



P.O. Box 2500, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2500  
Toll-free: 1-888-VARETIR (827-3847)  
Website: [www.varetire.org](http://www.varetire.org)  
Email: [vrs@varetire.org](mailto:vrs@varetire.org)

November 17, 2020

TO: Fiscal/Payroll Officers of School Boards and Participating Political Subdivisions

FROM: Barry C. Faison  
Chief Financial Officer

SUBJECT: Annual Reminder about the Calculation of Imputed Income for Group Term Insurance in Excess of \$50,000

Each year, you must report to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) imputed income resulting from the group term life insurance coverage in excess of \$50,000 provided to your employees under the Virginia Retirement System (VRS) Group Life Insurance Program. This requirement is set out in Section 79 of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC).

The total contribution rate was 1.31% for the Basic Group Life Insurance Program for the period January 1, 2020 through June 30, 2020. This was composed of a 0.79% employee share and a 0.52% employer share. The total contribution rate for the Basic Group Life Insurance Program for the period July 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020 is 1.34%. This is composed of a 0.80% employee share and a 0.54% employer share. In the calculation of imputed income, only the amounts actually paid by the employee for the basic life insurance coverage may be used to reduce the amount of imputed income. The amount entered on line 8 of the Taxable Income Calculation Worksheet will depend on whether your employees are required to pay any of the employee's share of the contribution. VRS Optional Life Insurance Program coverage and premiums are not included in any of these calculations since the optional coverage is not deemed to be employer-provided group term insurance.

A copy of the Taxable Income Calculation Worksheet and the applicable IRC Section 79, Table 1 rates are included with this memorandum. The values in Table 1 of IRC Section 79 were last changed by the IRS on July 1, 1999. Further information on this process is detailed in IRS Publication 15-B (2020), Employer's Tax Guide to Fringe Benefits, beginning on page 13. The current IRS rates are presented in Table 2-2 "Cost Per \$1,000 of Protection for 1 Month" on page 14 of that publication. **For your calculations, use the rate applicable for an employee based on the employee's age on December 31, 2020.** If you need any additional information or have questions about the imputed income calculation, you can refer to the Group Life Insurance section of the VRS Employer Manual available in the Employer Section on the VRS website, or contact me by phone at 804-344-3128, or by email at [bfaison@varetire.org](mailto:bfaison@varetire.org).

**CALENDAR YEAR 2020**  
**TAXABLE INCOME CALCULATION WORKSHEET**  
**FOR GROUP TERM LIFE INSURANCE IN EXCESS OF \$50,000**

1. Total units of insurance (Insurance coverage amount/\$1,000) \_\_\_\_\_
  2. Units of excess insurance (line 1 minus 50) \_\_\_\_\_
  3. "Cost" per \$1,000 per month (from IRS, Table 1) \_\_\_\_\_
  4. "Cost" for one month (line 2 X line 3) \_\_\_\_\_
  5. Number of months at this rate \_\_\_\_\_
  6. Additional income for the period (line 4 X line 5) \_\_\_\_\_
- Repeat steps 1 through 6, as needed, to determine the income for the entire year and enter the result on line 7.
7. Total additional income for the year \_\_\_\_\_
  8. Basic plan employee premiums withheld for the year \_\_\_\_\_
  9. Net additional taxable income for the year (line 7 minus line 8) \_\_\_\_\_

**IRC SECTION 79 - TABLE 1**  
**UNIFORM PREMIUMS FOR \$1,000 OF GROUP-TERM LIFE INSURANCE**  
**PROTECTION (effective beginning 7/1/1999)**

Employee's Age (use employee's age at 12/31 of the tax year)	Cost per \$1,000 of protection for one month
Under 25	\$0.05
25 to 29	0.06
30 to 34	0.08
35 to 39	0.09
40 to 44	0.10
45 to 49	0.15
50 to 54	0.23
55 to 59	0.43
60 to 64	0.66
65 to 69	1.27
70 and older	2.06