

Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-5401

AN ACT CONCERNING CREDIT FOR MILITARY SERVICE UNDER THE

Title: MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM.

Vote Date: 3/14/2024

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/7/2024

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill would allow municipal employees, who served one or more days in the armed forces during a period of war, to purchase credit in the Municipal Employees' Retirement System for such period of service. Municipal employees currently can only purchase credit if they have a Department of Defense form DD214, which requires 90 consecutive days of service to obtain. Allowing Service Members to use any legitimate evidence to show their military service would allow for them to take full advantage of their benefits afforded to them.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Alex Ricciardone: supports this bill because it is a common sense, technical improvement to a well-meaning law. Currently, Municipal employees are only allowed to purchase prior service which is shown on Department of Defense Form DD214 even though most National Guard or Reserve Members service time is not listed on a DD214, which only get issued when a service member completes 90 or more consecutive days of service. Service members mobilized during the Covid-19 pandemic for 20-75 days are not eligible to purchase that time, as well as service members who go to "drill" monthly. It is possible for a National Guard member to serve for multiple years, have thousands of total days of service and never receive a DD214. This bill would allow for any and all legitimate evidence of military service

be used in calculating the amount of days a municipal employee can count to purchase CMERS credits.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed.

Reported by: Patrick Buckley

Date: 3/28/2024