

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 898
(Filing No. S-221)

**STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
114TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A " to S.P. 337, L.D. 898, Bill, "An Act to Extend the Eligibility of Retired Teachers for Group Health Insurance"

Amend the bill by striking out all of the title and inserting in its place the following:

'An Act to Clarify the Law Concerning Retired Teachers' Health Insurance and to Compensate Retired Teachers Who Are Ineligible for That Insurance'

Further amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the statement of fact and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §13451, as amended by PL 1987, c. 816, Pt. KK, §17, is further amended to read:

§13451. State payment for group accident and sickness or health insurance for retired teachers

Group State payment for group accident and sickness or health insurance shall be available to retired teachers as defined in Title 5, section 17001, subsection 42, subject to the following.

1. **Eligibility; retired teacher members.** Any retired teacher who receives a retirement benefit from the Maine State Retirement System shall be eligible for group accident and sickness or health insurance, provided that the retired teacher also meets the eligibility requirements for participation imposed by the group plan that governed the teacher last as an active teacher and participated in the plan for one year immediately prior to retirement or October 1, 1987, whichever comes last. Retired teachers may not be required to maintain a dues paying membership in any organization as a requirement for participation in a group health insurance plan under this subsection.

1 2. Master policy certificates. The insurance company or
 3 companies or nonprofit organizations, or both, shall furnish the
 usual master policy and certificates. The original master policy
 5 and certificate shall be held by the organization offering the
 insurance plan and the Commissioner of Administration shall hold
 7 a certified copy. Each insured retired teacher-member shall
 receive a certificate setting forth the benefits to which
 9 entitled, to whom payable, to whom claims shall be submitted and
 summarizing the provisions of the policy principally affecting
 the retired teacher-member.

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 13 3. Payment by State. The State through the Maine State
 Retirement System shall pay 15% of only the retired teacher
 members' share of this insurance.

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 17 4. Teachers not eligible under subsection 1. A retired
teacher who receives a retirement benefit from the Maine State
Retirement System but is not eligible under subsection 1 shall
 19 receive a payment of \$7 per month if the retired teacher:

21 A. Was employed in a public school in Maine for at least
one year immediately prior to reaching normal retirement
 23 age; or

25 B. Had 25 years of creditable service.

27 Sec. 2. 20-A MRS §13452 is enacted to read:

29 §13452. Change of insurance plan

31 Retired teachers have the following rights relative to
obtaining group accident and sickness or health insurance.

33
 35 1. Access to group plan. The group accident and sickness
and health insurance plan that is in effect for active teachers
in a public school system must be made available to all teachers
 37 eligible under subsection 2, who retired under the Maine State
Retirement System when they left that system and who choose to
 39 participate in the new plan. The rate for the insurance coverage
shall be the same as the rate provided for active teachers in
 41 that school system.

43 2. Eligible retired teachers. Retired teachers who had
participated, at the time of retirement, in the group accident
 45 and sickness and health insurance plan offered by the public
school for one year immediately prior to retirement or since they
 47 had become employed by the unit, whichever came later, shall be
eligible to participate in whatever group plan that school unit
 49 offers to its active teachers.

