

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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115th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1991

Legislative Document

No. 1439

S.P. 541

In Senate, April 8, 1991

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 27. Reference to the Committee on Aging, Retirement and Veterans suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator CLARK of Cumberland
Cosponsored by Senator THERIAULT of Aroostook, Representative HASTINGS of Fryeburg and Representative GWADOSKY of Fairfield.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND NINETY-ONE

An Act Concerning Health Insurance for Retired Teachers.

(AFTER DEADLINE)



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

2
4 Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §13451, sub-§1, as repealed and replaced by PL 1989, c. 878, Pt. A, §46, is amended to read:

6 1. Access to a group plan. The group accident and sickness and health insurance plan that is in effect for active teachers in a public school system or school unit must be made available to all teachers eligible under subsection 2, who retired under the Maine State Retirement System when they left that system and ~~who choose to participate in the new plan~~ or school unit. The rate for the insurance coverage shall must be the same as the rate provided for active teachers in that school system or school unit.
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16 Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §13451, sub-§3, as amended by PL 1989, c. 875, Pt. E, §25 and affected by §26 and as repealed and replaced by c. 878, Pt. A, §46, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:
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20 3. Payment by State. The State through the Maine State Retirement System shall pay 25% of the retired teacher members' share of this insurance.
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24 Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §13451, sub-§3-A is enacted to read:

26 3-A. School units that change plans. If a school unit changes its group health insurance plan or provider, the school unit at the time that it transfers active teachers to the new plan or provider shall also transfer all retired teachers from that school unit to the new plan or provider and shall inform each retired teacher in writing that, unless the school receives written notice from an individual retired teacher to the contrary, each retired teacher will be transferred automatically to the new plan or provider. The school unit shall also provide each retired teacher a description of the benefits and costs of the new plan or provider. A retired teacher may decline to participate with the new plan or provider upon written notice to the school unit. If any retired teacher so elects, there shall be no obligation or responsibility on the part of the replaced group plan or provider beyond conversion or continuity options provided for in Title 24, chapter 19 or Title 24-A, chapters 35 and 36.
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44 Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §13451, sub-§5, as enacted by PL 1989, c. 878, Pt. A, §46, is repealed.
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48 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

50 This bill clarifies that when a school unit changes its group health insurance plan or provider, retired teachers transfer automatically to the new plan or provider, unless they
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2 choose otherwise. The bill also clarifies that if a retired
teacher declines the group coverage available under the new plan,
4 the replaced plan or provider has no obligation to a retired
teacher who declines the new group coverage.

6 This bill resolves a conflict created by 2 public laws
affecting the same section of the law.