

Date of Hearing: June 24, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT AND RETIREMENT

Tina S. McKinnor, Chair

SB 1207 (Laird) – As Amended April 15, 2026

SENATE VOTE: 36-0

SUBJECT: California Conservation Corps

The committee is informed that this bill was heard and passed (13-0) by the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources on June 8, 2026. As such, this writing only discusses matters that are germane to the jurisdiction of this committee. Please refer to that committee's analysis of this bill for a discussion of matters germane to its jurisdiction.

SUMMARY: Among other provisions relating to the California Conservation Corps (CCC), amends the Public Employees' Retirement Law (PERL), administered by the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS), by authorizing CalPERS members to purchase not more than three years of service credit for their prior voluntary CCC service. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) For purposes of purchasing CalPERS service credit, includes in the definition of "public service," time served as a corpsmember or special corpsmember with the CCC, not to exceed three years.
- 2) Requires any CalPERS member electing to receive credit for their CCC time to make contributions to CalPERS for the service credit cost, as specified.
- 3) Amends the prohibition in the Public Resources Code on CCC corpsmembers from receiving state retirement benefits to make an exception for CalPERS members who are purchasing service credit under the provisions of this bill, as specified.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Authorizes a CalPERS member to elect at any time prior to retirement to receive credit for public service, as specified, in addition to the member's current and prior service credit, provided that the election is accompanied by a lump-sum payment of the contributions and interest required for the credit or by authorization for immediate institution of payroll deduction of installment payment of the contributions and interest. (Sections 21032 et seq., Gov. Code.)
- 2) Provides that the right of election is subject to provisions that prohibit credit for the same service in two retirement systems, and prohibits credit for more than one year of service for service rendered in any fiscal year. (Section 21032, Gov. Code (incorporating Sections 20894 and 20961, *ibid*, by reference).)
- 3) Provides several definitions for "public service" for purposes of purchasing service credit, including service with a state, school employer, or contracting agency prior to becoming a CalPERS member. (Sections 21020, et seq., Gov. Code.)

- 4) Provides that the definition for “public service” for purposes of purchasing service credit, includes time served, not to exceed three years, as a volunteer in the Peace Corps, AmeriCorps VISTA, or AmeriCorps. (Section 21023.5, Gov. Code.)

FISCAL EFFECT: This bill was passed by the Senate Committee on Appropriations pursuant to Senate Rule 28.8.

COMMENTS:

A public employee’s CalPERS retirement benefit is based on three factors: age at retirement, final compensation, and years of service (i.e., service credit). An increase to one or more of these factors generally results in a higher pension benefit at retirement.

Current law allows CalPERS members to purchase service credit for their time served in “public service” prior to becoming a CalPERS member, provided the member makes required pension contributions, as specified. Generally, this option applies to a CalPERS member who initially worked for a public agency in a position or time-base ineligible for CalPERS membership but who later became a CalPERS member. However, CalPERS members can also purchase service credit of up to three years for time they worked with certain national service organizations such as the Peace Corps, AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers In Service To America), and AmeriCorps.

This Bill

Among other provisions discussed in the analysis of this bill by the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources, this bill would add the CCC to the list of service organizations for which a CalPERS member could purchase service credit, and may serve as an incentive to assist with ongoing efforts to recruit and retain CCC corpsmembers in the public sector.

Conflict Notice to the Author

The author is informed that the Office of Legislative Counsel has issued a conflict notice regarding this bill and Assembly Bill 2780 (Assembly Committee on Public Employment and Retirement).

A conflict exists when two or more bills and/or constitutional amendments amend, add, repeal, or amend and renumber the same section, article, chapter, division, title, or heading. The enactment of these measures in their present form could give rise to a serious legal problem that may be avoided by appropriate amendments.

Author’s Statement

“[This bill] honors the role that members of the CCC play in protecting our state and environment by allowing them to purchase service credit through [CalPERS], reinforcing current labor code exemptions, and updating the CCC’s statutes to better represent their mission. This measure is especially timely, as this year marks the CCC’s 50th anniversary. The desire to begin saving for retirement should not preclude anyone from participating in a program like the CCC. [This bill] will bring alignment with similar programs, including the Peace Corps and AmeriCorps, whose participants are already able to earn and purchase service credit for their

time in the Corps, while also encouraging [CCC] Corpsmembers to both start and continue a career in state service.”

Comments by Supporters

The California Conservation Corps (CCC) Foundation states, “[c]urrently, Corpsmembers are unable to make that commensurate purchase. This stands in contrast to the Peace Corps and AmeriCorps, where participants have long been able to purchase comparable service credit toward their public-sector retirement. For a half-century, the mission of the CCC has been to protect and enhance the state’s natural resources and communities while empowering young adults through training, hard work and education. By passing this bill, California will take an important step towards recognizing the civic responsibility and dedication of Corpsmembers, while encouraging them to enter full-time public service.”

Among other things, the California Association of Local Conservation Corps states, “[this bill] ensures Corpsmembers are able to purchase comparable service credit toward their public-sector retirement. In fact, the opportunity is already available to other services like AmeriCorps and Peace Corps, where participants are able to purchase up to three years of state service credit. By passing this bill, the Legislature recognizes the civic responsibility and dedication of Corpsmembers, while encouraging them to enter full-time public service.”

Comments by Opponents

None on file.

Prior or Related Legislation

Chapter 546, Statutes of 2002 (Assembly Bill 2094, Assembly Committee on Public Employees, Retirement and Social Security) authorized CalPERS members to purchase up to three years of service credit for service performed as a volunteer in AmeriCorps.

Chapter 834, Statutes of AB 596 (Honda, Chapter 834, Statutes of 1999) authorizes CalPERS members to purchase up to three years of service credit for time served as a volunteer in the Peace Corps or Americorps VISTA.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

California Association of Local Conservation Corps
California Conservation Corps Foundation

Opposition

None on file.

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