

I am submitting public testimony on behalf of Raised Bill No.1291, *An Act Concerning Additional Retirement Credit for Judicial Marshals*.

My name is Anthony Martino. I am a Support Enforcement Officer with the Judicial Department at the Stamford Courthouse. I am testifying on behalf of this raised bill, not as a Judicial Marshal, but as a former Special Deputy Sheriff, now working in another capacity with the State. Last year, a similar bill supported by my Representative Jim Shapiro(D-144th), raised this same concern.

This year's bill proposes that there be an opportunity afforded to Judicial Marshals to make contributions that would allow this class of employees to purchase retirement credit for additional years of service during which time they served as Special Deputy Sheriffs.

Last year's bill, Senate Bill 219, included people like me. It proposed that *any* member of the state employees retirement system who is a *present* state employee, and who served as a special deputy sheriff after July 1, 1990, and who has not had a permanent break in service would be allowed to purchase this additional retirement credit. This would affect present Judicial Marshals who were special deputies prior to the 1999 date when they became Judicial Marshals, as well as the very few others in *my* category, who are formerly special deputies, but chose to pursue state service with a different department. In my case that department was Support Enforcement Services, the child support division.

I began my state service in 1993 as a Special Deputy, chose to interview and was hired for a position in 1997 with the Support Enforcement Division. In fact, my employee ID number is the same as when I was a special deputy, but my 4 ½ years of deputy service is, at this point, not counted as state service. Although I am with the state, have had the same employee id number, and have received a paycheck from the same payroll office for *14 years*, I am given credit for retirement purposes for only *9 ½ years*. I am hoping that this bill will reflect, as it did last year, my category of employees as well as present Judicial Marshals, and that it is passed this session. The number of additional employees in my category is very few, in fact I cannot think of more than a handful. In addition, the concept of *purchasing* the credit is fair and reasonable in that we would be contributing financially for any retroactive credit out of our own pockets. In addition, there are pages in the CT Statutes which address retirement credit that has been granted for federal service, and I know of a probation officer who received credit for additional state service elsewhere as well.

To me, the passage of this bill, with *restated language* so that it would not exclude the few others in my category, would be the fair and the equitable thing to do. I hope that you will do all in your power to support it. Thank you for your time and for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

Anthony Martino
Support Enforcement Officer
123 Hoyt St. - Stamford Courthouse
Stamford, CT
203-965-5706 office