



Other Governmental Service Application

Please print • Retain a copy for your records

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

If you have worked for more than one unit of government in Michigan, you may be able to use that governmental service to receive a benefit under Act 88. As an active MERS participant, you may purchase governmental service upon approval of the governing body of the participating municipality.

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 box to confirm that you have completed at least 30 months of benefit service. *Form will not be accepted by MERS until you have earned at least 30 months of benefit service with your MERS employer.*
- Purchasing **GOVERNMENTAL SERVICE**: Only full-time employment can be used or purchased and any break in service cannot exceed 240 months (20 years).
 - An employee who was a MERS participant prior to July 1, 1997, may purchase qualifying service in the employ of the United States government, a state or a political subdivision of a state rendered before that date. This service can be used for vesting.
 - An employee who became a participant after July 1, 1997, may purchase such service but cannot use the service to satisfy the vesting requirement. (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*	Social Security Number*
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 2 and 4 to the Municipal Employees Retirement System of Michigan.

Signature of participant*	Date (mm/dd/yyyy)*
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3. Governmental employment certification To be completed by employer

Name of certifying governmental employer*	Employment start date (DD/MM/YYYY)*	Date of separation (DD/MM/YYYY)*
Type of employment*: <input type="checkbox"/> Full time <input type="checkbox"/> Part Time <input type="checkbox"/> Elected Official		Total service acquired in certifying employer*: _____ Years _____ Months
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

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
(If no other retirement plan is offered.)

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.)

Has applicant received any refund of employee contributions? YES (Refund date _____) NO

Certifying system'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)

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 verify whether you might have a benefit payable under Act 88 by checking if your prior (and current) Michigan unit of government appears 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.
 - (b) The MERS participating municipality (paying the benefit) has adopted Act 88.
 - (c) The participant retained eligibility for a potential Act 88 pension by not withdrawing any accumulated contributions made to the preceding employer's retirement plan. If the participant withdrew contributions, he or she must repay the contributions with interest to the preceding plan. Act 88 requires that such repayment must occur within 20** (previously 5) years after the participant becomes employed by the succeeding unit, in order to use the preceding service to satisfy eligibility requirements for a benefit from a succeeding unit.

Note: Act 88 requirements require that both employers, preceding and succeeding, adopt Act 88.

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- (d) To receive a benefit from an adopting unit, Act 88 must have been adopted **prior to** the participant's termination of employment AND the participant must have acquired at least 30-months credited service. In order to receive a benefit from both the preceding and succeeding units under Act 88, each unit must have adopted Act 88 **prior to** the participant's termination of employment AND the participant must have acquired at least 30-months credited service with each unit. 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.
- (e) To receive a defined benefit allowance from a "preceding" unit, the participant must not withdraw employee contributions. If the participant withdrew contributions, he or she must repay the contributions with interest to the preceding plan. Act 88 requires that such repayment must occur within 20** (previously 5) years after the participant becomes employed by the succeeding unit. The only exception is where a defined contribution plan required a withdrawal (2003 Attorney General Opinion #7130). Note: Act 88 requirements require that both employers, preceding and succeeding, adopt Act 88.

*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.

**If the participant is repaying a refund to their preceding employer and employment with their succeeding employer occurred prior to September 1, 2006, they must pay the refund within 5 years of their hire date. If the participant is repaying a refund to their preceding employer and employment with their succeeding employer occurred on or after September 1, 2006, they must repay the refund within 20 years of their hire date. MERS requires repayments of refunds to be completed in one lump-sum payment.

Note: For individuals whose employment is with several MERS participating municipalities, Section 17 of the MERS Plan Document permits combining all service of at least one year or more in order to satisfy the vesting requirement in effect for each MERS municipality. The benefit payable in such case is determined by the actual credited service rendered and the benefit programs in effect in each municipality.