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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to the Florida Retirement System; amending s. 121.0515, F.S.; authorizing certain employees to purchase additional retirement credit to upgrade prior service to Special Risk Class service; providing for the calculation of contributions for such service upgrade; authorizing the employer to purchase such additional credit for the employee; providing a declaration of important state interest; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (c) is added to subsection (9) of section 121.0515, Florida Statutes, to read:

121.0515 Special risk membership.--

- (9) CREDIT FOR UPGRADED SERVICE. --
- (c) Any member of the Special Risk Class who has earned creditable service in the Regular Class of the Florida

 Retirement System between July 1, 1978, and June 30, 1984, while attending a certified training academy or other certified training facility approved by the employer for certification as a law enforcement officer or correctional officer, which service is within the purview of the Special Risk Class, may purchase such service to upgrade to Special Risk Class service, to the extent of the percentages of the member's average final compensation as provided in s. 121.091(1)(a)2. Contributions for upgrading such service to Special Risk Class credit under this paragraph shall be equal to the difference in the contributions

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paid and the Special Risk Class contribution rate as a percentage of gross salary in effect for the period being claimed, plus interest thereon at the rate of 6.5 percent per year, compounded annually until the date of payment. This service credit may be purchased by the employer on behalf of the member.

Section 2. The Legislature finds that a proper and legitimate state purpose is served when employees and retirees of the state and its political subdivisions, and the dependents, survivors, and beneficiaries of such employees and retirees, are extended the basic protections afforded by governmental retirement systems. These persons must be provided benefits that are fair and adequate and that are managed, administered, and funded in an actuarially sound manner, as required by s. 14, Art. X of the State Constitution, and part VII of chapter 112, Florida Statutes. Therefore, the Legislature determines and declares that this act fulfills an important state interest.

Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.