Board of Administration

Agenda Item 9a1

March 18, 2020

Item Name: Proposed Decision – In the Matter of the Appeal of Accepting the Late Application for Industrial Disability Retirement of RONALD ARCHULETA, Respondent, and WASCO STATE PRISON, CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND REHABILITATION, Respondent.

Program: Disability and Survivor Benefits Division

Item Type: Action

Parties' Positions

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

Respondent Ronald Archuleta's (Respondent Archuleta) position is included in Attachment C, if any.

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

In June 2014, Respondent Archuleta filed a Service pending Disability Retirement Application with CalPERS. He retired for service in July 2014 and has been receiving service retirement ever since. After sending numerous requests to complete his disability application, CalPERS canceled his application in August 2014 due to Respondent Archuleta's failure to submit required information to support his application. It was not until October 2018, that Respondent Archuleta submitted more documentation to CalPERS supporting his disability application. CalPERS rejected the 2018 request on the basis that it was late and did not meet the criteria for corrections under Government Code section 20160. Respondent Archuleta submitted an appeal challenging the determination for his late Industrial Disability Retirement application. The matter was heard by the Office of Administrative Hearings on December 17, 2019. Due to Respondent California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's failure to appear, the case proceeded to default under Government Code section 11520 as to that party only. A Proposed Decision was issued on January 14, 2020, affirming CalPERS' determination to reject the late application and denying the appeal.

Alternatives

A. 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 January 14, 2020, concerning the appeal of Ronald Archuleta; RESOLVED FURTHER that this Board Decision shall be effective 30 days following mailing of the Decision.

B. 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 January 14, 2020, concerning the appeal of Ronald Archuleta, 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.

C. 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 January 14, 2020, concerning the appeal of Ronald Archuleta, 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.

D. 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 Ronald Archuleta, 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 Ronald Archuleta.

Budget and Fiscal Impacts: Not applicable

Attachments

Attachment A: Proposed Decision

Attachment B: Staff's Argument

Attachment C: Respondent(s) Argument(s)

Anthony Suine
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Customer Services and Support