~~earliest date of commission ~~date~~ of the ~~crime~~felony, as defined in this policy.

After the~~Following~~ forfeiture ~~of benefits, at~~ the Member is prohibited from~~cannot~~ returning to SBCERA covered employment that would result in membership and accrue further benefits in SBCERA and from accruing any additional SBCERA benefits. (Gov. Code §§ 7522.72, subdiv. (c)(1) & ~~Gov. Code §§~~ 7522.74, subdiv. (c)(1).)

The Felony Forfeiture Statutes require SBCERA to return any employee-Member contributions made by the Member on or after the earliest date of the commission of any~~the~~ felony, as defined in this policy. ~~described in subdivision (b) of Government Code section 7522.72.~~

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The return of ~~any~~ contributions will only occur upon ~~be made on~~ a qualifying distribution event, as described in Government Code sections 7522.72, subdivision (d)(3) and 7522.74, subdivision (d)(3).

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The Member and the prosecuting agency are required by law to notify the employer who employed the Member at the time of the commission of the felony within 60 days of the felony conviction and provide the employer with all information required by the Felony Forfeiture Statutes. (Gov. Code §§ 7522.72, subdiv. (e)(1) & ~~§~~ 7522.74, subdiv. (e)(1).)
2. The employer is required to notify SBCERA within 90 days of the Member's conviction. (Gov. Code §§ 7522.72, subdiv. (f) & 7522.74, subdiv. (f).)
2. The employer, ~~when notifying SBCERA of a conviction of the Member, will need to~~ shall provide ~~the sufficient information to identify the Member and the following~~ felony conviction and allow SBCERA to evaluate whether the Felony Forfeiture Statutes apply to the member. This includes the following information, to the extent available:
 - a. Member's name and ~~s~~Social ~~s~~Security ~~n~~Number;
 - b. Termination date of employment;
 - c. Earliest date of ~~the~~ commission of the felony;
 - d. The court(s) in which the case was heard;
 - e. The name and mailing address of the prosecuting agency (state and/or federal);
 - f. Copy of communication received from the prosecuting agency;
 - g. Description of the felony charges for which the Member was convicted;
 - h. Date of conviction;
 - i. Copy of court documents related to the Member's conviction or ~~/~~guilty plea;
 - j. Statement of whether the felony offense was committed during the conduct or performance of the Member's job duties, as described in Government Code sections 7522.72, subdivision ~~ision-~~ (b)(1) and (2) and ~~&~~ 7522.74, subdiv ~~ision-~~ (b)(1) and (2).

The employer's determination regarding whether the felony was committed in connection with the Member's official duties is required for SBCERA to evaluate the applicability of the Felony Forfeiture Statutes.

If this information is not provided, SBCERA will request clarification from the employer and may be unable to complete its review or process related benefit applications until sufficient information is received.

3. Although the Felony Forfeiture Statutes require the employer to notify SBCERA of a Member's felony conviction, SBCERA may also receive notification from other sources, including the media, third parties, or the Members. ~~themselves can notify SBCERA. In such cases, When this occurs, SBCERA will request the required reach out to the employer and ask for the felony conviction information from the employer as outlined above listed in Section II (2)(a)-U).~~

PROCEDURE

SBCERA does not determine criminal guilt. SBCERA relies on the final conviction of a court of competent jurisdiction and evaluates whether the conviction meets the criteria for forfeiture under the Felony Forfeiture Statutes and other applicable law. SBCERA's review is based on information provided by the employer, court records, and any other reliable documentation.

Upon receipt of notification from any source of a felony conviction of a SBCERA Member, but before the benefits are adjusted in accordance with the Felony Forfeiture Statutes, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or designee will investigate and analyze the matter in consultation with Chief Counsel or designee

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and determine whether the conviction triggers forfeiture under ~~violates one or more of~~ the Felony Forfeiture Statutes and/or other applicable law.

The investigation will be based on felony conviction information received from the employer, as outlined in Section II-(2), and any additional~~other~~ information the CEO or designee and Chief Counsel or designee determines is necessary to discharge/fulfill SBCERA's ~~its~~ obligation under the Felony Forfeiture Statutes. The SBCERA Board of Retirement (Board) may exercise its subpoena power (Gov. Code ~~see~~ § 31535) for this purpose.

If the CEO, in consultation with Chief Counsel, determines that a Member's ~~conviction of a~~ felony conviction meets the criteria for forfeiture ~~arises out of the conduct of his or her public employment and falls under~~ one of the Felony Forfeiture Statutes, ~~then~~ SBCERA will provide written notification to the Member, specifying that includes the following:

- i. ~~The applicable~~ Felony Forfeiture Statute ~~that applies to his or her SBCERA benefits;~~
- i. ~~The first date of commission and date of conviction;~~
- ii. The earliest date of commission and the date of conviction;
- iii. Documentary ~~supporting the determination for the conclusion that such Felony Forfeiture Statute applies or does not apply;~~
- iv. An explanation of how ~~Showing how the~~ forfeiture is calculated;
- v. The effective date of the changes to the Member's benefit; and,
- vi. Notice of the Member's Informing the Member has the right to appeal and the time frame to do so, ~~to appeal the determination,~~ in which the SBCERA Board will decide the easematter.

Changes and adjustments to the Member's benefit, including collection of overpayments, will occur no later than 31 days after the time for the Member to appeal has lapsed, or as soon thereafter as administratively is feasible based on ~~in light of~~ the specific facts of the case.

However, the disbursement of contributions will only occur upon ~~on~~ a qualifying distribution event, as described in Government Code sections ~~-(Gov. Code §§ 7522.72, subdivision (d)(3) and~~ 7522.74, subdivision (d)(3).) If contributions are returned to the Member as a result of the applicability of the Felony Forfeiture Statutes and upon ~~on~~ a qualifying distribution event, SBCERA will notify the court and the district attorney at least three (3) business days before disbursement of funds. (Gov. Code §§ 7522.72, subdivision (d)(2) & 7522.74, subdivision (d)(2))~~).~~

The notice to the Member will include a copy of this policy.

APPEAL

The Member ~~is provided an opportunity to~~ may appeal the CEO's determination as specified in Section III of this policy. Appeals shall be conducted in accordance with SBCERA Benefits Policy No. 025 (Requests and Appeals for Pension Benefits), except as otherwise provided herein.

The Member has 60 days from the date of the CEO's written notification to submit an appeal ~~the decision~~ to the SBCERA Board. If the Member does not submit an appeal within the time frame, ~~prescribed, then on the 61st day from the date of the CEO's determination,~~ SBCERA will proceed with ~~make~~ changes and adjustments to the Member's benefit as described in this policy and stated herein ~~and~~ required by the Felony Forfeiture Statutes.

An appeal may include challenges to the applicability of the Felony Forfeiture Statutes, the determination that the conviction triggers forfeiture, and the calculation or effective date of the forfeiture.

~~If and the event the Member~~ appeals is submitted, ~~the CEO's determination as specified in Section III of this policy,~~ the matter will be scheduled for determination by the SBCERA Board at a regularly scheduled meeting. Both SBCERA and the Member will have the opportunity to present evidence. ~~to the SBCERA~~

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~~Board; however, such~~ All evidence ~~is must be required to be~~ submitted no later than 14 days prior to the scheduled hearing date, unless otherwise permitted by the Board. ~~before the meeting in which this matter is scheduled to be heard.~~

~~-At the hearingsuch meeting,~~ SBCERA will present its analysis and evidence, ~~conclusion, and~~ recommendation. The Member, and their legal representative and his or her counsel, ~~if represented~~ applicable, will be provided ~~thean~~ opportunity to present evidence and argument to the SBCERA Board.

Following consideration of the evidence, ~~At this meeting,~~ the SBCERA Board will take action ~~on this matter~~ based on the information record presented. The ~~SBCERA~~ Board's decision is final for administrative purposes as of the date the ~~SBCERA~~ Board takes ~~ook~~ action on ~~theis~~ matter. Judicial review of the ~~SBCERA~~ Board's ~~final~~ decision shall be subject to Code of Civil Procedure 1094.6.

Following ~~each the Board's~~ decision, the CEO or designee shall send written notice of the ~~Board's decision~~ outcome to the Member.