

# Military Service Credit

## Issue

The Law Enforcement Officers' and Fire Fighters' Plan 2 Retirement Board (Board) was directed by the Legislature to study interruptive military service credit this interim.

At the May 2017 SCPP Executive Committee meeting, staff was asked to provide an informational briefing on military service credit in order to learn more about the subject.

## Background

Military service credit is a factor used in computing retirement benefits. It allows a person to recover and/or purchase additional credit to increase their monthly retirement benefit.

A member is eligible for interruptive military service credit<sup>1</sup> when a leave of absence is taken from a Department of Retirement Systems covered position to serve in the United States military. All state retirement systems provide up to five years of no-cost interruptive military service credit if service took place during a period of war<sup>2</sup>, or an armed conflict in which an approved campaign medal<sup>3</sup> was obtained. Up to an additional five years may be purchased by the employee by paying the contribution cost for those years, with no interest charged.

The most recent military service credit proposal considered by the Legislature is contained in [SB 5661](#). This bill directed the Board to study interruptive military service credit where the member was not awarded a campaign badge or medal and report findings to the Legislature by January 1, 2018.

## Committee Activity

The SCPP studied military service credit at their June and July SCPP meetings and took no further action.

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<sup>1</sup>Interruptive military service credit is largely controlled by federal law, the Uniform Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA). In addition to USERRA, Washington has added additional benefits.

<sup>2</sup>RCW 41.04.005.

<sup>3</sup>Id.