

# **LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS' AND FIRE FIGHTERS' PLAN 2 RETIREMENT BOARD**

## **Purchase of Service Credit and Annuity Final Proposal**

December 9, 2004

---

### **Issue**

The Select Committee on Pension Policy recommended House Bill 2535 in the 2004 Legislative session providing the option to purchase service credit at the time of retirement by PERS Plan 2 and 3 and SERS Plan 2 and 3 members.

### **Staff**

Steve Nelsen, Executive Director  
(360) 586-2320  
steve.nelsen@leoff.wa.gov

### **Members Impacted**

Purchase of service credit and annuity could potentially be an issue for any active LEOFF Plan 2 member.

### **Background Information and Policy Issues**

The Purchase of Service Credit and Annuity was given initial consideration by the Board on March 24, 2004. A Preliminary Report was discussed by the Board on April 28, 2004.

A vested member of the Law Enforcement Officers' and Fire Fighters' Retirement System (LEOFF) Plan 2 may retire with an unreduced defined benefit at age 53. At retirement in Plan 2 a member receives 2 percent of the member's final average salary for each year of credited service.

A member of LEOFF Plan 2 may apply for early retirement after 20 years of credited service beginning at age 50. A member who applies for early retirement has his or her benefit reduced instead by 3 percent per year for the amount of time they retire prior to age 53.

Members of LEOFF Plan 2 generally have the opportunity to participate in deferred compensation plans. These plans permit an individual to place a portion of salary into a

special account prior to being subject to payroll tax reductions. The Department of Retirement Systems (DRS) operates a deferred compensation program consistent with the federal tax requirements of 26 United States Code section 457, commonly called a "457 Plan", in which employees of the state, counties, municipalities and other political subdivisions may participate. Some employers may also participate in other 457 plans or deferred compensation-type plans commonly referred to as "403(b)" or "401(k)" plans.

In recent years, changes in federal law have liberalized the rules on the transfer of funds between tax-deferred accounts, including government defined benefit pension plans like the LEOFF Plan 2, and deferred compensation accounts such as 457, 403(b), and 401(k) plans. Many state and local government pension plans have subsequently provided the opportunity for members to transfer funds, including funds from tax-deferred accounts, into these plans to add up to five years of service credit to a member's defined benefit.

Several Washington State pension plans currently have provisions that allow the purchase of service credit at retirement or the purchase of an annuity:

- House Bill 2535 was passed in the 2004 legislative session permitting members of the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) plan 2 and plan 3 and the School Employees' Retirement System (SERS) Plan 2 and Plan 3 who qualify for early retirement or alternate early retirement to make a one-time purchase of up to five additional years of service credit.
- RCW 41.50.088 provides members and survivors with self-directed investments in the Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) Plan 3, the School Employees' Retirement System (SERS) Plan 3, and the Public Employees' Retirement System Plan 3 optional actuarially equivalent life annuity benefit payment schedules that may be purchased from the combined plan 2 and plan 3 funds under RCW 41.50.075.
- RCW 41.32.067 provides Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) Plan 1, Plan 2 and Plan 3 members the ability to purchase additional benefits in the form of an annuity by making a member reserve contribution which is actuarially converted to a monthly benefit at the time of retirement.

## **Policy Options**

### **Policy Option 1: Purchase of Service Credit**

A member who applies for retirement in LEOFF Plan 2 may, at the time of retirement purchase up to five years of additional service credit. The cost of the additional service credit would be the actuarial equivalent value of the resulting increase in the member's benefit. The member may pay all or part of the cost of the additional service credit with an eligible transfer from a qualified retirement plan.

## **Policy Option 2: Purchase of Annuity**

A member, or survivor of a member who applies for retirement benefits from LEOFF Plan 2 may, at the time of application purchase an actuarially equivalent life annuity from the LEOFF Plan 2 retirement fund. The member may pay all or part of the cost of the annuity purchase with an eligible transfer from a qualified retirement plan.

## **Estimated Fiscal Impacts**

Option 1 and Option 2 are actuarially neutral and would not increase the cost of the plan.

## **Supporting Information**

- House Bill 2535 - Final Bill Report
- RCW 41.50.088
- RCW 41.32.067
- WAC 415-02-340
- Z-0188 Purchase of Additional Service Credit
- Z-0189 Purchase of Additional Service Credit and Annuity

# FINAL BILL REPORT

## HB 2535

---

C 172 L 04

Synopsis as Enacted

**Brief Description:** Permitting members of the public employees' retirement system plan 2 and plan 3 and the school employees' retirement system plan 2 and plan 3 who qualify for early retirement or alternate early retirement to make a one-time purchase of additional service credit.

**Sponsors:** By Representatives Alexander, Fromhold, Conway, Rockefeller, G. Simpson, Kessler, Moeller, Chase, Bush and Armstrong; by request of Select Committee on Pension Policy.

**House Committee on Appropriations**  
**Senate Committee on Ways & Means**

### **Background:**

A vested member of the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) or the School Employees' Retirement System (SERS) Plans 2 or 3 may retire with an unreduced defined benefit at age 65. At retirement in Plan 2 a member receives 2 percent of the member's final average salary for each year of credited service. In Plan 3, a member receives 1 percent of the member's final average salary for each year of credited service and may withdraw his or her accumulated member contributions and earnings.

A member of the PERS or the SERS Plan 2 may apply for early retirement after 20 years of credited service beginning at age 55. A member of the PERS or the SERS Plan 3 may apply for early retirement after 10 years of credited service beginning at age 55. If a member in Plan 2 or Plan 3 applies for early retirement with less than 30 years of service, his or her benefit is actuarially reduced for the member's age difference at retirement and age 65. This actuarial reduction typically averages about 8 percent per year. A member who applies for early retirement with 30 or more years of service has his or her benefit reduced instead by 3 percent per year.

Members of the PERS and the SERS generally have the opportunity to participate in deferred compensation plans. These plans permit an individual to place a portion of salary into a special account prior to being subject to payroll tax reductions. The Department of Retirement Systems (DRS) operates a deferred compensation program consistent with the federal tax requirements of 26 United States Code section 457, commonly called a "457 Plan", in which employees of the state, counties, municipalities and other political

subdivisions may participate. Some school districts and local governments may also participate in other deferred compensation-type plans commonly referred to as "403(b)" or "401(k)" plans. Individuals may also be able to deposit funds into accounts with preferential tax treatment such as Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs).

In recent years, changes in federal law have liberalized the rules on the transfer of funds between tax-deferred accounts, including government defined benefit pension plans like the PERS and the SERS, and deferred compensation accounts such as 457, 403(b), and 401(k) plans. Many state and local government pension plans have subsequently provided the opportunity for members to transfer funds, including funds from tax-deferred accounts, into these plans to add up to five years of service credit to a member's defined benefit.

**Summary:**

A member who applies for early retirement in the PERS or the SERS Plan 2 or 3 may, at the time of retirement, file an application with the DRS to purchase up to five years of additional service credit. The cost of the additional service credit is the actuarial equivalent value of the resulting increase in the member's benefit.

The member may pay all or part of the cost of the additional service credit with an eligible transfer from a qualified retirement plan. The DRS must adopt rules to ensure that all purchases and transfers comply with the requirements of the federal Internal Revenue Code and regulations.

Additional purchased service credit is not regular membership service credit and may not be used to qualify a member for the 3 percent per year early retirement reduction available to members of the PERS and the SERS Plans 2 or 3 with 30 years of service.

**Votes on Final Passage:**

House 94 -0  
Senate 47- 0

**Effective:** July 1, 2006

**RCW 41.50.088**

**Employee retirement benefits board -- Duties.**

(1) The board shall adopt rules as necessary and exercise the following powers and duties:

(a) The board shall recommend to the state investment board types of options for member self-directed investment in the teachers' retirement system plan 3, the school employees' retirement system plan 3, and the public employees' retirement system plan 3 as deemed by the board to be reflective of the members' preferences;

(b) By July 1, 2005, the board shall make optional actuarially equivalent life annuity benefit payment schedules available to members and survivors that may be purchased from the combined plan 2 and plan 3 funds under RCW 41.50.075; and

(c) Determination of the basis for administrative charges to the self-directed investment fund to offset self-directed account expenses;

(2) The board shall recommend to the state investment board types of options for participant self-directed investment in the state deferred compensation plan, as deemed by the board to be reflective of the participants' preferences.

[2000 c 247 § 602. Prior: 1998 c 341 § 507; 1998 c 116 § 10; 1995 c 239 § 302.]

**NOTES:**

**Effective dates -- Subchapter headings not law -- 2000 c 247:** See RCW 41.40.931 and 41.40.932.

**Effective date -- 1998 c 341:** See note following RCW 41.34.060.

**Intent -- Purpose -- 1995 c 239:** See note following RCW 41.32.831.

**Effective date -- Part and subchapter headings not law -- 1995 c 239:** See notes following RCW 41.32.005.

Benefits not contractual right until date specified: RCW 41.34.100.

**RCW 41.32.067**

**Purchase of additional benefits -- Conditions.**

A member may purchase additional benefits subject to the following:

- (1) The member shall pay all reasonable administrative and clerical costs; and
- (2) The member shall make a member reserve contribution to be actuarially converted to a monthly benefit at the time of retirement.

[1992 c 212 § 13; 1991 c 278 § 2.]

**WAC 415-02-340 Monthly benefit per \$1.00 of accumulation for defined benefit plans.**

**(1) How does the department use the information in the table called "monthly benefit per \$1.00 of accumulation for defined benefit plans"?** The department uses this information to:

- (a) Determine what a future lifetime monthly benefit is worth in present-day dollars;
  - (b) Determine the equivalent value of a lump sum when compared with monthly payments;
- and
- (c) Reduce the monthly retirement benefit in TRS Plan 1 if you take a lump sum cash out for some or all of your funds.<sup>1</sup>

**(2) What type of information is in this table?** The information in this table reflects the expected duration of lifetime payments for recipients over a range of ages. These values differ by system and plan, and all reflect an assumed rate of return of 8.0%.<sup>2</sup>

**(3) Examples**

(a) Example (a):

Celina is a 65-year-old PERS Plan 2 member who is eligible to receive \$45.00 per month. She wants to know how much money she could receive if she accepted a lump sum payment instead. Celina looks at the row in the table for age 65 in the PERS Plan 2 column and learns that \$0.0072458 per month for life is equivalent to one dollar in cash for this system, plan, and age class. Celina divides \$45.00 by 0.0072458 and learns that her lump sum payment would be \$6,210.49.

(b) Example (b):

Fred is a 58-year-old TRS Plan 1 member. The balance in Fred's account is \$124,934.00. Upon retirement, Fred chooses to withdraw the \$124,934.00 (as only members of TRS Plan 1 can do). From the row in the table for age 58 in the TRS Plan 1 column, Fred learns that \$0.0077573 per month for life is the equivalent to one dollar in cash for this system, plan, and age class. Fred multiplies the lump sum cash-out amount of \$124,934.00 by 0.0077573, and learns that his monthly retirement will be reduced by \$969.15 per month because of the lump sum cash out made at retirement.

**(4) Table - Monthly benefit per \$1.00 of accumulation for defined benefit plans:**

Based on the 1995-2000 actuarial experience study monthly benefit per \$1.00 of accumulation defined benefit (DB) single life pension:

Age	LEOFF 1	LEOFF 2	PERS 1	PERS 2/3	SERS 2/3	TRS 1	TRS 2/3	WSPRS 2
20	0.0039835	0.0043310	0.0065444	0.0043102	0.0042786	0.0065267	0.0042774	0.0043319
21	0.0039997	0.0043459	0.0065518	0.0043243	0.0042911	0.0065329	0.0042897	0.0043469
22	0.0040168	0.0043615	0.0065598	0.0043390	0.0043042	0.0065396	0.0043027	0.0043626
23	0.0040347	0.0043780	0.0065684	0.0043546	0.0043181	0.0065468	0.0043165	0.0043791
24	0.0040535	0.0043955	0.0065778	0.0043710	0.0043327	0.0065546	0.0043309	0.0043966
25	0.0040734	0.0044139	0.0065878	0.0043884	0.0043481	0.0065630	0.0043462	0.0044150
26	0.0040943	0.0044333	0.0065987	0.0044067	0.0043644	0.0065720	0.0043622	0.0044346
27	0.0041163	0.0044539	0.0066105	0.0044261	0.0043816	0.0065818	0.0043792	0.0044552

<sup>1</sup> This option is only available in TRS Plan 1.

<sup>2</sup> The younger a person is, the longer the anticipated lifetime of payments would be, and the greater the sum required to provide for these payments. Put another way, the amount of monthly lifetime benefit that a present-day dollar buys goes up as the remaining life expectancy of the recipient goes down.



Age	LEOFF 1	LEOFF 2	PERS 1	PERS 2/3	SERS 2/3	TRS 1	TRS 2/3	WSPRS 2
28	0.0041396	0.0044757	0.0066232	0.0044466	0.0043997	0.0065924	0.0043971	0.0044771
29	0.0041641	0.0044988	0.0066370	0.0044682	0.0044189	0.0066038	0.0044161	0.0045002
30	0.0041899	0.0045231	0.0066517	0.0044911	0.0044391	0.0066162	0.0044361	0.0045246
31	0.0042171	0.0045488	0.0066676	0.0045152	0.0044605	0.0066295	0.0044572	0.0045503
32	0.0042456	0.0045758	0.0066845	0.0045405	0.0044830	0.0066438	0.0044795	0.0045774
33	0.0042755	0.0046042	0.0067025	0.0045672	0.0045067	0.0066592	0.0045031	0.0046059
34	0.0043069	0.0046340	0.0067217	0.0045952	0.0045316	0.0066756	0.0045278	0.0046358
35	0.0043398	0.0046654	0.0067421	0.0046247	0.0045578	0.0066930	0.0045539	0.0046672
36	0.0043745	0.0046984	0.0067639	0.0046558	0.0045854	0.0067116	0.0045812	0.0047004
37	0.0044109	0.0047333	0.0067873	0.0046886	0.0046145	0.0067315	0.0046101	0.0047353
38	0.0044494	0.0047701	0.0068123	0.0047233	0.0046452	0.0067527	0.0046404	0.0047723
39	0.0044900	0.0048091	0.0068393	0.0047600	0.0046777	0.0067754	0.0046725	0.0048114
40	0.0045330	0.0048505	0.0068682	0.0047988	0.0047120	0.0067998	0.0047065	0.0048529
41	0.0045784	0.0048944	0.0068994	0.0048400	0.0047483	0.0068261	0.0047423	0.0048969
42	0.0046266	0.0049409	0.0069329	0.0048837	0.0047868	0.0068543	0.0047803	0.0049436
43	0.0046777	0.0049904	0.0069690	0.0049300	0.0048275	0.0068846	0.0048206	0.0049932
44	0.0047319	0.0050430	0.0070078	0.0049791	0.0048706	0.0069172	0.0048632	0.0050460
45	0.0047894	0.0050989	0.0070495	0.0050312	0.0049163	0.0069523	0.0049084	0.0051021
46	0.0048504	0.0051584	0.0070945	0.0050866	0.0049647	0.0069900	0.0049562	0.0051617
47	0.0049153	0.0052218	0.0071429	0.0051455	0.0050161	0.0070305	0.0050070	0.0052253
48	0.0049844	0.0052894	0.0071953	0.0052082	0.0050707	0.0070740	0.0050609	0.0052932
49	0.0050581	0.0053617	0.0072519	0.0052752	0.0051287	0.0071210	0.0051183	0.0053657
50	0.0051368	0.0054390	0.0073132	0.0053466	0.0051905	0.0071717	0.0051793	0.0054432
51	0.0052210	0.0055218	0.0073796	0.0054231	0.0052564	0.0072265	0.0052444	0.0055264
52	0.0053104	0.0056098	0.0074510	0.0055044	0.0053265	0.0072858	0.0053139	0.0056147
53	0.0054060	0.0057042	0.0075283	0.0055914	0.0054014	0.0073500	0.0053881	0.0057094
54	0.0055084	0.0058054	0.0076121	0.0056846	0.0054813	0.0074191	0.0054671	0.0058110
55	0.0056182	0.0059141	0.0077029	0.0057845	0.0055668	0.0074939	0.0055515	0.0059201
56	0.0057354	0.0060302	0.0078008	0.0058912	0.0056581	0.0075749	0.0056420	0.0060367
57	0.0058601	0.0061539	0.0079058	0.0060049	0.0057557	0.0076627	0.0057388	0.0061608
58	0.0059937	0.0062865	0.0080192	0.0061265	0.0058600	0.0077573	0.0058422	0.0062940
59	0.0061368	0.0064287	0.0081415	0.0062566	0.0059712	0.0078589	0.0059524	0.0064368
60	0.0062900	0.0065812	0.0082732	0.0063959	0.0060901	0.0079685	0.0060703	0.0065898
61	0.0064540	0.0067444	0.0084149	0.0065448	0.0062172	0.0080866	0.0061963	0.0067538
62	0.0066294	0.0069191	0.0085668	0.0067036	0.0063529	0.0082138	0.0063311	0.0069292
63	0.0068167	0.0071058	0.0087294	0.0068729	0.0064976	0.0083506	0.0064751	0.0071168
64	0.0070165	0.0073050	0.0089030	0.0070531	0.0066517	0.0084970	0.0066285	0.0073169
65	0.0072307	0.0075186	0.0090893	0.0072458	0.0068158	0.0086537	0.0067919	0.0075315
66	0.0074600	0.0077474	0.0092891	0.0074517	0.0069903	0.0088208	0.0069657	0.0077614
67	0.0077052	0.0079921	0.0095028	0.0076715	0.0071765	0.0090000	0.0071514	0.0080073
68	0.0079692	0.0082556	0.0097332	0.0079076	0.0073755	0.0091921	0.0073497	0.0082721
69	0.0082539	0.0085400	0.0099823	0.0081620	0.0075879	0.0093974	0.0075612	0.0085580
70	0.0085622	0.0088479	0.0102523	0.0084366	0.0078162	0.0096186	0.0077883	0.0088676
71	0.0088938	0.0091793	0.0105419	0.0087308	0.0080615	0.0098577	0.0080327	0.0092008
72	0.0092539	0.0095393	0.0108558	0.0090487	0.0083261	0.0101166	0.0082964	0.0095628
73	0.0096446	0.0099300	0.0111955	0.0093919	0.0086093	0.0103939	0.0085784	0.0099559
74	0.0100684	0.0103538	0.0115628	0.0097624	0.0089142	0.0106939	0.0088826	0.0103824
75	0.0105280	0.0108135	0.0119604	0.0101627	0.0092422	0.0110180	0.0092104	0.0108451

Age	LEOFF 1	LEOFF 2	PERS 1	PERS 2/3	SERS 2/3	TRS 1	TRS 2/3	WSPRS 2
76	0.0110267	0.0113124	0.0123914	0.0105960	0.0095951	0.0113678	0.0095637	0.0113472
77	0.0115688	0.0118547	0.0128599	0.0110662	0.0099757	0.0117460	0.0099450	0.0118933
78	0.0121597	0.0124460	0.0133705	0.0115778	0.0103875	0.0121558	0.0103575	0.0124885
79	0.0128051	0.0130919	0.0139278	0.0121352	0.0108344	0.0126012	0.0108049	0.0131389
80	0.0135111	0.0137984	0.0145368	0.0127433	0.0113202	0.0130863	0.0112914	0.0138505
81	0.0142843	0.0145725	0.0152030	0.0134074	0.0118492	0.0136157	0.0118211	0.0146303
82	0.0151240	0.0154130	0.0159279	0.0141293	0.0124242	0.0141938	0.0123986	0.0154769
83	0.0160353	0.0163252	0.0167162	0.0149136	0.0130497	0.0148256	0.0130286	0.0163958
84	0.0170241	0.0173149	0.0175726	0.0157650	0.0137302	0.0155137	0.0137139	0.0173927
85	0.0180966	0.0183884	0.0185016	0.0166876	0.0144701	0.0162628	0.0144589	0.0184740
86	0.0192583	0.0195513	0.0195059	0.0176841	0.0152736	0.0170771	0.0152680	0.0196456
87	0.0205119	0.0208062	0.0205851	0.0187541	0.0161432	0.0179605	0.0161446	0.0209102
88	0.0218550	0.0221507	0.0217347	0.0198932	0.0170791	0.0189147	0.0170905	0.0222656
89	0.0232781	0.0235752	0.0229444	0.0210916	0.0180779	0.0199388	0.0181048	0.0237021
90	0.0247625	0.0250609	0.0241977	0.0223336	0.0191323	0.0210275	0.0191823	0.0252008
91	0.0262789	0.0265782	0.0254717	0.0235975	0.0202301	0.0221705	0.0203134	0.0267317
92	0.0278427	0.0281429	0.0267640	0.0248804	0.0213620	0.0233525	0.0214834	0.0283116
93	0.0294384	0.0297392	0.0280581	0.0261661	0.0225126	0.0245532	0.0226729	0.0299249
94	0.0310505	0.0313517	0.0293389	0.0274402	0.0236656	0.0257646	0.0238739	0.0315562
95	0.0326651	0.0329665	0.0305940	0.0286908	0.0248057	0.0269704	0.0250708	0.0331914
96	0.0342704	0.0345719	0.0318149	0.0299099	0.0259197	0.0281559	0.0262493	0.0348186
97	0.0358572	0.0361585	0.0329987	0.0310951	0.0269980	0.0293096	0.0273986	0.0364281
98	0.0374173	0.0377185	0.0341503	0.0322517	0.0280348	0.0304239	0.0285118	0.0380114
99	0.0389423	0.0392433	0.0352857	0.0333956	0.0290309	0.0314979	0.0295884	0.0395582

[Statutory Authority: RCW 41.50.050(5) and chapter 41.45 RCW. 02-18-048, § 415-02-340, filed 8/28/02, effective 9/1/02.]

## LEOFF Plan 2 Service Credit Purchase Example Calculation

A LEOFF Plan 2 member is retiring at age 53 with 20 years of service and a Final Average Salary of \$5,000 per month. The member purchases five years of service credit.

**1. Calculate Base Benefit:**

$$2\% \times 20 \text{ YOS} \times \$5,000 = \$2,000 \text{ per month}$$

**2. Calculate Benefit With Additional 5 Years Of Service Credit:**

$$2\% \times 25 \text{ YOS} \times \$5,000 = \$2,500 \text{ per month}$$

**3. Calculate Increase in Monthly Benefit from Additional Service Credit:**

$$\$2,500 - \$2,000 = \$500 \text{ increase per month}$$

**4. Calculate Service Credit Purchase Cost:**

$$\$500 \div 0.0057042^* = \$87,654$$

---

## LEOFF Plan 2 Annuity Purchase Example Calculations

A LEOFF Plan 2 member is retiring at age 53 with 20 years of service and a Final Average Salary of \$5,000 per month. The member has \$50,000 in a deferred compensation account which they will use to buy an annuity.

**1. Calculate Base Benefit:**

$$2\% \times 20 \text{ YOS} \times \$5,000 = \$2,000 \text{ per month } (\$24,000 \text{ per year})$$

**2. Calculate Benefit Increase from a \$50,000 Annuity Purchase:**

$$\$50,000 \times 0.0057042^* = \$285.21 \text{ increase per month}$$

**3. Calculate New Benefit (Base Benefit *plus* Annuity):**

$$\$2,000 + \$285.21 = \$2,285.21 \text{ per month } (\$27,422.52 \text{ per year})$$

The increase in the annual benefit from \$24,000 to \$27,422.52 is the approximate equivalent of the member retiring with an additional 2 years and ten months of service.

**4. Calculate Benefit Increase from an \$87,654 Annuity Purchase**

The annuity purchase and the service credit purchase use the same actuarial factors so they are mathematically equivalent. For instance, the member would receive a \$500 increase in their monthly benefit from an annuity purchase of \$87,654<sup>†</sup>. As shown in the service credit purchase example, this is the same amount that the member would pay to purchase 5 years of service credit and receive a \$500 per month benefit increase.

---

\* The factor for the "Monthly benefit per \$1.00 of accumulation for defined benefit plans" for an age 53 LEOFF Plan 2 member as found in WAC 415-02-340 is 0.0057042.

<sup>†</sup>  $\$87,654 \times 0.0057042^* = \$500 \text{ increase per month}$

## Washington State Department of Retirement Systems Frequently Asked Questions About Purchased Service Credit<sup>1</sup>

### What does it cost to purchase service credit?<sup>2</sup>

If you decide to purchase additional service credit, you must pay, in a lump sum, the actuarial equivalent value of the resulting increase in your benefit payment. The actuarial equivalent value means the lump-sum amount needed, at the time of retirement, to pay for the increased monthly benefit over your lifetime. To determine what the lump-sum amount will be, you first determine the difference between your monthly benefit with, and without, the purchased service credit. Once you have that number, you divide it by the factor from the table provided by the State Actuary. The following example illustrates how this would work: \*

Dolores is a PERS Plan 2 member who is 60 years of age, has 22 service credit years (SCY) and qualifies for an early retirement. Her average final compensation (AFC) is \$2,500 per month. Her reduction factor for early retirement (ERF) is 0.6100. She wants to purchase five additional years of service credit.

Step one is to calculate her benefit *without* the purchased service credit. The formula is:  $2\% \times \text{AFC} \times \text{SCY} \times \text{ERF} = \text{monthly benefit amount}$ .

In Dolores' case, that would mean:

$$2\% \times \$2500 \times 22 \times 0.61 = \$671.00$$

The second step is to calculate her benefit *with* the purchased service credit

$$2\% \times \$2500 \times 27 \times 0.61 = \$823.50$$

The third step is to subtract the amount of her benefit *without* the purchased service credit from her benefit *with* the purchased service credit.

$$\$823.50 - \$671.00 = \$152.50$$

The final step is to divide the difference between the two by the factor from the State Actuary's table. This will show the cost of purchasing the additional service credit.

$$\$152.50 / 0.0063959 = \$23,843.40$$

\* The factors are age and system/plan based and taken from a 1995-2000 actuarial experience study.

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.drs.wa.gov/member/faq/purchase.htm>, Viewed 11/8/04

<sup>2</sup> For Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) Plans 2 and 3 and members of the School Employees' Retirement System (SERS) Plans 2 and 3



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

*P.O. Box 48380 • Olympia, WA 98504-8380 • (360) 664-7000 • Toll Free 1-800-547-6657*

December 8, 2004

Mr. Steve Nelsen  
Executive Director  
Law Enforcement Officers' and Fire Fighters' Plan 2 Retirement Board  
Post Office Box 40918  
Olympia, Washington 98504-0918

Dear Steve:

Thank you for providing the Department of Retirement Systems (DRS) with advance copies of the bills the Law Enforcement Officers' and Fire Fighters' (LEOFF) Plan 2 Retirement Board may introduce in the next legislative session. There is one issue we would like to comment on at this time.

Draft bill, Z-0188.1/05 is designed to permit members of LEOFF Plan 2 to make a one-time purchase of additional service credit at the time of retirement. As you recall, this proposal is similar to the benefits provided to members of PERS and SERS by the passage of House Bill (HB) 2535 during the 2004 legislative session. This bill was part of a policy package that included the creation of PSERS, and the implementation date of both proposals is July of 2006. A similar bill will be introduced to the legislature this year to include the Teachers' Retirement System, and the proposed implementation date of that bill is also July of 2006. The draft legislation you provided did not include an implementation date.

We suggest that you include an implementation date of July of 2006, to match the date of the other proposals. The Department's desire when implementing all legislation is to create administratively efficient system changes and provide clear, concise communication to members about the impacts and benefits. It would be necessary for the Department to create a combination of manual and automated processes in order to comply with an implementation date prior to July 2006 for LEOFF Plan 2. If the changes for the LEOFF Plan 2 members are included with our efforts to implement the changes for PERS, SERS, and TRS, the administrative costs for your bill would be significantly less, and we believe the end product would better serve the needs of your members.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this issue for your consideration in drafting the bill. If you have any questions or need clarification on these issues, please feel free to contact Dorothy Bailey at 664-7069.

Sincerely,

John F. Charles  
Director

Copy of Z-0188.1/05 by LL:ads provided on 10/26/04.

Brief Description: Permitting members of the law enforcement officers' and fire fighters' retirement system plan 2 to make a one-time purchase of additional service credit.

Page and line numbering may vary depending on the printer used.

-----  
ELECTRONIC TRANSMITTAL  
-----

AN ACT Relating to permitting members of the law enforcement officers' and fire fighters' retirement system plan 2 to make a one-time purchase of additional service credit; and adding a new section to chapter 41.26 RCW.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 41.26 RCW under the subchapter heading "plan 2" to read as follows:

(1) A member eligible to retire under RCW 41.26.430 may, at the time of filing a written application for retirement with the department, apply to the department to make a one-time purchase of up to five years of additional service credit.

(2) To purchase additional service credit under this section, a member shall pay the actuarial equivalent value of the resulting increase in the member's benefit.

(3) Subject to rules adopted by the department, a member purchasing additional service credit under this section may pay all or part of the cost with a lump sum payment, eligible rollover, direct rollover, or trustee-to-trustee transfer from an eligible retirement plan. The department shall adopt rules to ensure that all lump sum

payments, rollovers, and transfers comply with the requirements of the internal revenue code and regulations adopted by the internal revenue service. The rules adopted by the department may condition the acceptance of a rollover or transfer from another plan on the receipt of information necessary to enable the department to determine the eligibility of any transferred funds for tax-free rollover treatment or other treatment under federal income tax law.

Copy of Z-0189.1/05 by LL:ads provided on 10/26/04.

Brief Description: Permitting members of the law enforcement officers' and fire fighters' retirement system plan 2 to make a one-time purchase of additional service credit.

Page and line numbering may vary depending on the printer used.

-----  
ELECTRONIC TRANSMITTAL  
-----

AN ACT Relating to permitting members of the law enforcement officers' and fire fighters' retirement system plan 2 to make a one-time purchase of additional service credit; adding a new section to chapter 41.26 RCW; and creating a new section.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 41.26 RCW under the subchapter heading "plan 2" to read as follows:

(1) A member eligible to retire under RCW 41.26.430 may, at the time of filing a written application for retirement with the department, apply to the department to make a one-time purchase of up to five years of additional service credit.

(2) To purchase additional service credit under this section, a member shall pay the actuarial equivalent value of the resulting increase in the member's benefit.

(3) Subject to rules adopted by the department, a member purchasing additional service credit under this section may pay all or part of the cost with a lump sum payment, eligible rollover, direct rollover, or trustee-to-trustee transfer from an eligible retirement plan. The department shall adopt rules to ensure that all lump sum



payments, rollovers, and transfers comply with the requirements of the internal revenue code and regulations adopted by the internal revenue service. The rules adopted by the department may condition the acceptance of a rollover or transfer from another plan on the receipt of information necessary to enable the department to determine the eligibility of any transferred funds for tax-free rollover treatment or other treatment under federal income tax law.

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The department of retirement systems shall make optional actuarially equivalent life annuity benefit payment schedules available to members and survivors that may be purchased from the Washington law enforcement officers' and fire fighters' system plan 2 retirement fund.

Copy of Z-0189.1/05 by LL:ads provided on 10/26/04.

Brief Description: Permitting members of the law enforcement officers' and fire fighters' retirement system plan 2 to make a one-time purchase of additional service credit.

Page and line numbering may vary depending on the printer used.

-----  
ELECTRONIC TRANSMITTAL  
-----

AN ACT Relating to permitting members of the law enforcement officers' and fire fighters' retirement system plan 2 to make a one-time purchase of additional service credit; adding a new section to chapter 41.26 RCW; and creating a new section.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 41.26 RCW under the subchapter heading "plan 2" to read as follows:

(1) A member eligible to retire under RCW 41.26.430 may, at the time of filing a written application for retirement with the department, apply to the department to make a one-time purchase of up to five years of additional service credit.

(2) To purchase additional service credit under this section, a member shall pay the actuarial equivalent value of the resulting increase in the member's benefit.

(3) Subject to rules adopted by the department, a member purchasing additional service credit under this section may pay all or part of the cost with a lump sum payment, eligible rollover, direct rollover, or trustee-to-trustee transfer from an eligible retirement plan. The department shall adopt rules to ensure that all lump sum

payments, rollovers, and transfers comply with the requirements of the internal revenue code and regulations adopted by the internal revenue service. The rules adopted by the department may condition the acceptance of a rollover or transfer from another plan on the receipt of information necessary to enable the department to determine the eligibility of any transferred funds for tax-free rollover treatment or other treatment under federal income tax law.

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The department of retirement systems shall make optional actuarially equivalent life annuity benefit payment schedules available to members and survivors that may be purchased from the Washington law enforcement officers' and fire fighters' system plan 2 retirement fund.