

## **1999 Legislative Changes**

### **Refund of Contributions**

This legislation clarifies the retirement system's statute on refund of contributions and policy on a terminating member's refund of contributions. All ERSRI and MERS members receive no interest on a refund of contributions upon termination of membership and employment. This law applies to all active members of the retirement system and went into effect upon passage. The bill was enacted on July 2, 1999 and applies to all demands for return of contributions subsequent to February 2, 1999. Public Law 99-344, 99-356 (amends RIGL 36-10-8)

### **Smithfield Police Officers**

This legislation creates a new MERS employing unit consisting of eligible Smithfield police officers. This new law applies to Smithfield police officers hired after July 2, 1999.

### **Teachers' Retirement: Out-of-State Service Time and Private School Teaching Time**

The legislation makes clear that all ERSRI teacher members will be allowed to purchase out-of-state teaching time and private school teaching time in increments of one year. The purchase of out-of-state teaching time and private school teaching time is made at full actuarial cost by the purchasing member. This new law applies to all teacher members of ERSRI and became effective upon passage. It was enacted on July 8, 1999. Public Law 99-487, Public Law 99-353.

### **Johnston Firefighters**

This legislation creates a new MERS unit consisting of Johnston firefighters hired after July 8, 1999. It also requires that disability determinations of all Johnston firefighters be made by the Employees' Retirement System of Rhode Island disability determination unit at Johnston's expense. The law was enacted and effective on July 8, 1999. Public Law 99-490