

**COUNTY OF LEHIGH, PENNSYLVANIA
COMMISSIONERS BILL 2014-18
SPONSORED BY COMMISSIONER MAZZIOTTI
REQUESTED DATE: JULY 2, 2014
ORDINANCE NO. 2014 -**

**ESTABLISHING A POLICY TO ALLOW PURCHASES OF UNPAID LEAVE
TIME IN THE LEHIGH COUNTY PENSION SYSTEM**

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of The County Pension Law, Act 96 of 1971, 16 P.S. §§11651-11681, members of the county retirement system may have time during which they are absent from service without pay counted in computing their service time, if allowed by the county commissioners and approved by the retirement board, and if the member pays the member contribution and the County's contribution into the fund for the leave of absence period; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners wishes to allow this purchase of service time for appropriate unpaid leaves of absence, in accordance with certain parameters to be set forth herein; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance approval is required for actions concerning personnel policies and procedures pursuant to Section 310(a)(1) of the Home Rule Charter.

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ENACTED AND ORDAINED BY
THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF LEHIGH,
PENNSYLVANIA, THAT:**

1. The foregoing Whereas clauses are incorporated herein as if set forth in their entirety.
2. The purchase of service time in the County of Lehigh's retirement system

for unpaid absences from service is hereby allowed, subject to the following criteria.

A. County employees who are members of the retirement system may purchase up to five (5) years service time for unpaid leaves of absence which were authorized by law or approved under County policy.

B. Purchases of service time must be completed no later than three (3) years after the last day of the unpaid leave of absence, and prior to the employee's separation from County service.

C. Employees who are part-time and not members of the retirement system and who take unpaid leaves of absence, may not purchase service time for those unpaid leaves should they later become members of the retirement system.

3. The provisions of this Ordinance shall take effect upon the effective date identified herein, however, current County employees who have prior unpaid leaves of absence which are otherwise eligible for repurchase but may be outside of the three (3) year period will be given a grace period of one (1) year from January 1, 2015 to complete the purchase of service time. Such purchases must be completed by December 31, 2015.

4. The proper officers and other personnel of Lehigh County are hereby authorized and empowered to take all such further action, including any necessary transfers of funds, and execute additional documents as they may deem appropriate to carry out the purpose of this Ordinance.

5. The County Executive shall distribute copies of this Ordinance to the proper officers and other personnel of Lehigh County whose further action is required to achieve the purpose of this Ordinance.

6. Any Ordinance or part of any Ordinance conflicting with the provisions of this Ordinance is hereby repealed insofar as the same affects this Ordinance.

7. This Ordinance shall become effective in ten (10) days after enactment.

ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2014, by the following vote:

Commissioners

AYE

NAY

Geoff Brace
Thomas C. Creighton, III
Percy H. Dougherty
David S. Jones, Sr.
Vic Mazziotti
Brad Osborne
Lisa Scheller
Michael P. Schware

ATTEST: _____
CLERK TO THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2014.

Thomas S. Muller
Lehigh County Executive

ENACTED this ____ day of _____, 2014.