

1 State of Arkansas *As Engrossed: S1/25/17 S2/28/17*

2 91st General Assembly

A Bill

3 Regular Session, 2017

SENATE BILL 163

4

5 By: Senator B. Sample

6 *By: Representative Warren*

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For An Act To Be Entitled

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AN ACT TO PROVIDE CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE ARKANSAS

10

STATE HIGHWAY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM WITH A

11

ONE-TIME OPTION TO PURCHASE MILITARY SERVICE CREDIT

12

WITHOUT INTEREST; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR

13

OTHER PURPOSES.

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Subtitle

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TO PROVIDE CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE

18

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY EMPLOYEES'

19

RETIREMENT SYSTEM WITH A *ONE-TIME* OPTION

20

TO PURCHASE MILITARY SERVICE CREDIT

21

WITHOUT INTEREST; AND TO DECLARE AN

22

EMERGENCY.

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25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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27 SECTION 1. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE CODIFIED. Purchase credit for
28 military service.

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(a) A member of the Arkansas State Highway Employees' Retirement
30 System may purchase creditable service in the retirement system, without
31 interest, for a period not to exceed five (5) years for active service by the
32 member in the United States Armed Forces if the member:

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(1) Has five (5) years of actual service in the system as of
34 August 20, 2015; and

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(2) Shows that he or she relied upon the ten-year service time
36 requirement before applying to purchase military service credit under this



1 section.

2 (b) The purchase of military service credit under this section shall
3 be made in the form of a cash payment or automatic payroll deductions for a
4 period not to exceed three (3) years.

5 (c)(1) A member shall elect to purchase military service credit under
6 this section within sixty (60) days after the effective date of this act.

7 (2) If a member elects to purchase military service credit under
8 this section, the member shall either pay his or her cash payment in full or
9 enroll in automatic payroll deductions within sixty (60) days of the
10 effective date of this act.

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12 SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
13 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that as a result of an error
14 relating to the adoption of the 1997 amendment to Arkansas Code § 24-2-502,
15 some current members of the Arkansas State Highway Employees' Retirement
16 System relied on a ten-year service time requirement rather than the amended
17 five-year service time requirement when they purchased credited service for
18 service they provided in the United States Armed Forces; and that legislation
19 is needed to allow the system to immediately reimburse the members who
20 overpaid interest and are experiencing hardships. Therefore, an emergency is
21 declared to exist, and this act being immediately necessary for the
22 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become effective
23 on:

24 (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

25 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,
26 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the
27 bill; or

28 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is
29 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

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31 /s/B. Sample
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34 **APPROVED: 03/13/2017**
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