1   A bill to be entitled

2   An act relating to the Special Risk Class of the Florida

3   Retirement System; amending s. 121.0515, F.S.; authorizing

4   certain employees to purchase additional retirement credit

5   for past service at a 3-percent Special Risk Class accrual

6   value; providing for contribution rate increases to fund

7   certain benefits; directing the Division of Statutory

8   Revision to adjust certain contribution rates; providing a

9   statement of important state interest; providing an

10   effective date.

11

12   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

13

14   Section 1. Subsection (5) of section 121.0515, Florida

15   Statutes, is amended to read:

16   121.0515 Special risk membership.--

17   (5) CREDIT FOR PAST SERVICE.--A special risk member may

18   purchase retirement credit in the Special Risk Class based upon

19   past service, and may upgrade retirement credit for such past

20   service, to the extent of 3 2 percent of the member's average

21   monthly compensation as specified in s. 121.091(1)(a) for such

22   service as follows:

23   (a) The member may purchase special risk credit for past

24   service with a city or special district which has elected to

25   join the Florida Retirement System, or with a participating

26   agency to which a member's governmental unit was transferred,

27   merged, or consolidated as provided in s. 121.081(1)(f), if the

28   member was employed with the city or special district at the

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29 time it commenced participating in the Florida Retirement System
30 or with the governmental unit at the time of its transfer,
31 merger, or consolidation with the participating agency. The
32 service must satisfy the criteria set forth in subsection (2)
33 for special risk membership as a law enforcement officer, a
34 firefighter, or a correctional officer, or an emergency medical
35 technician or a paramedic whose employer was a licensed Advance
36 Life Support (ALS) or Basic Life Support (BLS) provider;
37 however, no certificate or waiver of certificate of compliance
38 with s. 943.1395 or s. 633.35 shall be required for such
39 service.
40   (b) Contributions for upgrading the additional special
41 risk credit pursuant to this subsection shall be equal to the
42 difference in the contributions paid and the special risk
43 percentage rate of gross salary in effect at the time of
44 purchase for the period being claimed, plus interest thereon at
45 the rate of 4 percent a year compounded annually from the date
46 of such service until July 1, 1975, and 6.5 percent a year
47 thereafter until the date of payment. This past service may be
48 purchased by the member or by the employer on behalf of the
49 member.
50   Section 2. Effective July 1, 2006, in order to fund the
51 benefit improvements provided in s. 121.0515, Florida Statutes,
52 as amended by this act, the contribution rate that applies to
53 the Special Risk Class of the defined benefit program of the
54 Florida Retirement System shall be increased by 0.07 percentage
55 points. This increase shall be in addition to all other changes
56 to such contribution rates which may be enacted into law to take

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57 | effect on that date. The Division of Statutory Revision is
58 | directed to adjust accordingly the contribution rates set forth
59 | in s. 121.71, Florida Statutes.
60 | Section 3. The Legislature finds that a proper and
61 | legitimate state purpose is served when employees and retirees
62 | of the state and its political subdivisions, and the dependents,
63 | survivors, and beneficiaries of such employees and retirees, are
64 | extended the basic protections afforded by governmental
65 | retirement systems. These persons must be provided benefits that
66 | are fair and adequate and that are managed, administered, and
67 | funded in an actuarially sound manner, as required by s. 14,
68 | Art. X of the State Constitution and part VII of chapter 112,
69 | Florida Statutes. Therefore, the Legislature determines and
70 | declares that this act fulfills an important state interest.
71 | Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.