S T A T E O F N E W Y O R K

3722

2013-2014 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

February 12, 2013

Introduced by Sen. NOZZOLIO -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Civil Service and Pensions

AN ACT to amend the retirement and social security law, in relation to providing credit to members of public retirement systems of the state for certain military service during the Iranian hostage crisis

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Subdivision 2 of section 1000 of the retirement and social security law, as added by chapter 548 of the laws of 2000, is amended to read as follows:

2. A member, upon application to such retirement system, may obtain a total not to exceed three years of service credit for up to three years of military duty, as defined in section two hundred forty-three of the military law, if honorably discharged therefrom, if all or part of such services was rendered in the military conflicts referenced below, as follows:

(a) HOSTILITIES PARTICIPATED IN BY THE MILITARY FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES IN IRAN, FROM THE FOURTH DAY OF NOVEMBER, NINETEEN HUNDRED SEVENTY-NINE TO THE TWENTIETH DAY OF JANUARY, NINETEEN HUNDRED EIGHTY-ONE, AS ESTABLISHED BY RECEIPT OF THE ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL, THE NAVY EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL, OR THE MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL;

(B) hostilities participated in by the military forces of the United States in Lebanon, from the first day of June, nineteen hundred eighty-three to the first day of December, nineteen hundred eighty-seven, as established by receipt of the armed forces expeditionary medal, the navy expeditionary medal, or the marine corps expeditionary medal;

[(b)] (C) hostilities participated in by the military forces of the United States in Grenada, from the twenty-third day of October, nineteen hundred eighty-three to the twenty-first day of November, nineteen hundred eighty-three, as established by receipt of the armed forces

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [ ] is old law to be omitted.

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expeditionary medal, the navy expeditionary medal, or the marine corps expeditionary medal;

[(c)] (D) hostilities participated in by the military forces of the United States in Panama, from the twentieth day of December, nineteen hundred eighty-nine to the thirty-first day of January, nineteen hundred ninety, as established by receipt of the armed forces expeditionary medal, the navy expeditionary medal, or the marine corps expeditionary medal; or

[(d)] (E) hostilities participated in by the military forces of the United States, from the second day of August, nineteen hundred ninety, to the end of such hostilities in case of a veteran who served in the theater of operations including Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, the Gulf of Aden, the Gulf of Oman, the Persian Gulf, the Red Sea, and the airspace above these locations.

S 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

FISCAL NOTE.--The fiscal note, required by Section 50 of the Legislative Law, which may not be altered and which must be appended to the bill in its entirety, is:

This bill would extend the benefits of Chapter 548, Laws of 2000 to members of public retirement systems in New York State who rendered military service during the period of conflict in Iran from 11/4/79-1/20/81, as established by the receipt of the armed forces expeditionary medal, the navy expeditionary medal or the marine corps expeditionary medal. The total service credit granted for any military service shall not exceed three (3) years. Members must have at least five years of credited service (not including military service). Tier 1-5 members would be required to make a payment of three percent of their most recent compensation per year of additional service credit granted by this bill. Tier 6 members would be required to make a payment of six percent of their most recent compensation per year of additional service credit.

If this bill is enacted, insofar as this proposal affects the New York State and Local Employees' Retirement System (ERS), it is estimated that the past service cost will average approximately 12% (9% for Tier 6) of an affected members' compensation for each year of additional service credit that is purchased.

Insofar as this proposal affects the New York State and Local Police and Fire Retirement System (PFRS), it is estimated that the past service cost will average approximately 17% (14% for Tier 6) of an affected members' compensation for each year of additional service that is purchased.

The exact number of current members as well as future members who could be affected by this legislation cannot be readily determined.

ERS Costs: Pursuant to Section 25 of the Retirement and Social Security Law, the increased cost to the New York State and Local Employees' Retirement System would be borne entirely by the State of New York and would require an itemized appropriation sufficient to pay the cost of the provision. Since a member can apply for this service credit at any time prior to retirement, a precise cost can't be determined until each member, as well as future members, applies for the service credit. Every year a cost will be determined (and billed to the state) based on those benefiting from this provision.

PFRS Costs: These costs would be shared by the State of New York and the participating employers in the PFRS.

Summary of relevant resources:

Data: March 31, 2012 Actuarial Year End File with distributions of membership and other statistics displayed in the 2012 Report of the Actuary and 2012 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

Assumptions and Methods: 2010, 2011 and 2012 Annual Report to the Comptroller on Actuarial Assumptions, Codes Rules and Regulations of the State of New York: Audit and Control.

Market Assets and GASB Disclosures: March 31, 2012 New York State and Local Retirement System Financial Statements and Supplementary Information.

Valuations of Benefit Liabilities and Actuarial Assets: summarized in the 2012 Actuarial Valuations report.

I am a member of the American Academy of Actuaries and meet the Qualification Standards to render the actuarial opinion contained herein.

This estimate, dated February 12, 2013 and intended for use only during the 2013 Legislative Session, is Fiscal Note No. 2013-84, prepared by the Actuary for the New York State and Local Employees' Retirement System and the New York State and Local Police and Fire Retirement System.