

NMERB

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Dear Payroll and Human Resources Staff,

Senate Bill 157 allows the purchase of earned service credit based on accumulated sick leave. This type of purchase is available July 1, 2020. This edition is dedicated to the questions we have received from employers on this topic.

What is meant by “purchase?” This is a mechanism for active employees to purchase up to one year (up to four quarters) of earned service credit. This purchase has a monetary cost for the employee.

Is there a cost to the employer? No. The cost is paid by the employee.

Is the employer involved in this purchase process? Yes. An Authorized Signer is required to certify the current hours of accumulated sick leave on the new Application to Purchase Sick Leave Service Credit. Once the employee completes the purchase, NMERB will contact the Authorized Signer by email to notify the employer to subtract the hours of sick leave used in the purchase from the employee's sick leave balance.

Can any employee purchase their sick leave? The employee must be qualified to purchase. There are minimum years of service credit and sick leave balance requirements to purchase, please click the green link under NEW INFORMATION in the Tips section to the right for details. The employee is required to attach a print screen of the calculation to their Application to Purchase Sick Leave Service Credit. See Tips to the right.

How did NMERB come up with the requirements? Senate Bill 157 was written by the Legislature, not NMERB. We are required to follow the bill as written.

What if the employee is already eligible to retire? The service credit purchased will be added to their retirement calculation.

Can retirees make this type of purchase? No. Retirees cannot make any type of service credit purchase. This includes employees retiring on July 1, 2020. All purchases must be made prior to the original retirement date.

Questions or comments on this topic? Member.Help@state.nm.us



Upcoming Newsletters

New Contact Update &
Signature Authorization forms

Frequently Asked Questions

Tips:

Sick Leave Purchase:

Information for your employees is available on the homepage of our website. Click on the green link below or on the NMERB homepage scroll down and look for:

NEW INFORMATION (3/17/20)
[Purchase of service credit based on accumulated sick leave beginning July 1, 2020](#)

The Sick Leave Purchase Calculator will be available by July 1, 2020, in the employee's MyNMERB Account. This calculator will give an approximate cost for the purchase. On the NMERB homepage click the MyNMERB Account box.

Application to Purchase Sick Leave Service Credit

is now available under the blue DOWNLOAD FORMS box on our website.

Employee questions?

Member.Help@state.nm.us or call 1-866-691-2345 and ask for Member Services.