

AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATIONAL RETIREMENT; AMENDING SECTION OF THE EDUCATIONAL RETIREMENT ACT TO REMOVE CERTAIN RESTRICTIONS ON THE PURCHASE OF SERVICE CREDIT FOR MILITARY SERVICE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. Section 22-11-34 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1967, Chapter 16, Section 157, as amended) is amended to read:

"22-11-34. ALLOWED SERVICE CREDIT. --

A. A member shall be certified to have acquired allowed service credit pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 for those periods of time when he was:

(1) employed prior to July 1, 1967 in a federal educational program within New Mexico, including United States Indian schools and civilian conservation corps camps. This service credit shall be allowed without contribution;

(2) engaged in military service that interrupted his employment in New Mexico if he returned to his employment within eighteen months following honorable discharge. This service credit shall be allowed without contribution;

(3) engaged in United States military service or the commissioned corps of the public health

service from which he was honorably discharged if he contributes to the fund a sum equal to ten and one-half percent of his average annual salary for that period of time for which he has acquired earned service credit pursuant to the Educational Retirement Act and subject to the federal Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 for each year of service credit he desires to purchase. Average annual salary shall be determined in accordance with rules promulgated by the board but shall always be based on actual salaries earned by the member where the actual salaries can be ascertained by the board. The employer's contributions for service credit shall not be paid by the employer. The purchase of service credit provided in this paragraph shall be carried out by the member within three years after the date of the member's employment following service;

(4) employed:

(a) in a public school or public institution of higher learning in another state, territory or possession of the United States;

(b) in a United States military dependents' school operated by a branch of the armed forces of the United States;

(c) as provided in Paragraph (1) of this subsection after July 1, 1967; or

(d) in a private school or institution of higher learning in New Mexico whose education program is accredited or approved by the state board at the time of employment; or

(5) engaged in United States military service or the commission corps of the public health service from which he was honorably discharged if he contributes to the fund a sum equal to twenty-five percent of his current annual salary at the time of purchase pursuant to the Educational Retirement Act and subject to the federal Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 for each year of service credit he desires to purchase. Average annual salary shall be determined in accordance with rules promulgated by the board but shall always be based on actual salaries earned by the member where the actual salaries can be ascertained by the board. The employer's contributions for service credit shall not be paid by the employer. The purchase of service credit provided in this paragraph shall be carried out by the member after four or more years from the date of the member's employment following service.

B. The member or employer under Paragraph (4) of Subsection A of this section shall contribute to the fund for each year of allowed service credit desired an amount equal to twelve percent of the member's annual salary at the time

payment is made if the member is employed or twelve percent times the member's annual salary during the member's last year of employment if the member is not employed at the time of payment. Contributions paid for the member who is not employed shall bear interest at the average rate earned by the fund during the five-fiscal-year period immediately preceding the date of payment. Such interest shall run from the date the member last terminated employment to the date of payment. Effective July 1, 2001, the member or employer under Paragraph (4) of Subsection A of this section shall contribute to the fund for each year of allowed service credit desired an amount equal to the actuarial value of the service purchased as defined by the board. Payment pursuant to Paragraph (4) of Subsection A of this section may be made in installments, at the discretion of the board, over a period not to exceed one year and, if the sum paid does not equal the amount required for any full year of allowed service credit, the member shall acquire allowed service credit for that period of time that is proportionate to the payment made. Half credit may be allowed without contribution for not more than ten years of the educational service described by Subparagraph (a) of Paragraph (4) of Subsection A of this section if that service was prior to June 13, 1953 and if the member was employed in New Mexico prior to June 13, 1953 in a position covered by the

Educational Retirement Act or a law repealed thereby.

C. No member shall be certified to have acquired allowed service credit:

(1) under any single paragraph or the combination of only Paragraphs (1) and (4) or only Paragraphs (2) and (3) of Subsection A of this section in excess of five years; or

(2) in excess of ten years for any other combination of Paragraphs (1) through (4) of Subsection A of this section.

D. The provisions of this section are made applicable to the services described prior to as well as after July 1, 1967. "

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