

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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MINORITY  
STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
118TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 389, L.D. 534, Bill, "An Act to Require Legislators to Pay a Portion of Their Health and Dental Insurance Premiums"

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the summary and inserting in its place the following:

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §285, sub-§7, as amended by PL 1997, c. 24, Pt. C, §1 and c. 80, §4, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

7. Payment by State. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the State, through the commission, shall pay 100% of only the employee's share of the individual premium for the standard plan identified and offered by the commission and available to the employee as authorized by the commission, except for Legislators, for whom the State shall pay 80% of the health plan premium for personal coverage or the cash value of that benefit to the Legislator, if the Legislator so chooses. For any dental insurance plan covering Legislators, the State, through the commission, shall pay 80% of a Legislator's personal coverage or the cash value of that benefit to the Legislator, if the Legislator so chooses. A Legislator shall pay the remaining percentage of the health plan or dental insurance premium. For any person appointed to a position after November 1, 1981, who is employed less than full time, the State shall pay a share of the employee's share reduced pro rata to reflect the reduced number of work hours. The State may not pay any portion of the health plan premium for a blind person eligible for the group health plan under subsection 1, paragraph H.

For persons who were first employed before July 1, 1991, the State shall pay 100% of only the retiree's share of the premiums

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

for the standard plan identified and offered by the commission and available to the retiree, as authorized by the commission for persons who were previously eligible for this health plan pursuant to subsection 1, paragraph A and who have subsequently become eligible pursuant to subsection 1, paragraph G.

For persons who were first employed by the State after July 1, 1991, the State shall pay a pro rata share portion of only the retiree's share of the premiums for the standard plan identified and offered by the commission and available to the retiree, as authorized by the commission for persons who were previously eligible for this health plan pursuant to subsection 1, paragraph A and who have subsequently become eligible pursuant to subsection 1, paragraph G based on the total number of years of participation in the group health plan prior to retirement as follows:

<u>Years of Participation</u>	<u>State Portion</u>
<u>10 or more years</u>	<u>100% group health plan premium</u>
<u>9 but less than 10 years</u>	<u>90% group health plan premium</u>
<u>8 but less than 9 years</u>	<u>80% group health plan premium</u>
<u>7 but less than 8 years</u>	<u>70% group health plan premium</u>
<u>6 but less than 7 years</u>	<u>60% group health plan premium</u>
<u>5 but less than 6 years</u>	<u>50% group health plan premium</u>
<u>Less than 5 years</u>	<u>No contribution</u>

**Sec. 2. Appropriation.** The following funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

	<b>1997-98</b>	<b>1998-99</b>
<b>LEGISLATURE</b>		
Legislature		
Personal Services	(\$230,482)	(\$334,718)

2 Deappropriates funds from  
3 savings that result from  
4 changing the level of the  
5 State's contribution for  
6 Legislators' health and  
7 dental insurance.'

8  
9 Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the  
10 summary the following:

12 **FISCAL NOTE**

	1997-98	1998-99
14 <b>APPROPRIATIONS/ALLOCATIONS</b>		
16		
18	(\$230,482)	(\$334,718)
20		

22 These changes to the level of the State's contributions for  
23 Legislators' health and dental insurance coverage will result in  
24 General Fund savings to the Legislature of \$230,482 in fiscal  
25 year 1997-98 and \$334,718 in fiscal year 1998-99. These amounts  
26 are deappropriated.'

28 **SUMMARY**

30  
31 The amendment replaces the original bill for the purpose of  
32 incorporating Public Law 1997, chapters 24 and 80 in order to  
33 avoid a conflict. The amendment does not change the original  
34 intent of the bill, which would require Legislators to pay 20% of  
35 the premium for health and dental insurance coverage. The  
36 amendment also retains the provision that allows Legislators the  
37 option of receiving the cash value of the insurance benefits in  
38 lieu of the state contribution. The amendment also adds an  
39 appropriation section and a fiscal note.  
40