

HCS SB 127 -- MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND HIGHWAY
PATROL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

SPONSOR: Mayer (Schlottach)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Special
Committee on Retirement by a vote of 8 to 0.

Currently, a uniformed member of the State Highway Patrol may purchase up to four years of his or her prior creditable service as a nonfederal, full-time public employee if he or she is not receiving or eligible to receive credits or benefits from any other public plan for the service being purchased. This substitute allows any member of the Missouri Department of Transportation and Highway Patrol Employees' Retirement System (MPERS) to purchase the service.

The purchase of this service must be completed prior to his or her retirement or termination of employment. If a member who purchased service dies prior to retirement, the surviving spouse can receive a refund of the amount contributed for the purchase if he or she is not eligible for survivor benefits.

The substitute also adds one new member to the board of trustees of MPERS. Currently, the retired employees of the Department of Transportation and the civilian or uniformed highway patrol select one member. Each group will be allowed to elect one board member.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2008, FY 2009, and FY 2010.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill allows nonuniformed members of the Missouri Department of Transportation and Highway Patrol Employees' Retirement System to purchase nonfederal service just like other state employee can. This is an equity issue, and all employees need to be allowed this opportunity.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Mayer; and Highway and Transportation Employees' Association.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.