Introduction
Notice of Potential Benefits Pursuant to G.L. c. 32, §4(1)(h)

Form Last Revised: June, 2004

The *Notice of Potential Benefits Pursuant to G.L. c. 32, § 4(1)(h)* notifies eligible veterans of their rights to purchase creditable service for their military service. In order to purchase such service, a member must meet the definition of "veteran" in G.L. c. 32, § 1. Keep in mind:

- If you have already been granted creditable service for active duty service under G.L. c. 32, §4(1)(h), you are no longer eligible to apply for that service
- You only have 180 days from the receipt of this notice to decide whether or not you wish to purchase the creditable service for which you have applied.
- You should contact your retirement board for an estimate of the cost of this purchase and payment options.
- Once purchased, a refund of the cost of this service is only available by a refund of all accumulated deductions.

Notice of Potential Benefits Pursuant to G.L. c. 32, §4(1)(h)

Form Last Revised: June, 2004

Retirement Board: Please place your address and phone number here. ▸	Leominster Contributory Retirement Board City Hall, 25 West Street, Room 15 Leominster, MA 01453 978-534-7507 ext 246 fax 978-534-7508

- G.L. c. 32, § 4(1)(h) grants eligible honorably-discharged veterans the right to purchase up to four years to add to their creditable service as a member of a retirement system due to service in the armed forces of the United States.

Definition Of Massachusetts Veteran

M.G.L. c. 4, sec. 7, cl. 43rd as amended by the Acts of 2004, effective August 30, 2004

To be a "veteran" under Massachusetts law a person is required to have either:

- **180** days of regular active duty service and a last discharge or release under honorable conditions
  - **or-**
- **90** days of active duty service, one (1) day of which is during "wartime" per the chart below, and a last discharge or release under honorable conditions.

War	**"Wartime" Dates**
WWI	6-Apr-1917 through 11-Nov-1918
WWII	16-Sep-1940 through 31-Dec-1946
(Merchant Marine: one day between 7-Dec-1941 through 31-Dec-1946)	
Korea	25-Jun-1950 through 31-Jan-1955
Vietnam	5-Aug-1964 through 7-May-1975
Lebanon Campaign*	25-Aug-1982 through (to be determined later)
Grenada Campaign *	25-Oct-1983 through 15-Dec-1983
Panama Campaign *	20-Dec-1989 through 31-Jan-1990
Persian Gulf	2-Aug-1990 through (to be determined later)

* Naval and Marine DD214 must indicate Expeditionary Medal. All DD214's must specify campaign: Lebanon, Granada, or Panama.

For **Guard Members** to qualify they must have 180 days and have been activated under Title 10 of the U.S. Code

- or-

Members who were activated under Title 10 or Title 32 of the U.S. Code or Massachusetts General Laws, chapter 33, sections 38, 40, and 41 must have 90 days, at least one of which was during wartime, per the above chart. The Members' last discharge or release must be under honorable conditions.

Minimum Service Exception (for Death or Disability)

It is not necessary that an applicant have completed the minimum service for wartime or peacetime campaign if he/she served some time in the campaign and was awarded the Purple Heart, or suffered a service-connected disability, or died in the service under honorable conditions.

Training Duty Exception

Active service in the armed forces as used in this clause shall not include active duty for training in the Army or Air National Guard or active duty for training as a Reservist in the Armed Forces of the United States.

Veterans who also have **Active Reserve** and **Massachusetts National Guard Service** may receive creditable service for such guard/reserve service on a ratio of **five years** of such service to equal **one year** of creditable service.

Application

To the _____ Retirement Board:

I respectfully request creditable service for my active service in the armed forces of the United States and Active Reserve or Massachusetts National Guard under the provisions of G.L. c. 32, § 4(1)(h).

Name (Print)	Social Security # - -	Phone #
Address		
Governmental Unit	Date of Last Membership	Date of Honorable Discharge

I sign this application under the pains and penalties of perjury. I affirm that the information presented in this application is correct, complete and accurately presented. I understand that giving false or incomplete information may subject me to the loss of my benefits as well as civil and criminal penalties.

Member's Signature _____ Date _____

Procedures

You must complete this application and file it with your retirement board no later than 180 days from the date you receive this notice. You must enclose a copy of your federal form DD214 with your application.

- Payment of 10% of your salary when you last became a member of a retirement system per year of creditable service being purchase is required. Consult your retirement board for payment options.
- Once your eligibility has been verified you will receive written notification of: (1) the years and months of service you may purchase (not to exceed four years) and (2) the amount owed.
- No refunds are allowed after purchasing this service except by a refund of all accumulated deductions.