

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(After Deadline)
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 2127

S. P. 690

In Senate, January 31, 1978

Referred to Committee on Veterans and Retirement. Sent down for concurrence.

MAY M. ROSS, Secretary

Presented by Senator Hichens of York.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-EIGHT

AN ACT to Allow Blind Vending Stand Operators Licensed by the Department of Human Services, Division of Eye Care, to Participate in the Maine State Retirement System.

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

5 MRSa § 1097 is enacted to read:

§ 1097. **Membership in the Maine State Retirement System; operators of vending stands for the blind in public buildings**

1. **Membership in the Maine State Retirement System. Any vending stand operator operating a stand under a permit held by the Department of Human Services, Division of Eye Care, pursuant to Title 22, sections 3505 to 3512 and Title II of Public Law 93-516, shall be a member of the Maine State Retirement System and subject to its rules and regulations, exclusive of disability retirement upon the grounds of defective vision.**

2. **Credit for prior years of service. Any person licensed to operate vending stands, prior to January 1, 1978, under permits held by the Department of Human**

Services, Division of Eye Care, pursuant to Title 22, sections 3505 to 3512 and Title II of Public Law 93-516, may obtain credit for that period of service for retirement purpose if:

A. He has been an active full-time operator continuously for 12 months next preceeding his written request to the Maine State Retirement System for that credit; and

B. He makes contributions of 6% of his adjusted gross income arising out of the operation of those stands for each of those years with interest thereon at the rate of 6% per year from the time of that operation to the date of payment, all as certified by the Department of Human Services, Division of Eye Care. These payments may be made in 12 equal monthly installments, but service credits shall not be granted unless the payment of the installments is completed.

STATEMENT OF FACT

Presently blind operators of vending stands are licensed and supervised by the Department of Human Services, but are not covered under Civil Service. As the intent of this state supervised rehabilitation program is to enable blind persons to become tax payers rather than tax receivers, this bill will allow these operators to continue to maintain their independence and self-sufficiency upon retirement. The Attorney General has indicated persons covered under this Act do not presently qualify under the Maine State Retirement System.