

Dear President:

Kindly share this information with your membership.

Notice to all NYSTRS Retirees (prior to May 31 2016) who are U.S. Military Veterans

The new law signed by Governor Cuomo now granting the use of previously non-eligible military service time toward pension calculation in the Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) is still only a halfhearted measure at veteran equalization within the TRS.

Problem with the law:

1. This new law does indeed allow for **in-service teachers ONLY** (those who have not yet retired prior to May 31, 2016) to purchase back military service time toward their pension calculations regardless of when the service occurred (during peacetime or time of war or other conflict).
2. The active military service must have been for at **least five years**, in order to purchase back a **maximum of three years**.
3. Only veteran/teachers who will retire **after May 31, 2016 are eligible**.

These three stipulations discriminate against older teacher/veterans who have already retired (prior to May 31, 2016), and furthermore it increases the number of active duty **military service to five years** in order to buy back just **three years toward pension calculations**.

Therefore, we urge all NYSTRS members who believe that they fall into this category to contact their local and state representatives, in order to have this law amended/extended to include all veterans, regardless of when they retired, and who have at **least three years of active military service**.

If you are unsure about who to contact, or if you believe that you are eligible for the buy-back under the most recent law, or how it should be amended to include retired NYSUT member/military veterans, please contact your local NYS Legislators or Dr. Lou D'Aquila, LDAQUILA@VERIZON.NET.

Thank you,

Dr. Lou D'Aquila, D.A., CFT, ET