

**KENTUCKY PUBLIC PENSIONS AUTHORITY
POLICY AND PROCEDURES
REGARDING OPEN RECORDS REQUESTS
MADE IN ACCORDANCE WITH KENTUCKY REVISED STATUTES 61.870-61.884**

The Board of the Kentucky Public Pensions Authority (KPPA), in accordance with Kentucky Revised Statutes 61.876, hereby establishes the following policy and procedures regarding Open Records Requests made in accordance with Kentucky Revised Statutes 61.870- 61.884.

- (1) Kentucky Revised Statutes 61.876 provides that “(e)ach public agency shall adopt rules and regulations in conformity with the provisions of Kentucky Revised Statutes 61.870 to 61.884 to provide full access to public records, to protect public records from damage and disorganization, to prevent excessive disruption of its essential functions, to provide assistance and information upon request and to insure efficient and timely action in response to application for inspection.”
- (2) The policy of the KPPA is to provide broad access to all public records subject to the restrictions imposed by federal and state law. Kentucky Revised Statutes 61.878(1)(l) provides an exemption for public records or information the disclosure of which is prohibited or restricted or otherwise made confidential by enactment of the General Assembly. Kentucky Revised Statutes 61.661(1)(a) provides that “(e)ach current, former, or retired member's account shall be administered in a confidential manner and specific data regarding a current, former, or retired member shall not be released for publication.” In 13-ORD-008, the Kentucky Attorney General found that denying Open Records Requests for documents regarding individual members of the retirement systems is a proper denial pursuant to KRS 61.878(1)(l). The decision states “...Retirement properly denied [the] request on the basis of [Kentucky Revised Statutes] 61.661(1), incorporated into the Open Records Act by operation of [Kentucky Revised Statutes] 61.878(1)(l).”

The KPPA shall not release any information regarding a current, former, or retired member without express written authorization or PIN number from the member or a court order or subpoena from a court of competent jurisdiction, except when the request asks for certain information relating to members or retired members who are current or former officeholders in the Kentucky General Assembly as provided in Kentucky Revised Statutes 61.661(a)(3)(a), in which case KPPA shall provide the requested information as mandated by statute.

Additionally, KRS 61.645(20) and KRS 78.782(19) provide that the Systems shall not be required to furnish information which, if disclosed, would compromise the Systems’ ability to competitively invest in real estate or other asset classes.

- (3) Procedures for Accessing Public Records from the KPPA:
 - A. The Kentucky Retirement Systems and the County Employees Retirement System (“Systems”) shall both designate a custodian of records according to each Systems' respective bylaws.

- B. All Open Records Requests received by the KPPA shall be forwarded to the Office of Legal Services, Non-Advocacy Division, which shall be responsible for responding to all such requests.
- C. Requests for Open Records must be made in writing and be in sufficient detail to allow the KPPA to identify the records requested for review.
- D. Requests may be submitted to the KPPA by:
 - (i) Hand delivery at the retirement office;
 - (ii) U.S. Mail;
 - (iii) Electronic mail at openrecords@kyret.ky.gov; or
 - (iv) Fax to (502) 696-8615.
- E. Requests for Open Records submitted by U.S. Mail should be addressed to:

Executive Director or designee
Kentucky Public Pensions Authority
1260 Louisville Road
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601
- F. Public records may be reviewed in person at the offices of the KPPA at 1270 Louisville Road, Frankfort, Kentucky during normal business hours, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., with the exception of state holidays, or when closed to the public during a State of Emergency as declared by the Governor of Kentucky. The respective custodian of records or the Office of Legal Services, Non-Advocacy Division will designate a KPPA employee to monitor any in person inspection.
- G. The KPPA will respond to all requests under Open Records as provided in Kentucky Revised Statutes 61.870-61.884. Under Kentucky Revised Statutes 61.880(1) and 61.872(5), responses to Open Records Requests are to be provided within five (5) business days unless more time is needed. If more time is needed, the KPPA will send notice of such which explains the circumstances for any delay. This timeline may also be suspended or extended by Order of the Governor of Kentucky.
- H. If the KPPA deems any responsive records exempt under Kentucky Revised Statutes 61.878, it shall so state the relevant exemptions in its response. If the KPPA deems any sections of the responsive records as needing redaction, it shall state the reasons for each such redaction.
- I. For responsive records in an electronic format sent by attachment via secure email, the KPPA will impose no charge for the production of the records, unless costs were incurred according to sections K and L of this policy. In order to ensure compliance with the provisions of Kentucky Revised Statutes 61.661, which mandates that Members' retirement accounts be administered confidentially, the

KPPA will convert all records in an electronic format to a non-editable electronic format (e.g., portable document format, or PDF) and otherwise remove any metadata prior to the production of responsive records. For responsive records in an electronic format that are too large to be sent by email, the KPPA will transfer the records to another electronic medium, such as a thumb drive, and will send the records by U.S. Mail. Prior to mailing, the KPPA shall provide an invoice to the requestor indicating the costs for production of the records on the electronic medium and postage. Upon receipt of payment, the KPPA will mail the responsive records.

- J. The KPPA may charge ten (10) cents per page for copies of records plus postage, if the requester wants the copies sent by U. S. Mail. Upon a request for copies to be mailed, the KPPA shall provide an invoice to the requester consisting of the costs of production and postage. Copies of nonwritten records (photographs, maps, material stored in computer files or libraries, etc.) shall be furnished on request, on payment of a charge equal to the actual cost of producing copies of such records by the most economic process not likely to damage or alter the record pursuant to Kentucky Revised Statutes 61.874(1). Estimated costs for the production of copies shall be communicated to the requester prior to incurring the costs. Upon written agreement by the requestor to the pay the estimated amount, the KPPA will commence production of any copies and communicate the final cost to the requester by invoice. Upon the payment of the invoice, the KPPA shall produce the responsive records to the requester.
- K. The KPPA may recover actual costs and staff costs to produce records when the request specifies production of the records in a non-standardized format or tailoring the format to meet the request of an individual or a group pursuant to Kentucky Revised Statutes 61.874(3). Any such costs shall be identified on an invoice. The decision to produce records in a non-standardized format or tailored to fit the needs of the requester is solely at the discretion of the KPPA.
- L. The KPPA may further charge an additional fee to produce copies of records requested for a commercial purpose pursuant to Kentucky Revised Statutes 61.874(4), including the cost of staff time required to produce the records, the cost of mechanical processing, and the cost of electronic media (e.g., a thumb drive, CD, etc.). Any such costs shall be identified on an invoice. The KPPA may require a requester to verify whether their request is for a commercial purpose as defined in Kentucky Revised Statutes 61.870.

Signed: *Jerry W. Powell*
Chair
Kentucky Public Pensions Authority

Date: 07/10/2024

Signed: *Ryan Barrow*
Executive Director
Kentucky Public Pensions Authority

Date: 07.11.24