

2026 -- S 2234

LC004217

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

A N A C T

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

Introduced By: Senators DiPalma, Ciccone, Britto, LaMountain, Felag, Gallo, and  
Patalano

Date Introduced: January 23, 2026

Referred To: Senate Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

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

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

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

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

~~(b)~~(c) The cost to purchase these credits shall be ten percent (10%) of the member's first  
year's earnings as a state employee as defined in chapter 9 of this title, multiplied by the number  
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 --  
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- 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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