

SENATE, No. 3970

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 15, 2023

Sponsored by:
Senator VIN GOPAL
District 11 (Monmouth)

SYNOPSIS

Provides for purchase of PFRS credit for service as class two special law enforcement officer.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



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1 AN ACT concerning the purchase of credit in the Police and
2 Firemen's Retirement System for certain service and amending
3 P.L.1991, c.153.

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5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:

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8 1. Section 3 of P.L.1991, c.153 (C.43:16A-11.11) is amended to
9 read as follows:

10 3. A member of the Police and Firemen's Retirement System
11 may file a detailed statement of public employment in other states
12 or with the United States Government which would be eligible for
13 credit in a State-administered retirement system if the employment
14 was with a public employer in this State, or of military service in
15 the Armed Forces of the United States, or of public employment as
16 a class two special law enforcement officer with a public employer
17 in this State, rendered prior to becoming a member, for which the
18 member desires credit, and of such other facts as the retirement
19 system may require. The member may purchase credit for all or a
20 portion of the service evidenced in the statement up to the nearest
21 number of years and months, but not exceeding 10 years, provided
22 however, that a member purchasing that maximum credit may
23 purchase up to five additional years for additional military service
24 qualifying the member as a veteran as defined in section 1 of
25 P.L.1983, c.391 (C.43:16A-11.7). No application shall be accepted
26 for the purchase of credit for the service if, at the time of
27 application, the member has a vested right to retirement benefits in
28 another retirement system based in whole or in part upon that
29 service.

30 The member may purchase credit for the service by paying into
31 the annuity savings fund the amount required by applying the
32 factor, supplied by the actuary as being applicable to the member's
33 age at the time of the purchase, to the member's salary at that time,
34 or to the highest annual compensation for service in this State for
35 which contributions were made during any prior fiscal year of
36 membership, whichever is greater. The purchase may be made in
37 regular installments equal to at least 1/2 of the full normal
38 contribution to the retirement system, over a maximum period of 10
39 years. The employer of a member who applies, pursuant to this
40 section, to purchase credit for public employment with the United
41 States Government or for military service in the Armed Forces of
42 the United States or for public employment as a class two special
43 law enforcement officer with a public employer in this State shall
44 not be liable for any payment to the retirement system on behalf of
45 the member for the purchase of this credit.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 Notwithstanding any provision of this act to the contrary, a
2 member shall not be liable for any costs associated with the
3 financing of pension adjustment benefits and health care benefits
4 for retirees when purchasing credit for public employment in other
5 states or with the United States Government or military service in
6 the Armed Forces of the United States or for public employment as
7 a class two special law enforcement officer with a public employer
8 in this State.

9 Any member electing to purchase the service who retires prior to
10 completing payments as agreed with the retirement system will
11 receive pro rata credit for service purchased prior to the date of
12 retirement, but if the member so elects at the time of retirement, the
13 member may make the additional lump sum payment required at
14 that time to provide full credit.

15 Purchase of credit for service as a class two special law
16 enforcement officer shall be permitted only if the break between
17 service as such an officer and the date of their appointment to a
18 position covered by the Police and Firemen's Retirement System is
19 less than 120 days. Members of the retirement system who are
20 enrolled on the effective date of P.L. , c. (pending before the
21 Legislature as this bill) shall have only one year from that effective
22 date to apply for such a purchase.

23 (cf: P.L.1991, c.153, s.3)

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25 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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30 This bill permits a member of the Police and Firemen's
31 Retirement System (PFRS) to purchase credit for service as a class
32 two special law enforcement officer with a public employer in this
33 State, rendered prior to becoming a member. The member may
34 purchase credit for all or a portion of the service, not to exceed 10
35 years.

36 The member will be required to pay both the member's and
37 employer's share of the cost for the purchase.

38 The process and cost for the purchase will be the same as the
39 current process and cost for purchase of service in federal
40 employment or with the United States military except as otherwise
41 provided.

42 Purchase of credit for service as a class two special law
43 enforcement officer will be permitted only if the break between
44 service as such an officer and the date of their appointment to a
45 position covered by the PFRS is less than 120 days. Members of
46 the retirement system who are enrolled on the effective date of this
47 bill will have only one year from that effective date to apply for
48 such a purchase.

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1 A class two special law enforcement officer is required to
2 complete a course approved by the Police Training Commission.
3 They are trained in physical fitness, criminal law, patrol concepts,
4 firearms, vehicle operations, defensive tactics, handcuffing, and
5 arrest, search, and seizure. They have similar powers to that of full-
6 time police officers but on a restricted basis.