



Board of Administration

Agenda Item 9a15

November 20, 2019

Item Name: Proposed Decision – In the Matter of the Employer Originated Application for Disability Retirement of TERRI L. SENERIS, Respondent, and DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES, Respondent.

Program: Disability and Survivor Benefits Division

Item Type: Action

Parties' Positions

Staff argues that the Board of Administration should adopt the Proposed Decision, as modified.

Respondent Terri L. Seneris' (Respondent Seneris) position is included in Attachment C, if any.

Respondent Department of Motor Vehicles' (Respondent DMV) position is included in Attachment C, if any.

The Proposed Decision and argument(s) are not made public due to the sensitive nature of their content. All materials are provided to the Board of Administration for its consideration.

Strategic Plan

This item is not a specific product of either the Strategic or Annual Plans. The determination of administrative appeals is a power reserved to the Board of Administration.

Procedural Summary

Respondent DMV submitted an employer originated application for disability retirement on Respondent Seneris' behalf. Respondent Seneris submitted an application for disability retirement claiming no disability. CalPERS approved Respondent DMV's application. Respondent Seneris appealed this determination and the matter was heard by the Office of Administrative Hearings on August 13, 2019. Due to Respondents Seneris and DMV's failure to appear, the case proceeded as a default under Government Code section 11520. A Proposed Decision was issued on September 10, 2019, affirming CalPERS' determination and denying Respondent Seneris' appeal.

Alternatives

- A. For use if the Board decides to modify and adopt the Proposed Decision as its own Decision:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Administration of the California Public Employees' Retirement System, pursuant to Government Code section 11517 (c)(2)(C) which authorizes the Board to "make technical or other minor changes in the proposed decision," hereby modifies the Proposed Decision, by replacing the definition for Government Code section 20026 on page 12, paragraph 2, from ". . . mean disability of permanent or extended and uncertain duration, as determined by the board . . . on the basis of competent medical opinion" to ". . . mean disability of permanent or extended duration, which is expected to last at least 12 consecutive months or will result in death, as determined by the board, or in the case of a local safety member by the governing body of the contracting agency employing the member, on the basis of competent medical opinion" and by replacing the date on page 2, paragraph 1, line 4, from "June 29, 2018" to "June 12, 2018" of the Proposed Decision, and hereby adopts as its own Decision the Proposed Decision dated September 10, 2019, as modified, concerning the appeal of Terri L. Seneris; RESOLVED FURTHER that this Board Decision shall be effective 30 days following mailing of the Decision.

- B. For use if the Board decides to adopt the Proposed Decision as its own Decision:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Administration of the California Public Employees' Retirement System hereby adopts as its own Decision the Proposed Decision dated September 10, 2019, concerning the appeal of Terri L. Seneris; RESOLVED FURTHER that this Board Decision shall be effective 30 days following mailing of the Decision.

- C. For use if the Board decides not to adopt the Proposed Decision, and to decide the case upon the record:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Administration of the California Public Employees' Retirement System, after consideration of the Proposed Decision dated September 10, 2019, concerning the appeal of Terri L. Seneris, hereby rejects the Proposed Decision and determines to decide the matter itself, based upon the record produced before the Administrative Law Judge and such additional evidence and arguments that are presented by the parties and accepted by the Board; RESOLVED FURTHER that the Board's Decision shall be made after notice is given to all parties.

- D. For use if the Board decides to remand the matter back to the Office of Administrative Hearings for the taking of further evidence:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Administration of the California Public Employees' Retirement System, after consideration of the Proposed Decision dated September 10, 2019, concerning the appeal of Terri L. Seneris, hereby rejects the Proposed Decision and refers the matter back to the Administrative Law Judge for the taking of additional evidence as specified by the Board at its meeting.

E. Precedential Nature of Decision (two alternatives; either may be used):

1. For use if the Board wants further argument on the issue of whether to designate its Decision as precedential:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Administration of the California Public Employees' Retirement System requests the parties in the matter concerning the appeal of Terri L. Seneris, as well as interested parties, to submit written argument regarding whether the Board's Decision in this matter should be designated as precedential, and that the Board will consider the issue whether to designate its Decision as precedential at a time to be determined.

2. For use if the Board decides to designate its Decision as precedential, without further argument from the parties.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Administration of the California Public Employees' Retirement System, hereby designates as precedential its Decision concerning the appeal of Terri L. Seneris.

Budget and Fiscal Impacts: Not applicable

Attachments

Attachment A: Proposed Decision

Attachment B: Staff's Argument

Attachment C: Respondent(s) Argument(s)

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