



118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

No. 86

H.P. 61

House of Representatives, January 9, 1997

An Act to Clarify Eligibility for State Employee Health Insurance Program Benefits.

(EMERGENCY)

Reference to the Committee on Labor suggested and ordered printed.

JSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative PENDLETON of Scarborough. Cosponsored by Representatives: HATCH of Skowhegan, RINES of Wiscasset, SAMSON of Jay, WHEELER of Bridgewater, Senator: AMERO of Cumberland.

Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, current law does not serve to protect state employees from the loss of retiree health insurance benefits if the employee is laid off within one year of the employee's retirement eligibility date; and

10 Whereas, it is necessary to immediately rectify this situation because there are employees in danger of losing their benefits; and

14 Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of 16 Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and 18 safety; now, therefore,

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

22 Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §285, sub-§1-A, ¶B, as amended by PL 1989, c. 776, §1, is further amended to read:

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B. If not retiring on a disability retirement, have participated, as an employee, in the group health plan for at least one year immediately-prior-to-retirement;-or:

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(1) Immediately prior to retirement; or

(2) After July 1, 1995, immediately prior to layoff if
32 the effective date of layoff is within 12 months of the
person's retirement eligibility date; or

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act takes effect when approved.

SUMMARY

The purpose of this bill is to protect career employees from 42 the loss of retiree health insurance benefits if the employee should be laid off within one year of the employee's retirement 44 eligibility date.