



Board of Administration

Agenda Item 9a2

September 16, 2020

Item Name: Corrected Proposed Decision – In the Matter of the Application for Disability Retirement of TAWANNA R. MCFARLAND, Respondent, and CALIFORNIA STATE PRISON - SOLANO, 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 Corrected Proposed Decision, as modified.

Respondent Tawanna R. McFarland's (Respondent McFarland) position is included in Attachment C, if any.

Respondent California State Prison - Solano, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's (Respondent CDCR) 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

Respondent McFarland submitted an application for disability retirement based on orthopedic (left & right knee, lower back) conditions. CalPERS denied the application. Respondent McFarland appealed this determination and the matter was heard by the Office of Administrative Hearings on June 18, 2020. A Corrected Proposed Decision was issued on July 27, 2020, affirming CalPERS' determination and denying the 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 Corrected Proposed Decision, by replacing, “disability of permanent or extended and uncertain duration” to “disability of permanent or extended duration, which is expected to last at least 12 consecutive months or will result in death” on page eight, paragraph four of the Corrected Proposed Decision, and hereby adopts as its own Decision the Corrected Proposed Decision dated July 27, 2020, as modified, concerning the appeal of Tawanna R. McFarland; 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 Corrected 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 Corrected Proposed Decision dated July 27, 2020, concerning the appeal of Tawanna R. McFarland; 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 Corrected 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 Corrected Proposed Decision dated July 27, 2020, concerning the appeal of Tawanna R. McFarland, hereby rejects the Corrected 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 Corrected Proposed Decision dated July 27 2020, concerning the appeal of Tawanna R. McFarland, hereby rejects the Corrected 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 Tawanna R. McFarland, 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 Tawanna R. McFarland.

Budget and Fiscal Impacts: Not applicable

Attachments

Attachment A: Corrected Proposed Decision

Attachment B: Staff's Argument

Attachment C: Respondent(s) Argument(s)

Anthony Suine
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Customer Services and Support