

# APPLICATION FOR PURCHASE OF PRIOR SERVICE CREDIT



**VIRGINIA RETIREMENT SYSTEM**  
 P.O. Box 2500 ♦ Richmond, VA 23218-2500  
 Toll-free 1-888-827-3847  
 Fax 804-786-9718  
 www.varetire.org

1. Social Security Number
2. Phone Number

Complete this application to purchase service that your *current* employer cannot certify. If you worked in a non-covered position with a former employer that participated in VRS during your service period, submit the form to that employer. If you worked in federal or public service, your former employer and retirement system must complete parts B and C. For VRS refunded service not already in your record, complete part A and send this form to VRS. If you choose to purchase service from *more than* one employer, complete a separate application for each employer.

**PART A. MEMBER INFORMATION**

3. <b>Name</b> (First, MI, Last)	
4. <b>Address</b> (Street, City, State, ZIP+4)	
5. <b>Previous Name(s) Used</b>	6. <b>Birth Date</b>
<p>7. <b>Type of Service Requested</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Non-Covered Service with former employer that participated in VRS</b>, though you were not eligible for VRS coverage at that time. Your service will be calculated as one month of service for each 173 hours you worked, as certified by your former employer. Qualifying types of service include: part-time or wage service, probationary service, Job Partnership Training Act (JPTA) service, Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA) service, and grant-funded service with a VRS-participating employer. Your period(s) of service must fall within the employer's retirement coverage dates in VRS. During this time, your employer must not have contributed to an optional retirement plan or another retirement plan on your behalf; you may not receive a pension from any of the plans.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Public or federal service in other government agency</b> not entitling you to a benefit with the employer's retirement system or any other public retirement benefit. Public service is permanent, full-time, salaried service with another state agency, public school system, public institution of higher learning, or political subdivision in this or another state or territory of the United States. Federal service is permanent, full-time, salaried service with a federal agency. Service with a private employer is <i>not</i> eligible.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Previously refunded VRS service earned prior to July 1988</b></p>	
8. <b>Employer at Time of Service</b>	9. <b>Dates of Service</b> From: _____ Through: _____
10. Are you entitled to a retirement benefit from a former retirement system as a result of the service listed above? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
<p>11. <b>Member Certification:</b></p> <p>I certify the following: 1) the requested prior service credit shall not be used in the calculation of any retirement benefit received or to be received from any other retirement system with the exception of Armed Services Reserve or National Guard pensions; 2) I am neither now receiving, nor entitled to receive, a benefit from any retirement system based on the service indicated above and 3) all statements made by me, the undersigned member, are true and correct.</p> <p>I understand that: 1) any person who knowingly makes any false statement or falsifies or permits the falsification of any record related to eligibility for membership in the VRS Trust Fund in any attempt to defraud the Fund shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor; 2) if the employer is unable to certify the requested service, the purchase will not be allowed; 3) if an error or misrepresentation is discovered, any adjustments to my account may affect my retirement benefits and 4) by signing below, I give permission for my previous employer and/or retirement system to release information about the requested service.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">_____</p> <p>Member's Signature <span style="float: right;">Date</span></p>	



12. Social Security Number
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**PART B. EMPLOYER CERTIFICATION OF SERVICE**  
 (Human Resources Representative: Complete this section.)

Type of Service/Leave Credit to be Purchased	From (Month/Year)	Through (Month/Year)
<b>13. Non-Covered Service with former employer that participated in VRS</b> Total Hours: _____		
<b>14. Federal Service</b> (Permanent, full-time, salaried. Identify any breaks in service in the section below.)		
<b>15. Public Service</b> (Permanent, full-time, salaried. Identify any breaks in service in the section below.)		
<b>16. Explanation of breaks in service</b> (for federal or public service) _____ _____		
<b>17. Name of retirement system or plan in which member participated</b> (for federal or public service)		
<b>18. Certification</b> I hereby certify that the service/leave period listed above is true and correct based on official records. For federal or public service, I hereby certify that this individual was engaged in public or federal employment in a permanent, full-time, salaried position with a state agency, public school system, public institution of higher learning, political subdivision in this or another state or territory of the United States, or with a federal agency during the above stated time period. Service with a private employer is not eligible. Further, to my knowledge, the service/leave period listed above is not used in the calculation of any retirement benefit received or to be received from any other retirement system, with the exception of Armed Services Reserve or National Guard pensions.  <i>Code of Virginia §51.1-124.10 states that any person who knowingly makes any false statement or falsifies or permits the falsification of any record related to eligibility for membership in the VRS Trust Fund in any attempt to defraud the Fund shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.</i>		
_____ Signature	_____ Phone	_____ Date
_____ Printed Name	_____ Title	
_____ Employing Agency Name	_____ Address	
_____ VRS 5-digit Employer Code (if it applies)	_____ City/State/ZIP	

19. Social Security Number

**PART C. FORMER RETIREMENT SYSTEM CERTIFICATION**

The individual identified in Part A would like to establish credit for federal or public (out-of-state or in-state) service with the Virginia Retirement System. This service may include employment with a federal agency, state agency, school board or political subdivision in this or another state or territory of the United States. Virginia law does not permit the purchase of this credit if the individual is eligible to receive a benefit under another retirement system/plan as a result of such employment.

<b>20.</b> Does the service listed in Part B accurately reflect the service in your system?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If no, enter dates of service: From: _____ To: _____		
<b>21.</b> Has this individual withdrawn all eligible contributions from a mandatory (primary) plan from your retirement system?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>NOTE:</b> Contributions to a voluntary or optional plan do not need to be withdrawn.		
<b>22. Certification</b> (Choose the appropriate statement)		
<input type="checkbox"/> On the basis of official records, I hereby certify the service listed in Part B of this application is <b>not used</b> in the calculation of any retirement benefit the applicant is receiving or is entitled to receive from this retirement system with the exception of reserve or national guard pensions.		
<input type="checkbox"/> On the basis of official records, I hereby certify the service listed in Part B of this application <b>is used</b> in the calculation of a retirement benefit the applicant is receiving or is entitled to receive from this retirement system with the exception of Armed Services Reserve or National Guard pensions.		
Comments: _____ _____		
_____ Signature	_____ Phone	_____ Date
_____ Preparer's Printed Name	_____ Title	
_____ Retirement System/Plan Name	_____ Address	_____ City/State/ZIP

This application must be returned to your current employer for processing unless you are requesting previously refunded VRS service not already reflected in your member record or non-covered service with an employer with whom you are no longer employed. In these cases, return the application directly to VRS.

**Remember: Do not scan/email this form to VRS to ensure the security of member information included on the form.**

## COMPLETING THE APPLICATION FOR PURCHASE OF PRIOR SERVICE CREDIT

Purchasing prior service credit increases your total years of service and counts toward the five years needed to become vested, your eligibility for retirement and the retiree health insurance credit. You may purchase prior service credit if you have ever received a VRS refund and returned to covered employment, or if you have other types of service, such as public service, that you are eligible to purchase. You may purchase all or part of your eligible service as long as it does not overlap with other VRS service or qualify you for benefits under another retirement plan.

**IMPORTANT NOTE: For most types of service, you can contact your employer directly. This application is only used for service that cannot be certified by your *current* employer (which includes non-covered service with a former employer who participated in VRS during your service period, other public service, or federal service that is not considered military service).**

### WHEN TO APPLY

You must apply for and pay for prior service credit while you are an active member. Keep in mind the cost to purchase service generally increases over time, or if your salary increases before you begin a purchase.

### APPLYING FOR ELIGIBILITY

1. Review your prior service eligibility in myVRS to determine if any eligibility is missing. To review your eligibility, create an online account at [myvrs.varetire.org](http://myvrs.varetire.org). Once you have logged in to your account, select "Purchase Prior Service" from the Manage My Benefits drop-down menu.
2. If you have eligible service not listed in myVRS, contact your employer directly to have your service certified. If you are applying for the service types listed on this form, complete Part A of the application and enter your Social Security number at the top of each page. **Remember:** If you request a purchase of service credit from more than one employer, complete separate applications for each employer.
3. Submit the form as indicated below, based on the type of service you are requesting:
  - For VRS refunded service not already in your record:* Complete Part A and send the form to VRS.
  - For non-covered service:* Forward the application to the employer where the service was earned. Have this employer certify the prior service. If the employer certifying your service is not your current employer, send the form to VRS.
  - For federal or public service:* Have the employer forward the application to the retirement system in which you participated. The retirement system must complete Part C and return the form to you. Your current employer will add the eligibility into the VRS system after the retirement system has completed the certification.

### REVIEWING YOUR ELIGIBILITY

After your prior service is certified by your employer and entered into the VRS system, you will see the service periods displayed in myVRS. (Select "Purchase Prior Service" from the Manage My Benefits drop-down menu to view a summary of your eligibility.) If applicable, this display includes information about how your future retirement is affected by a purchase of service.

### REVIEWING THE COST OF YOUR PURCHASE

In your online myVRS account, you can view the cost to purchase the service. When you review your options for purchase, the type of cost is displayed as well as the date the cost may change.

If you begin your purchase of prior service credit within two years of becoming employed in a covered position or following an eligible period of leave, the cost will be at a rate approximating the normal cost for the retirement plan under which you are covered. Approximate normal cost may be generally defined as the cost of one year of VRS service credit. After two years of being eligible to purchase a period of service, the cost of that period of service will change to an actuarial cost which is the amount of money needed in today's dollars to pay for the increase in your future retirement benefit or an earlier retirement date resulting from the purchase of prior service.

For periods of refunded service, the cost is the withdrawn amount to be purchased plus interest accrued daily and compounded annually from the date of the withdrawal to the date of payment at an assumed rate of return determined at the time of the purchase.

## **PAYING FOR YOUR PURCHASE OF ELIGIBLE SERVICE**

Once you have selected the service you would like to purchase in myVRS, you will select the order in which the service will be posted into your VRS record. (For example, a VRS member eligible for hazardous duty benefits may prefer to purchase a service period that is certified as hazardous to be eligible for the hazardous benefits before selecting other service to purchase.)

After selecting the order, you will choose how to pay for this service. You may choose to pay for prior service credit by pre-tax salary reduction (if offered by your employer), post-tax payroll deduction, lump-sum payment or a combination of these methods. Lump-sum payment options include a personal check, a rollover from a qualified plan, or a trustee-to-trustee transfer. Detailed information about each type of payment is available at [www.varetire.org/ppps](http://www.varetire.org/ppps).

When you select a lump-sum purchase in myVRS, you will indicate the source of funds for your payment.

After selecting your payment options and entering any subsequent information, you will confirm your purchase, print your confirmation page and initiate the purchase(s) you selected. If you selected a payment agreement, you must provide a copy of the confirmation to your employer for processing. If you selected a lump-sum payment, you will send the payment(s) as instructed in myVRS.