



STATE OF WISCONSIN
Department of Employee Trust Funds
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 SECRETARY

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Correspondence Memorandum

Date: February 25, 2020

To: Employee Trust Funds Board
 Teachers Retirement Board
 Wisconsin Retirement Board

From: Kim Esselman, Appeals Coordinator
 Office of the Secretary

Subject: Pending Appeals Annual Report 2019

This memo is for informational purposes only. No Board action is necessary.

During calendar year 2019, 15 new appeals were filed; 7 final decisions were issued; and 30 appeals were withdrawn. As of December 31, 2019, there were 55 pending appeals between the Employee Trust Funds (ETF) Board, Group Insurance Board (GIB) and Wisconsin Retirement (WR) Board.

PENDING APPEALS BY BOARD				
ETF	GIB	WR	TR	DC
34	8	13	0	0

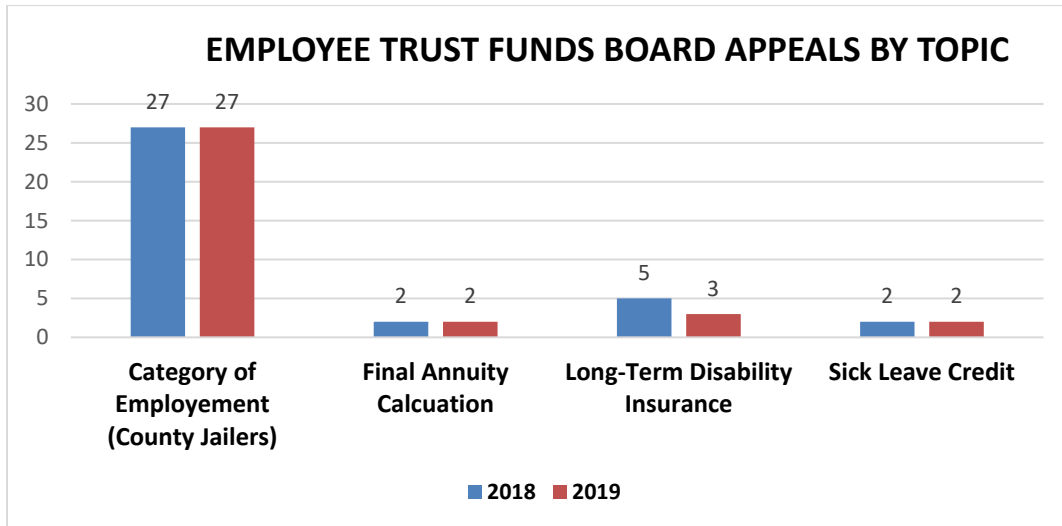
The ETF Board has the authority to accept timely appeals from determinations made by the department, other than appeals of determinations made by the department regarding disability annuities under Wis. Stat § 40.03(1)(j). That means a variety of different types of cases come to the Board. The next table lists all the active appeals which include the 27 remaining jailer appeals, two member appeals of their final retirement annuity calculations, two sick leave credit appeals, and three Long-Term Disability Insurance (LTDI) appeals.

Authority for hearing LTDI appeals was transferred to the ETF Board on January 1, 2018. Since the LTDI program is closed to new applicants, future LTDI appeals would be limited to issues raised by members already receiving the benefit. One example would be an appeal based on the termination of an LTDI benefit.

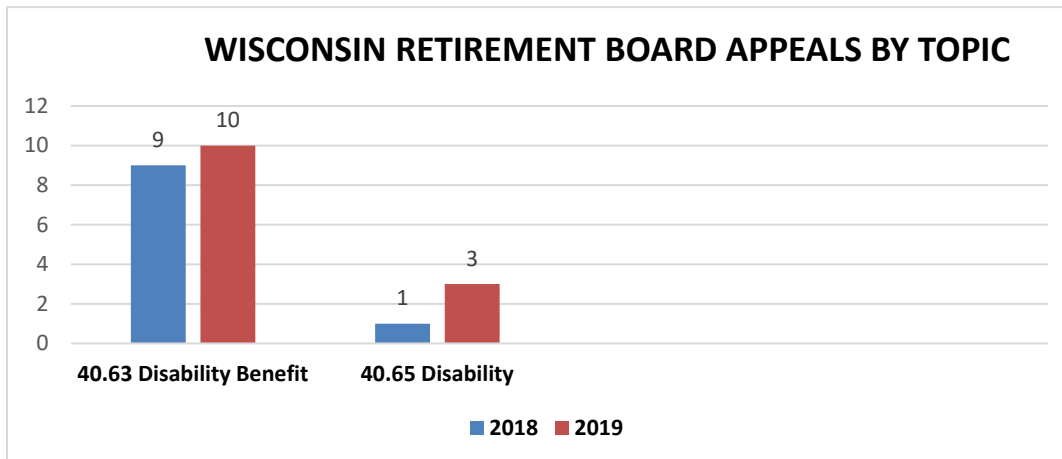
Reviewed and approved by Pamela Henning, Assistant Deputy Secretary

Pamela Henning Electronically Signed 3/6/20

Board	Mtg Date	Item #
ETF	3.26.20	60



The WR Board has the authority to accept timely appeals of determinations made by the Department regarding disability annuities for participants other than teachers under Wis. Stat. § 40.03(8)(f). In addition, duty disability determinations made by the Department, such as calculations of the benefit amount, are subject to appeal to the WR Board as provided for under Wis. Admin. Code § ETF 52.28(1)¹. The increase in disability annuity (40.63) appeals relates to the closing of the LTDI to new claims and re-opening of the 40.63 to all eligible employees.



The Teachers Retirement (TR) Board has the authority to accept timely appeals of determinations made by the Department regarding disability annuities for teacher participants under Wis. Stat. § 40.03(7)(f). There are no active appeals for the Teachers Retirement Board.

Staff will be available at the meeting to answer any questions.

¹ Determinations made by the Department of Employee Trust Funds as to an applicant's eligibility for duty disability benefits may be appealed to the Department of Workforce Development. Wis. Admin. Code § ETF 52.28(2).