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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

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A N A C T

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

Introduced By: Senators DiPalma, Tikoian, Sosnowski, Dimitri, and Appollonio

Date Introduced: February 26, 2025

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) Members of the retirement system who are police officers or firefighters, and who**
11 **served in the national guard or reserves, and qualify as veterans, may purchase creditable service**
12 **at a ratio of five (5) years of guard or reserve service to one year of creditable service, up to a**
13 **maximum of four (4) years; provided that, they have received an honorable discharge. Provided**
14 **further, that any police officer or firefighter on an official leave of absence for illness or injury shall**
15 **be eligible to purchase military credits as defined in this section while on their 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
18 of 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
3 his 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 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

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 qualify as veterans, to purchase retirement service credits based on their years of
3 service in the National guard or reserves.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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