



## KENTUCKY PUBLIC PENSIONS AUTHORITY

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To: David Eager, KPPA Executive Director  
Rebecca Adkins, Deputy Executive Director  
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Steve Willer, Executive Director, and Chief Investment Officer  
Mike Lamb, Chief Financial Officer  
John Chilton, KRS Chief Executive Officer  
Ed Owens, CERS Chief Executive Officer  
KRS Board of Trustees  
CERS Board of Trustees

From: Michael Board, Executive Director, Office of Legal Services

Date: April 4, 2023

Re: Implementation of 23 RS HB 587

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House Bill 587 was introduced in the House of Representatives on February 22, 2023, passed both the House and Senate, and was signed by the Governor on March 20, 2023. Per Section 55 of the Kentucky Constitution, HB 587 will become effective ninety (90) days after adjournment of the legislative session. Thus, HB 587 will become effective on June 28, 2023.

HB 587 amends KRS 61.505(8) in the following ways:

- a. The KPPA Board appoints or contracts for an internal auditor
  - i. Previously, as with all other employees of KPPA, the internal auditor was appointed by the KPPA Executive Director
- b. The KPPA Board sets the compensation and other terms of employment for the internal auditor
  - i. The internal auditor is not subject to KRS 18A or KRS 64.640
- c. The internal auditor reports directly to the KPPA Board
- d. The KPPA Board must conduct an annual performance evaluation of the internal auditor
- e. The internal auditor shall work cooperatively with the CEOs of KRS/CERS
- f. The internal auditor has the authority to appoint the employees under their direct supervision

As a result of the changes from this legislation, several things must happen. First and foremost, the CERS/KRS Joint Audit Committee will no longer exist, as the KPPA internal auditor will report directly to the KPPA Board. This will require amendments to the CERS and KRS By-laws to remove the language forming the Joint Audit Committee.

Second, the KPPA Board is faced with several tasks: they must appoint the internal auditor and set the compensation and terms of employment for the internal auditor. The terms of employment should include a position description. The KPPA Board is free to adopt the position description and compensation currently in place, making changes where necessary to reflect the removal of the internal auditor from the provision of KRS 18A, or they may adopt an entirely new position description and compensation. Adoption of a position description is important because the KPPA Board is required to perform an annual performance evaluation of the internal auditor.

The KPPA Board may choose to form an Audit Committee and delegate these tasks to that committee. The members of any KPPA Audit Committee must come from the eight (8) members of the KPPA Board. Forming a KPPA Audit Committee would require amending the KPPA By-laws. In creating the Audit Committee and amending the By-laws, the KPPA Board must decide the level of authority given to the Audit Committee: Are they able to act on behalf of the Board and then report their actions, or will their votes require ratification by the Board before action can be taken?

Once the KPPA Board has decided how it will carry out its responsibilities relating to internal audit, either the KPPA Board Chair or the Audit Committee Chair (if there is one) will be required to approve the internal auditor's timesheet on a weekly basis. This person will also be responsible for approving the internal auditor's leave requests, approving a flex schedule, determining if the internal auditor may work from home and, if so, on what days, and approving travel and/or ongoing educational opportunities. The most efficient and effective way to handle these approvals is for the KPPA Board or Audit Committee to delegate this limited authority to the KPPA Executive Director.

There are several action items that must be completed to fully implement this legislation. Due to the number of action items, the KPPA Office of Legal Services proposes the following timeline:

- I. April Annual Meetings
  - a. All Boards review this memo
  - b. The KPPA Board should make initial decisions regarding whether they want to create an Audit Committee and, if so, its membership, and what authority it will have
- II. Between April Annual Meetings and June Board meetings
  - a. Staff will draft proposed amendments to By-Laws and Charters, and create a proposed position description for the internal auditor
- III. June Board Meetings
  - a. KPPA needs to decide how the hiring/appointment of an internal auditor will happen
  - b. KPPA will approve a position description and set the compensation for the internal auditor or delegate this to the Audit Committee
  - c. KRS and KPPA will vote on the By-law amendments
  - d. CERS will have the 1<sup>st</sup> reading of the By-law amendments
    - i. It is not a problem if the CERS By-laws are not fully amended when this legislation becomes effective
  - e. KPPA will vote on the Audit Charters

- f. KPPA will schedule the first meeting of the Audit Committee

This is a lot of information to digest, and lot of work to accomplish. We should move through this process slowly while ensuring we accomplish every step. There are also several internal questions to be answered while implementing this legislation. Staff will continue to work through those as well. One example of these internal issues is defining a process for the internal auditor to request new positions. While the internal auditor has the authority to appoint the positions that report directly to them, those positions are still subject to KRS 18A and KRS 64.640 and must still fit within the KPPA employee cap and the KPPA administrative budget.