

# Special Benefit

Applies to Uniformed Patrol Members of the Closed Plan  
Hired Prior to January 1, 1995

## Eligibility

The Special Benefit is an additional benefit of \$90 per month, plus cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) until you reach age 65. Eligibility for the Special Benefit is determined by Section 104.090.2 of the Missouri Revised Statutes and requires the following criteria:

- Must be a uniformed member of the Missouri State Highway Patrol (MSHP),
- Hired by MSHP in a benefit-eligible position prior to January 1, 1995,
- Employed by MSHP or receiving long-term or work-related disability on the day before the effective date of retirement,
- Elected the Closed Plan at retirement, and
- Not gainfully employed after retirement.

The Special Benefit amount will be reduced monthly by any amount earned during gainful employment.

Vested members who terminate employment prior to retirement are not eligible for this benefit.

The Special Benefit, and any COLAs earned on that amount, end the month following your 65<sup>th</sup> birthday.

## How do I start the Special Benefit?

When the *Retirement Election Form* is completed during the second step of the retirement process, you may indicate that you will not be gainfully employed. If you are deemed eligible, this will signal MPERS to automatically enroll you in the Special Benefit. If you are gainfully employed after retiring under MPERS, but leave your employment prior to turning age 65, you must contact MPERS to start your Special Benefit. It is your responsibility to notify MPERS when you become gainfully employed or end your post-retirement employment.

## When should I contact MPERS?

If your employment status changes after retirement, please contact MPERS immediately to stop or start your Special Benefit. If you do not call to have your Special Benefit stopped, you will have to pay it back. MPERS payroll accepts changes until the 15th of each month, so please be proactive and make sure to contact our office prior to that date.

## Annual verification

Anyone who receives the Special Benefit will be required to complete a *Special Benefit Verification* the following January of each year. You will be asked to list any earnings you have received for the months in which the Special Benefit was received. You will have until March 1st to respond. Failure to respond may result in suspension of your benefit until a response is received.

Additionally, we will cross-reference the *Special Benefit Verification* you submitted with reports received from the Missouri Department of Labor & Industrial Relations.

As a reminder, you will be responsible for the repayment of any Special Benefits received while ineligible.

## When will your Special Benefit stop?

The following are reasons your Special Benefit will be discontinued:

- Becoming gainfully employed
- Attaining the age of 65
- Suspension of retirement benefit
- Death

