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	L.D. 2363
2	DATE: 4/5/2000 (Filing No. 5-643)
4	
6	LABOR
8	Reported by:
10	Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate.
12	STATE OF MAINE
14	SENATE 119TH LEGISLATURE
16	SECOND REGULAR SESSION
18	Λ
20	COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 911, L.D. 2363, Bill, "As Act Regarding Length of Service for Retirement Benefits for State
22	Police Officers"
	Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting
24	the following:
26 28	'An Act Regarding Length of Service, Retirement Age and Retirement Benefits for State Police Officers and Certain Other State Employees'
30	Further amend the bill by striking out everything after the
32	enacting clause and before the summary and inserting in its place the following:
34	'Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §17001, sub-§23, as enacted by PL 1985, c 801, §§5 and 7, is amended to read:
36	23. Normal retirement age. "Normal retirement age" means
38	the specified age, the years of service requirement or an combination of age and years of service requirements at which
40	member becomes eligible for retirement benefits and at which
42	those benefits may not be reduced under section 17852, subsection 3; seetien-17852, subsection 4,-paragraph-G; section 17852
44	subsection 10, paragraph C; and section 18452, subsection 3.
46	Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §17159, sub-§1, ¶A, as enacted by PL 1995, c 541, §3, is amended to read:
48	A. "Early retirement" means retirement before norma
50	retirement age with a reduced retirement benefit as provided by section 17852, subsection 3 or $3-A_7-subsection-4$

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## COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 911, L.D. 2363

2	section 17857, subsection 3-A; section 18452, subsection 3 or section 18462, subsection 3.
4	Sec. 3. 5 MRSA §17851, sub-§4, ¶B, as repealed and replaced by PL 1999, c. 127, Pt. B, §1, is repealed and the following enacted
6	in its place:
8	B. Became a state police officer after September 15, 198 and completed 25 years of creditable service as a state
10	police officer.
12	<pre>Sec. 4. 5 MRSA §17851-A, sub-§1, ¶D, as enacted by PL 1997, c 769, §11, is repealed.</pre>
14	Sec. 5. 5 MRSA §17851-A, sub-§1, ¶¶J and K, as enacted by P
16	1999, c. 493, §6, are amended to read:
18	J. Law enforcement officers in the employment of the Baxte State Park Authority on January 1, 2000 or hired thereafter
20	and
22	K. The State Fire Marshal or a state fire marsha investigator or state fire marshal inspector in th
24	employment of the Department of Public Safety on January 1 2000 or hired thereafter.
26	Sec. 6. 5 MRSA §17851-A, sub-§1, ¶¶L to N are enacted to read:
28	L. Mental health workers in the employment of th
30	Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation an Substance Abuse Services on August 6, 2000 or hire
32	thereafter who have direct care responsibilities for person residing in institutions;
34	
36	M. Oil and hazardous materials emergency response worker in the employment of the Division of Response Services Department of Environmental Protection who participate in
38	standby rotation on August 6, 2000 or hired thereafter; and
40	N. Security officers in the employment of the Bureau o Capitol Security, Department of Public Safety on August 6
42	2000 or hired thereafter.
44	Sec. 7. 5 MRSA §17851-A, sub-§2, as amended by PL 1999, c 493, §7, is further amended to read:
46	<ol> <li>Qualification for benefits. A member employed in an</li> </ol>

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one or a combination of the capacities specified in subsection 1 after June 30, 1998 for employees identified in subsection 1,

# COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

2	paragraphs A to H and, after December 31, 1999 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K, and after August 6, 2000 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs L to
4	N qualifies for a service retirement benefit if that member either:
6	A. Is at least 55 years of age and has completed at least
8	10 years of creditable service under the 1998 Special Plan in any one or a combination of the capacities; or
10	B. Has completed at least 25 years of creditable service in
12	any one or a combination of the capacities specified in subsection 1, whether or not the creditable service included
14	in determining that the 25-year requirement has been met was earned under the 1998 Special Plan or prior to its
16	establishment.
18	Sec. 8. 5 MRSA $\S17851$ -A, sub- $\S3$ , $\PA$ , as amended by PL 1999, c. 493, $\S8$ , is further amended to read:
20	) For the number of meeting the qualification requirement
22	A. For the purpose of meeting the qualification requirement of subsection 2, paragraph A:
24	(1) Service credit purchased by repayment of an earlier refund of accumulated contributions following
26 28	termination of service is included only to the extent that time to which the refund relates was served after June 30, 1998 for employees identified in subsection 1,
30	paragraphs A to H and, after December 31, 1999 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K and after August 5, 2000 for employees identified in
32	paragraphs L to N, in any one or a combination of the capacities specified in subsection 1; and
34	
36	(2) Service credit purchased other than as provided under subparagraph (1), including but not limited to service credit for military service, is not included.
38	
40	Sec. 9. 5 MRSA §17851-A, sub-§4, as amended by PL 1999, c. 489, §14 and c. 493, §9, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:
42	<del>-</del>
44	4. Computation of benefits. The amount of the service retirement benefit for members qualified under subsection 2 must
46	be computed as follows.
48	A. If all of the member's creditable service in any one or a combination of the capacities specified in subsection 1
50	was earned after June 30, 1998 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A to H, after December 31, 1999 for

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#### COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 911, L.D. 2363

employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K and after August 5, 2000 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs L to N or if service credit was purchased by repayment of an earlier refund of accumulated contributions for service after June 30, 1998 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A to H, after December 31, 1999 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K and after August 5, 2000 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs L to N, in any one or a combination of the capacities specified in subsection 1, or if service credit was purchased by other than the repayment of an earlier refund and eligibility to make the purchase of the service credit, including but not limited to service credit for military service, was achieved after June 30, 1998 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A to H, after December 31, 1999 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K and after August 5, 2000 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs L to N, the benefit must be computed as provided in section 17852, subsection 1, paragraph A.

- (1) If the member is qualified under subsection 2, paragraph B and had 10 years of creditable service on July 1, 1993, the benefit must be reduced as provided in section 17852, subsection 3, paragraphs A and B.
- (2) If the member is qualified under subsection 2, paragraph B and had fewer than 10 years of creditable service on July 1, 1993, the benefit under subsection 2, paragraph B must be reduced by 6% for each year that the member's age precedes 55 years of age.

B. Except as provided in paragraph D, if some part of the member's creditable service in any one or a combination of the capacities specified in subsection 1 was earned before July 1, 1998 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A to H, before January 1, 2000 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K and before August 6, 2000 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs L to N and some part of the member's creditable service in any one or a combination of the capacities specified in subsection 1 was earned after June 30, 1998 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A to H, after December 31, 1999 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K and after August 5, 2000 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs L to N then the member's service retirement benefit must be computed in segments and the amount of the member's service retirement benefit is the sum of the segments. The segments must be computed as follows:

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2	(1) The segment or, if the member served in more than
	one of the capacities specified in subsection 1 and the
4	benefits related to the capacities are not
	interchangeable under section 17856, segments that
6	reflect creditable service earned before July 1, 1998
	for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A
8	to H, before January 1, 2000 for employees identified
	in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K and before August 6,
10	2000 for employees identified in subsection 1,
	paragraphs L to N or purchased by repayment of an
12	earlier refund of accumulated contributions for service
<del></del>	before July 1, 1998, for employees identified in
14	subsection 1, paragraphs A to H, before January 1, 2000
11	for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I
16	to K and before August 6, 2000 for employees identified
1.0	
1.0	in subsection 1, paragraphs L to N in a capacity or
18	capacities specified in subsection 1, or purchased by
	other than the repayment of a refund and eligibility to
20	make the purchase of the service credit, including but
	not limited to service credit for military service, was
22	achieved before July 1, 1998 for employees identified
	in subsection 1, paragraphs A to H, before January 1,
24	2000 for employees identified in subsection 1,
	paragraphs I to K and before August 6, 2000 for
26	employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs L to N
	must be computed under section 17852, subsection 1,
28	paragraph A. If the member is qualified under
	subsection 2, paragraph B and:
30	
	(a) Had 10 years of creditable service on July 1,
32	1993, the amount of the segment or segments must
	be reduced as provided in section 17852,
34	subsection 3, paragraphs A and B; or
<b>.</b>	subsection 3, paragraphs & and b, or
36	(b) Had fewer than 10 years of creditable service
30	
38	on July 1, 1993, the amount of the segment or
30	segments must be reduced as provided in section
4.0	17852, subsection 3-A; and
40	(0)
4.0	(2) The segment that reflects creditable service
42	earned after June 30, 1998 for employees identified in
	subsection 1, paragraphs A to H, after December 31,
44	1999 for employees identified in subsection 1,
	paragraphs I to K and after August 5, 2000 for
46	employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs L to N
	purchased by repayment of an earlier refund of
48	accumulated contributions for service after June 30,
	1998 for employees identified in subsection 1,
50	paragraphs A to H, after December 31, 1999 for

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# COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

### COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 911, L.D. 2363

	employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K
2	and after August 5, 2000 for employees identified in
	subsection 1, paragraphs L to N in any one or a
4	combination of the capacities specified in subsection
	1, or purchased by other than the repayment of a refund
6	and eligibility to make the purchase of the service
	credit, including but not limited to service credit for
8	military service, was achieved after June 30, 1998 for
	employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A to
LO	H, after December 31, 1999 for employees identified in
	subsection 1, paragraphs I to K and after August 5,
L2	2000 for employees identified in subsection 1,
	paragraphs L to N must be computed under section 17852,
L <b>4</b>	subsection 1, paragraph A. If the member is qualified
	under subsection 2, paragraph B and:
L6	
	(a) Had 10 years of creditable service on July 1.
L8	1993, the segment amount must be reduced in the
	manner provided in section 17852, subsection 3,
20	paragraphs A and B for each year that the member's
	age precedes 55 years of age; or
22	
	(b) Had fewer than 10 years of creditable service
24	on July 1, 1993, the segment amount must be
	reduced by 6% for each year that the member's age
26	precedes 55 years of age.
28	D. The service retirement benefit of a member who is a
	Maine State Prison employee to whom subsection 1, paragraph
30	E applies, and who qualifies for service retirement benefits
	under subsection 2, paragraph B, must be computed under
32	section 17852, subsection 1, paragraph A on the basis of all
	of the member's creditable service in the capacity specified
34	in subsection 1, paragraph E regardless of whether the
	creditable service was earned before, on or after July 1,
36	1998, except that:
38	(1) If the member had 10 years of service on July 1,
	1993, the benefit must be reduced as provided in
40	section 17852, subsection 10, paragraph C,
	subparagraphs (1) and (2); or
42	
	(2) If the member had fewer than 10 years of
44	creditable service on July 1, 1993, the benefit must be
	reduced as provided in section 17852, subsection 10,
46	paragraph C-1.
4.0	C. 10 F MIDCA 9170F1 A PF
48	Sec. 10. 5 MRSA §17851-A, sub-§5, as amended by PL 1999, c.
	493, §9, is further amended to read:

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### COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 911, L.D. 2363

	5. Contributions. Notwithstanding any other provision of
2	subchapter III, after June 30, 1998, for employees identified in
	subsection 1, paragraphs A to H, and after December 31, 1999, for
4	employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K and after
	August 5, 2000 for employees identified in subsection 1,
6	paragraphs L to N, a member in the capacities specified in
	subsection 1 must contribute to the retirement system or have
8	pick-up contributions made at the rate of 8.65% of earnable
	compensation until the member has completed 25 years of
10	creditable service as provided in this section and at the rate of
	7.65% thereafter.
12	C. 11 F MIDCA 915050 1 94 5D
	Sec. 11. 5 MRSA §17852, sub-§4, ¶B, as enacted by PL 1985, c.
14	801, $\S\S$ 5 and 7, is amended to read:
16	B. For persons qualifying under section 17851, subsection
	4, paragraph B, and-who-retire-upon-or-after-reaching-the
18	age-ef-55, the retirement benefit shall must be computed in
20	accordance with subsection 1.
20	Soc 12 5 MDCA 817952 sub 84 CC
22	Sec. 12. 5 MRSA §17852, sub-§4, ¶C, as amended by PL 1993, c.
2 2	410, Pt. L, §38, is repealed.
24	Sec. 13. 5 MRSA §17852, sub-§4, ¶C-1, as repealed and replaced
<u> </u>	by PL 1993, c. 410, Pt. L, §39, is repealed.
26	by th 1993, c. 410, fc. h, 939, is repeated.
	Sec. 14. 5 MRSA §17852, sub-§4, ¶C-2 as amended by PL 1995, c.
28	367, §1, is repealed.
-0	507, 32, 15 10pcd2cd.
30	Sec. 15. 5 MRSA §17857, sub-§3, ¶¶A, B and D, as amended by PL
	1997, c. 769, §19, are further amended to read:
32	
	A. If the member transferred under the provisions of
34	subsection 2, paragraph A:
36	(1) If applicable, the portion of the retirement
	benefit based upon creditable service earned before
38	being transferred must be reduced in accordance with
	section17852, - subsection4, - paragraph - Cer section
10	17852, subsection 10, paragraph C or, if the member was
	covered under section 17851-A, the portion of the
12	retirement benefit based upon creditable service earned
	before being transferred must be reduced as provided in
14	that section; and
16	(2) The portion of the retirement benefit based upon

Page 7-LR3251(2)

creditable service earned after being transferred must

be reduced in accordance with section 17852, subsection

2	B. If the member was a retiree restored to service subject to subsection 2, paragraph B:
4	(1) If applicable, the portion of the retirement
6	benefit based upon creditable service earned before the member's initial retirement must be reduced in
8	accordance with seetien-17852, subsection 4, paragraph C or, if the member was covered under section 17851-A, the
10	portion of the retirement benefit based upon creditable service earned before the member's initial retirement
12	must be reduced as provided in that section; and
14	(2) The portion of the retirement benefit based upon creditable service earned after being restored to
16	service must be reduced in accordance with section 17852, subsection 3.
18	
20	D. If the member was transferred subject to subsection 2, paragraph D, and:
22	(1) If the member completes the service or service and age requirements for retirement under the special plan
24	that the member was under previously, if applicable, the retirement benefit must be reduced in accordance
26	with seetien17852,subsection4,paragraphGer section 17852, subsection 10, paragraph C or, if the
28 30	member was covered under section 17851-A, the retirement benefit must be reduced as provided in that
30	section; or
32	(2) If the member does not complete the service or service and age requirements for retirement under the
34	special plan that the member was under previously, the retirement benefit must be reduced in accordance with
36	section 17852, subsection 3.
38	Sec. 16. 5 MRSA §17857, sub-§3-A, ¶¶A, B and D, as amended by PL 1997, c. 769, §19, are further amended to read:
40	
42	A. If the member transferred under the provisions of subsection 2, paragraph A:
14	(1) If applicable, the portion of the retirement benefit based upon creditable service earned before
46	being transferred must be reduced in accordance with seetien-17852, subsection-4, paragraph-G-1-er section
48	17852, subsection 10, paragraph C-1 or, if the member was covered under section 17851-A, the portion of the
50	retirement benefit based upon creditable service earned

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2	before being transferred must be reduced as provided in that section; and
4	(2) The portion of the retirement benefit based upon
6	creditable service earned after being transferred must be reduced in accordance with section 17852, subsection 3-A.
8	
10	B. If the member was a retiree restored to service subject to subsection 2, paragraph B:
12	(1) If applicable, the portion of the retirement benefit based upon creditable service earned before the
14	member's initial retirement must be reduced in
16	accordance with seetien-17852, subsection-4, paragraph G-1-er section 17852, subsection 10, paragraph C-1 or, if the member was covered under section 17851-A, the
18	portion of the retirement benefit based upon creditable service earned before the member's initial retirement
20	must be reduced as provided in that section; and
22	(2) The portion of the retirement benefit based upon
24	creditable service earned after being restored to service must be reduced in accordance with section
26	17852, subsection 3-A.
28	D. If the member was transferred subject to subsection 2, paragraph D and:
30	(1) If the member completes the service or service and
32	age requirements for retirement under the special plan that the member was under previously, if applicable,
34	the retirement benefit must be reduced in accordance with section-17852,subsection-4,paragraph- $\mathcal{C}$ -1er
86	section 17852, subsection 10, paragraph C-1 or, if the member was covered under section 17851-A, the
8	retirement benefit must be reduced as provided in that section; or
<u>.</u> 0	(2) If the member does not complete the service or
. 2	service and age requirements for retirement under the special plan that the member was under previously, the
.4	retirement benefit must be reduced in accordance with section 17852, subsection 3-A.
6	Sec. 17. Effect on state police officers who previously elected to
8	self-fund an early retirement option. The Maine State Retirement System shall refund the additional amount paid above the normal
0	contribution rate plus interest on that amount from the date of

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COMMITTEE	AMENDMENT	"Д "	to	S.P.	911,	L.D.	2363

officer on the effective date of this Act and who elected to pay
the full actuarial costs of retirement before age 55 under the
Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 17852, subsection 4,
paragraph C-2 before it was repealed by this Act by paying an
increased employee contribution to the Maine State Retirement
System. The employee contribution rate from the effective date
of this Act for a member who previously made the election under
Title 5, section 17852, subsection 4, paragraph C-2 is as
provided in Title 5, section 17708-B.

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Sec. 18. Expenditures in excess of allocations. Expenditures of funds required by this Act other than the General Fund and the Highway Fund are authorized to exceed legislative allocations during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001. Appropriate adjustments to basic work programs facilitating these expenditures in excess of allocations must be recommended by the State Budget Officer and approved by the Governor.

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Sec. 19. Adjustment of rates. After consultation with the Maine State Retirement System, the State Budget Officer shall adjust the normal cost component of the employer contribution rates on the effective date of this Act to fully fund this Act on an actuarially sound basis. In addition, the State Budget Officer shall assess the accounts in other funds for their share of the unfunded liability costs based on total salaries in those accounts in fiscal year 2000-01.

Sec. 20. Appropriation. The following funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

30 **32** 

2000-01

#### MAINE STATE RETIREMENT SYSTEM

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#### **Retirement Allowance Fund**

**36** 

All Other \$872,708

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Provides funds for the unfunded liability costs related to removing State Police Officers hired after September 15, 1984 from the 1998 Special Retirement Plan.

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## MAINE STATE RETIREMENT SYSTEM TOTAL

\$872,708

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ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES,

48 DEPARTMENT OF

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#### Salary Plan

5 8 8

	Personal Services	\$52,7	29
	Provides funds to be held in reserve in the		
	event that costs associated with the		
	increase in the normal cost component of the		
	employer contribution rate for retirement		
	costs related to removing State Police		
	Officers hired after September 15, 1984 from		
	the 1998 Special Retirement Plan and		
	including additional employee groups in the 1998 Special Retirement Plan exceed the		
	amounts available for the Department of		
	Public Safety, the Department of		
	Environmental Protection and the Department		
	of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and		
	Substance Abuse Services. Because the		
	normal cost component of the employer		
	contribution rate for state employees is		
	actuarially established based on projected		
	salaries as a rate that must be applied to		
	actual salaries, the funds resulting from		
	the application of the actuarially		
	established rate constitute appropriated		
	funds. The funds here specified constitute		
	estimates and not appropriated funds.		
A	DMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES,		
	EPARTMENT OF		
T	OTAL	\$52,7	29
T	OTAL APPROPRIATIONS	\$925,43	37
	Sec. 21. Allocation. The following funds are allo		οm
tr	he Highway Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.		
		2000-0	11
		2000-0	,
M	IAINE STATE RETIREMENT SYSTEM		
R	etirement Allowance Fund		
	All Other	\$1,445,42	24
	Provides funds for the unfunded liability		
	costs related to removing State Police		
	Officers hired after September 15, 1984 from		
	the 1998 Special Retirement Plan.		
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		

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S. 50 %

MAINE STATE RETIREMENT SYSTEM TOTAL	\$1,445,424
ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF	
Salary Plan	
Personal Services	\$77,089
Provides funds to be held in reserve in the event that costs associated with the increase in the normal cost component of the	
employer contribution rate for retirement costs related to removing State Police	
Officers hired after September 15, 1984 from the 1998 Special Retirement Plan exceed the	
amounts available for the Department of Public Safety. Because the normal cost	
component of the employer contribution rate for state employees is actuarially	
established based on projected salaries as a rate that must be applied to actual	
salaries, the funds resulting from the application of the actuarially established	
rate constitute appropriated funds. The funds here specified constitute estimates	
and not appropriated funds.	
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES	
TOTAL	\$77,089
TOTAL ALLOCATIONS	\$1,522,513'
	·
Further amend the bill by inserting at the summary the following:	end before the
FISCAL NOTE	
	2000-01
APPROPRIATIONS/ALLOCATIONS	2000 02
ALL NOT MIA LLUIS/ALLUCALIUMS	
General Fund Highway Fund	\$925,437 1,522,513

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Removing State Police Officers hired after 9/15/84 from the 1998 Special Retirement Plan will increase the unfunded liability of the Maine State Retirement System by \$2,727,214. Since the Constitution of Maine, Article IX, Section 18-A, prohibits the creation of unfunded liabilities except those that result from experience losses, this bill includes a one-time General Fund appropriation of \$872,708 and a Highway Fund allocation of \$1,445,424 to the Maine State Retirement System in fiscal year 2000-01. The cost to accounts in other funds, estimated to be \$409,082, may require increased allotments to meet these additional personal services expenditures.

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1. A. S.

Removing these State Police Officers from the 1998 Special Retirement Plan will also increase the normal cost component of the employer retirement rate from the 1998 special plan rate of 6.89% to the new plan normal cost rate of 9.15%. This 2.26% increase will result in increased employer contributions to the Maine State Retirement System for state police officers estimated to be \$145,450 in fiscal year 2000-01. A General Fund appropriation of \$46,544 and a Highway Fund allocation of \$77,089 in fiscal year 2000-01 are included to provide funds in the salary plan account to be held in reserve in the event that the increase in the employer retirement contribution rates exceed the allotments in General Fund and Highway Fund accounts during fiscal year 2000-01. The cost to accounts in other funds, estimated to be \$21,817 in fiscal year 2000-01, may require increased allotments to meet these additional personal services expenditures.

This bill also allows other law enforcement and certain state employees to be covered under the provisions of the 1998 Special Retirement Plan effective August 6, 2000. Since this change is being made on a prospective basis, it will not increase the unfunded liability of the Maine State Retirement System and, as such, will not violate the Constitution of Maine, Article IX, Section 18-A, which prohibits the creation of unfunded liabilities except those that result from experience losses.

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The placement of these employee groups, which are currently in the State regular retirement plan, into the 1998 Special Retirement Plan, will increase the normal cost component of the employer contribution rate for these groups from the regular plan normal cost rate of 6.04% to the 1998 special plan normal cost rate of 6.89%. This 0.85% increase is applied to the salaries of positions certain identified within the Department Environmental Protection, the Bureau of Capitol Security within the Department of Public Safety and to certain mental health workers within the Department of Mental Health, Retardation and Substance Abuse Services. This will increase employer contributions to the Maine State Retirement System by

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these departments by an amount estimated to be \$56,223 in fiscal year 2000-01. A General Fund appropriation of \$6,185 in fiscal year 2000-01 is included to provide funds in the salary plan account to be held in reserve in the event that the increase in the employer retirement contribution rates exceed the allotments in General Fund accounts during that fiscal year. The cost to accounts in other funds, estimated to be \$50,038 in fiscal year 2000-01, may require increased allotments to meet these additional personal services expenditures.

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The additional costs associated with processing membership changes related to the 1998 Special Retirement Plan will be absorbed by the Maine State Retirement System utilizing existing budgeted resources.'

#### **SUMMARY**

This amendment is the majority report of the committee, which is Report A. The amendment makes several technical amendments to the bill to fully implement its intent to remove state police officers from the 1998 special retirement plan and establish a 25-years-of-service and no-age-requirement retirement plan for state police officers. The new early retirement plan for state police officers is retroactive to date of hire for current officers. The amendment clarifies that state police officers who elected an option available under prior law to pay increased contributions to purchase an early retirement plan similar to that being established by the bill would have their excess contributions refunded with interest.

The amendment also adds direct care mental health workers in the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services, certain hazardous material responders in the Department of Environmental Protection and Capitol Security officers to the 1998 Special Retirement Plan. Under that existing plan a member qualifies for a service retirement benefit if that worker is at least 55 years of age and has completed at least 10 years of creditable service in a covered capacity. A reduced retirement benefit is available before age 55 if the member has completed at least 25 years of creditable service.

The amendment also adds an appropriation section, an allocation section and a fiscal note to the bill.

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# COMMITTEE AMENDMENT