

# Minnesota Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement

Replication of July 1, 2023 MSRS State Patrol Retirement Fund Actuarial Valuation Report

May 31, 2024











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Minnesota Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement Centennial Office Building, 1st floor 658 Cedar St. St. Paul, MN 55155

Attn: Susan Lenczewski, Executive Director

#### Re: Replication of July 1, 2023 MSRS State Patrol Retirement Fund Actuarial Valuation Report

This report presents our replication of the July 1, 2023 actuarial valuation report for the Minnesota State Retirement System State Patrol Retirement Fund (MSRS State Patrol Fund). It provides various exhibits illustrating the degree to which we were able to replicate both (1) the retained actuary's liability calculations and (2) their use of those liabilities to determine contribution rates and sufficiency.

In our professional opinion, we were able to reasonably match the retained actuary's data inputs, liability calculations, and contribution determinations. We did not find any meaningful differences or deficiencies in their calculations, and we provide commentary on the few areas where subsets of our results diverged from the retained actuary. In general, these instances were very limited.

#### **Purpose of the Study**

This study was prepared at the request of the Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement (LCPR). Its sole purpose is to replicate the July 1, 2023 MSRS State Patrol Fund actuarial valuation calculations for reasonability, accuracy, and compliance with applicable Minnesota Statutes; LCPR standards for actuarial work; and relevant Actuarial Standards of Practice (ASOPs).

The report is intended to comply with Minnesota Statute 356.214 Subd. 4(b) which states that the auditing actuary shall:

"audit the valuation reports submitted by the actuary retained by each governing or managing board or administrative official, and provide an assessment of the reasonableness, reliability, and areas of concern or potential improvement in the specific reports reviewed, the procedures utilized by any particular reporting actuary, or general modifications to standards, procedures, or assumptions that the commission may wish to consider."

This report may not be used for any other purpose, and VIA Actuarial Solutions is not responsible for the consequences of any unauthorized use. Its content may not be modified, incorporated into or used in other materials, or otherwise provided, in whole or in part, to any other person or entity, without our permission.

#### **Data Used in the Analysis**

The results in this report are based on the following data sources:

- July 1, 2023 actuarial valuation report prepared by the MSRS State Patrol Fund's retained actuary;
- July 1, 2023 census data files provided by MSRS, and "scrubbed" census files provided by the retained actuary; and
- July 1, 2023 asset and financial data found in the system's audited financial statements.

Although we reviewed all data sources for reasonability, we have not audited the underlying data and are relying on its substantial accuracy. If any data supplied are not accurate and complete, then our conclusions in this actuarial valuation replication may differ significantly.

We wish to thank all the involved parties for providing information in a timely manner and for answering our questions. We are particularly grateful to the staff at GRS for their help answering questions about their valuation system's technical calculations.

#### **Actuarial Certification**

To the best of our knowledge, this report is complete and accurate and has been prepared in accordance with generally recognized and accepted actuarial principles and practices.

Upon receipt of the report, the LCPR should notify us if you disagree with any information contained in the report or if you are aware of any information that would affect the results that has not been communicated to us. The report will be deemed final and acceptable to the LCPR unless you immediately notify us otherwise.

The undersigned credentialed actuaries are members of the American Academy of Actuaries and meet the Academy's Qualification Standards to render the actuarial opinion contained herein. We are available to answer questions on the material contained in the report or to provide explanations or further detail, as may be appropriate. We are not aware of any financial interest or relationship that could create a conflict of interest or impair the objectivity of our work.

Mark W. Schulte, FSA, EA, MAAA Consulting Actuary Emily M. Knutson, FSA, EA, MAAA Consulting Actuary

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## **Executive Summary**

This report summarizes our replication of the July 1, 2023 MSRS State Patrol Retirement Fund actuarial valuation report. We conclude that the retained actuary reasonably determined the system's July 1, 2023 actuarial liabilities and contribution sufficiency/(deficiency).

The next section of this report describes our process for replicating and evaluating the retained actuary's calculations. It is followed by separate sections addressing different components of the replication process (e.g., validating census data and liability calculations), along with appendices that summarize many of the technical calculations.

We did not find any meaningful differences or deficiencies in the retained actuary's data or calculations. Overall liabilities and contributions were matched with sufficient accuracy, and we provide commentary on the few areas where subsets of our results diverged from the retained actuary. In general, these instances were very limited.

	MSRS State Patrol Fund Actuarial Valuation	VIA Replication	Difference <sup>1</sup>
Participant data			
Active members	979	979	0.0%
Service retirements	911	911	0.0%
Survivors	163	163	0.0%
Disability retirements	94	94	0.0%
Deferred retirements	76	76	0.0%
Other non-vested terminations	54	54	0.0%
Total	2,277	2,277	0.0%
System assets (\$1,000's)	·	•	
Market value of assets	\$ 943,099	\$ 943,099	0.0%
Actuarial Value of Assets	949,612	949,612	0.0%
System liabilities (\$1,000's)			
Present Value of Future Benefits (PFVB)	1,453,474	1,453,361	0.0%
Present Value of Future Normal Costs (PVFNC)	283,278	288,177	1.7%
Actuarial Accrued Liability (AAL)	1,170,196	1,165,184	-0.4%
Normal Cost (NC)	29,442	29,230	-0.7%
System contributions (% of payroll)			
Normal cost rate	26.48%	26.27%	-0.21%
UAAL amortization payment	12.53%	12.23%	-0.30%
Expenses	0.22%	0.22%	0.00%
Total required contribution (Chapter 356)	39.23%	38.72%	-0.51%
Statutory contribution rate (Chapter 352B)	57.17%	57.17%	0.00%
Contribution sufficiency/(deficiency)	17.94%	18.45%	0.51%

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The system contribution comparisons are absolute differences presented as a percent of payroll. All other comparisons are the relative differences between our replication results and the retained actuary.

### **Process Overview**

The purpose of this report is to replicate (1) the technical calculation of the Plan's actuarial liabilities and (2) the contribution rates and sufficiency results based on those liabilities.

Our report focuses on replicating the following items:

- 1. Census data summaries;
- 2. Market asset data and Actuarial Value of Assets calculations;
- 3. Calculation of Plan liabilities;
- 4. Calculation of contribution sufficiency/(deficiency);
- 5. Confirmation of actuarial assumptions, methods, and plan provisions; and
- 6. Review of additional compliance items.

The table below summarizes how our valuation replication report incorporates each of these items.

Census data	<ul> <li>Compare participant category counts and summary statistics for the retained actuary vs. system census data files</li> <li>Compare detailed participant distributions for the retained actuary's census file vs. the valuation report summaries</li> </ul>			
Plan assets	<ul> <li>Compare market asset values in the valuation report to those in the system's audited financial statements</li> <li>Replicate retained actuary's Actuarial Value of Assets calculations</li> </ul>			
Plan liabilities	<ul> <li>Replicate technical liability calculations, including Present Value of Future Benefits (PVFB), Present Value of Future Normal Costs (PVFNC), Actuarial Accrued Liability (AAL), and Normal Cost (NC)</li> <li>Compare liability calculations for various member status groups</li> </ul>			
Contribution sufficiency/(deficiency)	<ul> <li>Replicate the required normal cost and supplemental contribution rate calculations</li> <li>Replicate retained actuary's contribution sufficiency/(deficiency) determination</li> </ul>			
Assumptions, methods, and plan provisions	Verify that the actuarial assumptions, methods, and plan provisions used in the July 1, 2023 actuarial valuation are consistent with applicable Minnesota Statutes and the System's recent actuarial experience studies.			
Additional compliance requirements	Confirm that other aspects of the valuation report comply with applicable Minnesota Statutes, the LCPR's Standards for Actuarial Work, and relevant actuarial standards of practice (ASOPs).			

#### **Census Data**

Census data is a foundational input for actuarial calculations. While it is not practical for data to be perfect, it should be reviewed for overall accuracy and reasonability.

Guidance on actuarial data is provided by Actuarial Standard of Practice No. 23, Data Quality (ASOP 23). It provides, in summary, that "The actuary should use available data that, in the actuary's professional judgment, allow the actuary to perform the desired analysis. However, if material data limitations are known to the actuary, the actuary should disclose those limitations and their implications".

To validate the census data used in the July 1, 2023 actuarial valuation report, we used the following process:

- Request separate census files from the retained actuary and the system;
- Compare overall census counts and summary statistics for various member classes (e.g., active members, service retirements, etc.); and
- Prepare detailed participant statistical distribution tables and compare them to those found in the retained actuary's July 1, 2023 actuarial valuation report.

Overall, we found that the census data used by the retained actuary was consistent with the census data provided by the system. Our census data comparisons and tables can be found in Appendix A. These exhibits are described below, along with some brief commentary.

Summary of participant statistics: This table summarizes and compares participant counts and highlevel participant category statistics for the retained actuary and system census files. It shows that the two files were very closely aligned.

Distribution of active members: This table summarizes the retained actuary's active member data by classifying them in various age/service categories, along with the average pay for each classification. We found that this data was consistent with a similar summary table on page 16 of the July 1, 2023 actuarial valuation report.

Distributions of service retirements, survivors, and disability retirements: These tables summarize the retained actuary's inactive member data by classifying them by age and service since retirement/death/disability, along with the average annual benefit for each classification. We found that the data in each of these tables was consistent with similar tables found on pages 17, 18 and 19 of the July 1, 2023 actuarial valuation report.

#### **Plan Assets**

Asset data is another of the foundational inputs for actuarial calculations. In addition to the Market Value of Assets, many public sector pension plans also use a smoothed Actuarial Value of Assets (AVA). The purpose of AVA methods is to stabilize contribution rates by smoothing investment returns - generally over a five-year period.

Guidance on asset smoothing methods is provided by Actuarial Standard of Practice No. 44, Selection and Use of Asset Valuation Methods for Pension Plans (ASOP 44). It provides considerations for selecting an actuarial asset method, including:

- Purpose of the measurement;
- Objectives of the employer and/or retirement system;
- Use of different methods/assumptions and adjustment for timing differences; and
- Other considerations such as the plan's expected future cash flows and liquidity needs.

Actuarial Standard of Practice No. 4, Measuring Pension Obligations and Determining Pension Plan Costs or Contributions (ASOP 4) also provides guidance, but generally defers to ASOP 44. The specific methodology for determining the AVA is prescribed in Minnesota Statutes, Section 356.215, Subd.1(f).

To validate the asset data and AVA calculations used in the July 1, 2023 actuarial valuation report, we used the following process:

- Review audited financial data and compare it to the information disclosed in the actuarial valuation report; and
- Replicate the AVA calculations shown in the July 1, 2023 actuarial valuation report.

We found that the asset data used by the retained actuary was consistent with the system's audited asset information. We were also able to replicate the AVA calculation prepared by the retained actuary and confirm it follows the methods prescribed in Minnesota Statutes. Our asset data comparison can be found in Appendix B, and the AVA replication can be found in Appendix C.

#### **Plan Liabilities**

Actuarial liabilities are calculated by programming actuarial software with a retirement system's data, assumptions, methods, and plan provisions. This is a complex process which involves substantial effort and actuarial programming experience.

For the replication, we independently programmed our valuation software based on our understanding of the data, assumptions, methods, and plan provisions used in the July 1, 2023 actuarial valuation report, Minnesota Statutes, and the LCPR's standards for actuarial work. The primary results we replicated are:

- Present Value of Future Benefits (PVFB): plan liability equal to the discounted value of all projected future benefit payments (based on current participant group with projected compensation and service accruals).
- Normal Cost (NC): the portion of the PVFB allocated to the valuation year based on current compensation levels.
- Present Value of Future Normal Costs (PVFNC): the portion of the PVFB allocated to future years based on the present value of projected participant compensation.
- Actuarial Accrued Liability (AAL): the portion of the PFVB allocated to prior years based on each participant's historical and projected compensation.

We expect some liability calculation differences even if we used the exact same inputs as the retained actuary. This is because each actuarial software program may have slightly different ways of applying actuarial formulas. As a general rule, we would like to match the overall PVFB and AAL within 2% and PVFNC and Normal Cost within 5% of the retained actuary's results.

Results for member subgroups or split by benefit source may differ by larger magnitudes depending on how each actuary interprets and programs their actuarial software. We believe these differences are acceptable as long as they are small relative to the overall plan.

The tables in Appendix D summarize and compare the liability measurements for different membership groups. Our overall results are very close to those presented in the July 1, 2023 actuarial valuation, and we believe that the retained actuary is reasonably calculating plan liabilities.

During our replication process we noticed that the disability retirement and survivor liability amounts for Benefit Recipients were swapped on page 21 of the July 1, 2023 actuarial valuation. We confirmed this small typographical error with the retained actuary, and they will correct it in the next valuation. This does not have an effect on any funded status or contribution amounts in the report.

## **Contribution Sufficiency/(Deficiency)**

The MSRS State Patrol Fund's statutory pension contribution rates are defined in Chapter 352B of Minnesota Statues, but the retained actuary is also required to calculate "required contributions" per Chapter 356 of Minnesota Statutes. The required contribution rates are those which are expected to fully fund the pension plan by the statutory full funding date.

We replicated the contribution sufficiency/(deficiency) calculations as follows:

- Statutory contributions: We calculated the estimated dollar value of the statutory normal cost contributions based on the retained actuary's blended statutory normal cost contribution rates applied to our replication of projected payroll. These amounts are added to the statutory supplemental contribution rates to determine the total statutory contribution rate.
- Required contributions: We calculated the estimated "percent of payroll" and dollar value of the contributions required to fully fund the plan based on the Chapter 356 required contribution rates. These consist of normal cost contributions plus the required supplemental contribution rate. The normal cost and supplemental components of the required contributions were based our replication of the Plan's normal cost, Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability, and projected payroll through the statutory June 30, 2048 full funding date.
- Contribution sufficiency/(deficiency): We compare our contribution sufficiency calculation (i.e., difference between the statutory and required contributions) to those determined by the retained actuary in the July 1, 2023 actuarial valuation report.

The tables in Appendix E summarize and compare our calculations. Our overall results are close to those calculated by the retained actuary, and we believe that the retained actuary is reasonably calculating the contribution sufficiency/(deficiency).

## Assumptions, Methods, and Plan Provisions

The retained actuary's July 1, 2023 actuarial valuation report contains a detailed description of the actuarial assumptions, methods, and plan provisions used to prepare their results. These items are summarized in their report on pages 25 through 37. We do not reprint all the assumptions, methods, and plan provisions in this replication report, but we do provide a high-level commentary below.

#### **Actuarial Methods**

Actuarial Cost Method: Minnesota Statutes, Section 356.215 Subd.1(b) and (d) require that MSRS use the Entry Age Normal level percent of pay actuarial cost method. In this method, the actuarial Present Value of Future Benefits (PVFB) for each individual is allocated as a level percent of pay from entry age (hire age, for most employees) to decrement age (e.g., expected age at termination or retirement).

The portion of the PVFB allocated to the valuation year is called the Normal Cost (NC). The portion of the PVFB allocated to past years is called the Actuarial Accrued Liability (AAL). The retained actuary documents using this cost method in their report, and the closeness of our replication liabilities (Appendix D) indicate that it was applied appropriately.

Asset valuation method: The asset valuation method is used to smooth market fluctuations over time to create contribution stability. Minnesota Statutes, Section 356.215 Subd.1(f) requires using an Actuarial Value of Assets that smooths investment gains and losses over a five-year period. We confirmed that the retained actuary described and used the statutory asset smoothing method, and our replication calculations can be found in Appendix C of this report.

Contribution method: The contribution method specifies a process for funding the current year incurred liabilities (the Normal Cost) plus paying down/amortizing a portion of unfunded past liabilities (the Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability, or UAAL amortization).

These contribution parameters are defined in Minnesota Statutes, Section 356.215 Subd.5 and Subd.11. They specify that (1) the Normal Cost must be expressed as a level percent of payroll and (2) the required supplemental contribution must be calculated by amortizing the UAAL as a level percent of projected payroll over the closed period ending June 30, 2048.

Minnesota Statutes, Section 356.215 Subd. 11, paragraph (c) also contains a provision for adjusting the target amortization date if there has been a change in actuarial assumptions, methods, or plan provisions. Our understanding is that the 2023 assumption and plan changes were small enough relative to the overall UAAL that the amortization end date (2048) was not affected.

We confirmed that pages 22-24 of the July 1, 2023 actuarial valuation report describes the correct contribution calculation process, and our replication calculations (Appendix E of this report) indicate that the retained actuary applied the methods and assumptions appropriately.

## **Actuarial Assumptions**

**Demographic assumptions:** We verified that the demographic assumptions described in the July 1, 2023 actuarial valuation report were based on those developed in the 2015-2019 actuarial experience study dated June 30, 2020. The allowance for Combined Service Annuity assumptions are based on the LCPR prior actuary's report dated October 2016.

Economic assumptions: We verified that the economic assumptions described in the July 1, 2023 actuarial valuation report were based on those developed in the 2015-2019 experience study, and an investment return assumption and discount rate per Minnesota Statute, Section 356.215 Subd.8(a). They also include the COLA, salary scale, payroll growth, and other assumptions described in 356.215 Subd.8(b)-(d) and Subd.9

We also confirmed that demographic and economic assumptions used in the valuation are consistent with those described in Appendix A (effective July 1, 2021) to the LCPR's Standards for Actuarial Work. These assumptions include 2.25% price inflation, 3.00% payroll growth, service-based salary increase table, and PUB-2010 mortality tables.

#### **Plan Provisions**

Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 352B describe the retirement benefits provided to MSRS State Patrol Fund members, and the primary service annuity formulas. We reviewed the plan provisions summarized in the July 1, 2023 actuarial valuation report and believe they are consistent with our understanding of the benefits described in Minnesota Statutes.

## **Additional Compliance Requirements**

In addition to correctly summarizing and applying the assumptions, methods, and plan provisions, the actuarial valuation report must comply with other statutory requirements and professional standards. We reviewed the MSRS State Patrol Fund July 1, 2023 actuarial valuation report for compliance with applicable Minnesota Statutes, LCPR Actuarial Standards, and relevant Actuarial Standards of Practice. We found that the report complied with all major guidance in these sources. The primary items we reviewed, along with any relevant observations, are summarized in the tables below.

Minnesota Statute Compliance						
The applicable Minnesota Statutes include Sections 356.214 (actuarial valuation preparation) and 356.215 (actuarial valuations and experience studies). We confirmed compliance with the following requirements as described below.						
Normal cost	Calculated as a level percentage of payroll per 356.215 Subd.5					
Amortization of unfunded liabilities	Amortized as a level percent of payroll ending June 30, 2048 per 356.215 Subd.11					
Measurement of actuarial gains and losses	Required gain/loss items measured per 356.215 Subd.12					
Report contents	Consistent with the remaining requirements of 356.215 Subd.4 through 18. These include presentation of the accrued liability, membership tabulations, and summary of plan provisions.					

LCPR Actuarial Standards Compliance						
In addition to specific actuarial assumptions (described earlier in this report), the LCPR's Standards for Actuarial Work and its Appendix A specify actuarial cost methods and detailed report contents. We confirmed compliance with these requirements as described below.						
Actuarial cost methods	Entry age cost method, benefits recognized, and contribution rates calculated per Standards, Section III					
Report contents	All required elements included per Standards, Section IV					

## **Actuarial Standards of Practice Compliance**

Actuarial Standards of Practice (ASOPs) provide broad standards that all actuaries must follow as part of our professional standards. The relevant ASOPs for pension actuarial reports include:

- ASOP 4, Measuring Pension Obligations and Determining Pension Plan Costs or Contributions
- ASOP 23, Data Quality
- ASOP 27, Selection of Economic Assumptions for Measuring Pension Obligations
- ASOP 35, Selection of Demographic and Other Noneconomic Assumptions for Measuring Pension Obligations
- ASOP 41, Actuarial Communications
- ASOP 44, Selection and Use of Asset Valuation Methods for Pension Valuations
- ASOP 51, Assessment and Disclosure of Risk Associated with Measuring Pension Obligations and Determining Pension Plan Contributions
- ASOP 56, Modeling

We reviewed the report and believe that it adequately complies with all relevant Actuarial Standards of Practice, including ASOPs 4, 23, 27, 35, 41, 44, 51, and 56.

We specifically note GRS' compliance with revised ASOP 4 which is effective for actuarial reports with measurement dates on or after February 15, 2023. ASOP 4 requires presentation and discussion of additional pension risk information. This includes disclosure of a Low-Default-Risk Obligation Measure (LDROM) and commentary about any concerns with the Actuarially Determined Contribution (ADC) or funding policy. The actuarial valuation report includes an LDROM analysis on page 10, while the "Other Observations" page in the transmittal letter addresses implications of the contribution allocation procedures and funding policy.

## **Appendix A – Census Data Comparisons**

The exhibits below compare the participant counts and certain data statistics between the "raw" system data and the "scrubbed" actuarial data.

## **Summary of Participant Statistics**

	Retained	d Actuary	Syster	m Data	Difference
Active members		979		979	0
Average age		40.5		40.5	0.0%
Average service		10.7		10.7	0.0%
Average salary <sup>2</sup>	\$	107,835	\$	107,832	0.0%
Service retirements		911		911	0
Average age		69.5		69.5	0.0%
Average annual annuity	\$	61,372	\$	61,372	0.0%
Survivors		163		163	0
Average age		71.8		71.8	0.0%
Average annual annuity	\$	39,873	\$	39,873	0.0%
Disability retirements		94		94	0
Average age		57.4		57.4	0.0%
Average annual annuity	\$	49,074	\$	49,074	0.0%
Deferred retirements		76		76	0
Average age		45.6		45.6	0.0%
Average annual annuity <sup>2</sup>	\$	25,384	\$	25,297	-0.3%
Other non-vested terminations		54		54	0
Total		2,277		2,277	0

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The average salary for active members and average annual annuity for deferred retirements from the system data does not include the data adjustments described in the assumption section of the 2023 valuation report.

#### **Distribution of Active Member Data**

The table below summarizes our review of the retained actuary's active member data by age and years of service, and it also includes the average earnings for each grouping. It can be compared to the similar summary table on page 16 from the July 1, 2023 actuarial report. We find that the entries compare well to those in the actuarial valuation report.

	Years of Service as of June 30, 2023									
Age	<3	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35+	Total
<25 Avg pay	23 50,146									23 50,146
25-29 Avg pay	62 69,205	28 91,262	21 99,917							111 80,579
30-34 Avg pay	48 72,481	28 93,669	77 106,032	12 117,509						165 95,008
35-39 Avg pay	28 74,287	25 104,821	53 111,852	54 115,463	6 118,612					166 105,876
40-44 Avg pay	19 76,510	15 102,665	43 115,728	26 115,335	32 119,884	6 115,634				141 109,920
45-49 Avg pay	10 101,976	10 114,019	21 119,743	19 120,024	52 127,727	44 133,833	12 122,413			168 124,729
50-54 Avg pay	7 109,633	2 112,936	15 117,989	13 118,159	43 122,480	50 129,739	40 132,735	2 138,609		172 125,811
55-59 Avg pay	3 101,975	1 113,228	4 139,730	4 113,002	3 124,275	8 132,183	8 126,907			31 125,020
60-64 Avg pay			2 124,807							2 124,807
65-69 Avg pay										
70+ Avg pay										
Total Avg pay	200 72,750	109 99,246	236 111,272	128 116,503	136 123,744	108 130,804	60 129,894	2 138,609		979 107,832

#### **Distribution of Service Retirements**

The table below summarizes our review of the retained actuary's service retirement data by age and years since retirement, and it also includes the average annual pension benefit for each grouping. It can be compared to the similar summary table on page 17 from the July 1, 2023 actuarial report. We find that the entries compare well to those in the actuarial valuation report.

Years Retired as of June 30, 2023

Age	<1	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25+	Total
<50 Avg benefit								
50-54 Avg benefit	7 35,913	7 20,438	1 17,833					15 27,486
55-59 Avg benefit	32 79,216	69 63,365	27 46,594		1 47,307			129 63,662
60-64 Avg benefit	5 41,826	37 52,021	113 62,050	27 46,864				182 57,203
65-69 Avg benefit	1 22,296	7 27,367	46 53,127	96 65,368	27 50,166			177 58,122
70-74 Avg benefit			2 41,197	23 63,742	83 58,816	19 54,257		127 58,749
75-79 Avg benefit				3 29,825	24 59,171	90 60,684	7 58,342	124 59,512
80-84 Avg benefit					4 51,567	27 71,695	56 72,010	87 70,972
85-89 Avg benefit						7 73,115	40 79,628	47 78,658
90+ Avg benefit							23 81,499	23 81,499
Total Avg benefit	45 67,061	120 55,263	189 57,216	149 61,048	139 56,906	143 62,517	126 75,401	911 61,372

#### **Distribution of Survivors**

The table below summarizes our review of the retained actuary's survivor data by age and years since death, and it also includes the average annual pension benefit for each grouping. It can be compared to the similar summary table on page 18 of the July 1, 2023 actuarial report. We find that the entries compare well to those in the actuarial valuation report.

Years Since Death as of June 30, 2023

Age	<1	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25+	Total
<45 Avg benefit		13 \$21,146	2 \$21,121					15 \$21,143
45-49 Avg benefit		1 \$51,122			1 \$13,762			2 \$32,442
50-54 Avg benefit		2 \$56,981	1 \$49,913		3 \$26,658	1 \$32,317		7 \$39,452
55-59 Avg benefit		1 \$54,822				1 \$34,839		2 \$44,831
60-64 Avg benefit		3 \$36,438	3 \$56,609		1 \$17,408	1 \$15,293	1 \$66,849	9 \$42,077
65-69 Avg benefit		1 \$52,926	3 \$26,279	1 \$28,765	3 \$48,543	2 \$29,690		10 \$36,554
70-74 Avg benefit		10 \$49,919	5 \$53,326	1 \$35,934	4 \$31,391	1 \$29,150	2 \$55,673	23 \$46,427
75-79 Avg benefit	1 \$60,879	10 \$52,965	6 \$42,450	3 \$37,440	8 \$29,369	6 \$40,177	4 \$46,141	38 \$42,582
80-84 Avg benefit		4 \$37,497	3 \$33,656	2 \$40,565	4 \$48,413	3 \$53,301	2 \$40,781	18 \$42,622
85-89 Avg benefit	1 \$57,934	4 \$44,356	6 \$34,527	3 \$45,465	1 \$18,709	1 \$22,525	4 \$24,985	20 \$36,004
90+ Avg benefit	1 \$29,409	1 \$56,938	4 \$41,677	3 \$40,568	1 \$30,526	6 \$51,770	3 \$39,343	19 \$43,891
Total Avg benefit	3 \$49,408	50 \$41,405	33 \$40,515	13 \$39,711	26 \$33,084	22 \$41,140	16 \$41,393	163 \$39,873

## **Distribution of Disability Retirements**

The table below summarizes our review of the retained actuary's disability retirement data by age and years since disability retirement, and it also includes the average annual pension benefit for each grouping. It can be compared to the similar summary table on page 19 of the July 1, 2023 actuarial report. We find that the entries compare well to those in the actuarial valuation report.

Years Disabled as of June 30, 2023

Age	<1	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25+	Total
<45 Avg benefit	7 \$54,263	7 \$52,211	1 \$28,060					15 \$51,558
45-49 Avg benefit	1 \$59,491	9 \$49,913	2 \$53,385					12 \$51,290
50-54 Avg benefit	1 \$73,442	11 \$51,907	3 \$45,683	1 \$40,553	1 \$33,131			17 \$50,303
55-59 Avg benefit		5 \$46,064	6 \$58,639	2 \$37,305	2 \$53,462	1 \$30,945		16 \$49,665
60-64 Avg benefit		1 \$51,251	1 \$46,165	4 \$59,521	1 \$47,016			7 \$54,645
65-69 Avg benefit			1 \$30,090	1 \$44,197	2 \$53,122	2 \$35,658	2 \$35,332	8 \$40,314
70-74 Avg benefit					3 \$48,731	3 \$31,187	2 \$46,058	8 \$41,484
75+ Avg benefit					2 \$47,923	4 \$33,731	5 \$61,330	11 \$48,856
Total Avg benefit	9 \$56,975	33 \$50,523	14 \$49,998	8 \$49,680	11 \$48,669	10 \$33,075	9 \$52,159	94 \$49,074

## Appendix B – Market Value of Assets Comparison

The exhibit below compares the market value of assets from the system's annual financial report to the amounts used by the retained actuary (see page 12 in the July 1, 2023 valuation report). We find that the entries compare well, which indicates that the market asset data used in the valuation report was correct. All amounts shown are in \$1,000's.

	Retained Actuary	System Financials
Assets in Trust		
Cash, equivalents, short term securities	31,410	31,410
Fixed income	198,446	198,446
Equity and private equity	712,093	712,093
Other	48,722	48,722
Total Assets in Trust	990,671	990,671
Assets Receivable	1,602	1,602
Amounts Payable	(49,174)	(49,174)
Net Assets Held in Trust for Pension Benefits	943,099	943,099

## Appendix C – Actuarial Value of Assets Replication

The exhibit below compares the retained actuary's July 1, 2023 AVA calculation (see page 14 in the July 1, 2023 valuation report) to our replication. The calculations match and are consistent with relevant Minnesota Statutes, Section 356.215, Subd.1(f) so we believe they were prepared correctly. All amounts shown are in \$1,000's.

				Retained	
				Actuary	VIA Match
1.	Market value of assets available	for benefits		943,099	943,099
2.	Determination of average asset b	alance			
	a. Total assets at beginning of y	ear		883,581	883,581
	b. Total assets at end of year			943,099	943,099
	c. Net investment income for fis	scal year		77,364	77,364
	d. Average balance (a. + b c.)/	2		874,658	874,658
3.	Expected return (7.50% x 2.d.)			65,599	65,599
4.	Actual return			77,364	77,364
5.	Current year asset gain/(loss) (4.	- 3.)		11,765	11,765
6.	Unrecognized asset returns	Original	Unrecognized	Unrecognized	Unrecognized
		amounts	percent	amounts	amounts
	a. FYE 2023	11,765	80%	9,412	9,412
	b. FYE 2022	(130,640)	60%	(78,384)	(78,384)
	c. FYE 2021	168,354	40%	67,342	67,342
	d. FYE 2020	(24,414)	20%	(4,883)	(4,883)
	e. FYE 2019	(1,844)	0%	N/A	N/A
	f. Total unrecognized amount			(6,513)	(6,513)
7.	AVA at end of year (1 6.f.)			949,612	949,612

# Appendix D – Plan Liability Replications

Total

The exhibits below compare our replication of the plan liabilities to those calculated by the retained actuary. We believe that the overall closeness of the results indicates the July 1, 2023 actuarial valuation report liabilities are reasonable. There are a couple of small benefit subclasses with larger differences (e.g., deferred retirements and refunds for active members) but these are very small relative to the overall plan. All amounts shown are in \$1,000's.

	Retained			VIA		\$	%	
Present Value of Benefits (PVB) Liability	Ac	tuary	Re	plication	Diffe	erence	Difference	
Active members								
Retirement annuities	\$	627,850	\$	627,665	\$	(185)	0.0%	
Disability benefits		41,731		42,686		955	2.3%	
Survivor benefits		9,587		9,832		245	2.6%	
Deferred retirements		6,276		6,661		385	6.1%	
Refunds		2,940		2,979		39	1.3%	
Subtotal	\$	688,384	\$	689,823	\$	1,439	0.2%	
Deferred retirements		16,044		16,071		27	0.2%	
Former members without vested rights		260		258		(2)	-0.8%	
Benefit recipients		748,786		747,208		(1,578)	-0.2%	
Total	\$	1,453,474	\$	1,453,361	\$	(113)	0.0%	
Present Value of Future Normal Costs	Ret	tained		VIA		\$	%	
(PVFNC)	Ac	tuary	Re	plication	Diffe	erence	Difference	
Active members								
Retirement annuities	\$	239,802	\$	243,467	\$	3,665	1.5%	
Disability benefits		25,908		26,565		657	2.5%	
Survivor benefits		6,837		7,222		385	5.6%	
Deferred retirements		6,566		6,610		44	0.7%	
Refunds		4,165		4,313		148	3.6%	
Total	\$	283,278	\$	288,177	\$	4,899	1.7%	
	Ret	Retained		VIA		\$	%	
Actuarial Accrued Liability (AAL)	Ac	tuary	Re	plication	Diffe	erence	Difference	
Active members								
Retirement annuities	\$	388,048	\$	384,198	\$	(3,850)	-1.0%	
Disability benefits		15,823		16,121		298	1.9%	
Survivor benefits		2,750		2,610		(140)	-5.1%	
Deferred retirements		(290)		51		341	N/A	
Refunds		(1,225)		(1,334)		(109)	8.9%	
Subtotal	\$	405,106	\$	401,646	\$	(3,460)	-0.9%	
Deferred retirements		16,044		16,071		27	0.2%	
Former members without vested rights		260		258		(2)	-0.8%	
Benefit recipients		748,786		747,208		(1,578)	-0.2%	
•						<u> </u>		

\$ 1,170,196

\$ 1,165,184

\$ (5,012)

-0.4%

# Appendix D – Plan Liability Replications

	Retained		VIA		\$		%	
Normal Cost	Actuary		Replication		Difference		Difference	
Active members								
Retirement annuities	\$	24,928	\$	24,685	\$	(243)	-1.0%	
Disability benefits		2,724		2,747		23	0.8%	
Survivor benefits		700		722		22	3.1%	
Deferred retirements		723		705		(18)	-2.5%	
Refunds		367		371		4	1.1%	
Total	\$	29,442	\$	29,230	\$	(212)	-0.7%	

## Appendix E – Contribution Sufficiency/(Deficiency) Replication

The exhibit below compares our replication of the contribution calculations to the retained actuary's results. We begin by replicating the Supplemental Contribution Rate and then determine the Contribution Sufficiency/(Deficiency). We believe that the overall closeness of the results indicates the July 1, 2023 actuarial valuation report calculations are reasonable. All amounts shown are in \$1,000's.

Supplemental Contribution Rate		<b>Retained Actuary</b>		VIA	Replication	\$ Di	fference	% Difference
1.	Determination of Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability (UAAL)							
	a. Actuarial accrued liability	\$	1,170,196	\$	1,165,184	\$	(5,012)	-0.4%
	b. Current assets (AVA)		949,612		949,612		<del></del> _	0.0%
	c. Unfunded actuarial accrued liability	\$	220,584	\$	215,572	\$	(5,012)	-2.3%
2.	Determination of Supplemental Contribution Rate							
	a. Present value of future payrolls through the amortization date of June 30, 2048	\$	1,761,103	\$	1,762,466		\$1,363	0.1%
	b. Supplemental contribution rate: (1.c. / 2.a.)		12.53%		12.23%			

# Appendix E – Contribution Sufficiency/(Deficiency) Replication

			Retained	Actua	ary	VIA Replication			\$ Difference	
Pro	ject	ed annual payroll for		\$	111,188	\$ 111,274		\$	86	
FY2	Y2023-2024									
									0/ -£	Darmall
			% of Payroll	\$ Amount		% of Payroll	\$ Amount		% of Payroll Difference	
1.	Sta	tutory Contributions -								
	Cha	apter 352B								
	a.	Employee contributions	15.40%	\$	17,123	15.40%	\$	17,136		0.00%
	b.	Employer contributions	23.10%		25,684	23.10%		25,704		0.00%
	c.	Employer supplemental	7.00%		7,783	7.00%		7,789		0.00%
		contributions								
	d.	State contributions	0.90%		1,000	0.90%		1,001		0.00%
	e.	One-time direct State aid	10.77%		11,971	10.77%		11,984		0.00%
	f.	Total	57.17%	\$	63,561	57.17%	\$	63,614		0.00%
2.	Red	quired Contributions -								
	Cha	apter 356								
	a.	Normal cost								
		<ol> <li>Retirement benefits</li> </ol>	22.42%	\$	24,928	22.18%	\$	24,685		-0.24%
		ii. Disability benefits	2.45%		2,724	2.47%		2,747		0.02%
		iii. Survivors	0.63%		700	0.65%		722		0.02%
		iv. Deferred retirement	0.65%		723	0.63%		705		-0.02%
		benefits								
		v. Refunds	0.33%		367	0.33%		371		0.00%
		vi. Total	26.48%	\$	29,442	26.27%	\$	29,230		-0.21%
	b.	Supplemental Contribution	12.53%	\$	13,932	12.23%	\$	13,609		-0.30%
		Amortization of Unfunded								
		Actuarial Accrued Liability								
		by June 30, 2048	0.220/		2.45	0.220/		2.45		0.000/
	c.	Allowance for Expenses	0.22%		245	0.22%		245		0.00%
	d.	Total	39.23%	\$	43,619	38.72%	\$	43,084		-0.51%
3.		ntribution	17.94%	\$	19,942	18.45%	\$	20,530		0.51%
	Sut	fficiency/(Deficiency)								