

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2000

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Legislative Document

No. 2364

S.P. 912

In Senate, January 12, 2000

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### **An Act to Restore Early Retirement Options for Teachers.**

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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 "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator PINGREE of Knox.  
Cosponsored by Representative SULLIVAN of Biddeford and  
Senators: DOUGLASS of Androscoggin, MacKINNON of York, MILLS of Somerset,  
Representatives: BELANGER of Caribou, BRENNAN of Portland, DAVIS of Falmouth,  
MURPHY of Kennebunk, STEDMAN of Hartland.

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

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PART A

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**Sec. A-1. 5 MRSA §17852, sub-§3-A,** as amended by PL 1999, c. 489, §17, is further amended to read:

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**3-A. Member with creditable service of 25 years or more whether or not in service at retirement; fewer than 10 years of creditable service on July 1, 1993.** The amount of the service retirement benefit for members qualified under section 17851, subsection 3, is computed in accordance with subsection 1, except that:

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A-1. The amount arrived at under subsection 1 is reduced by applying to that amount the percentage that a life annuity due at age 62 bears to the life annuity due at the age of retirement;

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B-1. For the purposes of making the computation under paragraph A-1, the board-approved tables of annuities in effect at the date of the member's retirement are used; and

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~~C. The benefit is reduced by 6% for each year that the member's age precedes 62 years of age; and~~

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D. Effective October 1, 1999, the reduction to be applied to the service retirement benefit of a member to whom this subsection applies may not be greater than that in effect on October 1, 1999 under paragraph C A-1 for a member who, on October 1, 1999 or thereafter, meets the creditable service requirement for eligibility to receive a service retirement benefit under section 17851, subsection 1-C, paragraph A; section 17851, subsection 1-C, paragraph B; section 17851, subsection 2-C, paragraph A; section 17851, subsection 2-C, paragraph B; or section 17851-A, subsection 2, paragraph A. For a member to whom section 17851-A applies, this paragraph must be applied in accordance with the requirements of section 17851-A, subsection 4.

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This subsection applies to members who, on July 1, 1993, do not have 10 years of creditable service, except that paragraphs A-1 and B-1 apply only to teachers who do not have 10 years of creditable service.

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PART B

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**Sec. B-1. Task force established.** The Task Force to study Early Retirement Options, referred to in this Act as the "task force," is established as follows.

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2           **Sec. B-2. Task force membership.** The task force consists of 9  
members as follows:

4           1. The Commissioner of Administrative and Financial  
6 Services, or the commissioner's designee;

8           2. The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's  
designee;

10           3. Three members representing public school teachers,  
12 appointed by the Maine Education Association;

14           4. One member representing superintendents in the State,  
appointed by the Maine School Superintendents Association;

16           5. One member representing school principals in the State,  
18 appointed by the Maine Principals' Association;

20           6. One member representing school boards in the State,  
appointed by the Maine School Boards Association; and

22           7. One public member, appointed by the Governor.

24           **Sec. B-3. Chair.** The task force shall elect a chair from  
26 among its members.

28           **Sec. B-4. Appointments; meetings.** All appointments must be  
made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this  
30 Act. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive  
Director of the Legislative Council upon making their  
32 appointments. Within 15 days after the completion of the  
appointment of all members, the Chair of the Legislative Council  
34 shall call and convene the first meeting of the task force. The  
task force may hold up to 4 meetings.

36           **Sec. B-5. Duties.** The task force shall study the impact of  
retirement benefit changes as it relates to the quality of  
38 education in the State. The task force report must include, but  
40 not be limited to, the following components:

42           1. The elimination of early retirement incentives;

44           2. The 1993 retirement benefit changes;

46           3. Early retirement programs in other states; and

48           4. The impact of the teacher retirement benefit structure  
on state and local policy.

