



Changes to GASB Pension Reporting to Impact Employers in 2015

Significant pension reporting changes are coming from the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB). These will affect employers participating in retirement plans administered by the Indiana Public Retirement System (INPRS). GASB Statement No. 68, Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions, was issued in June, 2012 and is effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2014. This statement is an amendment to GASB Statement No. 27, Accounting for Pensions by State and Local Governmental Employers and GASB Statement No. 50, Pension Disclosures.

The new standards in GASB Statement No. 68 set different methods for pension funding and financial reporting. Historically, there has been a close relationship between how governments fund pensions and how they account and report information. However, the new guidance makes a clear shift from a funding-based approach to an accounting-based approach. This shift was designed to improve pension information and increase the transparency, consistency, and comparability of pension information across governments.

For GAAP basis employers, GASB Statement No. 68 will have a significant impact on financial statements. It requires GAAP basis employers to report their net pension liability (unfunded liability) in the financial statements. Calculation of pension expense will change, and deferred outflows / inflows of resources related to pensions will also need to be reflected in the financials. There will be substantial financial statement note disclosures and additional required supplementary information related to employer's participation in retirement plans administered by INPRS.

GASB Statement No. 68 doesn't apply to non-GAAP basis employers. The Indiana State Board of Accounts (SBoA) will provide direction with what will be required to be included with your annual financial statements.

Employers are encouraged to begin preparations for these changes. You can do so by discussing possible implications of these changes with preparers of your financial statements. Also, because GAAP basis employers' financial statements will be required to show their proportionate share of net pension liability, if applicable you may want to review debt covenants for possible violations resulting from these accounting changes.

INPRS plans to provide individual employers with their required financial reporting information and is currently analyzing the proposed changes. In early 2014, the GASB plans to issue an Implementation Guide for GASB Statement No. 68. The Implementation Guide and or the Statement may be downloaded at no charge or purchased in a hard copy format at the GASB's website www.gasb.org. After the Implementation Guide has been issued, the INPRS and SBoA plan to have additional communications with you regarding the implementation of GASB Statement No. 68.

If you have any questions, please contact Dawn Anderson with the Indiana State Board of Accounts at danderson@sboa.in.gov or (317) 232-2513.