

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
120TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 573, L.D. 728, Bill, "An Act to Require the Spouse of a Member of the Maine State Retirement System to Receive the Member's Death Benefits"

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

'An Act to Ensure Continued Health Insurance Coverage for the Spouse and Dependents of a Teacher or State Employee who Dies'

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

'Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §285, sub-§3-A is enacted to read:

3-A. Coverage under group health insurance plan for spouse and dependents after death of state employee. If the spouse or other dependents of an employee in any of the categories denominated in subsection 1, paragraphs A to F-5 are covered by the group health plan and the employee dies while employed in that capacity, the spouse or dependent must have the opportunity to continue coverage under the plan after the death of the employee by making the premium payment for the cost of that coverage. In the case of underage dependent children, coverage must be available at least until the dependent children reach 19 years of age.

Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §1001, sub-§5-C is enacted to read:

5-C. Coverage under group health insurance plan for spouse and dependents after death of teacher. If the spouse or other

2 dependents of a teacher as defined in Title 5, section 17001,  
3 subsection 42 are covered by a policy of group health insurance  
4 provided by the school board and the teacher dies while employed  
5 by the board, the board shall provide an opportunity for the  
6 spouse or dependent to continue coverage under the group policy  
7 after the death of the teacher by making the premium payment for  
8 the cost of that coverage. In the case of underage dependent  
9 children of the teacher, coverage must be provided at least until  
10 the dependent children reach 19 years of age.'

## 12 SUMMARY

14 This amendment replaces the bill. It requires that a state  
15 employee's spouse or other dependents covered by the state group  
16 health plan or a teacher's spouse or dependents covered by a  
17 group health insurance plan provided by a school board have an  
18 opportunity to continue coverage under the group plan after the  
19 death of the state employee or teacher. The spouse or dependent  
20 would be responsible for paying the premium for the coverage.