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September 18, 2024

TO: Certifying Officers of the Police and Firemen's Retirement System (PFRS)
FROM: Lisa Pointer, Board Secretary, Police and Firemen's Retirement System of New Jersey (PFRSNJ)
SUBJECT: **P.L. 2024, Chapter 54 – Purchase of Credit for Service as a Class Two Special Law Enforcement Officer**

On August 22, 2024, Acting Governor Nicholas Scutari signed Assembly Bill No. 2884, formally enacting it into law as P.L. 2024, chapter 54 (Ch. 54).

Active members of the PFRS enrolled in the retirement system on the date of enactment of Ch. 54 (August 22, 2024) are authorized to purchase credit for service performed as a Class Two Special Law Enforcement Officer (SLEO) under certain circumstances. The law also authorizes the purchase of credit for time taken to complete a basic police training course required for employment as a Class Two SLEO.

Purchase of credit related to service as a Class Two SLEO is only permitted if the break between such service and the date of the member's enrollment in the PFRS is less than 365 days. The law establishes a one-year window within which to apply for credit related to service as a Class Two SLEO.

An active member may apply by filing an application and submitting supporting documentation, including a detailed statement evidencing prior employment as a Class Two SLEO. Required documentation may include payroll records for any month or pay period for which service credit is requested, as well as documentation establishing enrollment in, and completion of, a required basic police training course (if service credit is requested).

An eligible, active member may purchase all or part of the service determined to be eligible for credit under the new law, as demonstrated in the application and documentation. Finally, the law specifies that the member is required to pay the full amount of both the employee and employer costs of any service credit purchased by the member, as determined by the retirement system's actuary based on the member's age and salary.

All purchase requests must be submitted using the Purchase Application program on the Member Benefits Online System (MBOS).

EMPLOYER RESPONSIBILITIES

It is important that the information contained in this Certifying Officer letter is made available to your location's employees. Certifying Officers should forward this message to their human resources staff, benefit administrators, and any other staff members responsible for the administration of pensions for their employees.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The full text of Ch.54 can be found here: https://pub.njleg.state.nj.us/Bills/2024/A3000/2884_R2.PDF