

2020 -- H 7979

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LC005160  
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

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A N A C T

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

Introduced By: Representatives McLaughlin, Jackson, McNamara, and Chippendale

Date Introduced: March 06, 2020

Referred To: House 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) The cost to purchase these credits shall be ten percent (10%) of the member's first year's  
11 earnings as a state employee as defined in chapter 9 of this title, multiplied by the number of years  
12 and fraction thereof of the armed service or Merchant Marine service up to a maximum of four (4)  
13 years.

14 (c) There will be no interest charge provided the member makes that purchase during his  
15 or her first five (5) years of membership in the retirement system, but will be charged regular  
16 interest to date of purchase from date of enrollment into membership if purchased after completing  
17 five (5) years of membership; provided, however, any member who was in the retirement system  
18 prior to July 1, 1980, would not be charged interest whenever he or she purchases the armed

1 services credit.

2 (d) Effective July 1, 2020, any members who are state employees employed as deputy  
3 sheriffs, capitol police officers, environmental police officers, firefighters, crew chiefs, assistant  
4 chiefs, fire investigators, fire safety inspectors, fire safety training officers, explosives and  
5 flammable liquids technicians, and campus police officers employed by the state of Rhode Island  
6 and executive military staff shall be exempt from the provisions of subsections (b) and (c) of this  
7 section relating to the cost to purchase credit for military service and any interest charges.

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

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- 1           This act would exempt active members of the retirement system employed as state public
- 2 safety professionals from the cost to purchase credit for military service and interest charges.
- 3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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