

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1580

H. P. 1412

House of Representatives, April 13, 1977

On motion of Mr. Theriault of Rumford, referred to the Committee on Veterans and Retirement. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Connors of Franklin.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SEVEN

AN ACT to Provide for the Retirement of Forest Rangers in Fire Control
Work after 20 Years of State Service.

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

5 MRSA § 1121, sub-§ 1, ¶ E, as last amended by PL 1975, c. 622, § 46, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

E. Any forest ranger in the Bureau of Forestry may retire upon completion of 20 years of creditable service, however, the last 15 years of creditable service shall be as a forest ranger in the Bureau of Forestry. Retirement shall be compulsory at attainment of age 60; except that any forest ranger employed before September 23, 1971 in the Bureau of Forestry who will not attain the 20 years of creditable service at age 60 may be permitted to continue in his employment until age 65 in order to obtain the 20 years of creditable service necessary. Military service credits as allowed under section 1094, shall not be considered as part of the creditable service necessary for the 20 years' service for retirement as a forest ranger, but military service creditable under section 1091, shall be considered to be part of the creditable service necessary for the 20 years for retirement as a forest ranger, provided that the member was a forest ranger at the time of entrance into such military service and upon separation from military service again became a forest ranger. The total amount of the service retirement allowance of a forest ranger in the Bureau of Forestry retired in accordance with this paragraph, shall be equal to $\frac{1}{2}$ of his average final compensation, and an additional 2% of his average final compensation for each year of membership service not included in determining eligibility for retirement under this paragraph.

Upon the death of a forest ranger in the Bureau of Forestry who is the recipient of a retirement allowance under this section, without optional modification or is retired under the disability provisions, the surviving spouse shall become entitled to a retirement allowance which shall be equal to $\frac{1}{2}$ of the amount being paid at the time of his or her death and which payment shall continue for the remainder of his or her lifetime or until he or she becomes the dependent of another person. Payment of the appropriate monthly amount shall be made to the surviving spouse for the account of any deceased forest ranger who had retired without optional modification under this paragraph, as of the effective date of this paragraph, and shall not be retroactive.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to allow forest rangers in the Bureau of Forestry to retire upon completion of 20 years of creditable service; the last 15 years of that service shall be as a forest ranger. This bill also provides automatic survivor benefits to the spouse of a deceased forest ranger who had retired.