



## STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

POST OFFICE BOX 27685

RALEIGH, NC 27611

PHONE: 919-814-3600

### Via Email

May 1, 2024

The Honorable Roy A. Cooper III  
Governor of North Carolina  
20301 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-0301

**Re: Evaluation of Statement of Economic Interest Filed by Mr. Benjamin Bobzien  
Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System Board of Trustees**

Dear Governor Cooper:

Our office has received **Mr. Benjamin Bobzien's** 2024 Statement of Economic Interest as a prospective appointee to the **Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System Board of Trustees (the "Board")**. We have reviewed it for actual and potential conflicts of interest pursuant to Chapter 138A of the North Carolina General Statutes ("N.C.G.S."), also known as the State Government Ethics Act (the "Act").

Compliance with the Act and avoidance of conflicts of interest in the performance of public duties are the responsibilities of every covered person, regardless of this letter's contents. This letter, meanwhile, is not meant to impugn the integrity of the covered person in any way. This letter is required by N.C.G.S. § 138A-28(a) and is designed to educate the covered person as to potential issues that could merit particular attention. Advice on compliance with the Act is available to certain public servants and legislative employees under N.C.G.S. § 138A-13.

**We did not find an actual conflict of interest but found the potential for a conflict of interest. The potential conflict identified does not prohibit service on this entity.**

The Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System Board of Trustees ("LGERS") is responsible for the administration of retirement allowances and other benefits for employees of counties, cities and towns or other eligible employers participating in the System. The Board serves as trustee for LGERS funds, while the State Treasurer serves as custodian and makes investments of such funds.

The Act establishes ethical standards for certain public servants and prohibits public servants from: (1) using their positions for their financial benefit or for the benefit of their extended family or business, N.C.G.S. § 138A-31; and (2) participating in official actions from which they or certain associated persons might receive a reasonably foreseeable financial benefit, N.C.G.S. § 138A-36(a). The Act also requires public servants to take appropriate steps to remove themselves from proceedings in which their impartiality might reasonably be questioned due to a familial, personal, or financial relationship with a participant in those proceedings. N.C.G.S. § 138A-36(c).

Mr. Bobzien would fill the role of an active, or retired, member of the Firemen's and Rescue Squad Pension. He is the Fire Captain for the New Hanover County Fire Rescue. In addition, he serves as a board member of the Professional Firefighters and Paramedics of North Carolina. Because he is a potential beneficiary participant of the system he has the potential for a conflict of interest. Accordingly, Mr. Bobzien should exercise appropriate caution in the performance of his public duties should issues affecting his potential benefits under the system come before the Board for official action.

In addition to the conflicts standards noted above, the Act prohibits public servants from accepting gifts from (1) a lobbyist or lobbyist principal, (2) a person or entity that is seeking to do business with the public servant's agency, is regulated or controlled by that agency, or has financial interests that might be affected by their official actions, or (3) anyone in return for being influenced in the discharge of their official responsibilities. N.C.G.S. § 138A-32. Exceptions to the gifts restrictions are set out in N.C.G.S. § 138A-32(e).

When this letter cites an actual or potential conflict of interest under N.C.G.S. § 138A-24(e), the conflict must be recorded in the minutes of the applicable board and brought to the membership's attention by the board's chair as often as necessary to remind all members of the conflict and to help ensure compliance with the Act. N.C.G.S. § 138A-15(c).

Finally, the Act mandates that all public servants attend an ethics and lobbying education presentation. N.C.G.S. § 138A-14. Please review the attached document for additional information concerning this requirement.

Please contact our office if you have any questions concerning our evaluation or the ethical standards governing public servants under the Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Roerden".

Mary Roerden, SEI Unit  
State Ethics Commission

cc: Benjamin Bobzien  
Attachment: Ethics Education Guide



## STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

POST OFFICE BOX 27685

RALEIGH, NC 27611

PHONE: 919-814-3600

### Via Email

May 10, 2024

The Honorable Roy A. Cooper III  
Governor of North Carolina  
20301 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-0301

**Re: Evaluation of Statement of Economic Interest Filed by Mr. Matthew M. Calabria  
Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System Board of Trustees**

Dear Governor Cooper:

Our office has received **Mr. Matthew M. Calabria's** 2024 Statement of Economic Interest as a prospective appointee to the **Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System Board of Trustees (the "Board")**. We have reviewed it for actual and potential conflicts of interest pursuant to Chapter 138A of the North Carolina General Statutes ("N.C.G.S."), also known as the State Government Ethics Act (the "Act").

Compliance with the Act and avoidance of conflicts of interest in the performance of public duties are the responsibilities of every covered person, regardless of this letter's contents. This letter, meanwhile, is not meant to impugn the integrity of the covered person in any way. This letter is required by N.C.G.S. § 138A-28(a) and is designed to educate the covered person as to potential issues that could merit particular attention. Advice on compliance with the Act is available to certain public servants and legislative employees under N.C.G.S. § 138A-13.

**We did not find an actual conflict of interest but found the potential for a conflict of interest. The potential conflict identified does not prohibit service on this entity.**

The Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System Board of Trustees ("LGERS") is responsible for the administration of retirement allowances and other benefits for employees of counties, cities and towns or other eligible employers participating in the System. The Board serves as trustee for LGERS funds, while the State Treasurer serves as custodian and makes investments of such funds.

The Act establishes ethical standards for certain public servants and prohibits public servants from: (1) using their positions for their financial benefit or for the benefit of their extended family or business, N.C.G.S. § 138A-31; and (2) participating in official actions from which they or certain associated persons might receive a reasonably foreseeable financial benefit, N.C.G.S. § 138A-36(a). The Act also requires public servants to take appropriate steps to remove themselves from proceedings in which their impartiality might reasonably be questioned due to a familial, personal, or financial relationship with a participant in those proceedings. N.C.G.S. § 138A-36(c).

Mr. Calabria would fill the role of a county commissioner who is a participant in the Retirement System. He is a Wake County Commissioner and an of counsel attorney employed by the law firm of Wallace & Nordan LLP. Because he would serve on the board that oversees retirement allowances and benefits for counties, he has the potential for a conflict of interest. Accordingly, Mr. Calabria should exercise appropriate caution in the performance of his public duties should issues involving his benefits, Wake County, or the business of the law firm of Wallace & Nordan LLP come before the Board for official action.

In addition to the conflicts standards noted above, the Act prohibits public servants from accepting gifts from (1) a lobbyist or lobbyist principal, (2) a person or entity that is seeking to do business with the public servant's agency, is regulated or controlled by that agency, or has financial interests that might be affected by their official actions, or (3) anyone in return for being influenced in the discharge of their official responsibilities. N.C.G.S. § 138A-32. Exceptions to the gifts restrictions are set out in N.C.G.S. § 138A-32(e).

When this letter cites an actual or potential conflict of interest under N.C.G.S. § 138A-24(e), the conflict must be recorded in the minutes of the applicable board and brought to the membership's attention by the board's chair as often as necessary to remind all members of the conflict and to help ensure compliance with the Act. N.C.G.S. § 138A-15(c).

Finally, the Act mandates that all public servants attend an ethics and lobbying education presentation. N.C.G.S. § 138A-14. Please review the attached document for additional information concerning this requirement.

Please contact our office if you have any questions concerning our evaluation or the ethical standards governing public servants under the Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Roerden".

Mary Roerden, SEI Unit  
State Ethics Commission

cc: Matthew M. Calabria  
Attachment: Ethics Education Guide



## STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

POST OFFICE BOX 27685

RALEIGH, NC 27611

PHONE: 919-814-3600

### Via Email

April 26, 2024

The Honorable Roy A. Cooper III  
Governor of North Carolina  
20301 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-0301

**Re: Evaluation of Statement of Economic Interest Filed by Ms. Avril Pinder  
Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System Board of Trustees**

Dear Governor Cooper:

Our office has received **Ms. Avril Pinder's** 2024 Statement of Economic Interest as a prospective appointee to the **Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System Board of Trustees (the "Board")**. We have reviewed it for actual and potential conflicts of interest pursuant to Chapter 138A of the North Carolina General Statutes ("N.C.G.S."), also known as the State Government Ethics Act (the "Act").

Compliance with the Act and avoidance of conflicts of interest in the performance of public duties are the responsibilities of every covered person, regardless of this letter's contents. This letter, meanwhile, is not meant to impugn the integrity of the covered person in any way. This letter is required by N.C.G.S. § 138A-28(a) and is designed to educate the covered person as to potential issues that could merit particular attention. Advice on compliance with the Act is available to certain public servants and legislative employees under N.C.G.S. § 138A-13.

**We did not find an actual conflict of interest but found the potential for a conflict of interest. The potential conflict identified does not prohibit service on this entity.**

The Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System Board of Trustees ("LGERS") is responsible for the administration of retirement allowances and other benefits for employees of counties, cities and towns or other eligible employers participating in the System. The Board serves as trustee for LGERS funds, while the State Treasurer serves as custodian and makes investments of such funds.

The Act establishes ethical standards for certain public servants and prohibits public servants from: (1) using their positions for their financial benefit or for the benefit of their extended family or business, N.C.G.S. § 138A-31; and (2) participating in official actions from which they or certain associated persons might receive a reasonably foreseeable financial benefit, N.C.G.S. § 138A-36(a). The Act also requires public servants to take appropriate steps to remove themselves from proceedings in which their impartiality might reasonably be questioned due to a familial, personal, or financial relationship with a participant in those proceedings. N.C.G.S. § 138A-36(c).

Ms. Pinder would fill the role of a county manager of a town that participates in the retirement system. Because she is the Buncombe County Manager and a potential beneficiary of the Retirement System, she has the potential for a conflict of interest. Accordingly, Ms. Pinder should exercise appropriate caution in the performance of his public duties should issues involving Buncombe County, its employees, or her own benefits, come before the Board for official action.

In addition to the conflicts standards noted above, the Act prohibits public servants from accepting gifts from (1) a lobbyist or lobbyist principal, (2) a person or entity that is seeking to do business with the public servant's agency, is regulated or controlled by that agency, or has financial interests that might be affected by their official actions, or (3) anyone in return for being influenced in the discharge of their official responsibilities. N.C.G.S. § 138A-32. Exceptions to the gifts restrictions are set out in N.C.G.S. § 138A-32(e).

When this letter cites an actual or potential conflict of interest under N.C.G.S. § 138A-24(e), the conflict must be recorded in the minutes of the applicable board and brought to the membership's attention by the board's chair as often as necessary to remind all members of the conflict and to help ensure compliance with the Act. N.C.G.S. § 138A-15(c).

Finally, the Act mandates that all public servants attend an ethics and lobbying education presentation. N.C.G.S. § 138A-14. Please review the attached document for additional information concerning this requirement.

Please contact our office if you have any questions concerning our evaluation or the ethical standards governing public servants under the Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Roerden".

Mary Roerden, SEI Unit  
State Ethics Commission

cc: Avril Pinder  
Attachment: Ethics Education Guide



## STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

POST OFFICE BOX 27685

RALEIGH, NC 27611

PHONE: 919-814-3600

### Via Email

May 28, 2024

The Honorable Roy A. Cooper III  
Governor of North Carolina  
20301 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-0301

**Re: Evaluation of Statement of Economic Interest Filed by Wilson S. Weaver II  
The Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System Board of Trustees**

Dear Governor Cooper:

Our office has received **Assistant Police Chief Wilson S. Weaver II's** 2024 Statement of Economic Interest as a prospective appointee to the **Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System Board of Trustees (the "Board")**. We have reviewed it for actual and potential conflicts of interest pursuant to Chapter 138A of the North Carolina General Statutes ("N.C.G.S."), also known as the State Government Ethics Act (the "Act").

Compliance with the Act and avoidance of conflicts of interest in the performance of public duties are the responsibilities of every covered person, regardless of this letter's contents. This letter, meanwhile, is not meant to impugn the integrity of the covered person in any way. This letter is required by N.C.G.S. § 138A-28(a) and is designed to educate the covered person as to potential issues that could merit particular attention. Advice on compliance with the Act is available to certain public servants and legislative employees under N.C.G.S. § 138A-13.

**We did not find an actual conflict of interest but found the potential for a conflict of interest. The potential conflict identified does not prohibit service on this entity.**

The Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System Board of Trustees ("LGERS") is responsible for the administration of retirement allowances and other benefits for employees of counties, cities and towns or other eligible employers participating in the System. The Board serves as trustee for LGERS funds, while the State Treasurer serves as custodian and makes investments of such funds.

The Act establishes ethical standards for certain public servants and prohibits public servants from: (1) using their positions for their financial benefit or for the benefit of their extended family or business, N.C.G.S. § 138A-31; and (2) participating in official actions from which they or certain associated persons might receive a reasonably foreseeable financial benefit, N.C.G.S. § 138A-36(a). The Act also requires public servants to take appropriate steps to remove themselves from proceedings in which their impartiality might reasonably be questioned due to a familial, personal, or financial relationship with a participant in those proceedings. N.C.G.S. § 138A-36(c).

Mr. Weaver would fill the role of a law enforcement officer to serve on the Board. He is the City of Winston-Salem Assistant Chief of Police. Because he could be a beneficiary of the retirement system, he has the potential for a conflict of interest. As such, Mr. Weaver should exercise appropriate caution in the performance of his public duties should issues involving his benefits, the City of Winston-Salem or its employees come before the Board for official action.

In addition to the conflicts standards noted above, the Act prohibits public servants from accepting gifts from (1) a lobbyist or lobbyist principal, (2) a person or entity that is seeking to do business with the public servant's agency, is regulated or controlled by that agency, or has financial interests that might be affected by their official actions, or (3) anyone in return for being influenced in the discharge of their official responsibilities. N.C.G.S. § 138A-32. Exceptions to the gifts restrictions are set out in N.C.G.S. § 138A-32(e).

When this letter cites an actual or potential conflict of interest under N.C.G.S. § 138A-24(e), the conflict must be recorded in the minutes of the applicable board and brought to the membership's attention by the board's chair as often as necessary to remind all members of the conflict and to help ensure compliance with the Act. N.C.G.S. § 138A-15(c).

Finally, the Act mandates that all public servants attend an ethics and lobbying education presentation. N.C.G.S. § 138A-14. Please review the attached document for additional information concerning this requirement.

Please contact our office if you have any questions concerning our evaluation or the ethical standards governing public servants under the Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Roerden".

Mary Roerden, SEI Unit  
State Ethics Commission

cc: Wilson S. Weaver II  
Attachment: Ethics Education Guide