



1. Reporting Reminder

Reporting forms for relief associations with less than \$750,000 in special fund assets and less than \$750,000 in special fund liabilities are due by March 31. In addition to the reporting forms, each relief association with assets and liabilities below this statutory threshold must have an Agreed-Upon Procedures engagement and submit the certified public accountant's report on applying the procedures.

Reporting forms are accessible through [SAFES](#). A short [video](#) is provided that walks through the changes in this year's forms and other recent updates. Detailed instructions on how to access, complete, submit, and electronically sign the forms are provided in this [reporting checklist](#).

Reporting forms for relief associations with at least \$750,000 in either special fund assets or liabilities at year end are required to submit reporting forms and an audit report by June 30.

2. Legislative Update

The 2025 Fire Relief Association Working Group bill was heard by the Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement ([LCPR](#)) last week and the proposals were approved unanimously. Working Group proposals included in the bill would:

- Change the March 31 reporting deadline to June 30, so all relief associations have the same reporting deadlines to the OSA.
- Allow distributions from *defined contribution plans* as soon as practicable following a firefighter's separation from service, rather than requiring them to wait until age 50.
- Remove authority to deposit member dues or contributions into the special fund.
- Update direct rollover language for consistency with Internal Revenue Code.

Another proposal approved unanimously by the LCPR last week that was initiated by several relief associations would increase the maximum allowable lump sum benefit level to \$20,000 per year of service.

We anticipate all of these proposals will move forward in an omnibus Pension and Retirement Bill. We'll keep you updated in our monthly newsletter on the status of these proposals as they make their way through the legislative process.

3. New Training Video

A new training video titled "[Defined Benefit Plans – Deferred Interest Types and Credit Methods](#)" is available on the OSA website that explains allowable options for crediting interest to deferred members of relief associations with a defined benefit pension plan.

Additional training videos can be found by filtering for Pension on the OSA's [Training](#)

4. Adjusting Tax Withholding Amounts

Many relief associations use a default State tax withholding rate of 6.25 percent when paying pension benefits directly to a retiring member. Information about State tax withholding is provided on the [Department of Revenue's](#) website. This page includes contact information for Department of Revenue staff, as well as a form for the retiring firefighter to complete to set their withholding rate or opt out of withholding on the distribution.

Information and a form for a retiring firefighter to file if electing to withhold more than 20 percent for Federal taxes can be found on the [IRS website](#). Relief associations should consult with a tax professional or the IRS for guidance regarding required tax withholding and reporting on benefit distributions.



4. Investing through the SBI vs Joining the Statewide Plan

Sometimes there is confusion about the difference between a relief association investing through the State Board of Investment (SBI) and joining the Statewide Volunteer Firefighter (SVF) Plan that's administered by the Public Employees Retirement Association. Investing through the SBI is a choice on how relief association assets will be invested, while joining the SVF Plan is a choice on how the firefighters' pension plan will be administered.

See our [Pension Topic](#) page for additional information and helpful links.



March 31: [Reporting forms](#) for relief associations with assets and liabilities of less than \$750,000 are due to the OSA.

March 31: [Investment Business Recipient Disclosure Form](#) is due to the Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement.

March 31: Fire Chiefs [service credit certification](#) due to the municipal clerk and relief association's board.

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