MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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January 19, 1976

W. G. Blodgett, Executive Director

Maine State Retirement System

Donald G. Alexander, Assistant

Attorney General

Town of Cranberry Isles request to revise conditions as participating district in the Maine State Retirement System

Your memorandum of December 22, 1975 asks whether consistent with a request from the Town of Cranberry Isles, the town could freeze its membership in the Maine State Retirement System to those members who are presently in the system. The town cannot do so.

Title 5 M.R.S.A. § 1092-5 requires that membership in the Maine State Retirement System be compulsory for all employees of a participating local district entering the service of that district after the district begins participation. The only exceptions are persons exempted under sub-§1 of § 1092 at the time a local district initially joins Maine State Retirement System. The exemption is limited to classes of employees who are otherwise provided for by local pension programs. Whether a local district can withdraw from the Maine State Retirement System is not addressed in this opinion.

DGA:jg