

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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N I N E T Y - S E V E N T H L E G I S L A T U R E

Legislative Document

No. 92

S. P. 67

In Senate, January 20, 1955.

Referred to the Committee on Retirements and Pensions, sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

CHESTER T. WINSLOW, Secretary

Presented by Senator Butler of Franklin.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FIFTY-FIVE

AN ACT Revising the Maine State Retirement System.

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

Sec. 1. R. S., c. 63-A, additional. The revised statutes are hereby amended by adding thereto a new chapter to be numbered 63-A, to read as follows:

CHAPTER 63-A.

Maine State Retirement System.

Sec. 1. Definitions. "Accumulated contributions" shall mean the sum of all the amounts credited to a member's individual account in the members' contribution fund, together with regular interest thereon, as provided in section 15.

"Actuarial equivalent" shall mean a benefit of equal value when computed at regular interest upon the basis of such mortality and service tables as the board of trustees shall adopt.

"Average final compensation" shall mean the average annual rate of earnable compensation of a member during the 5 years of creditable service as an employe in Maine, not necessarily consecutive, in which such average annual rate of earnable compensation is highest, or during his entire period of creditable service if such period is less than 5 years.

"Beneficiary" shall mean any person in receipt of a benefit as provided by this chapter.

"Board of Trustees" shall mean the Board provided for in section 13 to administer the retirement system.

“Creditable service” shall mean membership service plus prior service.

“Department” shall mean any department, commission, institution or agency of the State Government.

“Earnable compensation” shall mean actual compensation, including maintenance if any. In cases where compensation includes maintenance, the Board of Trustees shall fix the value of that part of the compensation not paid in money.

“Employee” shall mean any regular classified or unclassified officer or employee in a department, including teachers in the state teachers’ colleges, normal schools and Madawaska training school, and for the purposes of this chapter, teachers in the public schools, but shall not include any member of the State Legislature or the Council or any Judge of the Superior Court or Supreme Judicial Court who is now or may be later entitled to retirement benefits under the provisions of section 5 of chapter 103 and section 3 of chapter 106, nor shall it include any member of the State Police who is now entitled to retirement benefits under the provisions of section 22 and 23 of chapter 15. Persons serving during any probationary period required under the Maine State Personnel Law and rules of the State Personnel Board shall be deemed regular employees for purposes of this definition. In all cases of doubt the board of trustees shall determine whether any person is an employee as defined in this chapter.

“Member” shall mean any employee included in the membership of the retirement system, as provided in section 3.

“Membership service” shall mean service rendered while a member of the retirement system for which credit is allowable under the provisions of section 4.

“Out-of-state service” shall mean service rendered as an employee of any state of the United States, except Maine, or of any political subdivision of any such state.

“Prior service” shall mean service rendered prior to the date of establishment of the retirement system for which credit is allowable under the provisions of section 4.

“Public school” shall mean any public school conducted within the State under the authority and supervision of a duly elected Board of Education or superintending school committee and any day school which received any direct state aid in 1950, and municipal tuition funds amounting to at least twice the amount of such state aid, during the same year.

“Regular interest” shall mean interest at such rate as may be set from time to time by the board of trustees in accordance with the provisions of subsection II of section 14.

“Retirement” shall mean termination of membership with a retirement allowance granted under the provisions of this chapter.

“Retirement allowance” shall mean the retirement payments to which a member is entitled as provided in this chapter.

“Retirement System” shall mean the Maine State Retirement System, as defined in section 2.

“Service” shall mean service as an employee, as defined in this section, for which compensation was paid.

“Teacher” shall mean any teacher, principal, supervisor, school nurse, school dietitian, school secretary or superintendent employed in any public school, including teachers in unorganized territory.

The masculine pronoun, wherever used, shall include the feminine pronoun.

Sec. 2. Name and date of establishment. A Retirement System, as herein established, shall be placed under the Board of Trustees for the purpose of providing retirement allowances and other benefits under the provisions of this chapter for employees of this State. The Retirement System, so created, shall be considered to have been established July 1, 1947 for employees employed for the first time thereafter and for all employees who were eligible for the provisions of section 212 to 241, inclusive, of chapter 37 of the revised statutes of 1944; July 1, 1942 for all employees who were eligible for the provisions of chapter 60 of the revised statutes of 1944; and for all other employees the date on which contributions were first made by them to any retirement system supported in whole or in part by the State. It shall have the powers and privileges of a corporation and shall be known as the “Maine State Retirement System,” and by such name all of its business shall be transacted, all of its funds invested, and all of its cash and securities and other property held in trust for the purpose for which received.

Sec. 3. Membership. The membership of the retirement system shall be as set forth following:

I. Any person who shall become an employee shall become a member of the retirement system as a condition of employment and shall not be entitled to receive any retirement allowance under any other retirement provisions supported wholly or in part by the State, anything to the contrary notwithstanding; provided, however, that membership shall be optional in the case of any class of elected officials or any class of officials appointed for fixed terms.

II. Any employee who elected not to become a member by filing a waiver in accordance with the provisions of section 3 of chapter 60 of the revised statutes of 1944, may at any time apply for and be admitted to membership.

III. Any person who was an employee on December 31, 1941 and was transferred to the federal employment service and any person employed by said employment service after December 31, 1941, and who subsequently may become a state employee when the said employment service shall be returned to the State of Maine as an operating unit, shall be considered a member of the retirement system if such person shall have made payments to the state retirement fund in the same amounts and during the same periods as the

other state employees have made to said fund and any such person shall be permitted to make up any such amounts due to the said fund. Any person to whom the provisions of this subsection are applicable shall be entitled to all the rights and benefits which he could have accrued had he been employed by the State.

IV. The Board of Trustees may, in its discretion, deny the right to become a member to any class of employees whose compensation is only partly paid by the State, with the exception of teachers, or who are serving on a temporary or other than per annum basis.

V. It shall be the duty of the head of each department to submit to the Board of Trustees a statement showing the name, title, compensation, sex, date of birth and length of service of each member and such information regarding other employees in his department as the Board may require. For the effective handling of this subsection, the Commissioner of Education shall furnish this information to the Board of Trustees for all teachers.

VI. Should any member withdraw his contributions, or should he become a beneficiary as the result of his own retirement, or die, he shall thereupon cease to be a member; provided, however, that the membership of any employee entering such classes of military or naval service of the United States as may be approved by resolution of the Board of Trustees, shall be considered to be continued during such military or naval service if he does not withdraw his contributions, and provided further, that any employee who enlists in or is inducted or drafted into the service of the armed forces of the United States, in time of war including World War I between the dates of April 6, 1917 and March 3, 1921, inclusive, or while the provisions of Public Law 759, 80th Congress (Selective Service Act of 1948) or any amendment thereto or extension thereof shall be in effect, shall be considered as an employee under the provisions of this chapter and shall have all the benefits of section 28 of chapter 63, and the State shall contribute to the members' contribution fund such amounts as the employee would have been required to contribute if he had been serving the State during his service in the said armed forces in the same capacity as that in which he was serving at the time he joined the service; regardless of when he entered the United States armed forces or when he was released therefrom, provided such entry and release occurs during a time of war including World War I between the dates of April 6, 1917 and March 3, 1921, inclusive, or while the provisions of Public Law 759, 80th Congress (Selective Service Act of 1948) or any amendment thereto or extension thereof shall be in effect; provided, however, that any employee, whose contributions to the members' contribution fund are paid by the State under the provisions of this section, who withdraws from or ceases to be a member of the Retirement System, may not withdraw any of the contributions made by the State under this subsection.

Sec. 4. Creditable service.

I. Creditable service at retirement on which the retirement allowance of a member shall be based shall consist of his membership service, and also, if he

has a prior service certificate which is in full force and effect, the period of the service certified on his prior certificate.

II. All service of a member on account of which contributions are made shall be credited as membership service and none other.

III. Under such rules and regulations as the Board of Trustees shall adopt, each member shall file a detailed statement, on forms provided by the Board of Trustees, of all service rendered by him both before and after the applicable date of establishment for which he claims credit. Provided further, that any person formerly employed by the State and who is re-employed by the State at any time shall, upon becoming a member, be allowed the appropriate credit.

IV. The Board of Trustees shall fix and determine by appropriate rules and regulations how much service in any year is equivalent to 1 year of service, but in no case shall it allow credit for a period of absence without pay of more than a month's duration if a full-time position, nor shall more than 1 year of service be creditable for all service in 1 calendar year. Service rendered for the full normal working time in any year shall be equivalent to 1 year's service. For the purpose of determining prior service credits, actual time worked in any year shall be deemed to be the normal working time. For evening school credits, any teacher who teaches a full accredited year in any evening school duly accepted and approved by the State Department of Education shall be allowed not more than $\frac{1}{2}$ a year's credit toward retirement for each school year so taught. Any period of time during which an evening school teacher teaches less than a full so-called accredited year shall be allowed toward retirement on a pro rata basis only.

V. Subject to the above restrictions and to such other rules and regulations as the Board may adopt, the Board shall verify, as soon as practicable after the filing of such statements of service, the service therein claimed. Provided that those members who have already filed such statements under the provisions of section 4 of chapter 64 of the revised statutes of 1954 as in effect immediately prior to the effective date of this chapter, need not again file.

VI. Upon verification of the statements of service, the Board of Trustees shall issue prior service certificates certifying to each member the length of service rendered prior to the applicable date of establishment with which he is credited on the basis of his statement of service. So long as membership continues, a prior service certificate shall be final and conclusive for retirement purposes as to such service; provided that, whenever any error is discovered in a prior service certificate already issued, the proper correction shall be made by the Board of Trustees and a revised certificate issued to the member involved.

VII. Prior service credit will be granted to those members formerly subject to the provisions of sections 221 to 241, inclusive, of chapter 37 of the revised statutes of 1944 for service rendered prior to their attaining age 25 or during the period from July 1, 1924 to July 1, 1930, provided that such members pay into the members' contribution fund 5% of the salary received during such service, and provided further, that for each year of such service such payments shall not be less than \$20 or more than \$100.

VIII. Any member for whom the date of establishment of the retirement system is July 1, 1942 may, if he so elects, pay into the members' contribution fund any or all back contributions covering any or all of the period from July 1, 1942 to the date when such member first began to make contributions to the retirement system, and receive therefor the proper membership credit for the period for which such back contributions are made.

IX. Any member who was an employee on July 1, 1947 but became a member as of a date thereafter, may, if he so elects, pay into the members' contribution fund back contributions for the period from the date of establishment of the retirement system so far as he is concerned to the date he became a member and receive the proper service credits. Payments made after July 1, 1957 of any such back contributions shall include regular interest thereon for the period from July 1, 1957 to the date of payment.

X. Any former member who withdrew his contributions after termination of service may, upon later restoration to membership and prior to the date any retirement allowance becomes effective for him, deposit in the members' contribution fund by a single payment or by an increased rate of contribution an amount equal to the accumulated contributions withdrawn by him together with regular interest thereon from the date of withdrawal to the date the deposit payment or payments are made. Upon the completion of such deposit the member shall be entitled to all creditable service that he acquired during his previous membership. In the event any retirement allowance becomes effective before the completion of such deposit, the member shall be entitled to credit for that portion of the total of such previous creditable service which the total amount of deposit payments actually made bears to such single deposit if paid on the date of restoration to membership, in each instance including regular interest from the date of payment to the date the retirement allowance becomes effective.

XI. Any employee of the federal employment service who transfers to a state department prior to the time said service is returned to state control shall be allowed prior service credit and membership credit for such time as he was with the said federal employment service provided he makes up such contributions as may be necessary to cover membership credit.

XII. Out-of-state service credit

A. Out-of-state service rendered prior to July 1, 1955 shall be allowed as additional creditable service for any member in the determination of his retirement allowance under any provisions of this chapter provided that the member has creditable service in Maine of at least 20 years in the aggregate; provided further, that the member, prior to the date any retirement allowance becomes effective for him, makes contributions into the members' contribution fund for the years of out-of-state service on the same basis as he would have made contributions had such service been in Maine, and subject to the following:

1. If the member began to teach in the public schools in Maine for the first time prior to July 1, 1924, his last 15 years of creditable service prior to the date of retirement must be in Maine;

2. If the member was formerly subject to the provisions of sections 221 to 241, inclusive, of chapter 37 of the revised statutes of 1944, his last 7 years of creditable service prior to date of retirement must be in Maine;

3. If the member is a teacher employed for the first time after July 1, 1947, his last 10 years of creditable service prior to the date of retirement must be in Maine and no more than 10 years of such out-of-state service shall be allowed as creditable service; and

4. If the member is other than a teacher, his last 10 years of creditable service prior to the date of retirement must be in Maine, no more than 10 years of such out-of-state service shall be allowed as creditable service, and years of out-of-state service prior to the date of establishment of the retirement system so far as he is concerned shall be allowed as creditable service only if the member makes contributions into the members' contribution fund for such years of out-of-state service on the basis set forth in paragraph B of this subsection in lieu of the basis set forth preceding.

B. Out-of-state service, rendered after July 1, 1955 or rendered prior thereto if not allowed as creditable service under the provisions of paragraph A of this subsection, shall be allowed as additional creditable service for any member in the determination of his retirement allowance under any provision of this chapter provided that the member, prior to the date any retirement allowance becomes effective for him deposits in the members' contribution fund by a single payment or by an increased rate of contribution such amount as together with regular interest credited thereon, will be the actuarial equivalent, at the effective date of his retirement allowance, of the portion of his retirement allowance based on such additional creditable service. Such additional amounts so deposited shall become a part of the member's accumulated contributions. In the event any retirement allowance becomes effective before the completion of such deposit, the member shall be entitled to credit for that portion of such additional creditable service which the total amount of deposit payments actually made, together with regular interest thereon to the date the retirement allowance becomes effective, bears to the actuarial equivalent of the total portion of the retirement allowance based on such additional creditable service.

Sec. 5. Employees' contributions. Each member shall, after July 1, 1955, make a 5% contribution of earnable compensation to the retirement system as long as he is employed, any excess of contributions that have ever been made shall be used to increase the retirement allowance or may be refunded at point of retirement.

Sec. 6. Service retirement.

I.

A. Any member who, at the attainment of age 60, is either in service or if not in service, has at least 10 years of creditable service, may retire at any time then or thereafter on a service retirement allowance upon written application to the Board of Trustees setting forth at what time he desires to be retired.

B. Any member specified in paragraph A of this subsection who attains age 70 shall be retired forthwith on a service retirement allowance on the 1st day of the next calendar month; except that any member who is an elected official of the State or an official appointed for a term of years may remain in service until the end of the term of his office for which he was elected or appointed. Notwithstanding the foregoing, on the request of the Governor with the approval of the Council, the Board of Trustees may permit the continuation for periods of 1 year, as the result of each such request, of the service of any member who has attained the age of 70 and who desires to remain in service. Requests for extension of service for employees in participating local districts shall be filed directly with the Board of Trustees by the proper municipal officers and such requests shall not be referred to the Governor and Council.

II.

A. The total amount of the service retirement allowance of a member retired in accordance with subsection I of this section shall be equal to the sum of subparagraphs 1 and 2, subject, however, to the provisions of paragraphs B and C of this subsection and subsection IV of this section:

1. $1/70$ of his average final compensation multiplied by the number of years of his membership service, and
2. If he has a prior service certificate in full force and effect, $1/50$ of his average final compensation multiplied by the number of years, not to exceed 25, of his prior service or, if the member was formerly subject to the provisions of sections 212 to 241, inclusive, of chapter 37 of the revised statutes of 1944, $1/70$ of his average final compensation multiplied by the number of years of his prior service.

B. The total amount of the service retirement allowance of any member retired in accordance with subsection I of this section who became a member prior to July 1, 1947 and for whom the date of establishment of the retirement system is July 1, 1942, shall be at least equal to $1/2$ of his average final compensation, provided that

1. He has at least 25 years of total creditable service which includes at least 22 years of prior service credit if he retires prior to the attainment of age 60 or includes at least 13 years of prior service credit if he retires on or after the attainment of age 65, or
2. He has at least 20 years of total creditable service if he retires on or after the attainment of age 70.

C. The total amount of the annual service retirement allowance of any member retired in accordance with subsection I of this section who began to teach in the public schools for the first time prior to July 1, 1924 and is holding a teacher's certificate at the time of retirement shall be at least equal to the following:

1. \$1,000, if the member has at least 35 years of creditable service as a teacher;

2. \$900, if the member has at least 30 but less than 35 years of creditable service as a teacher; or

3. \$800, if the member has at least 25 but less than 30 years of creditable service as a teacher.

D. The provisions of paragraph C of this subsection shall apply to all teachers who have heretofore or shall hereafter retire under the provisions of subsections XIII, XIV and XV of section 6 of chapter 64 of the revised statutes of 1954, formerly sections 212, 213 and 214 of chapter 37 of the revised statutes of 1944, or the provisions of this chapter.

III. Any member who has completed 30 or more years of creditable service may retire any time prior to the attainment of age 60 and receive a service retirement allowance upon written application to the Board of Trustees setting forth at what time he desires to be retired. The retirement allowance shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of paragraph A of subsection II of this section but shall be at a reduced amount determined by applying to the retirement allowance the percentage that a life annuity due at age 60 bears to the life annuity due at the age of retirement, subject, however, to the provisions of subsection IV of this section. For this purpose the tables of annuities as approved by the Board of Trustees at the date of retirement shall be used.

IV.

A. Any member who

1. Was a member on July 1, 1947 and is the deputy warden, the captain of the guard, or a guard of the State Prison; or a warden in the Department of Inland Fisheries and Game or

2. Is a member of the State Police, including the Chief thereof; an airplane pilot employed by the State of Maine; or a member of a fire or police department, including the chiefs thereof, and, in any case, who has at least 25 years of creditable service in his respective capacity, may be retired on or after the attainment of age 55 on a service retirement allowance.

B. The retirement of any member in accordance with paragraph A of this subsection may be requested either by the member or, except in the case of a member of a fire or police department, by the head of his department. Retirement shall be compulsory at the attainment of age 60 except that on the request of the Governor with the approval of the Council, the Board of Trustees may permit the continuation for periods of 1 year, as the result of each such request, of the service of such member.

C. The total amount of the service retirement allowance of a member retired in accordance with paragraph A of this subsection shall be equal to $\frac{1}{2}$ of his average final compensation, or, if retirement occurs at or after the attainment of age 60, equal to the amount of his total service retirement allowance as determined in accordance with subsection II of this section, if greater.

Sec. 7. Disability retirement.**I. Ordinary disability**

A. Upon the filing, with the Board of Trustees, of an application by a member in service or by his department head, any member who has had 10 or more years of creditable service, and has not attained age 60, may be retired on a disability retirement allowance, provided that the medical board, after a medical examination of such member, shall certify that the member is mentally or physically incapacitated for further performance of duty, that such incapacity is likely to be permanent and that he should be retired.

B. Upon retirement in accordance with paragraph A of this subsection a member shall receive a retirement allowance determined as follows, or, if eligible, a service retirement allowance determined in accordance with section 6, if greater:

An amount equal to 90% of $1/70$ of his average final compensation multiplied by the number of years of his creditable service, if such retirement allowance exceeds 25% of his average final compensation; otherwise an amount equal to 25% of his average final compensation, provided, however, that such allowance shall not exceed 90% of $1/70$ of his average final compensation multiplied by the number of years which would be creditable to him were his creditable service to include the period from the time of retirement to the attainment of age 60. At the death of the member after retirement the excess, if any, of his accumulated contributions at the time of his retirement over the portion of the total retirement allowance payments, actually made to him during his lifetime, which is the actuarial equivalent of such accumulated contributions, shall be paid in a lump sum to such person, if any, as he has nominated by written designation duly acknowledged and filed with the Board of Trustees, otherwise his estate.

II. Occupational disability

A. Upon the filing, with the Board of Trustees, of an application by a member in service who is a member of a fire or police department or by his department head, and upon the determination by the Board of Trustees that he has incurred disability as the result of injuries received in the line of duty, any member may be retired on a disability retirement allowance, determined in accordance with paragraph B of this subsection, in lieu of any benefits determined in accordance with paragraph B of subsection I of this section, provided that the medical board, after a medical examination of such member, shall certify that the member is mentally or physically incapacitated for further performance of duty, that such incapacity is likely to be permanent and that he should be retired.

B. Upon retirement in accordance with paragraph A of this subsection a member shall receive a retirement allowance equal to $1/2$ the average final compensation of the member.

III. Once each year during the first 5 years following the retirement of a member on a disability retirement allowance, and once in every 3-year period

thereafter, the Board of Trustees may, and upon his application shall, require any disability beneficiary who has not attained age 60 to undergo a medical examination by the medical board or by a physician or physicians designated by the medical board, such examination to be made at the place of residence of such beneficiary or other place mutually agreed upon. Should any disability beneficiary who has not attained age 60 refuse to submit to such medical examination, his allowance may be discontinued until his withdrawal of such refusal, and should his refusal continue for 1 year, all his rights in and to his pension may be revoked by the Board of Trustees.

IV. Should the medical board report and certify to the Board of Trustees that any disability beneficiary is engaged in or is able to engage in a gainful occupation paying more than the difference between his retirement allowance and his average final compensation at retirement, and should the Board of Trustees concur in such report, then his retirement allowance shall be reduced to such an amount which, together with the amount earnable by him, shall equal his average final compensation at retirement. Should his earning capacity be later changed, his retirement allowance may be further modified; provided that the new retirement allowance shall not exceed the amount of the retirement allowance originally granted. For the purpose of this section, "retirement allowance" shall mean the allowance payable without optional modification as hereinafter provided in section 12.

V. Any amounts which may be paid or payable by the State under the provisions of any workmen's compensation or similar law to or on account of any member or retired member on account of any disability shall be offset against the amount of any retirement allowance payable under this section on account of the same disability.

VI. Anything in this section to the contrary notwithstanding, no reduction in the amount of a member's retirement allowance made in accordance with the provisions of this section shall reduce the amount of the retirement allowance to less than the portion of the retirement allowance which is the actuarial equivalent of his accumulated contributions at the time of his retirement.

Sec. 8. Restoration to service. Should a disability beneficiary be restored to service and should his annual earnable compensation then or at any time thereafter be equal to or greater than his average final compensation at retirement, his retirement allowance shall cease, the beneficiary shall again become a member of the retirement system, and he shall contribute thereafter at the same rate he paid prior to his retirement. Anything in this chapter to the contrary notwithstanding, any prior service certificate on the basis of which his service was computed at the time of his former retirement shall be restored to full force and effect, and in addition, upon his subsequent retirement he shall be credited with all the service as a member creditable to him at the time of his former retirement; but should he be restored to membership after attainment of the age of 55, his retirement allowance upon subsequent retirement shall not exceed the sum of the retirement allowance which he was receiving immediately prior to his last restoration to membership and the retirement allowance that may have accrued to him on account of membership service since his last restoration to membership. Should any recipient of benefits other than disability benefits be re-

stored to service, the same general limitations with respect to whether or not the benefits should be suspended will be as outlined above, except that in the event benefits are suspended during such period of employment and such member subsequently again retires, he shall receive such combined benefits as may be computed on his entire creditable service and in accordance with the then existing provisions of the law. Any retirant other than one receiving disability benefits who so returned to active service since July 1, 1947 and who subsequently again retired shall have his benefit recomputed in accordance with the provisions set forth in the foregoing sentence, such adjusted benefit to be effective as of the date of last retirement.

Sec. 9. Ordinary death benefits before retirement.

I. Should a member die anytime before attaining eligibility for retirement, the amount of his contributions together with such interest thereon, not less than $\frac{3}{4}$ of accumulated regular interest, as the Board of Trustees shall allow shall be paid to such person, if any, as he has nominated by written designation duly acknowledged and filed with the Board, otherwise to his estate.

II. Should a member die anytime after attaining eligibility for retirement under any of the provisions of this chapter but before any election in accordance with the provisions of section 12 becomes effective, the following benefits shall be payable:

A. Such amounts as may be due under an election of Option 4 of section 12; otherwise

B. A retirement allowance equal to the reduced retirement allowance determined in accordance with Option 2 of section 12 on the assumption that retirement of the member had taken place on the date of his death, which will be continued during the lifetime of the first of the following listed persons, if any, alive at the death of the member-designated beneficiary, wife, husband, mother, father; provided that, if the monthly amount of such retirement allowance is less than \$10, any such first listed person may, prior to the commencement of such retirement allowance payments, elect to receive, in lieu of such payments, a lump sum which is the actuarial equivalent at the date of death of the member of such retirement allowance payments; and provided further that, any such first listed person, other than a designated beneficiary, may, prior to the commencement of such retirement allowance payments, elect to receive, in lieu of such payments, a lump sum equal to the accumulated contributions of the member; otherwise

C. The accumulated contributions of the member which will be paid to the estate of the member.

Sec. 10. Accidental death benefits

I. If a member of the retirement system who is a member of a fire (or police) department or a member of the state police shall die as the result of injury received in line of duty, his widow, or, if none, his minor child or children shall receive an annual sum equal $\frac{1}{2}$ the average final compensation of such member at time of his death. In addition to the foregoing payments the amount of his contributions together with such interest thereon, not less than $\frac{3}{4}$ of

accumulated regular interest, as the board of trustees shall allow shall be paid to such person, if any, as he has nominated by written designation duly acknowledged and filed with the board, otherwise to his estate.

II. If a member of the state police who is not a member of the retirement system shall die as the result of injury received in line of duty, his widow, or, if none, his minor child or children shall receive an annual sum equal to $\frac{1}{2}$ the annual salary of such officer at the time of his death; such payments, shall be made from the appropriation of the state police.

III. Each annual sum provided for in subsections I and II of this section shall be paid to the widow until she dies or remarries and to a child or children until they die or reach the age of 18 years. If the widow dies without remarrying and leaves a minor child or children, the payment shall continue until such minor child or children die or reach the age of 18 years.

IV. The benefits provided under the provisions of this section shall be in lieu of any benefits otherwise payable under the provisions of section 9.

Sec. 11. Return of accumulated contributions. If the service of any member has terminated, except by death or by retirement under the provisions of this chapter, he shall be paid, at any time thereafter upon proper application therefor, the amount of his contributions together with such interest, thereon, not less than $\frac{3}{4}$ of accumulated regular interest, as the Board of Trustees shall allow, provided that no interest shall be included for any period beyond the fifth anniversary of the date of such termination of service if the member has less than 10 years of creditable service.

Sec. 12. Payment of retirement allowances. All retirement allowances shall be payable for life in equal monthly installments including any fraction of a month up to the date of death. Upon attainment of eligibility for retirement and until the first payment on account of a retirement allowance becomes normally due, any member may elect to convert the retirement allowance otherwise payable on his account after retirement into a retirement allowance of equivalent actuarial value of one of the optional forms named below; provided, however, that an election of an optional benefit shall become effective on the date on which the first payment normally becomes due.

Option 1. A reduced retirement allowance payable during his life, with the provision that at his death the excess, if any, of his accumulated contributions at the time of his retirement over the portion of the total retirement allowance payments, actually made to him during his lifetime, which is the actuarial equivalent of such accumulated contributions, shall be paid in a lump sum to such person, if any, as he has nominated by written designation duly acknowledged and filed with the Board of Trustees, otherwise to his estate; provided, however, no contributions deducted from the compensation of a teacher prior to July 1, 1947 or required of a teacher for service credit prior thereto shall be included in such accumulated contributions; or

Option 2. A reduced retirement allowance payable during his life, with the provision that it shall continue after his death for the life of the beneficiary nominated by him by written designation duly acknowledged and filed with the

Board of Trustees at the time of retirement should such beneficiary survive him; or

Option 3. A reduced retirement allowance payable during his life, with the provision that it shall continue after his death at $\frac{1}{2}$ of the rate paid to him and be paid for the life of the beneficiary nominated by him by written designation duly acknowledged and filed with the Board of Trustees at the time of retirement should such beneficiary survive him; or

Option 4. A reduced retirement allowance payable during his life with some other benefit payable after his death, provided that the total value of the allowance during his life and of the succeeding benefit shall be computed to be of equivalent actuarial value to the allowance which he would receive without optional modifications, and provided the benefit shall be approved by the Board of Trustees.

Sec. 13. Administration.

I. The general administration and responsibility for the proper operation of the retirement system and for making effective the provisions of this chapter are vested in a board of 7 trustees. The Board, as heretofore established, shall consist of the chairman of the State Personnel Board, the State Controller, the Bank Commissioner, the Treasurer of State, their terms of office as such Board members to run concurrently with their terms in said State positions; a member duly elected for a 2-year term by the Maine Teachers' Association, a state employee duly elected for a 2-year term by the Maine State Employees' Association and a person appointed for a 2-year term by the Governor.

II. The trustees shall serve without compensation, but they shall be reimbursed from the funds of the retirement system for all necessary expenses that they may incur through service on the Board of Trustees.

III. Each trustee shall, within 10 days after his appointment or election, take an oath of office that so far as it devolves upon him he will diligently and honestly administer the affairs of the retirement system, and that he will not knowingly violate or willingly permit to be violated any of the provisions of law applicable to the retirement system. Such oath shall be subscribed to by the trustee making it, and certified by the officer before whom it is taken, and immediately filed in the office of the Secretary of State.

IV. Each trustee shall be entitled to one vote in the Board of Trustees. Four trustees shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business. Four votes shall be necessary for any resolution or action by the Board of Trustees at any meeting of the Board.

V. Subject to the limitations of this chapter, the Board of Trustees shall, from time to time, establish rules and regulations for the administration of the funds created by the provisions of this chapter and for the transaction of its business.

VI. The Board of Trustees shall elect from its membership a chairman and shall appoint an Exec. secretary who shall engage such services as shall be required to transact the business of the retirement system; provided, however,

that all such employees shall be considered as employees of the State and subject to all the provisions of State law regarding State employees and shall be employed under the rules and regulations established by the Personnel Board and shall receive such compensation as is provided by the rules and regulations of the Personnel Board for State employees in similar capacities. The necessary expenses incurred by the Board and (Exec.) secretary in the operation of the retirement system shall be paid from the funds so allocated.

VII. The (Exec.) secretary shall keep in convenient form such data as shall be necessary for actuarial valuation of the various funds of the retirement system and for checking the experience of the system.

VIII. The Board of Trustees shall meet at least once in each month for the transaction of such business as may properly come before it. The head of any department upon request from the Board of Trustees shall promptly furnish it with such information as shall be required to effectuate the provisions of this chapter. Whenever the Board of Trustees shall find it impossible or impracticable to consult an original record to determine the date of birth, length of service, amount of regular compensation or other pertinent fact with regard to any member, it may, subject to the approval of the (Exec. Secretary and) actuary, use estimates thereof on any basis which in its judgment is fair and just. The Board of Trustees, upon discovery of any error in any record of the system, shall, as far as practicable, correct such record. If any such error results in the receipt from such system by any member or beneficiary of more or less than he would have been entitled to receive had the records been correct, payments shall, as far as practicable, be adjusted in such manner that the actuarial equivalent of the benefit to which he was correctly entitled shall be paid.

IX. The Board of Trustees shall keep a record of all its proceedings, which shall be open to public inspection. It shall publish biennially a report showing the fiscal transactions of the retirement system for the preceding fiscal years, the amount of the accumulated cash and securities of the system and the last balance sheet showing the financial condition of the retirement system by means of an actuarial valuation of the assets and liabilities of the system.

X. The Attorney General of the State or an assistant designated by him shall be legal adviser of the Board of Trustees.

XI. The Board of Trustees shall designate a medical board to be composed of 3 physicians not eligible to participate in the retirement system. If required, other physicians may be employed to report on special cases. The medical board shall arrange for and pass upon all medical examinations required under the provisions of this chapter, shall investigate all essential statements and certificates by or on behalf of a member in connection with an application for disability retirement and shall report in writing to the Board of Trustees its conclusions and recommendations upon all the matters referred to it.

XII. The Board of Trustees shall designate an actuary who shall be the technical adviser of the Board on matters regarding the operation of the funds

created by the provisions of this chapter and shall perform such other duties as are required in connection therewith. He shall calculate the amount of each retirement allowance granted under the provisions of this chapter.

XIII. When he deems it necessary, the actuary shall make such investigation of the mortality, service and compensation experience of the members of the system, for the purpose of determining the proper mortality and service tables to be prepared and submitted to the Board for adoption. Having regard to such investigation and recommendation, the Board of Trustees shall adopt for the retirement system such mortality and service tables as shall be deemed necessary and shall certify the rates of contribution payable under the provisions of this chapter. In the year 1950 and at least once in each 5-year period thereafter, the actuary shall make an actuarial investigation into the mortality, service and compensation experience of the members and beneficiaries of the retirement system, and taking into account the results of such investigation, the Board of Trustees shall adopt for the retirement system such mortality, service and other tables as shall be deemed necessary and shall certify the rates of contribution payable under the provisions of this chapter.

XIV. On the basis of such mortality and service tables as the Board of Trustees shall adopt, the actuary shall make annual valuations of the assets and liabilities of the fund of the retirement system.

XV. The Board of Trustees shall employ investment counsel or advice on such a basis as shall be consistent with the amount of money appropriated for this purpose by the Legislature.

Sec. 14. Funds.

I. The members of the Board of Trustees shall be the trustees of the several funds created by the provisions of this chapter, and shall have full power to invest and reinvest such funds, subject to all the terms, conditions, limitations and restrictions imposed by the laws of this State upon savings banks in the making and disposing of their investments; and subject to like terms, conditions, limitations and restrictions, said trustees shall have full power to hold, purchase, sell, assign, transfer and dispose of any of the securities and investments in which any of the funds created by the provisions of this chapter shall have been invested, as well as the proceeds of such investments. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Board of Trustees shall be authorized to purchase at their discretion so-called equities in accordance with the prudent man rule, such investments to be limited to not more than 10% of the total assets of the system.

II. The Board of Trustees from time to time shall set the rate of regular interest at such per cent rate compounded annually as shall be determined by the Board to be equitable in its judgment, both to members and to the taxpayers of the State.

III. The Treasurer of State shall be the custodian of the several funds of the retirement system. Upon receipt of vouchers signed by a person or persons designated by the Board of Trustees, the State Controller shall draw a war-

rant on the Treasurer of State for the amounts so authorized. A duly attested copy of the resolution of the Board of Trustees designating such persons and bearing on its face specimen signatures of such persons shall be filed with the State Controller as his authority for making payments upon such vouchers.

IV. For the purpose of meeting disbursements for retirement allowances and other payments, there may be kept available cash, not exceeding 10% of the total amount in the several funds of the retirement system, on deposit in one or more banks or trust companies in the State organized under the laws of the State or of the United States, provided that the sum of deposit in any one bank or trust company shall not exceed 25% of the paid-up capital and surplus of such bank or trust company.

V. Except as otherwise herein provided, no trustee and no employee of the Board of Trustees shall have any direct interest in the gains or profits of any investment made by the Board; nor shall any trustee or employee of the Board, directly or indirectly, for himself or as an agent, in any manner use the same except to make such current and necessary payments as are authorized by the Board; nor shall any trustee or employee of the Board become an indorser or surety; or in any manner an obligor, for moneys loaned to or borrowed from the Board.

Sec. 15. Financing.

I. All of the assets of the retirement system shall be credited, according to the purpose for which they are held, among 3 funds, namely, the members' contribution fund, the retirement allowance fund and the expense fund.

II. Members' contribution fund.

A. The members' contribution fund shall be a fund in which shall be accumulated contributions deducted from the compensation of members. The Board of Trustees shall certify to the head of each department, and the head of each department shall cause to be deducted from the compensation of each member on each and every payroll of such department for each and every payroll period, the proportion of earnable compensation of each member so computed. In determining the amount earnable by a member in a payroll period, the Board of Trustees may consider the annual rate of earnable compensation payable to such member on the 1st day of the payroll period as continuing throughout such payroll period, and it may omit deduction from compensation for any period less than a full payroll period if an employee was not a member on the 1st day of the payroll period, and to facilitate the making of deductions it may modify the deduction required of any member by such an amount as shall not exceed $\frac{1}{10}$ of 1% of the annual earnable compensation upon the basis of which such deduction is to be made. The head of each department shall certify to the Board of Trustees on each and every payroll, or in such other manner as the Board may prescribe, the amounts deducted. Each of said amounts shall be deducted, and when deducted shall be paid into the members' contribution fund, and shall be credited to the individual account of the member from whose compensation said deduction was made.

B. The deductions provided for herein shall be made notwithstanding that the minimum compensation provided for by law for any member shall be reduced thereby. Every member shall be deemed to consent and agree to the deductions made and provided herein and shall receipt for his full compensation, and payment of compensation, less such deduction, shall be a full and complete discharge and acquittance of all claims and demands whatsoever for the services rendered by such person during the period covered by such payment, except as to the benefits provided under this chapter.

C. Subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees, in addition to the contributions deducted from compensation as hereinbefore provided, any member may deposit in the members' contribution fund by a single payment or by an increased rate of contribution an amount computed to be sufficient to purchase an additional amount of retirement allowance which, together with his prospective retirement allowance, will provide for him a total retirement allowance not in excess of $\frac{1}{2}$ of his average final compensation, at any eligible age.

The amount of any contributions of a member made prior to July 1, 1955, in excess of the minimum amount of such contributions required by the system when such contributions were made, shall be considered as additional amounts deposited to purchase such additional amounts of retirement allowance. Such additional amounts so deposited shall become a part of his accumulated contributions except in the case of disability retirement, when they shall be treated as excess contributions returnable to the member as an additional retirement allowance of equivalent actuarial value.

D. The contributions of a member and such interest as may be allowed thereon, withdrawn by him or paid to his estate or to his designated beneficiary in event of his death, shall be paid from the members' contribution fund, and any accumulated interest not so paid shall be transferred to the retirement allowance fund. Upon the retirement of a member, his accumulated contributions shall be transferred from the members' contribution fund to the retirement allowance fund.

E. Should a beneficiary be restored to membership, the difference between the amount of accumulated contributions originally credited to the retirement allowance fund and the portion of the total retirement allowance payments made to him which is the actuarial equivalent of such accumulated contributions, shall be transferred to the members' contribution fund and credited to his individual account therein.

F. The (Exec.) secretary of the retirement system, on or after July 1 of each year, will furnish to each member of the system in service on July 1 of such year a statement showing the amount of accumulated contributions to the members' credit in his individual account in the members' contribution fund.

III. Retirement allowance fund.

A. The retirement allowance fund shall be the fund in which shall be accumulated all reserves required for the payment of benefits under this chapter other than reserves in the members' contribution fund.

B. On account of each member there shall be paid annually into the retirement allowance fund by the State for the preceding fiscal year an amount equal to a certain percentage of the annual earnable compensation of such member to be known as the "normal contribution," and an additional amount equal to a percentage of his annual earnable compensation to be known as the "accrued liability contribution." The rates per cent of such contributions shall be fixed on the basis of the liabilities of the retirement system as shown by actuarial valuation.

C. On the basis of regular interest and of such mortality and service tables as shall be adopted by the Board of Trustees, immediately after making each valuation during the period over which the accrued liability contribution is payable, the actuary shall determine the uniform and constant percentage of the earnable compensation of the average new entrant which, if contributed on the basis of his compensation throughout his entire period of active service, would be sufficient to provide for the payment of any benefit payable on his account that is not provided by his contributions. The rate per cent so determined shall be known as the "normal contribution" rate. After the accrued liability contribution has ceased to be payable, the normal contribution rate shall be determined after each actuarial valuation as the rate per cent of the earnable compensation of all members obtained by deducting from the total liabilities of the retirement allowance fund the amount of the funds on hand to the credit of that fund and dividing the remainder by 1% of the present value of the prospective future compensation of all members, as computed at regular interest on the basis of such mortality and service tables as the Board of Trustees shall adopt.

D. The total amount payable to the retirement allowance fund in each year shall be not less than the sum of the rates per cent known as the normal contribution rate and the accrued liability contribution rate, of the total compensation earnable, by all members during the preceding fiscal year; provided, however, that the amount of each annual accrued liability contribution shall be at least 3% greater than the preceding annual accrued liability payment, and provided that the aggregate payment by the state shall be sufficient, when combined with the amount in the retirement allowance fund, to provide the benefits payable out of the fund during the year then current.

E. The accrued liability contribution shall be discontinued as soon as the accumulated reserves in the retirement allowance fund shall equal the present value, as actuarially computed and approved by the Board of Trustees, of the total liabilities of the fund less the present value, computed on the basis of the normal contribution rate then in force, of the prospective normal contributions to be received on account of persons who are at that time members.

F. All benefits payable under this chapter shall be paid from the retirement allowance fund except those payable from the members' contribution fund or as otherwise specifically provided in this chapter.

G. All interest and dividends earned on the funds of the retirement system shall be credited to the retirement allowance fund. The Board of Trustees

annually shall allow regular interest on the individual accounts of members in the members' accumulation fund and shall transfer such amounts from the pension accumulation fund.

IV. Expense fund.

The expense fund shall be the fund to which shall be credited all money provided by the State to pay the administration expenses of the retirement system and from which shall be paid all the expenses necessary in connection with the administration and operation of the system. Biennially the Board of Trustees shall estimate the amount of money which shall be deemed necessary to be paid into the expense fund during the ensuing biennium to provide for the expenses of operation of the retirement system, and such amount shall be paid by the State to the expense fund for this purpose. Any unexpended balance shall not lapse but shall constitute a continuous carrying account.

V. State contributions.

The Board of Trustees shall submit budget estimates to the State Budget Officer in accordance with the provisions of section 10 of chapter 16. These estimates shall show the total requirements for the retirement allowance fund and for the expense fund for the ensuing biennium. These amounts shall be broken down in such a way as to permit the proper allocation of costs among the general fund of the State, the general highway fund and such other funds as it may be found practicable by the State Budget Officer to charge with their proportionate share of the cost. The amount determined as due from the general fund shall be included in the appropriation bill transmitted to the Legislature by the Governor with the budget document. Payments to the retirement system of the amounts appropriated for the retirement allowance fund and for the expense fund shall be made in quarterly installments on the 1st day of July, October, January and April.

Sec. 16. Benefits to employees retired prior to date of establishment.

All benefits payable to former employees retired under the provisions of sections 227 to 233, inclusive, of chapter 1 of the public laws of 1933 as they existed immediately prior to July 1, 1942 shall be continued and paid hereafter from the retirement allowance fund at the full amounts stipulated under said sections prior to such effective date. Any additional amounts required to continue such benefits shall be provided by an increase in the accrued liability contribution otherwise payable to the retirement allowance fund.

Sec. 17. Employees of counties, cities and towns entitled to membership.

I. The employees of any county, city, town, water district, public library corporation or any other quasi-municipal corporation of the State, or of Maine Municipal Association, may participate in the retirement system, to the full extent of any and all benefits provided for in this chapter provided the county commissioners, or the city council or corresponding body of a city, or the voters of a town at a duly constituted town meeting, or the trustees of a water district, public library corporation or other quasi-municipal corporation, or the active member municipalities of Maine Municipal Association through its executive committee, approve such participation and file with the Board

of Trustees a duly certified copy of the resolution of the county commissioners or of the city council or such corresponding body approving such participation and the extent of the benefits which shall apply, or a record of the vote of the town voters certified by the clerk of the town meeting. Such county, city, town, water district, public library corporation or other quasi-municipal corporation, or Maine Municipal Association, approving the participation of its employees in the retirement system shall thereafter be known for the purposes of this chapter as "a participating local district." Such county, city, town, water district, public library corporation or other quasi-municipal corporation, or Maine Municipal Association, shall designate in their approval any class of employees, otherwise provided for by local pension provisions, who may be exempted from the provisions of this chapter. The date when the participation of the employees of a participating local district may begin shall be set by the Board of Trustees not more than 6 months following the date the local district approved the participation of its employees. This date shall be considered as the date of establishment for participating local districts as defined in section 2.

II. Membership in the retirement system shall be optional with employees in the service of a participating local district on the date when participation of the local district begins, and any employee then in service who elects to join the retirement system thereafter shall be entitled to prior service credits covering such periods of previous service as shall be certified by the participating local district as creditable prior service rendered to such local district, or to the State, for which the participating local district makes accrued liability contributions and all membership service credits for which contributions are paid into the retirement system by such member. Membership shall be compulsory for all employees entering the service of such participating local districts thereafter, except those who are exempted under the provisions of subsection I.

III. The chief fiscal officer of a participating local district shall submit to the Board of Trustees such information, and shall cause to be performed such duties, in respect to the employees of such local district as shall be prescribed by the Board of Trustees in order to carry out the provisions of the retirement system.

IV. The actuary of the retirement system shall compute the rates of contribution payable by employees, who become members under the provisions of this section, in the same manner as if they were state employees, and shall compute the contributions which would be payable annually by the participating local district on account of such members as though they were state employees except that each participating local district employing members participating in the retirement system shall make a special accrued liability contribution on account of the participation of its employees in the retirement system, which shall be determined by an actuarial valuation of the accrued liability on account of such of its employees as elected to become members in the same manner as the accrued liability rate was originally determined for state employees. Such special accrued liability contribution, subject to such adjustment as may be necessary on account of any additional prior service credits awarded to employees of such participating local dis-

trict, shall be payable in lieu of the accrued liability contribution payable on account of state employees who are members of the retirement system. The expense of making such initial valuation shall be assessed against and paid by the participating local district on whose account it is made. The contributions so computed, together with a pro rata share of the cost of the administration of the retirement system, based upon the payroll of the employees, and the cost of each annual valuation shall be certified by the Board of Trustees to the chief fiscal officer of the participating local district, and the amounts so certified shall be a charge against the participating local district. The chief fiscal officer of each such participating local district shall pay to the Treasurer of State the amount certified by the Board of Trustees as payable under the provisions of this section, and the Treasurer of State shall credit such amounts to the appropriate funds of the retirement system. Separate accounts shall be kept of the amounts so credited. Upon the retirement of any member of a participating local district the required reserves shall be transferred, as soon as accumulated, to the appropriate fund of the retirement system and become the property of the State.

V. Employees who become members under the provisions of this section and on behalf of whom contributions are paid as provided in this section shall be entitled to benefits under the retirement system for which such contributions are made as though they were state employees.

VI. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, the retirement system shall not be liable for the payment of any benefits on account of the employees or pensioners of any participating local district for which reserves have not been previously created from funds contributed by such participating local district, or its employees for such benefits. If, when the contributions of a participating local district are determined for any fiscal year in accordance with subsection IV of this section, any of the reserve funds of the participating local district are less than the liabilities of such reserve fund then the amount of such contributions to be paid shall be increased either by the total amount of all such deficits or, at the option of the participating local district, by the total amount of benefits payable during the fiscal year from such reserve funds that have a deficit.

VII. Any educational institution in the state teaching courses equivalent to or higher than secondary institutions may become a participating local district to the full extent of any and all benefits provided for in this chapter; provided the appropriate governing body of such educational institution approves such participation and files with the board of trustees a duly certified copy of the resolution approving such participation and the extent of the benefits which shall apply.

VIII. Any member of the retirement system whose service is terminated as an employee, either as defined in section 1 or as an employee of a participating local district, shall, upon subsequent re-employment as such an employee but with a new employer, provided he shall not have previously withdrawn his accumulated contributions, thereupon have his membership transferred to his account with his new employer, and shall be entitled to all creditable service resulting from his previous employment. The new employer shall make such

contributions, from time to time, as may be necessary to provide the benefits under the retirement system for the member as have accrued to him by reason of his previous employment and may accrue to him by reason of his new employment. All funds in the retirement system contributed by his former employer on account of his previous employment shall be transferred to the account of the new employer and shall be used to liquidate the liability incurred by reason of such previous employment.

IX. Any amendments to this chapter enacted in the years 1953-1954 by the 55th legislature, the benefits of which could apply to employees of participating local districts, shall be made effective only in the event any such district elects to adopt such benefits and agrees to pay into the system the required costs as developed by the actuary.

Sec. 18. Exemption from taxation and execution.

The right of a person to a retirement allowance, such retirement allowance itself, to the return of contributions, any optional benefit or death benefit or any other right accrued or accruing to any person under the provisions of this chapter, and the moneys in the various funds created thereby, shall be exempted from any state, county or municipal tax in the State, and shall not be subject to execution, garnishment, attachment or any other process whatsoever, and shall be unassignable except as this chapter specifically provides.

Sec. 19. Protection against fraud. Any person who shall knowingly make any false statement or shall falsify or permit to be falsified any record or records of this retirement system in any attempt to defraud such system, as a result of such act shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punishable therefor under the laws of the State. Should any change or error in the records result in any member or beneficiary receiving from the retirement system more or less than he would have been entitled to receive had the records been correct, the Board of Trustees shall have the power to correct such error, and to adjust as far as practicable the payments in such manner that the actuarial equivalent of the benefit to which such member or beneficiary was correctly entitled shall be paid.

Sec. 20. Limitation on membership. No other provision of law in any other statute, which provides wholly or partly at the expense of the State or of any subdivision thereof for retirement benefits for employees of the state, their widows, or other dependents, shall apply to members or beneficiaries of the retirement system established by the provisions of this chapter, or the widows or other dependents of such members or beneficiaries.

Sec. 21. Appeal. Any person aggrieved by any decision or ruling of the Board of Trustees shall have the right of appeal from such decisions or ruling to the next term of the Superior Court to be held in the county of Kennebec, held not less than 30 days after the rendition of said decision or ruling. Any decision or ruling of the Board of Trustees issued under the provisions of this section shall be delivered to the litigant within 3 months after the establishment of such a decision or ruling by the Board. The appellant shall also file a written notice of his appeal from said decision or ruling with the Board of Trustees and with the clerk of the said Superior Court. Certified copies of the ruling or de-

cision, together with a copy of the appeal, shall be forwarded to the clerk of the said Superior Court. The Attorney General or the assistant designated by him shall appear for and in behalf of the Board of Trustees. The procedure in the said court shall be the same as that in appeal from decisions of the municipal courts.

Sec. 22. Special intent. It is the intent and meaning of this chapter that all rights, credits and privileges enumerated herein shall be available to and shared in by all members of the system whether employees of the state or local participating districts and it is expressly provided that the Board of Trustees shall in all cases make the final and determining decision in all matters affecting the rights, credits and privileges of all members of the system, whether in participating local districts or in the state service.

If and when any so-called special resolve is enacted by the Legislature granting credits toward retirement not provided for under this chapter, the entire actuarial costs of such special resolve shall be funded by act of the same Legislature which enacts any such special resolve.

Sec. 23. Limitations.

I. Any participating local district which on July 1, 1955 is included under the retirement system shall be subject to all the provisions of this chapter unless it files with the Board of Trustees on or before July 1, 1956 a duly certified copy of the vote of the county commissioners or of the city council or such corresponding body or a record of the vote of the town voters certified by the clerk of the town meeting, setting forth in such action those provisions of this chapter which are not to be accepted by the district in question.

II. The executive secretary of the retirement system shall, immediately following the effective date of this chapter, cause to be mailed by registered mail a written notice to each participating local district which was in the system as of July 1, 1955 setting forth the provisions of the preceding subsection. Any participating local district shall be entitled to a revaluation in order to determine the cost of any new provisions of the chapter which may be adopted; the expense of making such revaluation shall be assessed to and paid by the participating local district involved.

Sec. 2. R. S., c. 64, repealed; exception. All of chapter 64 of the revised statutes of 1954, except subsection II of section 6, is hereby repealed.