

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LABOR

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STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
119TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "B" to S.P. 911, L.D. 2363, Bill, "An Act Regarding Length of Service for Retirement Benefits for State Police Officers"

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

'Resolve, to Study Early Retirement Options for State Employees'

Further amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and before the summary and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 1. Commission established. Resolved: That the Commission to Study the Early Retirement Options for State Employees, referred to in this resolve as the "commission," is established; and be it further

Sec. 2. Membership. Resolved: That the commission consists of 7 legislative members appointed as follows: Two members of the Senate who are members of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor appointed by the President of the Senate and 5 members of the House of Representatives who are members of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The first named member of each House shall serve as cochairs; and be it further

Sec. 3. Appointments. Resolved: That all appointments must be made no later than 15 days following the effective date of this resolve. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative Council upon making their appointments. When the appointment of all members is complete,

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

the chairs shall convene the first meeting of the commission no later than August 1, 2000; and be it further

Sec. 4. Duties. Resolved: That the commission shall study early retirement options and special retirement plans for law enforcement, public safety, institutional and other employees of the State and the costs and benefits to the State and to employees of such options and plans. In examining these issues, the commission shall:

1. Review the history of early retirement options and special retirement plans in the State;

2. Compare the type and benefits of current early retirement options and special retirement plans in the State with any that might be available to public sector employees in other states;

3. Analyze the rationale and need for early retirement options and special retirement plans in the State;

4. Assess the impact of early retirement options and special retirement plans on the recruitment and retention of state employees, including the cost to the State, recruiting experiences and turnover rates;

5. Determine the impact of early retirement options and special retirement plans on state employees' career choices, job changes and 2nd career opportunities; and

6. Develop recommended criteria and a standard methodology for determining categories of employees who should have early retirement options or special retirement; and be it further

Sec. 5. Staff assistance. Resolved: That the commission 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 commission. Within available resources, the commission may hire a pension consultant or engage other professional services; and be it further

Sec. 6. Reimbursement. Resolved: That the commission members are entitled to receive the legislative per diem, as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3, section 2, for each day's attendance at meetings of the commission and to reimbursement for travel and other necessary expenses, upon application to the Legislative Council; and be it further

2 **Sec. 7. Report. Resolved:** That the commission shall submit
4 its report, together with any necessary implementing legislation,
6 for consideration by the First Regular Session of the 120th
8 Legislature by November 1, 2000. If the commission requires a
 limited extension of time to conclude its work, it may apply to
 the Legislative Council, which may grant the extension; and be it
 further

10 **Sec. 8. Budget. Resolved:** That the chairs of the commission,
12 with assistance from the commission staff, shall administer the
14 commission's budget. Within 10 days after its first meeting, the
16 commission shall present a work plan and proposed budget to the
18 Legislative Council for approval. The commission may not incur
20 expenses that would result in the commission exceeding its
 approved budget. Upon request from the commission, the Executive
 Director of the Legislative Council shall promptly provide the
 commission chairs and staff with a status report on the
 commission's budget, expenditures incurred and paid and available
 funds; and be it further

22 **Sec. 9. Appropriation. Resolved:** That the following funds are
24 appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of
 this resolve.

2000-01

26 **LEGISLATURE**

28 **Commission to Study the Early**
30 **Retirement Options for State**
32 **Employees**

34 Personal Services	\$1,540
All Other	11,900

36 Provides funds for the per diem and expenses
38 of legislative members of the Commission to
40 Study the Early Retirement Options for State
 Employees, for consultant services and to
 print the required report.

42 **LEGISLATURE**
44 **TOTAL**

\$13,440'

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

FISCAL NOTE

2

2000-01

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APPROPRIATIONS/ALLOCATIONS

6

General Fund

\$13,440

8

10 This resolve includes a General Fund appropriation of
12 \$13,440 in fiscal year 2000-01 for the Legislature for the per
14 diem and expenses of legislative members of the Commission to
16 Study the Early Retirement Options for State Employees, for
18 consultant services and to print the required report.

14

16 The additional costs associated with providing staffing
18 assistance to the commission during the interim between
20 legislative sessions can be absorbed by the Legislature utilizing
22 existing budgeted resources. If an extension of the reporting
24 deadline is granted and the commission requires staffing
26 assistance during the legislative session, the Legislature may
28 require an additional General Fund appropriation to contract for
staff services.

24

26 The additional costs associated with providing technical
28 assistance, advice and reasonable actuarial services to the
commission can be absorbed by the Maine State Retirement System
utilizing existing budgeted resources.'

28

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SUMMARY

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34 This amendment is a minority report, Report B, of the Labor
36 Committee. The amendment replaces the bill and establishes a
38 legislative commission to study the need for early retirement
40 options and special retirement plans for state employees engaged
42 in law enforcement, public safety, institutional direct care
services and other dangerous or stressful jobs. The commission
is also directed to consider the costs and benefits to the State
and employees of providing early retirement options and special
retirement plans for certain categories of state employees and to
develop criteria and procedures for deciding which categories of
employees should have the options.

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The amendment also adds an appropriation section and a
fiscal note.