

NDPERS GROUP INSURANCE ACCOUNT INVESTMENT OBJECTIVES AND POLICY GUIDELINES

1. FUND CHARACTERISTICS AND CONSTRAINTS.

The ND Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) Group Insurance Account (Fund) was established to hold insurance premiums collected from employers until paid to the insurance carrier.

2. RESPONSIBILITIES AND DISCRETION OF THE STATE INVESTMENT BOARD (SIB).

PERS has entered into a contract with the SIB for investment services as allowed under NDCC 21-10-06. It is the responsibility of PERS to establish policies on investment goals and asset allocation of the Funds. The SIB is charged with implementing these policies and asset allocation and investing the assets of the Funds in a manner consistent with the prudent investor rule as provided in NDCC 21-10-07.

At the discretion of the SIB, the Fund's assets may be pooled with other funds. In pooling funds, the SIB may establish whatever asset class pools it deems necessary with specific quality, diversification, restrictions, performance objectives appropriate to the prudent investor rule and objectives of the funds participating in the pools.

The SIB may delegate investment responsibility to professional money managers. Where a money manager has been retained, the SIB's role in determining investment strategy and security selection is supervisory, not advisory.

The SIB is responsible for establishing criteria and procedures and making decisions with respect to hiring, maintaining, and terminating money managers. This responsibility includes selecting performance measurement services, consultants and report formats and determining the frequency of meetings with managers.

The SIB will implement changes to this policy as promptly as is prudent.

3. INVESTMENT OBJECTIVES.

Premiums are collected throughout the month at PERS and will be forwarded to the Fund investment account on the 1st and 15th of each month. The premiums transferred into the investment account will be transferred back to PERS on approximately the 22nd of each month so they may be remitted to the insurance carrier. The investment objective of the Fund is to maximize the return on the deposits within the short-term time-frame involved.

4. STANDARDS OF INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE.

The Fund's investment objectives and liquidity constraints give rise to an asset allocation that is considered the most likely to achieve the results desired. For evaluation purposes, the following performance targets will apply:

- a. The Fund should produce a rate of return that meets or exceeds the portfolio policy index defined as the 90-day Treasury bill.
- b. The Fund annual standard deviation of total returns should not materially exceed that of the policy portfolio.

5. POLICY AND GUIDELINES.

The asset allocation of the Fund is established by PERS, with input from the SIB. Asset allocation is based upon the appraisal of projected liquidity and income requirements, and estimates of the investment returns likely to be achieved by the various asset classes over the next five years.

In recognition of these factors, the following allocation is deemed appropriate for the fund:

Cash Equivalents 100%

This cash will be held in an enhanced money market account at the Fund's custodian.

While the SIB is responsible for establishing specific quality, diversification, restrictions, and performance objectives for the investment vehicles in which the Fund's assets will be invested, it is understood that:

- a. Futures and options may be used to hedge or replicate underlying index exposure, but not for speculation.
- b. Derivatives use will be monitored to ensure that undue risks are not taken by managers.
- c. No transaction shall be made which threatens the tax exempt status of the Fund.
- d. All assets will be held in custody by the SIB's master custodian or such other custodians as are acceptable to the SIB.
- e. No unhedged short sales or speculative margin purchases shall be made.
- f. Social investing is prohibited unless it meets the Exclusive Benefit Rule and it can be substantiated that the investment must provide an equivalent or superior rate of return for a similar investment with a similar time horizon and similar risk.

For the purpose of this document, Social Investing is defined as *"The investment or commitment of public pension fund money for the purpose of obtaining an effect other than a maximized return to the intended beneficiaries."*

- g. Economically targeted investing is prohibited unless the investment meets the Exclusive Benefit Rule.

For the purpose of this document economically targeted investment is defined as an investment designed to produce a competitive rate of return commensurate with risk involved, as well as to create collateral economic benefits for a targeted geographic area, group of people, or sector of the economy.

Also, for the purpose of this document, the Exclusive Benefit Rule is met if the following four conditions are satisfied:

- (1) The cost does not exceed the fair market value at the time of investment.
- (2) The investment provides the Fund with an equivalent or superior rate of return for a similar investment with a similar time horizon and similar risk.
- (3) Sufficient liquidity is maintained in the Fund to permit distributions in accordance with the terms of the plan.
- (4) The safeguards and diversity that a prudent investor would adhere to are present.

Where investment characteristics, including yield, risk, and liquidity are equivalent, the Board's policy favors investments which will have a positive impact on the economy of North Dakota.

6. EVALUATION AND REVIEW.

Investment management of the Fund will be evaluated against the Fund's investment objectives and investment performance standards. Evaluation will be conducted quarterly by the SIB through its review of funds participating in the Insurance Trust.

Money managers will be evaluated by the SIB quarterly. In-state meetings will be held with the money managers at least annually.

Approved by:

NDPERS


J. Sparb Collins
Executive Director, NDPERS

STATE INVESTMENT BOARD


David Hunter
Executive Director/CIO, RIO

Date: 1/6/14

Date: 1/5/14

Approved by NDSIB 11-21-2014
Approved by NDPERS Board 10-23-2014
Reviewed by NDPERS Investment Subcommittee 8-23-2014