

ESTABLISHING RETIREMENT CREDIT FOR PRIOR WORK EXPERIENCE

03 Creditable Service Law - Section One of Chapter 161:

- The newly enacted 03 creditable service law goes into effect on October 17, 2006, and applies to current state employees who completed one or more years of 03 (contract/consultant) service in jobs similar to the state positions for which they were eventually hired. Members must have opted for the State Retirement Plan to be eligible.
- Section one of the Chapter 161 legislation is applicable to MCCC members seeking retirement credit for 03 service. Other sections of this law apply to retired veterans and are not herein discussed.
- To get credit for 03 service, complete an application form specifically created for this category of employees. This form is not yet available and differs from the Buyback Form currently on the website of the State Retirement Board. Do not use that form to seek credit for 03 service.
- A notice to all state employees announcing the new law and the creation of this new Buyback Form for 03 Service will be included with payroll information within the next six weeks. Instructions for the purchase of such service should be included with that notification.
- The process for buyback will involve:
 - your submission of the completed 03 Buyback Form,
 - a request for confirmation of your years of service by the State Retirement Board to the employer where such service was performed,
 - a determination of your eligibility for this credit by this Board, and
 - an official notification sent to you of that decision.
- If eligibility has been approved, you have 180 days to purchase the service in a lump sum or 180 days to set up an installment plan with this Board to purchase such service.
- Note that years of service awarded are prorated. (For example, someone working two years at half time might receive one year of creditable service.)
- No deadline exists for employees to apply for eligibility for 03 service credit, but if retirement is approaching, it may be in your best interest to apply for this credit upon notification of this buyback option by the State Retirement Board. Said notification will be included with your paycheck information prior to Oct. 17th.
- Though the law applies to employees currently vested in the State Retirement Plan, Chapter 161 will also be applicable to employees in the State Retirement Plan once they become vested - complete 10 years of service. At that point, such employees could apply for eligibility for the provisions of this law, using the forms in place at that time.
- For further information, contact the State Retirement Board at 617-367-7770, select the extension related to buyback information, and refer to this legislation as Section One of Chapter 161.

Creditable Service Policy of November 16, 2001:

- If you were not an 03 employee but are seeking retirement credit for related work for the state at less than full-time capacity, apply for eligibility of retirement credit under the Creditable Service Policy of November 16, 2001.
- Under this policy, current employees of the state retirement system who worked at least half-time but less than full-time prior to January 28, 1993, will be credited with full-time creditable service for such employment.
- No buyback of this time is necessary. If approved, full-time credit is automatic. Do not complete a Buyback Form application.
- For further information, contact the State Retirement Board at 617-367-7770.

Pursue additional requests for creditable service separately:

- Employees should not apply for creditable service under more than one policy at a time. Though employees may be eligible under both policies or not sure which policy is the best fit, the State Retirement Board will only process one application at a time and may ignore one or both applications for service if two requests are submitted at the same time by any one employee.
- Once determination of eligibility is made on one request, an employee may then submit an additional request related to different legislation, if appropriate.
- Other creditable service policies may be applicable given your employment history. Discuss any questions you have about prior service with a Retirement Counselor on the State Retirement Board.

Diana (Donnie) McGee
MCCC Vice President
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