



Virginia
Retirement
System

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CITY OF HARRISONBURG – 55208

Language in the 2013 Appropriations Act, Item 468(H), allowed localities to make an election regarding their employer contribution rate every biennium. You have the opportunity again this year to select which employer contribution rate your locality will pay, beginning July 1, 2014.

Included with this letter is the employer contribution resolution your local governing body will need to pass and then send in to communicate to VRS their election decision.

Employer Retirement Contribution Rate Election

By no later than July 1, 2014, your local governing body must approve one of the following employer contribution rate options for the defined benefit retirement plan in the biennium beginning July 1, 2014:

- 12.76% – the rate certified by the VRS Board of Trustees for the FY 2015-2016 biennium; or
- 10.21% – the alternate rate, which is the higher of the rate certified by the VRS Board for FY 2012 or 80 percent of the VRS Board-certified rate for FY 2015-2016.

Considerations in Electing Your Contribution Rate

The intent of the language in the 2013 Appropriation Act, Item 468(H) was to offer localities and schools some budget relief for the coming fiscal year with respect to the amount of their retirement contributions. However, this does not change the Board-certified rate or the recommended employer contribution rate. Therefore, if you are considering using the Alternate Rate, please be aware that doing so will:

- Reduce contributions to your employer account and the investment earnings they would have generated, which will mean there will be fewer assets available for benefits.