



**PENNSYLVANIA STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
457 DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN**

Financial Statements  
with Required Supplementary Information

December 31, 2017 and 2016

(With Independent Auditors' Report Thereon)

**PENNSYLVANIA STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
457 DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN**

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## **Independent Auditors' Report**

The Members of the Board  
Pennsylvania State Employees' Retirement System  
457 Deferred Compensation Plan:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Pennsylvania State Employees' Retirement System 457 Deferred Compensation Plan (457 Plan) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the 457 Plan's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

### **Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### **Auditors' Responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditors consider internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

### **Opinion**

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the net position available for benefits of the Pennsylvania State Employees' Retirement System 457 Deferred Compensation Plan as of December 31, 2017 and 2016, and the changes in its net position available for benefits for the years then ended, in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.



## **Other Matters**

### *Required Supplementary Information*

U.S. generally accepted accounting principles require that the management's discussion and analysis on pages 3-6 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

*KPMG LLP*

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania  
May 25, 2018

**PENNSYLVANIA STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
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Management's Discussion and Analysis

December 31, 2017 and 2016

(Unaudited)

This section presents management's discussion and analysis of the Pennsylvania State Employees' Retirement System 457 Deferred Compensation Plan's (457 Plan) financial statements and the significant events and conditions that affected the operations and performance of the 457 Plan during the years ended December 31, 2017, 2016, and 2015.

**Overview of the Basic Financial Statements**

1. **Basic Financial Statements.** The 457 Plan presents Statements of Net Position Available for Benefits as of December 31, 2017 and 2016 and Statements of Changes in Net Position Available for Benefits for the years then ended. These statements reflect resources available for the payment of benefits as of year-end, and the sources and uses of those funds during the year.
2. **Notes to Basic Financial Statements.** The notes to basic financial statements are an integral part of the financial statements and provide additional detailed information to provide a better understanding of the financial statements. The notes discuss, among other things, the 457 Plan's organization, contributions, and how asset values are determined.

**Background**

The Pennsylvania State Employees' Retirement Board (SERB) is the trustee for the 457 Plan, an Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 457(b) retirement plan for eligible government employees and officers. The 457 Plan is a voluntary tax-deferred supplemental retirement plan. The participants may direct their deferrals among 11 investment options. A Third Party Administrator (TPA) maintains individual participant records. Investment advisors selected by the SERB manage the 457 Plan's investment options. The 457 Plan began accepting initial deferrals in 1988.

The investments are composed of primarily three core equity index funds—U.S. Large Company Stock Index Fund that is a Standard & Poor's (S&P) 500 index of large-cap companies, a U.S Small/Mid Company Stock Fund that is an index of domestic mid and small-cap companies, and an International Company Stock Index Fund. The 457 Plan also offers a U.S Bond Index Fund, a Stable Value Fund (actively managed bond fund with an insurance contract that, through a crediting formula, smooths the portfolio returns by providing a 'stable' quarterly rate), a Short Term Investment Fund, and Self-Directed Brokerage Accounts. Three "Profile Funds" are also available to the participants. These funds are composed of a mix of the equity, cash, and bond core index funds, tailored to a participant's risk profile that allows them to invest in a conservative, moderate, or aggressive portfolio. The 457 Plan also offers a 60/40 Balanced Stock & Bond Fund, which uses a mix of the U.S. Large Company Stock Index and the U.S. Bond Index Funds. These portfolios are automatically rebalanced each quarter by the TPA.

**Net Position Available for Benefits**

The net position was \$3.5 billion and \$3.2 billion as of December 31, 2017 and 2016, respectively, which was an increase of approximately \$330 million. In 2015, plan net position was \$3.0 billion. Of the three asset classes of equities, bonds, and cash, 53.3% of the net plan position was invested in the three core equity funds (large-cap; mid and small-cap; and international equities) at year-end 2017. At the end of 2016, those same investment funds accounted for 49.0% of the plan net position available for benefits. The fixed income portfolios, U.S. Bond Index Fund and Stable Value Fund, accounted for 41.2% and 45.5% of plan net position

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in 2017 and 2016, respectively. The Short Term Investment Fund accounted for 1.9% and 2.1% of the plan net position available for benefits in 2017 and 2016, respectively.

**Contributions and Investment Income**

Contributions experienced a slight decrease to \$135.4 million in 2017 from \$135.8 million in 2016. Contributions were \$135.3 million in 2015.

Net investment income in 2017 was \$370.3 million compared to \$188.6 million in 2016. Net investment income was \$11.2 million in 2015. The increase in net investment income in 2017 was attributed primarily to the higher broad market equity returns as the S&P 500 Index and the Dow Jones U.S. Completion Stock Market Index returned 21.8% and 18.1%, respectively, versus returns of 12.0% and 15.8%, respectively, in 2016. The S&P 500 Index and the Dow Jones U.S. Completion Stock Market Index returned 1.4% and -3.4%, respectively, in 2015.

**Program Benefits and Expenses**

Benefits paid to participants increased to \$98.4 million in 2017 from \$91.0 million in 2016. Benefits paid to participants in 2015 were \$82.4 million. The election to select a payment is voluntary up to age 70½ and is typically dependent upon the participant's separation from service. The 457 Plan offers a variety of payout methods. A majority of participants select a periodic payment either annually, semiannually, quarterly, or monthly. The number of participants receiving payments increased to 8,304 for 2017 from 7,734 for 2016. The number of participants receiving payments in 2015 was 7,287. A 457(b) plan is permitted to accept rollovers from other retirement plans, and to permit rollovers out of the 457 Plan into Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs), 401(k) plans, or other qualified plans. Net rollovers out of the 457 Plan increased to \$73.6 million in 2017 from \$47.4 million in 2016. In 2015, net rollovers out of the 457 Plan were \$35.9 million.

457 Plan participants are responsible for all 457 Plan fees. The TPA expenses were \$4.2 million in 2017 and \$3.7 million in 2016. In 2015, these expenses were \$3.8 million. A large portion of the fee is based on a percentage of plan assets, as the plan asset base changes, a corresponding change to the fees occurs.

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**Roth 457(b) Provision**

The Small Business Jobs Act of 2010 includes a provision to allow those participating in 457(b) plans to contribute through a Roth option. Those who contribute using the Roth option do not receive a reduction of their current taxable income for a contribution to the plan, but they do earn returns within the plan tax-free and the withdrawals from the plan are tax-free. The SERB adopted a motion in 2010 to allow the 457 Plan to implement a Roth 457(b) provision. The 457 Plan began accepting Roth contributions in 2012. In 2014, the SERB adopted a motion to allow for in-plan Roth conversions while a participant is still actively employed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This allows participants to convert their traditional pre-tax contributions to Roth contributions. The participant is responsible for paying the taxes on the converted funds with monies outside of the plan. This provision became effective starting in 2015.

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December 31, 2017 and 2016

(Unaudited)

**Condensed Financial Information**

(\$ millions)

<b>Assets</b>	<b>Net Position</b>				
	<b>2017</b>	<b>Increase (Decrease)</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>Increase (Decrease)</b>	<b>2015</b>
Total receivables	\$ 5	\$ —	\$ 5	\$ (2)	\$ 7
Total investments	3,492	329	3,163	184	2,979
Securities lending collateral pool	22	20	2	(1)	3
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>3,519</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>3,170</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>2,989</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Total payables	2	—	2	—	2
Obligations under securities lending	22	20	2	(1)	3
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Total net position</b>	<b>\$ 3,495</b>	<b>\$ 329</b>	<b>\$ 3,166</b>	<b>\$ 182</b>	<b>\$ 2,984</b>

<b>Additions</b>	<b>Changes in Net Position</b>				
	<b>2017</b>	<b>Increase (Decrease)</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>Increase (Decrease)</b>	<b>2015</b>
Net investment income	\$ 370	\$ 182	\$ 188	\$ 177	\$ 11
Contributions	136	—	136	1	135
<b>Total additions</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>146</b>
<b>Deductions</b>					
Benefit payments	98	7	91	9	82
Plan transfers	74	27	47	11	36
Third party and administrative expenses	5	1	4	—	4
<b>Total deductions</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>122</b>
<b>Increase in net position</b>	<b>\$ 329</b>	<b>\$ 147</b>	<b>\$ 182</b>	<b>\$ 158</b>	<b>\$ 24</b>



## **BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**PENNSYLVANIA STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
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Statements of Net Position Available for Benefits

December 31, 2017 and 2016

(\$ thousands)

	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
<b>Assets:</b>		
<b>Receivables:</b>		
Contributions receivable	\$ 5,325	\$ 5,452
Accrued investment income receivables	97	66
Other receivables	150	4
Total receivables	5,572	5,522
<b>Investments:</b>		
Cash and temporary investments	5,932	5,610
Short term investment fund	66,815	67,093
U.S. bond index fund	374,982	332,518
U.S. large company stock index fund	1,229,894	1,039,233
U.S. small/mid company stock index fund	421,944	356,408
International company stock index fund	210,204	155,533
Stable value fund	1,063,116	1,106,438
Group annuity contract	1,081	1,247
Self-directed brokerage accounts	118,123	98,597
Total investments	3,492,091	3,162,677
Securities lending collateral pool	21,518	2,005
Total assets	3,519,181	3,170,204
<b>Liabilities:</b>		
<b>Payables:</b>		
Participant payables	99	181
Fees payable and accrued expenses	1,962	1,462
Other payables	272	234
Total payables	2,333	1,877
Obligations under securities lending	21,518	2,005
Total liabilities	23,851	3,882
Net position available for benefits	\$ 3,495,330	\$ 3,166,322

See accompanying notes to basic financial statements.

**PENNSYLVANIA STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
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Statements of Changes in Net Position Available for Benefits

Years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016

(\$ thousands)

	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Additions:		
Investment income:		
From investing activities:		
Net appreciation in fair value of investments	\$ 348,266	\$ 168,577
Interest	25,629	23,741
Total investing activities income	373,895	192,318
Less investment expenses	3,632	3,701
Net income from investing activities	370,263	188,617
From securities lending activities:		
Securities lending income	19	18
Securities lending expense	(1)	(2)
Net income from securities lending activities	18	16
Net investment income	370,281	188,633
Contributions from participants	135,357	135,829
Total additions	505,638	324,462
Deductions:		
Benefits and refunds to participants	98,397	90,976
Plan transfers	73,633	47,393
Third party expenses	4,224	3,714
Administrative expenses	376	408
Total deductions	176,630	142,491
Increase in net position	329,008	181,971
Net position available for benefits, beginning of year	3,166,322	2,984,351
Net position available for benefits, end of year	\$ 3,495,330	\$ 3,166,322

See accompanying notes to basic financial statements.

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Notes to Basic Financial Statements

December 31, 2017 and 2016

**(1) Organization and Description of the Plan**

**(a) Program Summary**

The following description of the Pennsylvania State Employees' Retirement System 457 Deferred Compensation Plan (457 Plan) provides only general information. Participants should refer to the Plan Document for a more complete description of the 457 Plan provisions.

The 457 Plan was established by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania General Assembly on November 6, 1987, through Act 81 and in accordance with Section 457(b) of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) of 1986, as amended. Under the 457 Plan provisions, eligible employees of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (commonwealth) may voluntarily elect to contribute a portion of their compensation into the 457 Plan through payroll deductions. The commonwealth does not make any contributions to the 457 Plan. The 457 Plan is included in the commonwealth's financial reports as a pension trust fund.

**(b) Contributions**

Under the 457 Plan provisions, eligible employees may contribute to the 457 Plan through payroll deductions. In accordance with Section 457(b) of the IRC, the amount of an individual's annual contributions for 2017 and 2016 were limited to an amount not to exceed the lesser of \$18,000 or 100% of the individual's gross compensation. Individuals age 50 or over may make an additional "catch-up" contribution. In 2017 and 2016 the additional "catch-up" contribution was \$6,000. Special catch-up is allowed for previously missed contributions for participants within three years of normal retirement age. In 2017 and 2016 the deferral limit for special catch-up was \$36,000. Contributions can be made to the 457 Plan using either the before-tax method in which amounts are deferred for federal income tax purposes or the Roth option in which contributions are made on an after-tax basis.

Contributions receivable represent amounts withheld from employees' pay but not remitted to the investment managers at December 31. Contributions are credited by the applicable investment managers upon receipt from the commonwealth.

**(c) Participant Accounts**

Participants electing to contribute to the 457 Plan have the option of investing their contributions in any of the following core investments:

- *Short Term Investment Fund*, which invests in a variety of securities including those issued by the U.S. Treasury, agency securities, short-term corporate debt instruments such as commercial paper, repurchase agreements, and certificates of deposit, is managed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Treasury Department (Treasury Department).
- *U.S. Bond Index Fund*, which is a collective investment fund that invests in investment grade corporate and government issues, mortgage-backed securities, asset-backed securities, and commercial mortgage-backed securities, is managed by Mellon Capital Management Corporation (MCM).
- *U.S. Large Company Stock Index Fund*, which is a collective investment fund that invests in publicly traded common stocks included in the S&P 500 Index, is managed by MCM.

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- *U.S. Small/Mid Company Stock Index Fund*, which is a collective investment fund that invests in medium and small capitalization components of the U.S. equity market (primarily the portion not covered by the S&P 500 Index), is managed by MCM.
- *International Company Stock Index Fund*, which is a collective investment fund that invests in international stocks in the European, Australian, and Far East markets, is managed by MCM.
- *Stable Value Fund*, which comprises two investment accounts, is managed by separate investment advisors. An active bond account is managed by Weaver C. Barksdale & Associates. The return on the active bond account is insured through a contract with Monumental Life Insurance Company. This contract insures a crediting rate on the active bond account as determined by a formula established by the insurer. This crediting rate is adjusted quarterly, based on the actual returns of the active bond account. A temporary investment account is managed by the Treasury Department and contains short-term securities, which are purchased when payments or pay downs are received for the active bond account investments.

In addition to the core investments, the 457 Plan also offers the following:

- *Aggressive Portfolio Fund*, which is a blend of the core investments, consists of 48% in the U.S. Large Company Stock Index Fund, 20% in the U.S. Bond Index Fund, 20% in the International Company Index Fund, and 12% in the U.S. Small/Mid Company Stock Index Fund.
- *Moderate Portfolio Fund*, which is a blend of the core investments, consists of 40% in the U.S. Bond Index Fund, 36% in the U.S. Large Company Stock Index Fund, 15% in the International Company Index Fund, and 9% in the U.S. Small/Mid Company Stock Index Fund.
- *Conservative Portfolio Fund*, which is a blend of the core investments, consists of 50% in the U.S. Bond Index Fund, 20% in the Short Term Investment Fund, 17% in the U.S. Large Company Stock Index Fund, 8% in the International Company Index Fund, and 5% in the U.S. Small/Mid Company Stock Index Fund.
- *60/40 Balanced Stock & Bond Fund*, which is a blend of the core investments, consists of 60% in the U.S. Large Company Stock Index Fund and 40% in the U.S. Bond Index Fund.
- *Self-Directed Brokerage Accounts*, which is a mutual fund window whereby a participant may choose to invest in a variety of mutual funds offered through the Charles Schwab Corporation.

Investment income includes the realized and unrealized gains/losses and interest for each of the funds. These funds do not distribute dividends to shareholders. Earnings and dividends on securities held are reinvested. Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis.

The Pennsylvania State Employees' Retirement System provides certain management and administrative services to the 457 Plan on an ongoing basis. During 2017 and 2016, the 457 Plan paid approximately \$376,000 and \$408,000 for those services, respectively. The 457 Plan receives \$275,000 annually from the TPA to cover these costs, which is a reduction of third party expenses.

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Notes to Basic Financial Statements

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**(d) Payment of Benefits**

Participants may withdraw the current value of funds contributed to the 457 Plan upon termination of employment, death, disability, retirement, or approved unforeseeable emergencies within 457 Plan guidelines. Accounts that have no activity in a two-year period and a balance under \$5,000 may also be voluntarily distributed.

Upon retirement or termination of service, participants may elect various payout options including lump-sum, equal annual payments, or elect to defer receipt of funds until some future date. Minimum distributions as required by Internal Revenue Service guidelines must commence no later than age 70½ including the Roth option. Rollovers to other qualified retirement plans or IRAs are permitted. All investments are for the exclusive benefit of participants and their beneficiaries.

Upon a participant's death, with certain exceptions, any amount due under the participant's account is paid to the beneficiary or the estate. Distributions to participants are recorded at the time withdrawals are made from participant accounts.

**(2) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

**(a) Basis of Accounting in Preparing Financial Statements**

The financial statements of the 457 Plan are prepared on the accrual basis of accounting under which deductions are recorded when the liability is incurred, additions are recorded in the accounting period in which they are earned and become measurable, and investment purchases and sales are recorded as of their trade date.

**(b) Use of Estimates**

Management of the 457 Plan has made certain estimates and assumptions relating to the reporting of assets and liabilities and the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities to prepare these financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

**(c) Valuation of Investments**

The Short Term Investment Fund and temporary investment portion of the Stable Value Fund are valued at cost, which approximates fair value. The U.S. Bond Index, U.S. Large Company Stock Index Fund, U.S. Small/Mid Company Stock Index Fund, International Company Stock Index Fund, Stable Value Fund – Active Bond Account, and Self-Directed Brokerage Accounts are valued based on quoted redemption values on the last business day of the calendar year, which represents fair value.

The group annuity contract, which is no longer offered to participants as an investment option, is valued at contract value, which approximates fair value. Contract value for the group annuity contract represents contributions made under the contract, plus earnings, less payments made to retirees and terminated participants.

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**(3) Agreement with Program Administrator**

Effective with the agreement dated July 1, 2013, the SERB reappointed Great-West Life & Annuity Insurance Company (Great-West) as the 457 Plan TPA for a term of four years. The agreement also provided the option to renew for one year, which was exercised. Today, Empower Retirement is the brand name for its services division, and Great-West Financial is the brand for its insurance, annuity, and investment businesses. Great-West receives the following compensation for program administration services:

- Program administration charge – A \$24.00 annual fee is charged to each participant in the 457 Plan for record-keeping services. The full fee is due to Great-West. This charge is assessed monthly.
- Program asset fee – This charge is assessed monthly on the value of all accounts in the 457 Plan. The fee varies depending on the type of investment. The fee ranges from 0.07% to 0.375%. This includes 0.07% payable to Great-West for TPA services and manager fees ranging from 0.00% to 0.305%. The program asset fee is assessed against the account of each participant proportionately according to the value of each individual account.
- Investment advice fee – Great-West, through its subsidiary Advised Assets Group LLC, provides participants with online advisory tools and services based upon the level of involvement desired in managing their accounts. Guidance is offered at no additional cost. Advice is offered for an annual fee of \$25.00. All advice fees are assessed quarterly. Managed accounts provide ongoing professional asset management at the individual participant level. Plan participants receive a personalized and strategically designed retirement portfolio that is automatically managed quarterly. The managed account fee structure is asset based and ranged from 0.30% to 0.60% based on the participant account balance. However as of October 1, 2017, the managed account fee decreased and ranged from 0.15% to 0.45%.

**(4) Investments**

**(a) Program Overview**

The 457 Plan's core investments are managed by three fund managers. At December 31, 2017 and 2016, one fund manager, MCM, managed approximately 64.1% and 59.6%, respectively, of the 457 Plan total investment portfolio. The fixed income portfolios, which consist of the U.S. Bond Index Fund managed by MCM and the fixed income investments managed by Weaver C. Barksdale as part of the Stable Value Fund, were 41.2% and 45.5% of the 457 Plan total investment portfolio in 2017 and 2016, respectively. These concentrations are solely determined by the participants' elections to invest in the available investment options selected by the SERB.

**(b) Fair Value Hierarchy**

The fair value hierarchy, which contains three levels, is based on the valuation inputs used to measure an asset's fair value. Level 1 inputs are quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities. Level 2 inputs are quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets, quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in markets that are not active, or other than quoted prices that are observable. Level 3 inputs are unobservable inputs used to measure fair value if relevant observable inputs are not available for the asset or liability at the reporting date.

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Collective investment funds and self-directed brokerage accounts are reported at fair value based on the 457 Plan's ownership percentage of underlying investments as of the last business day of the calendar year, and are categorized as Level 1. The collective investment funds comprise two U.S. equity funds, one international equity fund, and one U.S. bond fund. Using a mix of these funds, the 457 Plan offers a balanced fund and three profile funds, which are aggressive, moderate, and conservative.

Debt securities are valued using a matrix pricing technique, and categorized as Level 2. Matrix pricing is used to value securities based on the securities' relationship to benchmark quoted prices.

The 457 Plan also has investments that are not measured at fair value. The Short Term Investment Fund and PA Treasury Department's STIF are valued at cost plus accrued interest, which approximates fair value. The group annuity contract, which is no longer offered to participants, is valued at contract value, which approximates fair value. Contract value for the group annuity contract represents contributions made under the contract, plus earnings, less payments made to retirees and terminated participants.



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Notes to Basic Financial Statements

December 31, 2017 and 2016

The 457 Plan has the following recurring fair value and other measurements as of December 31, 2017 and 2016:

	2017 (\$ thousands)				
	Investments Measured at Fair Value			Other	Total
	Fair value	Level 1	Level 2		
Stable value fund:					
Government	\$ 448,749	\$ —	\$ 448,749	\$ —	\$ 448,749
Mortgage-backed securities	218,525	—	218,525	—	218,525
Corporates	169,246	—	169,246	—	169,246
Asset-backed securities	91,287	—	91,287	—	91,287
Agencies	59,708	—	59,708	—	59,708
Sovereign debt	10,127	—	10,127	—	10,127
U.S. private placements	5,622	—	5,622	—	5,622
Short-term investments	—	—	—	59,852	59,852
Total stable value fund	1,003,264	—	1,003,264	59,852	1,063,116
Self-directed brokerage accounts	118,123	118,123	—	—	118,123
Collective investment funds:					
U.S. large company stock index fund	1,229,894	1,229,894	—	—	1,229,894
U.S. small/mid company index fund	421,944	421,944	—	—	421,944
U.S. bond index fund	374,316	374,316	—	666	374,982
International company stock index fund	210,204	210,204	—	—	210,204
Cash and temporary investments	—	—	—	5,932	5,932
Short term investment fund	—	—	—	66,815	66,815
Group annuity contract	—	—	—	1,081	1,081
Total	\$ 3,357,745	\$ 2,354,481	\$ 1,003,264	\$ 134,346	\$ 3,492,091

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Notes to Basic Financial Statements

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		2016 (\$ thousands)				
		Investments Measured at Fair Value				
		Fair value	Level 1	Level 2	Other	Total
Stable value fund:						
Government	\$	507,912	\$ —	\$ 507,912	\$ —	\$ 507,912
Mortgage-backed securities		225,942	—	225,942	—	225,942
Corporates		189,085	—	189,085	—	189,085
Asset-backed securities		131,470	—	131,470	—	131,470
Agencies		40,105	—	40,105	—	40,105
Sovereign debt		1,058	—	1,058	—	1,058
Short-term investments		—	—	—	10,866	10,866
Total stable value fund		1,095,572	—	1,095,572	10,866	1,106,438
Self-directed brokerage accounts		98,597	98,597	—	—	98,597
Collective investment funds:						
U.S. large company stock index fund		1,039,233	1,039,233	—	—	1,039,233
U.S. small/mid company stock index fund		356,408	356,408	—	—	356,408
U.S. bond index fund		332,218	332,218	—	300	332,518
International company stock index fund		155,533	155,533	—	—	155,533
Cash and temporary investments		—	—	—	5,610	5,610
Short term investment fund		—	—	—	67,093	67,093
Group annuity contract		—	—	—	1,247	1,247
Total	\$	<u>3,077,561</u>	<u>\$ 1,981,989</u>	<u>\$ 1,095,572</u>	<u>\$ 85,116</u>	<u>\$ 3,162,677</u>

**(c) Concentration of Credit, Custodial Credit, Credit, Interest Rate, and Foreign Currency Risk**

The 457 Plan cash and temporary investments, Short Term Investment Fund, Stable Value Fund, and U.S. Bond Index Fund are subject to various risks. Among these risks are: concentration of credit, custodial credit, credit, interest rate, and foreign currency risk. Each of these risks are discussed below.

Concentration of credit risk is the risk of loss attributed to the magnitude of investment in a single issuer. As of December 31, 2017 and 2016, the 457 Plan had no single issuer that exceeded 5% of total investments. Investments issued or explicitly guaranteed by the U.S. government and investments in mutual funds, external investment pools, and other pooled investments were excluded.

Custodial credit risk is the risk that, in the event of the failure of the counterparty to a transaction, the 457 Plan would be unable to recover the value of investment or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. In accordance with the contractual relationship between the Treasury Department and its custodial agent, where securities are used as evidence of the investment, these securities are held by the custodian in book-entry form. These securities are defined as insured or

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registered investments for which the securities are held by the agent in the 457 Plan's name, and therefore have a minimal level of custodial credit risk losses. All remaining investments do not have securities that are used as evidence of the investments.

Credit risk is the risk that an issuer or the counterparty to an investment will not fulfill its obligations. The credit risk of a debt instrument is measured by nationally recognized statistical rating agencies such as Moody's Investor Services (Moody's), S&P, and Fitch Ratings (Fitch). The 457 Plan manages the overall credit risk of the active bond account by requiring the manager to invest in accordance with the SERB approved Investment Strategy Statement (statement) specifically designed for the Stable Value Fund. The statement lists the primary goal of the fund to maintain safety of principal, while recognizing that liquidity is an important element due to participant market expectations and/or investment selection. A secondary goal of the statement is to provide the participants with a steady, long-term growth of principal. The manager is expected to exercise due care and diligence in making investment decisions.

The 457 Plan's proportionate share of the underlying investments of the U.S. Bond Index Fund, which is a collective investment fund, are included in the credit and interest rate risk tables below. The 457 Plan's interest in the U.S. Bond Index Fund was 14.3% representing \$374.3 million and 24.9% representing \$332.5 million at December 31, 2017 and 2016, respectively.

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For securities exposed to credit risk in the fixed income investments of the 457 Plan, the following tables disclose aggregate fair value, by the least favorable credit rating issued using Moody's, S&P, and Fitch credit ratings at December 31, 2017 and 2016:

Debt Securities Exposed to Credit Risk (2017)							
(\$ thousands)							
	AAA	AA	A	BAA	BA and below	Short-Term Investments <sup>1/</sup>	Total Exposed to Credit Risk <sup>2/</sup>
Mortgage-backed securities	\$ 5,677	\$ 274,648	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 280,325
Corporates	2,441	9,831	125,692	72,671	3,532	—	214,167
Short-term investments <sup>1/</sup>	—	—	—	—	—	133,264	133,264
Asset-backed securities	79,544	13,554	—	—	—	—	93,098
Agencies	279	61,915	554	283	18	—	63,049
Sovereign debt	8,362	1,967	2,891	4,515	—	—	17,735
U.S. private placements <sup>3/</sup>	—	—	5,403	—	—	—	5,403
Total	<u>\$ 96,303</u>	<u>\$ 361,915</u>	<u>\$ 134,540</u>	<u>\$ 77,469</u>	<u>\$ 3,550</u>	<u>\$ 133,264</u>	<u>\$ 807,041</u>

<sup>1/</sup> Represents investments in the PA Treasury Department's STIF and Short Term Investment fund. This comprises short-term, investment grade securities, which are mainly U.S. Treasuries, agencies, or repurchase agreements. It also comprises short term assets in the U.S. Bond Index Fund and Stable Value Fund from the Statements of Net Position Available for Benefits.

<sup>2/</sup> Debt securities exposed to credit risk and U.S. government guaranteed securities, as noted in the subsequent paragraph, comprises cash and temporary investments, the Short Term Investment Fund, the U.S. Bond Index Fund, and the Stable Value Fund from the Statements of Net Position Available for Benefits.

<sup>3/</sup> Private placements raise capital via offerings directly to qualified investors rather than through public offerings. Private placements do not have to register with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) if the securities are purchased for investment as opposed to resale. These private placements are corporate debt purchased pursuant to SEC Rule 144A and have registration rights with the SEC.

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Debt Securities Exposed to Credit Risk (2016)							
(\$ thousands)							
	AAA	AA	A	BAA	BA and below	Short-Term Investments <sup>1/</sup>	Total Exposed to Credit Risk <sup>2/</sup>
Mortgage-backed securities	\$ 4,464	\$ 227,012	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 231,476
Corporates	4,537	14,055	127,497	60,484	3,227	—	209,800
Asset-backed securities	116,868	16,167	—	—	—	—	133,035
Short-term investments <sup>1/</sup>	—	—	—	—	—	83,869	83,869
Agencies	262	49,226	1,361	261	31	—	51,141
Sovereign debt	7,808	1,099	2,296	3,490	—	—	14,693
Total	\$ 133,939	\$ 307,559	\$ 131,154	\$ 64,235	\$ 3,258	\$ 83,869	\$ 724,014

<sup>1/</sup> Represents investments in the PA Treasury Department's STIF and Short Term Investment fund. This comprises short-term, investment grade securities, which are mainly U.S. Treasuries, agencies, or repurchase agreements. It also comprises short-term assets in the U.S. Bond Index Fund and Stable Value Fund from the Statements of Net Position Available for Benefits.

<sup>2/</sup> Debt securities exposed to credit risk and U.S. government guaranteed securities, as noted in the subsequent paragraph, comprise cash and temporary investments, the Short-Term Investment Fund, the U.S. Bond Index Fund, and the Stable Value Fund from the Statements of Net Position Available for Benefits.

Obligations explicitly guaranteed by the U.S. government (treasuries and Government National Mortgage Association securities) with a fair value of \$704 million and \$788 million as of December 31, 2017 and 2016, respectively, are not included in the preceding tables because they are not considered to have credit risk.

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Interest rate risk is the risk that will adversely affect the fair value of an investment, should market interest rates rise or fall. Option-adjusted duration is the measure of the portfolio's exposure to changes in interest rates. The following table discloses the interest rate types and durations of the fixed income investments of the 457 Plan as of December 31, 2017 and 2016:

<b>Debt Option-Adjusted Durations</b>				
<b>(\$ thousands)</b>				
<b>2017</b>			<b>2016</b>	
	<b>Fair value</b>	<b>Option- adjusted duration</b>	<b>Fair value</b>	<b>Option- adjusted duration</b>
U.S. private placements <sup>1/</sup>	\$ 5,622	6.3	\$ —	—
Collective investment funds	374,316	6.0	332,218	5.9
Government	448,749	3.9	507,912	3.5
Mortgage-backed securities	218,525	3.6	225,942	4.7
Sovereign debt	10,127	2.6	1,058	—
Corporates	169,246	2.3	189,085	3.2
Agencies	59,708	1.1	40,105	0.1
Asset-backed securities	91,287	0.8	131,470	3.5
Short-term investments <sup>2/</sup>	133,264	0.1	83,869	—
Total <sup>3/</sup>	\$ 1,510,844		\$ 1,511,659	

<sup>1/</sup> Private placements raise capital via offerings directly to qualified investors rather than through public offerings. Private placements do not have to register with the SEC if the securities are purchased for investment as opposed to resale. These private placements are corporate debt purchased pursuant to SEC Rule 144A and have registration rights with the SEC.

<sup>2/</sup> Represents investments in the PA Treasury Department's STIF and Short Term Investment fund. This comprises short-term, investment grade securities, which are mainly U.S. Treasuries, agencies, or repurchase agreements, and also includes insignificant investments in cash, receivables, and payables. The investments are pooled together by utilization of the PA Treasury Department's STIF, and the 457 Plan recognizes its respective allocation.

<sup>3/</sup> Total fair values of the fixed income sector comprises cash and temporary investments, the Short Term Investment Fund, the U.S. Bond Index Fund, and the Stable Value Fund from the Statements of Net Position Available for Benefits.

The 457 Plan prohibits investments by the manager in the active bond portfolio in the following categories: real estate, Real Estate Investment Trust issues, mortgages (mortgage pass-throughs are exempt), secured term loans, oil and gas production properties, convertible or preferred stock, private placements (other than corporate debt purchased pursuant to SEC Rule 144A that has registration rights with the

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SEC), loaning of money or securities, hypothecating of any assets in the portfolio, interest and principal only strips, inverse floaters, and inverse interest-only securities.

Foreign currency risk is the risk that changes in the exchange rates will adversely affect the fair value of an investment. The International Company Stock Fund seeks to track more than 1,000 foreign stocks representing established companies in 21 countries located in Western Europe and the Pacific Rim. Since the International Company Stock Index Fund is a collective investment fund, the 457 Plan is indirectly exposed to foreign currency risk through those underlying securities.

**(5) Derivative Financial Instruments**

The 457 Plan, through investments in collective investment funds trustee by The Bank of New York Mellon (BNY Mellon) and managed by employees of MCM (in their capacities as dual officers of BNY Mellon), indirectly holds certain derivative financial instruments. A derivative is a risk-shifting agreement, the value of which is derived from the value of an underlying asset. The underlying asset could be a physical commodity, an interest rate, a company's stock, a stock index, a currency, or virtually any other tradable instrument upon which two parties can agree. The derivatives most commonly used by MCM include currency forwards, futures, options, and swaps. The 457 Plan's exposure to these instruments was not significant as of December 31, 2017 and 2016. The collective investment funds that the 457 Plan is invested in currently utilize the following derivative instruments:

- U.S. Large Company Stock Index Fund – stock index futures
- U.S. Small/Mid Company Stock Index Fund – stock index futures
- International Company Stock Index Fund – stock index futures, currency forwards

These instruments are used in the investment management of the collective funds to the extent that their use is consistent with the specific collective fund's objective. Derivatives are viewed within the context of the collective fund's total portfolio. MCM has instituted policies and procedures designed to ensure that derivative transactions are in keeping with the overall strategy and that such transactions are properly reviewed and monitored.

MCM may take long or short positions in derivative instruments for, but not limited to, the following purposes: to create or hedge required exposure; to create or hedge model-driven recommended exposure; as an adjustment to asset exposures within the parameters set in the collective fund's investment instructions and guidelines; to achieve transactional efficiency; to adjust the duration of a fixed income portfolio; if applicable, to achieve the appropriate degree of leverage, as stated in the collective fund's investment instructions and guidelines; and to facilitate meeting the collective fund's objectives.

As an advisor to these funds, MCM evaluates the risks associated with derivatives in these collective funds. SERS monitors the risks related to derivatives and monitors MCM's evaluation of risks by reviewing MCM financial statements, exposure reports, and holdings reports on an ongoing basis.

Some of the risks associated with the use of derivatives include the following:

**Market Risk:** Market risk represents the risk of adverse movements in markets (including asset prices, volatility, changes in yield curve, implied volatility, or other market variables) for the derivatives or the

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underlying assets, reference rate or index to which the derivative instrument relates. Such risk is created by holding any security, physical, or derivative, which creates exposure to movements in process of a security or market. Additionally, some derivatives involve economic leverage, which could increase the volatility of these investments as they may fluctuate in value more than the underlying instrument. MCM assesses the risk associated with derivatives in the context of the collective fund's total portfolio, taking into account the effective exposure of derivative instruments.

**Liquidity Risk:** Two types of liquidity risk are generally faced in derivative activities. The first is market liquidity risk, which applies to all investments. This is the risk that positions cannot easily be sold or unwound due to inadequate market depth or disruptions in the marketplace. The second is portfolio liquidity risk, which is the risk that there are insufficient funds in the portfolio to meet margin calls and other financial obligations resulting from derivative activities. MCM has established restrictions and processes to assist with minimizing the impact of liquidity risk on the collective fund's portfolio.

**Counterparty Risk:** Counterparty risk is the risk that a counterparty (the party with whom a derivative contract is made) will fail to perform contractual obligations under a contract. This is also sometimes referred to as credit risk. MCM has established guidelines and procedures designed to limit the impact of counterparty risk. The creditworthiness of counterparties is evaluated prior to approval and counterparty exposure and creditworthiness is reviewed regularly.

**Operational Risk:** Operational risk is the risk that deficiencies in the effectiveness and accuracy of the information systems or internal controls will result in a material loss. This risk is associated with human error, systems failures, inadequate procedures, and internal management controls. For example, there is risk that the valuation system incorrectly calculates a price for a derivative or its equivalent exposure.



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The 457 Plan offers participants the ability to invest in a Stable Value Fund, which is a Synthetic Guaranteed Investment Contract (SGIC). The SGIC provides a guaranteed crediting rate based on the underlying bond portfolio and is adjusted quarterly. For 2017, the annualized crediting rates were 2.057% for the first quarter, 2.141% for the second quarter, 2.207% for the third quarter, and 2.245% for the fourth quarter. For 2016, the annualized crediting rates were 2.356% for the first quarter, 2.394% for the second quarter, 2.272% for the third quarter, and 2.283% for the fourth quarter. The fair value of the SGIC at December 31, 2017 is \$1,063 million and the contract or book value is \$1,062 million. The fair value of the SGIC at December 31, 2016 is \$1,106 million and the contract or book value is \$1,098 million. The wrap contract is reported to have no value for the respective years shown in the table below because the fair value of the underlying investments, measured with Level 2 inputs as disclosed in note 4, was greater than the contract or book value, hence no exposure to the insurer. The following table discloses the fair value of the SGIC at December 31, 2017 and 2016:

<b>SGIC components</b>	<b>2017 Fair value (\$ thousands)</b>	<b>2016 Fair value (\$ thousands)</b>
Underlying investments	\$ 1,063,116	\$ 1,106,438
Wrap contract	—	—
Total	\$ 1,063,116	\$ 1,106,438

**(6) Securities Lending**

In accordance with a contract between the commonwealth's treasurer and its custodian, the 457 Plan participates in a securities lending program.

The custodian, acting as lending agent, is able to loan securities from the 457 Plan actively managed bond account for cash, securities, or letter of credit collateral. Collateral is required at 102% of the fair value of the securities. Collateral is marked-to-market daily. If the collateral falls below guidelines for the fair value of the securities loaned, additional collateral is obtained. Cash collateral is invested by the lending agent in accordance with investment guidelines approved by the SERB. The lending agent cannot pledge or sell securities collateral unless the borrower defaults.

As of December 31, 2017 and 2016, the 457 Plan's credit exposure to individual borrowers was limited because the amounts the 457 Plan owed the borrowers exceeded the amounts the borrowers owed the 457 Plan. The treasurer's contract with the lending agent requires the agent to indemnify the 457 Plan if the borrowers fail to return the underlying securities and the collateral is inadequate to replace the loaned securities or if the borrowers fail to pay income distributions on the loaned securities.

All loaned securities at December 31, 2017 and 2016 could be terminated on demand by either the lending agent or the borrower. Cash collateral is invested, together with the cash collateral on loaned securities of other commonwealth entities, in a short-term collective investment pool. The duration of the investments in the pool at December 31, 2017 was two days, and in 2016, it was one day. The relationship between the

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average maturities of the investment pool and the 457 Plan's loans is affected by the maturities of the loans made by other entities in the investment pool. In addition, the interest rate risk posed by mismatched maturities is affected by other program features, such as the lending agent's ability to reallocate loaned securities among all of its lending customers.

As of December 31, 2017 and 2016, the fair value of loaned securities was approximately \$21.1 million and \$1.96 million, respectively. The fair value of the associated collateral was approximately \$21.5 million and \$2.0 million, most of which was held as non-cash.

**(7) Tax Qualification Status**

According to the U.S. Treasury Department, the 457 Plan is an eligible deferred compensation plan pursuant to IRC Section 457(b). Therefore, compensation deferred under the 457 Plan, including income attributable to the deferred compensation, will be includible in gross income for the taxable year or years in which amounts are paid or otherwise made available to a participant or a participant's beneficiary in accordance with the terms of the 457 Plan.

The Small Business Jobs Act of 2010 includes a provision to allow those participating in 457(b) plans to do so through a Roth option. Those participants who use designated Roth accounts do not receive a deduction from their current income for a contribution to the plan, but their plan earnings and qualified withdrawals from the plan are tax-free. The SERB passed a motion in 2010 to allow the 457 Plan to implement a Roth 457(b) provision. The 457 Plan implemented the Roth option in 2012. In 2014, the SERB passed a motion to allow for in-plan Roth conversions while a participant is still actively employed by the commonwealth. This allows participants to convert their traditional pre-tax contributions to Roth contributions. The participant is responsible for paying the taxes on the converted funds with monies outside of the plan. This provision became effective starting in 2015.

**(8) Risks and Uncertainties**

The 457 Plan, as directed by participants, may invest in various types of investment securities. Investment securities are exposed to various risks, such as interest rate, market, and credit risk. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is possible that changes in the values of investment securities may occur in the near term and that such change could materially affect the amounts reported in the statements of net position available for benefits.

**(9) Related Parties**

Certain members of the SERB are participants in the 457 Plan.