

3291

2011-2012 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

February 15, 2011

Introduced by Sen. ADAMS -- 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 allowing military service credit for retirement for all honorably discharged veterans

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

1 Section 1. Section 1000 of the retirement and social security law, as
2 added by chapter 548 of the laws of 2000 and subdivision 9 as added by
3 chapter 547 of the laws of 2002, is amended to read as follows:

4 S 1000. Military service credit. Notwithstanding any law to the
5 contrary, a member of a public retirement system of the state, as
6 defined in subdivision twenty-three of section five hundred one of this
7 chapter, shall be eligible for credit for military service as hereinafter
8 provided:

9 1. A member, upon application to such retirement system, may obtain a
10 total not to exceed three years of service credit for up to three years
11 of military duty, as defined in section two hundred forty-three of the
12 military law, if the member was honorably discharged from the military
13 [and all or part of such military service was rendered during the
14 following periods: (a) commencing December seventh, nineteen hundred
15 forty-one and terminating December thirty-first, nineteen hundred
16 forty-six; (b) commencing June twenty-seventh, nineteen hundred fifty
17 and terminating January thirty-first, nineteen hundred fifty-five; or
18 (c) commencing February twenty-eighth, nineteen hundred sixty-one and
19 terminating May seventh, nineteen hundred seventy-five;

20 2. A member, upon application to such retirement system, may obtain a
21 total not to exceed three years of service credit for up to three years
22 of military duty, as defined in section two hundred forty-three of the
23 military law, if honorably discharged therefrom, if all or part of such

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

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services was rendered in the military conflicts referenced below, as follows:

(a) 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) 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 expeditionary medal, the navy expeditionary medal, or the marine corps expeditionary medal;

(c) 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) 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].

[3.] 2. A member must have at least five years of credited service (not including service granted hereunder) to be eligible to receive credit under this section.

[4.] 3. To obtain such credit, a member shall pay such retirement system, for deposit in the fund used to accumulate employer contributions, a sum equal to the product of the number of years of military service being claimed and three percent of such member's compensation earned during the twelve months of credited service immediately preceding the date that the member made application for credit pursuant to this section. If permitted by rule or regulation of the applicable retirement system, the member may pay such member costs by payroll deduction for a period which shall not exceed the time period of military service to be credited pursuant to this section. In the event the member leaves the employer payroll prior to completion of payment, he or she shall forward all remaining required payments to the appropriate retirement system prior to the effective date of retirement. If the full amount of such member costs is not paid to the appropriate retirement system prior to the member's retirement, the amount of service credited shall be proportional to the total amount of the payments made prior to retirement.

[5.] 4. In no event shall the credit granted pursuant to this section, when added to credit granted for military service with any retirement system of this state pursuant to this or any other provision of law, exceed a total of three years.

[6.] 5. To be eligible to receive credit for military service under this section, a member must make application for such credit before the effective date of retirement. [Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this subdivision, an individual who retired on or after December twenty-first, nineteen hundred ninety-eight and before the effective date of this section may make application for credit pursuant to this section within one year following the effective date of this section, in

1 which event, the cost to the retiree would be based on the twelve month
2 period immediately preceding retirement.

3 7.] 6. All costs for service credited to a member pursuant to this
4 section, other than the member costs set forth in subdivision [three]
5 TWO of this section, shall be paid by the state and all employers which
6 participate in the retirement system in which such member is granted
7 credit.

8 [8.] 7. A member who has purchased military service credit pursuant to
9 section two hundred forty-four-a of the military law shall be entitled
10 to a refund of the difference between the amount paid by the member for
11 such purchase and the amount that would be payable if service had been
12 purchased pursuant to this section.

13 [9.] 8. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in the event of
14 death prior to retirement, amounts paid by the member for the purchase
15 of military service credit pursuant to this section shall be refunded,
16 with interest, to the extent the military service purchased with such
17 amounts does not produce a greater death benefit than would have been
18 payable had the member not purchased such credit.

19 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in the event of retire-
20 ment, amounts paid by the member for the purchase of military service
21 credit pursuant to this section shall be refunded, with interest, to the
22 extent the military service purchased with such amounts does not produce
23 a greater retirement allowance than would have been payable had the
24 member not purchased such credit.

25 S 2. This act shall take effect immediately.