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# INTRODUCTION

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## Scope and Acknowledgements

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### Scope

W.S. 28-8-107(b) authorizes the Legislative Service Office to conduct program evaluations, performance audits, and analyses of policy alternatives. Generally, the purpose of such research is to provide a base of knowledge from which policymakers can make informed decisions.

In December 2006, the Management Audit Committee directed staff to undertake a review of the Wyoming Retirement System (WRS). We focused on the largest of WRS' eight pension plans, the Public Employee Plan ("big plan"). Members of the big plan include state government, local government, school district, university and community college, and other public employees. Our report addresses the following questions about this plan:

- How do normal retirement benefits for Wyoming public employees fare compared to those in surrounding states?
- How does WRS determine the plan's financial stability, and what factors influence this determination? How has WRS interpreted the statutory term "actuarially sound?"
- How does WRS set retiree cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs), and why have the awarded COLAs decreased in recent years?
- Is WRS administering the plan in an economical manner, and how has the plan's growth impacted the application of resources?
- What mechanisms has the Legislature established to receive information about plan performance and changes, and to exercise oversight of the system?

## **Acknowledgements**

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