

with the State. Any service rendered before a break in service that occurs before the year in which an employee retires, dies, or otherwise terminates his employment or becomes 62 years old may not be recognized as eligibility service, until the employee completes 1 year of eligibility service following the break in service. However, if an employee who has not completed the eligibility requirements for a vested retirement allowance incurs a break in service in which the number of consecutive 1-year breaks in service is at least equal to the aggregate number of years of eligibility service rendered before the break in service, excluding any years of eligibility service disregarded because of any prior break in service, the service rendered before the break in service may not be included in his eligibility service. If an employee terminates his employment and is reemployed after incurring a break in service, his service before the break in service may not be included in his eligibility service, except as provided in this section.

(2) With respect to any person who was employed by the State on December 31, 1979, eligibility service for service rendered before that date shall be equal to the creditable service recognized through December 31, 1979 under the retirement system as in effect on that date.

[(3) In this section "service" means service as an employee, whether or not as an employee as defined in § 111 of this subtitle.]

[(4)] (3) Eligibility service shall include periods while in the military service as specified in Article 65, § 88 of the Code.

[(5)] (4) A period during which an employee is on a leave of absence approved by the board of trustees, under rules that apply to all employees similarly situated, shall be included in eligibility service, if the period of leave is not included otherwise under this section.

[(6)] (5) If a former member who is not retired is restored to service without having incurred a break in service, the eligibility service to which he was previously entitled shall be restored to him. If a former member who is not retired has incurred a break in service and is restored to service and the number of consecutive 1-year breaks in service does not at least equal the aggregate number of years of his eligibility service rendered before the break in service, determined as of the time of the break in service, excluding any eligibility service disregarded under this section because of any prior break in service, or if he was entitled to a vested retirement allowance at the time of the break in service, the eligibility service to which he was entitled previously shall be restored to him.