

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-1998

Legislative Document

No. 1999

H.P. 1435

House of Representatives, January 14, 1998

**An Act Requiring the State to Pay a Portion of the Health Insurance
Premium for Dependents of Retired State Employees.**

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule
203.

Reference to the Committee on Labor suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative RINES of Wiscasset.
Cosponsored by Representatives: BOLDUC of Auburn, HATCH of Skowhegan, SAMSON of
Jay.

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

2
3 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §285, sub-§7**, as amended by PL 1997, c. 24, Pt.
4 C, §1 and c. 80, §4, is repealed and the following enacted in its
5 place:

6
7 7. Payment by State. Except as otherwise provided in this
8 subsection, the State, through the commission, shall pay 100% of
9 only the employee's share of the individual premium for the
10 standard plan identified and offered by the commission and
11 available to the employee as authorized by the commission, except
12 for Legislators, for whom the State shall pay 50% of the health
13 plan premium for dependent coverage. For any person appointed to
14 a position after November 1, 1981, who is employed less than full
15 time, the State shall pay a share of the employee's share reduced
16 pro rata to reflect the reduced number of work hours. The State
17 may not pay any portion of the health plan premium for a blind
18 person eligible for the group health plan under subsection 1,
19 paragraph H.

20
21 For persons who were first employed before July 1, 1991, the
22 State shall pay 60% of the retiree's dependent share of the
23 premiums and 100% of the retiree's share of the premiums for the
24 standard plan identified and offered by the commission and
25 available to the retiree, as authorized by the commission for
26 persons who were previously eligible for this health plan
27 pursuant to subsection 1, paragraph A and who have subsequently
28 become eligible pursuant to subsection 1, paragraph G.

29
30 For persons who were first employed by the State after July 1,
31 1991, the State shall pay 60% of the retiree's dependent share of
32 the premiums and a pro rata share portion of only the retiree's
33 share of the premiums for the standard plan identified and
34 offered by the commission and available to the retiree, as
35 authorized by the commission for persons who were previously
36 eligible for this health plan pursuant to subsection 1, paragraph
37 A and who have subsequently become eligible pursuant to
38 subsection 1, paragraph G based on the total number of years of
39 participation in the group health plan prior to retirement as
40 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</u>

2	<u>6 but less than 7 years</u>	<u>premium</u> <u>60% group health plan</u>
4	<u>5 but less than 6 years</u>	<u>premium</u> <u>50% group health plan</u>
6	<u>Less than 5 years</u>	<u>premium</u> <u>No contribution</u>

8

SUMMARY

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12 This bill requires the State to pay 60% of the health
 13 insurance premium for dependent coverage for retired state
 14 employees. The bill repeals and replaces the relevant provision,
 15 rather than simply amending it, in order to address a conflict
 16 created by 2 public laws enacted in the prior regular legislative
 session