

For More Information...

If you would like a cost estimate for purchasing service, you **must** send a written request to the Montana Public Employee Retirement Administration (MPERA).

If sending your request via United States Post Office, include your full name, address, social security number, phone number and as much information as possible concerning the type of service you wish to purchase.

If sending your request via e-mail, include all of the above information, however, provide **only the last 4 digits** of your social security number. Our e-mail address is: MPERA@mt.gov.



State of Montana MPERA

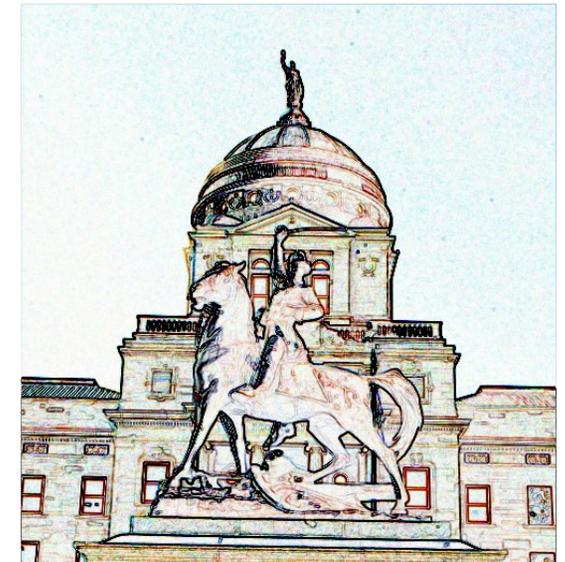
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Should any information in this publication conflict with statute or rules, the statute or rules will apply.

Montana Public Employee Retirement Administration (MPERA) Purchasing Service



**Montana Public Employees' Retirement
Board**

December 2009

Who Is Eligible To Purchase Service?

Only members of **PERS Defined Benefit Retirement Plan (DBRP), JRS, HPORS, SRS, GWPORS, FURS, and MPORS** are eligible to purchase (buy) service. New PERS members must elect to join the DBRP before they may request to purchase service. PERS Defined Contribution Retirement Plan members may not purchase service.

What Types Of Service Can Be Purchased?*

◆ Refunded Service

You may purchase service for employment from which you have terminated and received a refund of your retirement system contributions.

◆ Retroactive Service

If you previously declined optional PERS membership, you may be eligible to purchase that service. You may also purchase service earned prior to the employer's PERS contract coverage.

◆ Montana Public Service

You may be eligible to purchase service refunded from or on account in another system administered by MPERA or other public service with a political subdivision of the state.

◆ Other Public Service

You may be eligible to purchase service performed with another state or the Federal Government. You must have contributed to a retirement system during that time and be eligible for a refund.

◆ Absence Due to Illness or Injury

If you are absent from service because of a work related injury or illness, you may be eligible to purchase that absence upon returning to service.

◆ Additional "1 for 5" Service**

When you have at least 5 years of membership service you may, before retirement, purchase 1 additional year of service credit for each 5 years of membership service.

◆ Military or Reserve Military Service**

You may purchase either military or reserve military service if you have at least 5 years of membership service.

◆ Volunteer Service**

PERS members with at least 5 years of membership service may purchase up to 5 years of service as a volunteer in various United States service programs.

* Not all types of service may be purchased in all systems.

**The years of service which may be purchased is limited to 5 years in combination with other starred service purchases.■

How Do I Pay For Service?

To pay for service, you may:

- 1) Rollover funds from an eligible plan.
- 2) Transfer funds (trustee-to-trustee) from your IRA, 403(b) or 457(b) plan.
- 3) Establish a pre-tax, payroll deduction installment contract for no less than 3 months or more than 60 months (5 years). Once established, contracts may not end unless you die or terminate employment.
- 4) Pay by after-tax personal check.

How Much Will It Cost To Purchase My Service?

The cost to purchase service is on an individual case-by-case basis. For your specific cost, contact MPERA in writing (see back page). You should receive a written cost statement within 3-5 weeks from receipt of your request.



Contact MPERA for specific information and requirements.