

### **Military Service Purchase Laws Revised**

On May 31, 2015, Governor Cuomo signed into law Chapter 41 of the Laws of 2016. This law expands the rights of members of New York State and City public retirement systems, including BERS, to purchase credit for military service performed before they joined their retirement system. Prior to this law, members could only purchase credit for military service prior to membership if at least a portion of that service was performed in certain conflicts, at specified times and places, as supported by certain decorations and documents. Under the new law, these specific requirements are eliminated. A BERS member can now purchase up to three years of credit for service performed in the United States armed forces prior to his or her BERS membership, regardless of when or where this military service took place. The only requirement is proof of an honorable discharge. If you previously applied to purchase credit for military service prior to membership, and your request was denied because your military service was rendered outside the times and places formerly specified in the statute, you may re-apply to purchase this military service. The relevant form may be found on our website, <http://www.nycbers.org>.