

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2025

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HOUSE BILL 272

Short Title: The Sergeant Mickey Hutchinson Act. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Zenger, Chesser, Pyrtle, and Miller (Primary Sponsors).
For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.

Referred to: Pensions and Retirement, if favorable, State and Local Government, if favorable,
Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

March 5, 2025

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO ALLOW LAW ENFORCEMENT, PROBATION/PAROLE, AND
CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS WHO HOLD AN ADVANCED LAW ENFORCEMENT
OR CORRECTIONS CERTIFICATE ISSUED BY THE NORTH CAROLINA CRIMINAL
JUSTICE EDUCATION AND TRAINING STANDARDS COMMISSION OR THE
ADVANCED LAW ENFORCEMENT CERTIFICATE ISSUED BY THE NORTH
CAROLINA SHERIFFS' EDUCATION AND TRAINING STANDARDS COMMISSION
TO PURCHASE, AT FULL COST, UP TO FOUR YEARS' CREDITABLE SERVICE IN
THE TEACHERS' AND STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OR THE
LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1.(a) G.S. 135-4.5 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

"(h) Purchases of Service Credit for Advanced Law Enforcement or Advanced
Corrections Certificates. – Notwithstanding any other provision of this Article to the contrary, a
member in service with five or more years of membership service who has been awarded either
(i) the Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate issued by either the North Carolina Criminal
Justice Education and Training Standards Commission under the authority granted under Chapter
17C of the General Statutes or the North Carolina Sheriffs' Education and Training Standards
Commission under the authority granted under Chapter 17E of the General Statutes or (ii) the
Advanced Corrections Certificate issued by the North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and
Training Standards Commission under the authority granted under Chapter 17C of the General
Statutes may purchase creditable service subject to all of the following:

- (1) The member may purchase up to a total of four years of creditable service
under this subsection.
- (2) Service may only be purchased under this subsection upon or after receipt of
the applicable certificate.
- (3) G.S. 135-4(b) does not apply to purchases under this subsection.
- (4) Purchases of service under this subsection shall be made by paying a lump
sum amount to the Annuity Savings Fund. Purchases shall not be associated
with any specific compensation or period of time. The amount payable shall
be equal to the full liability increase of the Retirement System due to the
additional service credits purchased plus an administrative fee that is set by
the Board of Trustees. The full liability increase shall be calculated on the
basis of the same assumptions used for the purposes of the actuarial valuation



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1 of the liabilities of the Retirement System, except for the following
2 assumptions specific to this calculation: (i) the allowance shall be assumed to
3 commence at the earliest age at which the member could retire on an
4 unreduced retirement allowance and (ii) there shall be assumed annual
5 postretirement allowance increases set by the Board of Trustees upon the
6 advice of the consulting actuary.

7 (5) An employer may pay all or part of the cost of a purchase of service under this
8 subsection. To the extent that the purchase is paid by the employer, the amount
9 paid by the employer shall be credited to the Pension Accumulation Fund. To
10 the extent that the purchase is paid by the member, the amount paid by the
11 member shall be credited to the member's accumulated contributions and
12 interest in the Annuity Savings Fund."

13 **SECTION 1.(b)** G.S. 135-4(b) reads as rewritten:

14 "(b) ~~In~~ Unless specifically provided under G.S. 135-4.5, in no case shall more than one
15 year of service be creditable for all services in one year. Service rendered for the regular school
16 year in any district shall be equivalent to one year's service. Service rendered by a school
17 employee in a job-sharing position shall be credited at the rate of one-half year for each regular
18 school year of employment."

19 **SECTION 2.(a)** G.S. 128-26.5 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

20 "(h) Purchases of Service Credit for Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate. –
21 Notwithstanding any other provision of this Article to the contrary, a member in service with five
22 or more years of membership service who has been awarded the Advanced Law Enforcement
23 Certificate issued by either the North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training
24 Standards Commission under the authority granted under Chapter 17C of the General Statutes or
25 the North Carolina Sheriffs' Education and Training Standards Commission under the authority
26 granted under Chapter 17E of the General Statutes may purchase creditable service subject to all
27 of the following:

28 (1) The member may purchase up to a total of four years of creditable service
29 under this subsection.

30 (2) Service may only be purchased under this subsection upon or after receipt of
31 the applicable certificate.

32 (3) G.S. 128-26(b) does not apply to purchases under this subsection.

33 (4) Purchases of service under this subsection shall be made by paying a lump
34 sum amount to the Annuity Savings Fund. Purchases shall not be associated
35 with any specific compensation or period of time. The amount payable shall
36 be equal to the full liability increase of the Retirement System due to the
37 additional service credits purchased plus an administrative fee that is set by
38 the Board of Trustees. The full liability increase shall be calculated on the
39 basis of the same assumptions used for the purposes of the actuarial valuation
40 of the liabilities of the Retirement System, except for the following
41 assumptions specific to this calculation: (i) the allowance shall be assumed to
42 commence at the earliest age at which the member could retire on an
43 unreduced retirement allowance and (ii) there shall be assumed annual
44 postretirement allowance increases set by the Board of Trustees upon the
45 advice of the consulting actuary.

46 (5) An employer may pay all or part of the cost of a purchase of service under this
47 subsection. To the extent that the purchase is paid by the employer, the amount
48 paid by the employer shall be credited to the Pension Accumulation Fund. To
49 the extent that the purchase is paid by the member, the amount paid by the
50 member shall be credited to the member's accumulated contributions and
51 interest in the Annuity Savings Fund."

1 **SECTION 2.(b)** G.S. 128-26(b) reads as rewritten:
2 "(b) ~~In~~Unless specifically provided under G.S. 128-26.5, in no case shall more than one
3 year of service be creditable for all service in one calendar year."
4 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2025.