Sub. S. B. No. 342

129th G.A.

military service purchased under sections 145.301 and, 742.52, 3309.021, and 5505.25 of the Revised Code or military service credit purchased in the Cincinnati retirement system, except that not more than a total of five years of credit purchased under described in division (A) of this section, division (B) of section 145.301, and division (A) of section 742.52, division (A) of section 3309.021, and division (A) of section 5505.25 of the Revised Code and not more than a total of five years of credit purchased under described in division (C) of section 145.301, and division (B) of section 742.52, division (C) of section 145.301, and division (B) of section 742.52, division (B) of section 742.52, division (B) of section 5505.25 of the Revised Code or military service credit purchased in the Cincinnati retirement system shall be used in determining retirement eligibility or calculating benefits under section 3307.57 of the Revised Code.

Sec. 3307.752. (A) As used in this section:

(1) "Service in the uniformed services" means the performance of duty on a voluntary or involuntary basis in a uniformed service under competent authority and includes active duty, active duty for training, initial active duty for training, inactive duty training, full-time national guard duty, and a period for which a person is absent from a position of employment for the purpose of an examination to determine the fitness of the person to perform any such duty.

(2) "Uniformed services" means the army, navy, air force, marine corps, coast guard, or any reserve components of such services; national guard; the commissioned corps of the United States public health service; service as a red cross nurse with the army, navy, air force, or hospital service of the United States, army nurse corps, navy nurse corps, or serving full-time with the American red cross in a combat zone; and any other category of persons designated by the president in time of war or emergency.

(B) On the re-employment of a member participating in the <u>STRS</u> <u>defined benefit</u> plan described in sections 3307.50 to 3307.79 of the Revised Code as a teacher by the same public employer that employed the member prior to the member's service in the uniformed services, the member may apply to the state teachers retirement system on a form provided by the system to purchase service credit for service in the uniformed services that shall be considered the equivalent of Ohio service credit. On receipt of the application, the system shall request from the employer that employed the member as a teacher prior to the military service a certification that the member was employed by the employer prior to, and returned to employment with the employer within three months of honorable discharge or release from, service in the uniformed services. If the employer can so

certify, it shall do so and shall pay to the system the employer's contribution required by this section. The service credit shall be granted the member if all of the following requirements are met:

(1) The member was a member of and maintained membership in the state teachers retirement system throughout service in the uniformed services;

(2) The member was out of active service as a teacher by reason of service in the uniformed services;

(3) The member was honorably discharged or released from service in the uniformed services;

(4) The member pays contributions to the system in accordance with this section.

(C) Credit may be purchased pursuant to this section at any time prior to receipt of a benefit. The member may choose to purchase only part of the credit in any one payment, subject to board rules. The system shall grant service credit under this section, not to exceed five years, for each period of service in the uniformed services for which contributions have been received.

(D) For service purchased under this section, the member and the member's employer, subject to board rules, shall pay to the system for credit to the member's accumulated account an amount equal to the contributions that would have been paid pursuant to sections 3307.26 and 3307.28 of the Revised Code if the member had not been out of active service as a teacher by reason of service in the uniformed services.

If a member pays all or any portion of the contributions required by section 3307.26 of the Revised Code later than the lesser of five years or a period that is three times the member's period of service in the uniformed services beginning from the later of the member's date of re-employment as a teacher or October 29, 1996, an amount equal to compound interest at a rate established by the board from the later of the member's date of re-employment as a teacher or October 29, 1996, to the date of payment shall be added to the remaining amount to be paid by the member to purchase service credit under this section.

(E) This section does not cancel any military service credit or service in the uniformed services earned or granted under this chapter prior to October 29, 1996.

(F) If a member purchased service credit under section 3307.751 of the Revised Code prior to October 29, 1996, is not receiving a benefit, and would have been eligible to obtain service credit pursuant to this section had it been in effect at the time of purchase, the system shall refund the amounts

Sub. S. B. No. 342

paid by the member for the purchase if both of the following requirements are met:

(1) The member makes a written request for a refund on a form provided by the system;

(2) The member pays to the system the contributions required by this section.

(G) If the member meets the requirements of division (F) of this section, the employer shall pay to the system the employer's contributions required by this section.

Sec. 3307.76. (A) A member of the state teachers retirement system participating in the <u>STRS defined benefit</u> plan described in sections 3307.50 to 3307.79 of the Revised Code shall, in computing years of total service, be given full credit for time served in the public employees retirement system under Chapter 145. of the Revised Code or in the school employees retirement system under Chapter 3309. of the Revised Code, provided that the member pays to the state teachers retirement system the amount specified in division (B) of this section.

(B) For each year of service described in division (A) of this section, a member shall pay an amount specified by the state teachers retirement board, which shall be not less than fifty per cent of the additional liability resulting from the purchase of that year of service as determined by an actuary employed by the board.

(C) A member may choose to purchase only part of the credit the member is eligible to purchase under this section in any one payment, subject to board rules if the member purchases the credit in accordance with section 3307.70 of the Revised Code.

A member is ineligible to purchase credit under <u>described in</u> this section if credit for the service may be obtained from the public employees retirement system or school employees retirement system or if the credit is for service that is used in the calculation of any retirement benefit <u>that has</u> <u>been paid, is</u> currently being paid, or <u>is</u> payable in the future to the member.

Sec. 3307.761. (A) As used in this section and section 3307.765 of the Revised Code:

(1) "Uniform retirement system" or "uniform system" means the Ohio police and fire pension fund or state highway patrol retirement system.

(2) "Military service credit" means credit purchased or obtained under this chapter or Chapter 742. or 5505. of the Revised Code for service in the armed forces of the United States.

(B) A member of the state teachers retirement system participating in the <u>STRS defined benefit</u> plan described in sections 3307.50 to 3307.79 of