

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2025

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Legislative Document

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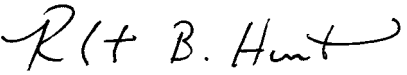
H.P. 811

House of Representatives, March 25, 2025

### **An Act to Address Employee Retention of State Employees Who Are Firefighters at Bangor International Airport**

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Reference to the Committee on Labor suggested and ordered printed.

  
ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative ROEDER of Bangor.  
Cosponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot and  
Representatives: FAIRCLOTH of Bangor, RANA of Bangor, SUPICA of Bangor, Senator:  
TIPPING of Penobscot.

1       **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2       **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §17851-A, sub-§1, ¶H**, as amended by PL 1999, c. 493, §5, is  
3 further amended to read:

4       H. ~~Firefighters~~ Until September 30, 2025, firefighters in the employment of the  
5 Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management at Bangor International  
6 Airport on July 1, 1998, or hired thereafter, ~~provided as long as~~ the Federal Government  
7 pays annually to the retirement system the full employer cost of the participation of  
8 these employees;

9       **Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §17851-D** is enacted to read:

10       **§17851-D. Special plan for firefighters in employment of Department of Defense,**  
11       **Veterans and Emergency Management at Bangor International Airport**

12       **1. Establishment and applicability.** Effective October 1, 2025, there is established  
13 a special retirement plan for firefighters in the employment of the Department of Defense,  
14 Veterans and Emergency Management at Bangor International Airport, referred to in this  
15 section as "the special plan." The special plan applies to firefighters in the employment of  
16 the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management at Bangor International  
17 Airport on or after July 1, 1998, if the Federal Government pays annually to the retirement  
18 system the full employer cost of the participation of these employees.

19       **2. Qualification for benefits.** A member employed under subsection 1 qualifies for  
20 a service retirement benefit after completing 25 years of creditable service in that capacity,  
21 whether or not the creditable service included in determining that the 25-year requirement  
22 has been met was earned under the special plan established in this section or prior to its  
23 establishment.

24       **3. Purchase of service credit to be used for qualification for benefits.** This  
25 subsection governs the use of purchased service credit in order to qualify for benefits under  
26 this section. For the purpose of meeting the qualification requirement of subsection 2:

27       A. Service credit purchased by repayment of an earlier refund of accumulated  
28 contributions following termination of service is included if the time to which the  
29 refund relates was served in the position described in subsection 1, regardless of  
30 whether the time was served before or after the establishment of the special plan;

31       B. Service credit purchased under section 17760 is considered service under the special  
32 plan; and

33       C. Service credit purchased other than as provided under paragraphs A and B is not  
34 included.

35       **4. Computation of benefits.** The amount of the service retirement benefit for  
36 members qualified under subsection 2 is 1/2 of the member's average final compensation  
37 and an additional 2% of the member's average final compensation for each year of  
38 membership service not included in determining qualification under subsection 2.

39       **5. Contributions.** Notwithstanding any provision of subchapter 3 to the contrary,  
40 after September 30, 2025, a member in a position described in subsection 1 shall contribute  
41 to the State Employee and Teacher Retirement Program or have pick-up contributions

1     made at the rate of 8.65% of earnable compensation until the member has completed 25  
2     years of creditable service as provided in this section and at the rate of 7.65% thereafter.

3                                     **SUMMARY**

4             This bill establishes a new special retirement plan for firefighters employed by the  
5     Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management at Bangor International  
6     Airport that allows those employees to retire after 25 years of service regardless of age.