

**State Actuary Update**

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State Actuary

Presentation to  
Washington State Investment Board

*November 15, 2012*

**Today's Presentation**

- New Economic Assumptions
- Latest Actuarial Valuation Results
- GET Update
- GASB's New Pension Accounting Standards
- Moody's Proposed Adjustments To Pension Reporting
- Coordinated OSA/WSIB Projects



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**New Economic Assumptions Established In 2ESB 6378\***

	Prior	2ESB 6378
Investment Return	8.00%	7.90%
Inflation	3.50%	3.00%
General Salary Increase	4.00%	3.75%

- 2ESB 6378 assumption changes effective for contribution rate requirements beginning July 1, 2013
- Assumed ROR becomes 7.8 percent beginning July 1, 2015 and 7.7 percent beginning July 1, 2017

\* Chapter 7, Laws of 2012 First Special Session.



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**Simulated Future Investment Returns**

	Simulated Future Returns*	
	15 Years	50 Years
75th percentile	10.65%	9.38%
60th percentile	9.02%	8.44%
55th percentile	8.53%	8.15%
<b>Expected Return</b>	<b>8.03%</b>	<b>7.86%</b>
45th percentile	7.54%	7.57%
40th percentile	7.03%	7.27%
25th percentile	5.29%	6.25%

\* Based on WSIB's 2012 capital market assumptions.



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## Measuring Plan Health

- Has everything happened as planned?
- Are we on track with our systematic actuarial funding plan?
- Two key measurements
  - Funded status
  - Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability (the "UAAL")



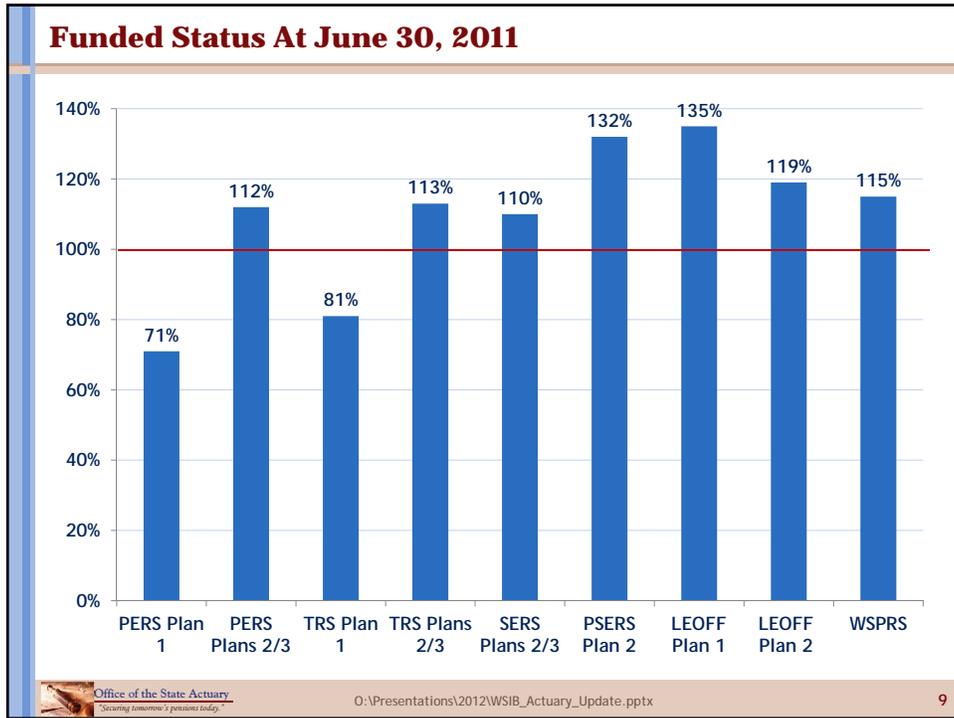
## Funded Status

- Comparison of plan assets to today's value of earned pensions
  - Point-in-time measurement
- A funded status of at least 100 percent means a plan has at least \$1 in assets for each \$1 of earned pension liability
  - On track with systematic actuarial funding plan

## Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability

- Occurs when a plan does not have sufficient assets to cover earned pension liabilities
  - Funded status less than 100 percent
- Off track with systematic actuarial funding plan
- Requires additional contributions to get back on track
  - Normal cost plus UAAL contributions
- If you don't get back on track, funding plan will ultimately become pay-as-you-go





### Funded Status And Unfunded Liability At June 30, 2011

Funded Status on an Actuarial Value Basis*											
(Dollars in Millions)	PERS		TRS		SERS	PSERS		LEOFF		WSPRS	Total
	Plan 1	Plans 2/3	Plan 1	Plans 2/3	Plans 2/3	Plan 2	Plan 1	Plan 2			
Accrued Liability	\$12,567	\$18,815	\$9,258	\$6,299	\$2,607	\$107	\$4,135	\$5,576	\$829	\$60,193	
Valuation Assets	\$8,883	\$20,997	\$7,485	\$7,141	\$2,872	\$141	\$5,565	\$6,621	\$949	\$60,654	
Unfunded Liability	\$3,684	(\$2,182)	\$1,773	(\$842)	(\$265)	(\$34)	(\$1,430)	(\$1,044)	(\$120)	(\$461)	
<b>Funded Ratio</b>											
2011	71%	112%	81%	113%	110%	132%	135%	119%	115%	101%	

*Note: Totals may not agree due to rounding.*

*\*Accrued liabilities represent the present value of future benefits for current members earned at the valuation date assuming an expected rate of return on assets of 7.9% per year (7.5% for LEOFF 2). All assets have been valued under the actuarial asset method (the "smoothing" method).*

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## Amortization of Plan 1 Unfunded Liability

- Phasing in higher Plan 1 UAAL contribution requirements under new method adopted in 2009
- Full contribution rate requirements begin in 2015
  - Increase from 2.30 (current) to at least 3.50 percent (2015) in PERS
  - Increase from 2.43 (current) to at least 5.75 percent (2015) in TRS
- Paid by employers only
- Expected amortization dates
  - 2027 in PERS 1
  - 2026 in TRS 1
  - Will occur sooner/later under optimistic/pessimistic outcomes



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## GET Update

- Current enrollment period November 1, 2012 - May 31, 2013
- \$172 unit price
  - The value of 100 units equals cost of one year of resident, undergraduate tuition and state-mandate fees at the highest priced public university at time of redemption
  - One GET unit is worth \$117.82 for 2012-13 academic year
- Institutions of higher education given tuition-setting authority in 2011
- Authority to charge differential tuition currently suspended
- Legislative advisory committee to make recommendation to Legislature in December

### GET Funded Status At June 30, 2012

- 79 percent funded
- Present value of obligations equals \$2.9 billion
- \$2.3 billion in market value of assets including contract receivables
- Excludes impacts of differential tuition



### Historical GET Funded Status And Tuition Growth

Funded Status History		Tuition Growth History	
Fiscal Year	Funded Status	School Year	Tuition Growth
2012	78.5%	2012-13	15.2%
2011	79.1%	2011-12	19.0%
2010	86.2%	2010-11	13.1%
2009	84.2%	2009-10	13.1%
2008	109.5%	2008-09	6.8%
2007	117.4%	2007-08	6.8%
2006	108.8%	2006-07	6.9%
2005	108.1%	2005-06	6.8%
2004	104.5%	2004-05	6.6%
2003	98.4%	2003-04	7.0%
2002	89.6%	2002-03	16.0%
2001	104.9%	2001-02	7.1%
2000	113.4%	2000-01	3.4%
1999	110.1%	1999-00	3.7%

## GET Recovery Plan

- Funded status declined due primarily to above-expected tuition growth
- GET committee adopted 30-year recovery plan in 2011
- Current unit price includes amortization payment
  - About \$20 of current \$172 unit price
- Recovery plan on track after one year of experience



## Key Assumptions And Asset Allocation For GET

- 5.98 assumed rate of return per year
- Current asset allocation for GET
  - 60 percent global equities
  - 20 percent fixed income
  - 20 percent TIPS
- Assumed tuition growth by school year
  - 12 percent in 2013-14
  - 10 percent in 2014-15
  - 10 percent in 2015-16
  - 8 percent in 2016-17
  - 5.5 percent thereafter

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## New Pension Accounting Standards

- Adopted by GASB on June 25, 2012
- GASB statement no. 67 (plans)
  - *Financial Reporting for Pension Plans*
  - Takes effect in two years
- GASB statement no. 68 (employers)
  - *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions*
  - Takes effect in three years
- New standards divorce accounting rules from funding



## Key Changes Under New Accounting Standards

- Under current rules
  - Only “sole and agent employers” report pension costs
  - “Net pension obligation/(asset)” equals cumulative difference between
    - Actuarially required contributions under plan’s funding policy; and
    - Actual contributions made
    - Discount rate based on long-term expected return
  - Most reporting occurs in footnotes to financial statements
- Under new rules
  - Both sole and agent and “cost-sharing employers” will report pension costs
  - “Net plan position” equals difference between
    - Present value of accrued liabilities under single actuarial cost method; and
    - Market value of assets
    - Discount rate based on long-term expected return only for the period the plan projected to remain solvent; 20-year high-grade municipal bond rate otherwise
  - Reporting moves to balance sheet

## Impacts And Next Steps

- Will introduce significant volatility to balance sheets
- Cost-sharing employers will recognize pension costs for first time
  - Based on proportionate share of total plan projected contribution requirements
- Poorly funded pension plans will see large increases in reported unfunded liability
  - Leading to further funding and benefit reforms?
- Interagency project team formed to field test new standards, develop new accounting exhibits, and prepare communications strategy
  - OST, OFM, OSA, and DRS
- Potential statewide coordination to assist local government employers with new reporting requirements

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## Moody's Proposes Adjustments to Pension Reporting

- Actuarial accrued liabilities adjusted
  - Based on a high-grade corporate bond index discount rate
  - 5.5 percent proposed
- Where possible, asset smoothing replaced with market value
- Annual pension contribution requirements adjusted
  - In consistent manner as above
  - Including a common amortization period
- Purpose of adjustments according to Moody's
  - "Our proposed adjustments will improve the comparability and transparency of pension information across governments, enhancing our approach to rating state and local government debt"
- Expected outcome according to Moody's
  - Adjustments to result in rating actions for local governments where the effect is outsized relative to their rating category
  - No state rating changes expected solely as a result of pursuing the adjustments

## Next Steps

- Moody's reviewing requested comments from stakeholders
- Reporting with adjustments expected in late 2012 or early 2013 if adopted
- Significant communication challenges ahead
  - Potential for misuse/misinterpretation of "competing" measures
- Who will take responsibility for explaining the purpose and intended use of all these measurements?
- Actuarial valuation results
  - Determine the expected financing costs based on long-term assumptions
- GASB accounting results
  - Intended to supplement actuarial valuation results to help users of financial statements evaluate pension financing strategies and increase comparability of results across plans
- Moody's adjusted results
  - Assist in their proprietary rating analysis



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## Coordinated WSIB/OSA Projects

- Pay-go analysis
- Supplemental retirement plans in higher education



## Pay-Go Analysis

- Follow-up item from last WSIB off-site
- Pay-go means paying for contractual benefit payments when they become due as a result of premature trust fund exhaustion
  - AKA "pay-as-you-go"
- OSA staff working with WSIB staff to identify key sources of Plan 1 pay-go risk and how changes in asset allocation affect pay-go risk
- Using OSA's risk assessment model, we will capture chance and amount of pay-go under multiple scenarios
- Analysis presented at February Board meeting

## Supplemental Retirement Plans In Higher Educations

- Institutions of higher education authorized to offer retirement plans separate from the state's pension systems
  - Defined contribution plans with a supplemental defined benefit
- Supplemental retirement plans
  - Provide a "floor" defined benefit to ensure eligible retirees achieve at least a certain level of retirement income from their defined contribution plan
- Pay-as-you-go funding policy adopted at institutions
- Relevant changes under ESHB 1981 (2011)
  - Eliminated supplemental retirement benefits for new hires
  - OSA to prepare on-going actuarial valuations on supplemental retirement plans
  - Fund created to pre-fund supplemental benefits; invested by WSIB
  - Temporary employer contribution rate established

## Next Steps

- Institutions of higher education must contract with OSA, via interagency agreement, no later than June 30, 2013, to provide new actuarial services
- First OSA actuarial valuation expected in 2013/2014
- Actuarial analysis expected to determine on-going employer contribution rate and inform investment policy for new fund
  - Projected benefit payments
  - Cash-flow analysis

## Questions

