

RISE Delaware™ Update: SEBC Report by Senator Karen Peterson (retired)

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The SEBC has been very busy between our first meeting of the year on February 21st to our third meeting on March 21st. It was like being thrown into the deep end of a pool. With nine new members of the SEBC, most of us were scurrying to understand the lengthy reports produced by the State's consultant, Willis Towers Watson (WTW), and to grasp the various Requests for Proposals that seemed to be flying by us. Those of you who served as SEBC Observers for the past few years know what I'm talking about!

Here are some of the highlights of the first three meetings (in no particular order)

Healthcare and Rx Premiums

On March 21st, the SEBC voted to increase healthcare and Rx premiums by 4.2% in FY26.

I objected to the increase for Medicare retirees because we are already paying 13.6% more in premiums than what the State pays for our healthcare. In addition, Medicare retirees generated a \$26.2 million surplus this year, so there is no reason to increase our premiums. I proposed that the State reduce Medicare retirees' premiums by 13.6% instead of increasing them by 4.2%. A majority of the SEBC members did not agree and voted to raise everyone's premiums by 4.2%. Therefore, the premiums (for healthcare and Rx together) will increase from \$612 to \$638 a month.

EyeMed Vision Plan Enhancements

The SEBC voted to enhance the EyeMed vision plans for FY26. The enhancements are specific to the premiums for tier 4 progressive lenses and tier 3 anti-reflective lens coating.

Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM) Request for Proposal (RFP)

The SEBC is continuing discussions about our pharmacy plan and will have a finalized RFP by the meeting in May. In an effort to reduce the costs of our prescription drugs, Bill Oberle and I have proposed switching to a "reverse auction" model, wherein qualified bidders would compete in a live auction for the State's contract. This has worked very well in some other states, saving millions of dollars in prescription drug costs. The SEBC expressed interest in pursuing this.

Accident and Critical Illness Insurance

The SEBC voted to change the coverage for the health and wellness benefit for the Accident and Critical Illness Insurance. The change will allow the plan to cover each dependent child covered as of July 1, 2025 (instead of only one dependent child).

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RISE Delaware: Retirees Investing in Social Equity Delaware

P.O. Box 7262

Newark, DE, 19714

United States

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Elisa Diller, President

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