

LATEST NEWS FROM THE TIMES UNION CAPITOL BUREAU

## After two vetoes, Cuomo approves veterans pension credit bill

By Matthew Hamilton on June 1, 2016 at 8:38 AM

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A twice-vetoed measure to expand eligibility for state pension credits to additional<sup>3</sup> veterans has at last cleared Gov. Andrew Cuomo's desk.

Cuomo signed late Tuesday the **legislation**, which allows honorably discharged service members with five years of existing public pension credit to purchase three years of credit for their military service. Current state law allows veterans who served in only certain conflicts, including World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War, to purchase pension credits. The new law strikes out the specific conflicts to expand eligibility to all veterans who work in the public sector.

"I fully support the intent of this bill which honors the men and women who serve our country and hereby approve this bill subject to the Legislature appropriating sufficient finds to pay for the costs associated with it," Cuomo wrote in his brief approval message.

At issue has been the costs associated with the bill.

It was expected last year that the legislation would get done in this year's state budget after the governor and the legislative sponsors **came to an agreement** in November.

While the legislation, which takes effect immediately, appropriates \$24.8 million for immediate use, it states that it's not possible to determine the total annual cost to the state because the total amount of service credit likely to be purchased annually cannot be estimated.

The cost for veterans to purchase credits will vary, according to the legislation. For Tier 1 through 5 members of the state retirement system, the cost is three percent of their most recent salary per year of additional service credit. Tier 6 members would pay six percent of their most recent salary.



# Application for Military Service Credit Under Article 20-RSSL RS 5509

(Rev. 6/16)

**SEE IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON BACK OF FORM**

PRINT USING ONLY BLUE OR BLACK INK AND ATTACH MILITARY DISCHARGE PAPERS (DD-214)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Registration Number \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Work: (\_\_\_\_) - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: Home: (\_\_\_\_) - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have credit for **ANY** military service in another public retirement system in New York State?

Yes

No

If yes, indicate which system(s)

New York State Employees' Retirement System

New York City Teachers' Retirement System

New York State Police & Fire Retirement System

New York City Board of Ed. Retirement System

New York State Teachers' Retirement System

New York City Police Pension Fund

New York City Employees' Retirement System

New York City Fire Dept. Pension Fund

I \_\_\_\_\_, request credit for this service as provided for in Article 20 of the Retirement and Social Security Law. I understand that I will be provided with the cost for this service and will receive credit only in proportion to the amount of that cost I pay to the Retirement System. I have enclosed my DD-214 showing my dates of enlistment.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## REQUIREMENTS FOR MILITARY SERVICE UNDER ARTICLE 20

To be eligible to receive credit for your military service under Article 20, you must:

- have been honorably discharged;
- have at least five years of credited service in the Retirement System at the time you apply for your military service credit;
- not have credit for this service in any other public retirement system in New York State;
- apply to purchase credit for your military service prior to retirement.

If you are covered by a plan that has a maximum service limit, your military service credit cannot be used to exceed the maximum service limit.

- For Tier 1 through 5 members, payment of 3 percent of the compensation you earned during the year of credited service immediately prior to our receiving your application, times the number of years of credit you are seeking, must be paid into the Retirement System's Pension Accumulation Fund. For Tier 6 members, the cost is 6 percent. **THESE PAYMENTS ARE REFUNDABLE ONLY IF THE MILITARY SERVICE CREDIT CANNOT BE USED IN THE CALCULATION OF A BENEFIT.**
- Payment must be made in a period no longer than the amount of credit being granted.
- Prorated credit will be granted for partial payment.

If you do not have a copy of your DD-214, you may obtain one by writing to:

**National Personnel Records Center  
Military Personnel Records  
1 Archives Drive  
St. Louis, MO 63138**

A request form to send to the National Personnel Records Center is also available through the National Archives website at <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/index.html>