

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DATE: 4-5-00

(Filing No. H-1054)

LABOR

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
119TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 595, L.D. 835, "Resolve, Establishing a Commission to Study the Interrelationship Among the Maine State Retirement System, Social Security and Tax-advantaged Accounts"

Amend the resolve by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'Resolve, to Study Pension Plan Design and Benefits under the Maine State Retirement System'

Further amend the resolve by striking out everything after the emergency preamble and before the emergency clause and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 1. Committee study. Resolved: That the Joint Standing Committee on Labor, referred to in this resolve as the "committee," shall study the design of pension plans for state employees and teachers and the level and equity of the benefits available under those plans. The entire committee shall conduct the study but may form subcommittees as necessary. The committee may meet up to 5 times to complete its work. The Senate and House chairs shall serve as cochairs of the study; and be it further

Sec. 2. Duties. Resolved: That the committee shall examine and report on:

1. The design of the basic defined benefit retirement plan for state employees and teachers, including comparison to possible alternatives such as defined contribution plans or integration of state retirement plans with social security coverage;

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 595, L.D. 835

2. The type and level of benefits available to state employees and teachers, including the equity of benefits across the total work force;

3. Whether the current provisions for special retirement plans and early retirement options for certain categories of employees are adequate, whether to establish standardized criteria for coverage under the plans and whether to use an impartial process to develop recommendations as to what categories of employees should be covered;

4. The impact and proper role of retirement benefits in the recruitment and retention of state employees and teachers;

5. The projected costs or savings of any recommended changes; and

6. Other pertinent issues identified by the committee.

In conducting its study, the committee shall review relevant laws and policies in other states comparable to Maine and may hold public meetings or hearings to receive public comments; and be it further

Sec. 3. Staff assistance. Resolved: That the committee shall request staffing and clerical assistance from the Legislative Council. The Maine State Retirement System shall provide technical assistance, advice and reasonable actuarial services to the committee. Within the resources available, the committee may hire a pension consultant or engage other professional services; and be it further

Sec. 4. Reimbursement. Resolved: That committee members are entitled to receive the legislative per diem and reimbursement for necessary expenses for their attendance at authorized meetings of the committee upon application to the Legislative Council; and be it further

Sec. 5. Report. Resolved: That the committee shall submit its report with any accompanying legislation for consideration by the First Regular Session of the 120th Legislature by November 1, 2000. If the committee requires a limited extension of time to conclude its study and make its report, it may apply to the Legislative Council, which may grant the extension; and be it further

Sec. 6. Committee budget. Resolved: That the committee chairs, with assistance from the committee staff, shall administer the committee budget. Within 10 days after its first meeting, the committee shall present a work plan and proposed

budget to the Legislative Council for approval. The committee may not incur expenses that would result in the committee's exceeding its approved budget; and be it further

Sec. 7. Appropriation. Resolved: That the following funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this resolve.

2000-01

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Personal Services	\$3,575
All Other	15,750

Provides funds for the per diem and expenses of members of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor to study the design of pension plans for state employees and teachers and the level and equity of the benefits available under those plans, for public hearings and consultant services and to print the required report.

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TOTAL \$19,325'

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

FISCAL NOTE

2000-01

APPROPRIATIONS/ALLOCATIONS

General Fund \$19,325

This resolve includes a General Fund appropriation of \$19,325 in fiscal year 2000-01 for the Legislature for the per diem and expenses of legislative members of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor to study the design of pension plans for state employees and teachers and the level and equity of the benefits available under those plans, for public hearings and consultant services and to print the required report.

2 The additional costs associated with providing staffing
3 assistance to the committee during the interim between
4 legislative sessions can be absorbed by the Legislature utilizing
5 budgeted resources. If an extension of the reporting deadline is
6 granted and the committee requires staffing assistance for this
7 purpose during the legislative session, the Legislature may
8 require an additional General Fund appropriation to contract for
9 staff services.

10 The additional costs associated with providing technical
11 assistance, advice and reasonable actuarial services to the
12 committee can be absorbed by the Maine State Retirement System
13 utilizing existing budgeted resources.'

16 SUMMARY

18 This amendment replaces the resolve. The amendment directs
19 the Joint Standing Committee on Labor to study the design of
20 pension plans for state employees and teachers and the level and
21 equity of the benefits available under those plans and submit a
22 report for consideration by the First Regular Session of the
23
24 120th Legislature.