

BRIEF TIMELINE OF THE MUS-RP AND MUS SUPPLEMENTAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO TRS

1987: The Optional Retirement Program (ORP) - a defined contribution (DC) plan - is created by the Legislature at the request of the Montana Board of Regents (HB 300). Montana University System (MUS) faculty and certain professional staff have the option of staying in the Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) or joining the newly created ORP.

1991: Legislation (SB 264) passed providing for an independent actuarial study to be carried out under the auspices of the Legislative Auditor to determine the portion of the unfunded liability in TRS attributable to the MUS. The MUS contribution amount would remain the same until the new study was completed and the results presented to the 1993 Legislature.

1993: The ORP becomes mandatory for all new faculty and certain professional staff hires in the MUS (SB 407). A MUS rate of contribution to TRS is established at 2.503% and regular adjustments based on actual experience are required to begin in 1997. The amortization period for the MUS liability is extended by 7 years, going from 33 years to 40 years (now set to end in 2033). It was decided that the rate would be reevaluated periodically and updated based on the actual MUS experience. The first valuation was scheduled for 1997.

1997: A phased-in contribution increase is established for the MUS starting with 2.81% on July 1, 1997, and going up to 4.04% on July 1, 2001 (HB 121).

1999: New MUS classified staff now have the option of joining the ORP, in addition to the PERS defined benefit plan and the PERS defined contribution plan ([HB 79](#)).

2001: Legislation ([HB 565](#)) is introduced to have the state assume the responsibility for the MUS contribution to TRS and add a statutory appropriation to fund the payments to keep the MUS contribution rate at 4.04% and is tabled in committee.

2003: Legislation ([HB 611](#)) is introduced to have the state assume the responsibility for the MUS contribution to TRS and add a statutory appropriation to fund the payments to keep the MUS contribution rate at 4.04% and is tabled in committee.

2005: Legislation ([HB 181](#)) is introduced to increase the MUS contribution to 4.60% on July 1, 2005, and to 5.16% on July 1, 2007, and is tabled in committee. Legislation ([HB 430](#)) is introduced to have the state assume the responsibility for the MUS contribution to TRS and add a statutory appropriation to fund the payments and is tabled in committee.

2007: MUS contribution to TRS is increased to 4.72% beginning July 1, 2007 ([HB 63](#)).

2011: Legislation ([HB 113](#)) is introduced to increase the MUS contribution rate by 0.5% on July 1 of each year until July 1, 2019, and is tabled in committee.

2013: Legislation ([HB 90](#)) is introduced to increase the MUS contribution to 9.04% on July 1, 2013, and is tabled in committee. The ORP is re-named the Montana University System Retirement Program (MUS-RP) ([HB 320](#)).

2015: Legislation ([HB 59](#)) is introduced to increase the MUS contribution to 9.75% on July 1, 2015, and is tabled in committee.

2017: Legislation ([HB 72](#)) is introduced to increase the MUS contribution to 10.22% on July 1, 2017, and is tabled in committee.

2019: Legislation ([HB 337](#)) is introduced to increase the MUS contribution to 11.89% on July 1, 2019, and is tabled in committee.

2021: Legislation ([SB 46](#)) is introduced to increase the MUS contribution to 13.9% on July 1, 2021, and is tabled in committee.

2023: Legislation ([SB 25](#)) is introduced to increase the MUS contribution to 13.53% on July 1, 2023, and is tabled in committee.