

**Penn SERS Board Names James G. Nolan Chief Investment Officer
Maintains 7% Assumed Rate of Return;
Adjusts Defined Benefit Plan's Policy Target Asset Allocation**

HARRISBURG – The Pennsylvania State Employees' Retirement System Board, meeting here today, named Acting Chief Investment Officer James G. Nolan to the position permanently.

"Like many public pension funds across the country, SERS has gone through a number of major changes over the past few years," said SERS Board Chairman David R. Fillman. "Jim has been with us throughout that entire time. He brings both continuity, as we continue to build a strong and successful investment team, and character, which is an important aspect of leadership, as has been evidenced by his steady focus on doing what is best for SERS and our members and participants."

The board also left unchanged its current assumed rate of investment return of 7.0%, compounded annually.

In addition, the board approved an updated policy target asset allocation which reduced the target allocation to less-liquid assets (lowered real estate target by 1%). The new target allocation also increases the allocation to public equity by 6% which is projected to increase the return while lowering fees. Lastly, a high allocation to liquid assets with low correlation to public equity markets (fixed income) is maintained. The specific revisions are reflected in the [SERS' Defined Benefit Plan Investment Policy Statement](#) which will be posted to the website.

In other business, the board announced that it selected Korn Ferry as its actuary for the next five years, pending necessary state contract approvals. The selection was made through a competitive bid process. The current contract with Korn Ferry, which was set to expire on June 30, 2021, has been extended for up to 90 days while the contractual process is completed.

The board also moved to amend committee and board meeting operating procedures, to apply roll-call votes for all non-routine action and approved the amended *FY 2021 – FY 2023 SERS Strategic Business Plan*.

In addition, Executive Director Terrill (Terri) J. Sanchez, updated the board on the agency's permanent telework plans, meant to build on the excellent productivity experienced during the current temporary telework, due to the pandemic, and expand the agency's pool of potential hires. "It is much more likely that candidates from the large, diverse pools in the larger metropolitan areas of Pennsylvania would consider working for SERS, if they are not required to relocate to Harrisburg from their current Pennsylvania home."

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Pennsylvania State Employees' Retirement System

Established in 1923, SERS is one of the nation's oldest and largest retirement plans for public employees, with more than 240,000 members. As of Dec. 31, 2020, SERS' Defined Benefit Plan had net assets of \$35 billion and the Defined Contribution Plan, which launched on Jan. 1, 2019, had \$40.5 million. SERS also administers a voluntary supplemental Deferred Compensation Plan with more than 57,600 participants and net assets of nearly \$4.4 billion as of Dec. 31, 2020. A wealth of information is available at www.SERS.pa.gov.

For more information: Pamela Hile | phile@pa.gov