

April 15, 2021

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93401 - FORSYTH COUNTY
201 N CHESTNUT ST
WINSTON SALEM NC 27101-4120

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1. 623 Pension Spike Letter
2. Pension Spiking Agency Report



North Carolina
Total Retirement Plans



Dale R. Folwell, CPA
STATE TREASURER OF NORTH CAROLINA
DALE R. FOLWELL, CPA

3/11/2021

93401 - FORSYTH COUNTY
ATTN: CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER OR BUDGET ADMINISTRATOR
201 N. CHESTNUT STREET
WINSTON SALEM, NC 27101

Dear 93401 - FORSYTH COUNTY:

During the 2014 General Assembly session, contribution-based benefit cap legislation was enacted effective January 1, 2015. This legislation was created to control the practice of "pension spiking," in which a member's compensation substantially increases, resulting in a monthly retirement benefit that is significantly greater than the member and employer contributions would fund. The Contribution-Based Benefit Cap (CBBC) approach was created to protect each system for current and future retirees and to prevent all employers in the Retirement Systems from absorbing the additional liabilities caused by compensation decisions made by other employers. This legislation applies to members who retire on and after January 1, 2015, with an average final compensation of \$100,000 or higher (adjusted annually for inflation), and will directly impact only a small number of those individuals. It requires the member's last employer to pay the additional contribution required to fund the member's benefit in excess of the cap. [G.S. 135-5(a3); 135-4(jj); 128-27(a3); and 128-26(y)]

In order to assist employing agencies with planning and budgeting to comply with the CBBC provisions, we are required to report monthly to each employer a list of those members for whom the employer made a contribution to the Retirement System in the preceding month that are most likely to require an additional employer contribution should they elect to retire in the following 12 months. This letter and the attached report serve as our required monthly notification to your agency under this provision. [G.S. 135-8(f)(2)(f) and G.S.128-30(g)(2)(b)]

The chief financial officer of your agency is required to provide a copy of the attached report to the chief executive of your agency, as well as to the governing body, including any board which exercises financial oversight. Additionally, the chief financial officer of a public school system is required to provide a copy of the report to the local board of education and notify the board of county commissioners of the county in which the local administrative unit is located that the report was received and how many employees were listed in the report. [G.S. 115C-436(c); 135-8(j); and 128-30(j)]

For the purpose of determining the employees of your agency that are likely to require an additional employer contribution should they elect to retire in the following 12 months, the Retirement System modified the criteria used in the CBBC calculation. This allows for a broad list of potential employees, including those whose compensation average may approach the threshold and attempts to provide your agency with prior notification of a potential cost. The attached report

lists employees of your agency who may be eligible to retire in the next 13 months (at either a reduced or unreduced benefit), whose salary is \$95,000 or greater, and whose estimated monthly retirement benefit exceeds the CBBC based on information in the employee's most recent annual benefits statement. In addition, a lower CBBC Factor (i.e., TSERS is 4.2 and LGERS is 4.4) is applied.

This list is not exhaustive, and members included on this list may or may not exceed the CBBC upon retirement, depending on a number of factors such as the member's average final compensation, the member's age at retirement, and membership service. This is merely a notification of a potential cost that your agency may be required to pay, in the form of a lump-sum payment, due after the member retires.

For those employees hired on or after January 1, 2015, the employer is not required to pay the additional contribution to fund the member's benefit in excess of the Contribution-Based Benefit Cap. The employer has the option to pay all or part of the contribution required in excess of the CBBC; the employee also has the option to pay all or part of the contribution. However, should neither of you choose to pay this additional contribution, the employee's retirement benefit will be capped.

You can calculate the likelihood of whether the retirement benefit of a member listed on the attached report will exceed the CBBC with information available on our website at <https://www.myncretirement.com/employers/employer-training/pension-spiking>.

If you have any questions or need assistance in calculating the likelihood of a potential CBBC liability, please contact us at the address or telephone number listed below.

Sincerely,

Retirement Systems Division
N.C. Department of State Treasurer

623_PENSPK



North Carolina
Total Retirement Plans

**North Carolina Department of State Treasurer
Retirement Systems Division**

3200 Atlantic Ave, Raleigh, NC 27604
1-877-NCSECURE (1-877-627-3287) toll-free • Fax (919) 855-5800
www.myncretirement.com

Dale R. Folwell, CPA
STATE TREASURER OF NORTH CAROLINA
DALE R. FOLWELL, CPA



CONTRIBUTION-BASED BENEFIT CAP REPORT

Agency		Member ID	Name
Members Hired Before Jan 1, 2015	93401-FORSYTH COUNTY	877503	ELLIOTT, MARK L
		500438	WATKINS III III, BASIL G
		1144235	WATTS JR JR, JACK D
		1226337	BURGISS, JOHN T
		1492686	SANDERS-PRATT, DAMON L

* PLEASE FORWARD TO YOUR CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER OR BUDGET ADMINISTRATOR

Contribution Based Benefit Cap (CBBC)

As of: 03/25/21

For Retirement Date of: 04/01/21

Last Name	First Name	Department	Total Potential Liability *
Burgiss	John T.	Tax Administration	\$42,859.68
Elliott	Mark L.	Sheriff	None - Below AFC Min
Sanders-Pratt	Damon L.	Manager's Office	\$68,067.74
Watkins, III	Basil G.	Attorney	None
Watts, Jr.	Jack D.	Manager's Office	None

** Total potential liability is only an estimate of the possible lump sum payment due after the employee retires to cover the unforeseen liabilities based on the employee's latest salary should the employee elect to retire in the next 12 months. See the fourth paragraph of the CBBC Letter. AFC Min is the threshold amount that triggers the liability requirement. If an employee's AFC is under this amount, no liability is incurred. The amount is currently \$110,404.82 and is adjusted annually for inflation.*