

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH LEGISLATURE

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## Legislative Document

No. 418

H. P. 318

House of Representatives, January 27, 1971

Referred to Committee on Veterans and Retirement. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

BERTHA W. JOHNSON, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Kennedy of Milbridge.

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## STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-ONE

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### AN ACT Relating to Retirement Benefits for Forest Rangers under State Retirement System.

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

**Sec. 1. R. S., T. 5, § 1095, amended.** The 2nd paragraph of section 1095 of Title 5 of the Revised Statutes, as enacted by section 2 of chapter 445 of the public laws of 1965, is amended to read as follows:

Anything to the contrary notwithstanding, each warden in the Department of Inland Fisheries and Game and each warden in the Department of Sea and Shore Fisheries shall, beginning the first full week after ~~the effective date of this Act~~ **September 5, 1966**, and each ranger in the Department of Forestry shall, beginning the first full week after the effective date of this Act, make a 7½% contribution of earnable compensation to the retirement system as long as he is employed as a warden or ranger.

**Sec. 2. R. S., T. 5, § 1121, sub-§ 1, ¶ D, amended.** Paragraph D of subsection 1 of section 1121 of Title 5 of the Revised Statutes, as enacted by section 3 of chapter 445 of the public laws of 1965, is amended to read as follows:

**D.** Any law enforcement officer in the Department of Inland Fisheries and Game and any law enforcement officer in the Department of Sea and Shore Fisheries and any law enforcement officer in the Department of Forestry may retire at attained age 50 or upon completion of 25 years of total creditable service as a law enforcement officer in the Department of Inland Fisheries and Game or a law enforcement officer in the Department of Sea and Shore Fisheries or a law enforcement officer in the Department

of Forestry, whichever is the later. Retirement shall be compulsory at the age of 60. Except that any law enforcement officer in the Department of Inland Fisheries and Game and any law enforcement officer in the Department of Sea and Shore Fisheries **and any law enforcement officer in the Department of Forestry** who will not attain the 25 years of creditable service at age 60 may be permitted to continue in his employment until age 63 in order to obtain the 25 years of creditable service necessary. The total amount of the service retirement allowance of a law enforcement officer retired in accordance with this paragraph shall be equal to  $\frac{1}{2}$  of his current annual salary.

**Sec. 3. Appropriation.** There is appropriated from the General Fund the sum of \$70,400 to carry out the purposes of this Act. The breakdown shall be as follows:

	1971-72	1972-73
FORESTRY, DEPARTMENT OF		
Forest Fire Control Organized Towns,		
Appropriation Number 1236.4		
All Other	\$35,200	\$35,200

### STATEMENT OF FACT

The intent of this amendment is to include forest fire-rangers under retirement benefits of 25 years of service or at age 50, whichever is later.

This is consistent with provisions made several years ago for wardens of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Game and Sea and Shore Fisheries.

Forest Rangers have law enforcement responsibilities and in addition are subject to much mental and physical stress during forest fire suppression emergencies.

This measure would help insure that physically capable rangers are available and that questionable cases will be provided for adequately if required to leave ranger duties.

Provisions will be made for 99 employees in the Maine Forestry District and 32 employees in the Forest Fire Control Organized Town Division.

The Forest Ranger will contribute  $7\frac{1}{2}\%$  of his pay and the remainder will be financed in part by the Maine Forestry District.