



Municipal Employees' Retirement System of Michigan
1134 Municipal Way • Lansing, MI 48917
800.767.6377 • Fax: 517.703.9706
www.mersofmich.com

Act 88/Other Governmental Service Credit Application

Please print • Retain a copy for your records

For vesting and eligibility under Act 88 or purchasing governmental service credit (*excludes military service*)

If you have worked for more than one unit of government in Michigan, you may be able to use Act 88 so that vesting and eligibility credit earned at one unit can be applied to another. If you are an active MERS participant, you may be eligible to purchase governmental service credit (upon approval of the governing body of your MERS employer).

1. Eligibility

Check the condition below that applies to you:

- ☐ Applying for **ACT 88 SERVICE** (Reciprocal Retirement Act, 1961 Public Act 88). The requirements are set out in MCL 38.1101-38.1106. For a brief description of the Act and how to find out if you have eligible Act 88 service, see page 2 of this form.
- ☐ Check this box if you have completed at least 30 months of benefit service. *Form will not be accepted by MERS for processing until you have earned at least 30 months of benefit service with your MERS employer.*
- ☐ Purchasing **GOVERNMENTAL SERVICE CREDIT**: Purchases can only be based on employment with a U.S. government, a state or a political subdivision of a state prior employer and any break in service between that work and your current work cannot exceed 20 years (or 15 years if your termination date occurred prior to September 01, 2006 – the 15 year break is calculated from the date of hire with your succeeding employer).
- An employee who became a MERS participant prior to July 1, 1997, and whose other governmental service was rendered before that date, may use the purchased service to meet vesting requirements.
 - An employee who became a participant after July 1, 1997, cannot use purchased service credit to satisfy vesting requirements. (This restriction also applies to a MERS participant who first became a participant prior to July 1, 1997, but who rendered qualifying service after that date.)

2. Information about you

Last name*		First name*		Last four of SSN*	
Mailing address*				Phone number (with area code)*	
City*			State*	Zip code*	
Email address					
I authorize my former employer and its custodian of retirement records to release information in Sections 3 and 4 to the Municipal Employees Retirement System of Michigan.					
Signature of participant*				Date (mm/dd/yyyy)*	

3. Governmental employment certification

To be completed by non-MERS employer

Name of certifying governmental employer*		Employment start date (mm/dd/yyyy)*		Date of separation (mm/dd/yyyy)*	
Total service acquired in certifying employer*: _____ Years _____ Months		Credited Service is measured in months and years, earned in the employment of the certifying employer.			
Certifying employer's mailing address*		City*	State*	Zip code*	
Certifying official's name	Title	Email address			
Signature of certifying employer*		Date (mm/dd/yyyy)*		Phone number (with area code)	

* Required field

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Last name* (please print clearly)

Last four digits of SSN*

4. Retirement system certification

To be completed by custodian of retirement records for the employer named in Section 3

Name of retirement system*

Did the applicant participate in a retirement plan?

☐ **YES** (complete section) ☐ **NO** (sign and return to applicant)

Retirement plan the applicant is covered by:

☐ Defined Benefit Plan ☐ Defined Contribution Plan ☐ Hybrid Plan ☐ 457 Deferred Compensation Program

Is applicant entitled to retirement benefits under your system's plan for the service certified above? ☐ **YES** ☐ **NO**
(Applies to **Governmental Service Credit Purchase only**, not for Act 88 eligibility.)

Certifying system's mailing address*

City*

State*

Zip code*

Certifying official's name

Title

Email address

Signature of certifying Retirement Administrator*

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)*

Phone number (with area code)

You can submit this form online!



If you have a myMERS account, you can upload this form online. Select your product, click on **View Plan Summary**, and look for **File Upload** in the top navigation to securely submit completed forms.

You may also mail completed form to:

**Municipal Employees'
Retirement System of Michigan**
1134 Municipal Way
Lansing, MI 48917
Fax: 517.703.9706

RECIPROCAL RETIREMENT ACT, 1961 PA 88 ("ACT 88") (as amended by 2008 PA 502)

The actual language of Act 88, which controls, may be found in chapter 38 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, MCL 38.1101-38.1106. The Act may be found at this link on the Michigan Legislature website:

[http://www.legislature.mi.gov/\(S\(helm3g45hh35wq55nmm1givb\)\)/documents/mcl/pdf/mcl-act-88-of-1961.pdf](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(helm3g45hh35wq55nmm1givb))/documents/mcl/pdf/mcl-act-88-of-1961.pdf)

This summary reflects changes made in sections 3 and 4 of the Act by 2008 PA 502; the changes are effective (on a limited retroactive basis) as of September 1, 2006.

1. You can see whether your service at another governmental employer might count toward meeting your MERS vesting and eligibility requirements under Act 88 by checking whether your current and/or prior governmental employer is included on the list of [Reciprocal Units Under Act 88](#) found on our website under Employer – Publications.
2. A participant employed by a governmental entity in Michigan may use service rendered to the entity in satisfying the vesting and eligibility requirements for benefits from MERS, and for a succeeding employer that is a non-MERS unit. The following conditions summarize most, but not all, requirements that apply to Act 88 service.
 - (a) The individual became a MERS participant within 20* (previously 15) years after leaving the employ of the preceding non-MERS governmental entity; or after having been a MERS participant, becomes employed by a succeeding non-MERS governmental unit within 20* (previously 15) years after leaving MERS-covered service.

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- (b) The MERS participating municipality (paying the benefit) has adopted Act 88.
- (c) To receive a benefit from an adopting unit, Act 88 must have been adopted **prior to** the participant's termination of employment (under the adopting unit elected otherwise with MERS) AND the participant must have acquired at least 30 months credited service. Service with governmental units may be "combined" towards meeting vesting (but not for benefit amount purposes). A benefit payable from a preceding unit that has adopted Act 88 becomes payable at age 60. For a succeeding unit that has adopted Act 88, the benefit is payable at the time the participant attains the age requirement in that unit, and the combined service under Act 88 meets the unit's service requirement.

*If the participant is using Act 88 as eligibility service to qualify to retire with his/her employer, and the participant's hire date with the succeeding employer occurred prior to September 1, 2006, the participant must become employed by the succeeding employer within 15 years of his/her termination of employment with the preceding unit. If the participant is using Act 88 as eligibility service to qualify to retire with his/her employer, and the participant's hire date with the succeeding employer occurred on or after September 1, 2006, the participant must become employed by the succeeding employer within 20 years of his/her termination of employment with the preceding employer.