BUSINESS & FACILITIES UPDATE

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CalPERS Raises Pensionable Compensation Caps for 2018.

CalPERS has updated its pensionable compensation limits for Classic and Public Employees' Pension Reform Act (PEPRA) members for 2018.

The compensation limit for classic members for the 2018 calendar year is \$275,000; raised from \$270,000 in 2017. The compensation limit for new members for the 2018 calendar year is \$121,388 for Social Security Participants and \$145,666 for Non-Social Security Participants. In 2017, the compensation limits for new members was \$118,775 for Social Security Participants and \$142,530 for Non-Social Security participants. Employees with membership dates prior to July 1, 1996 are not impacted by these limits.

These new caps limit the amount of compensation taken into account under a defined benefit retirement plan. When a classic or new member reaches the applicable compensation cap, the public employer is not required to pay retirement contributions on additional compensation earned by the employee above the cap. Thus, for a classic member who earns \$280,000, in 2018, an employer is not obligated to pay retirement contributions on the \$5,000 earned after the \$275,000 cap is reached. Similarly, the employee will not pay retirement contributions on compensation earned above the cap.

Public employers must continue to monitor whether an employee meets or exceeds the 2018 caps and must notify employees when the cap is reached. Employers must also continue to report an employee's compensation earned to CalPERS, even if the compensation exceeds the applicable cap.

Note:

Employers should notify all classic or PEPRA members who are subject to the compensation limit requirements of the changes to the CalPERS caps on earnable compensation.

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