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LC003779
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

A N A C T

RELATING TO PUBLIC OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES -- RETIREMENT SYSTEM--
MEMBERSHIP AND SERVICE CREDITS

Introduced By: Senators DiPalma, Ciccone, Felag, Tikoian, Acosta, Britto, and Zurier

Date Introduced: February 12, 2024

Referred To: Senate Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 36-9-31 of the General Laws in Chapter 36-9 entitled "Retirement
2 System - Membership and Service Credits" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **36-9-31. Armed service credit.**

4 (a) Any active member of the retirement system, who served on active duty in the armed
5 service of the United States or in the Merchant Marine service of the United States as defined in
6 P.L. 1946, ch. 1721, § 2 may purchase credit for that service up to a maximum of four (4) years
7 provided that he or she has received an honorable discharge. Provided further that any employee
8 on an official leave of absence for illness or injury shall be eligible to purchase military credits as
9 defined herein while on the leave of absence.

10 **(b) For members of the retirement system, who served in the national guard or reserves,**
11 **who qualify as a veteran, may purchase creditable service at a ratio of five (5) years of guard or**
12 **reserve service to one year of creditable service, up to a maximum of four (4) years; provided that,**
13 **he or she has received an honorable discharge. Provided further, that any employee on an official**
14 **leave of absence for illness or injury shall be eligible to purchase military credits as defined herein**
15 **while on the leave of absence.**

16 ~~(b)~~(c) The cost to purchase these credits shall be ten percent (10%) of the member's first
17 year's earnings as a state employee as defined in chapter 9 of this title, multiplied by the number of
18 years and fraction thereof of the armed service or Merchant Marine service up to a maximum of

1 four (4) years.

2 ~~(e)~~(d) There will be no interest charge provided the member makes that purchase during his
3 or her first five (5) years of membership in the retirement system, but will be charged regular
4 interest to date of purchase from date of enrollment into membership if purchased after completing
5 five (5) years of membership; provided, however, any member who was in the retirement system
6 prior to July 1, 1980, would not be charged interest whenever he or she purchases the armed
7 services credit.

8 **36-9-31. Armed service credit.**

9 (a) Any active member of the retirement system, who served on active duty in the armed
10 service of the United States or in the Merchant Marine service of the United States as defined in
11 P.L. 1946, ch. 1721, § 2 may purchase credit for that service up to a maximum of four (4) years
12 provided that he or she has received an honorable discharge. Provided further that any employee
13 on an official leave of absence for illness or injury shall be eligible to purchase military credits as
14 defined herein while on the leave of absence.

15 (b) For members of the retirement system, who served in the national guard or reserves,
16 who qualify as a veteran, may purchase creditable service at a ratio of five (5) years of guard or
17 reserve service to one year of creditable service, up to a maximum of four (4) years; provided that,
18 he or she has received an honorable discharge. Provided further, that any employee on an official
19 leave of absence for illness or injury shall be eligible to purchase military credits, as defined herein
20 while on the leave of absence.

21 ~~(b)~~(c) The cost to purchase these credits shall be ten percent (10%) of the member's first
22 year's earnings as a state employee as defined in chapter 9 of this title, multiplied by the number
23 of years and fraction thereof of the armed service or Merchant Marine service up to a maximum of
24 four (4) years.

25 ~~(e)~~(d) There will be no interest charge provided the member makes that purchase during
26 his or her first five (5) years of membership in the retirement system, but will be charged regular
27 interest to date of purchase from date of enrollment into membership if purchased after completing
28 five (5) years of membership; provided, however, any member who was in the retirement system
29 prior to July 1, 1980, would not be charged interest whenever he or she purchases the armed
30 services credit.

31 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

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RELATING TO PUBLIC OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES -- RETIREMENT SYSTEM--
MEMBERSHIP AND SERVICE CREDITS

- 1 This act would allow members of the retirement system who served in the national guard
- 2 or reserves and who qualify as veterans to purchase retirement service credits.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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