

STATE OF WISCONSIN Department of Employee Trust Funds

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Correspondence Memorandum

Date: February 29, 2024

To: Employee Trust Funds Board

From: Jim Guidry, Benefit Services Bureau Director Division of Benefits Administration

Subject: 2023 Disability Statistical Report

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

Attached for your review is the 2023 Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) Disability Statistical Report. The report provides information on disability annuity and duty disability activity for 2023 and a comprehensive view of the disability annuity, duty disability, Long Term Disability Insurance (LTDI), and Income Continuation Insurance (ICI) programs. We have provided information for calendar year 2023 and comparisons to previous years.

The number of disability annuity applications appears to have plateaued after the reopening of the 40.63 program and some volatility during the pandemic. In addition, the volume of duty disability claims, which take more time to process and complete, is showing a continued decrease from its 2020 level.

On November 16, 2022, the Group Insurance Board (GIB) approved changes to the ICI program. The primary change increased ICI standard plan coverage from \$64,000 of annual income to \$120,000 and eliminated supplemental coverage. ETF implemented those changes effective January 1, 2024.

On February 21, 2024, the GIB approved changes to the State ICI Plan that modify the state effective date of the annual ICI premium rate adjustments to align with the local effective date and to support the Insurance Administration System project. The new ICI state premium rate effective date is now April 1 of each year.

We appreciate any feedback or suggestions that you may offer for future inclusion in this report. Please contact Jim Guidry at (608) 266-5387 or <u>jim.guidry@etf.wi.gov</u> if you have comments or questions.

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

Attachment A: 2023 Disability Statistical Report