

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 1461

H.P. 1092

House of Representatives, March 8, 2001

An Act to Revise the Health Insurance Benefits Available to Retired Legislators.

Reference to the Committee on Labor suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative BUCK of Yarmouth.
Cosponsored by Senator GAGNON of Kennebec and
Representatives: BUNKER of Kossuth Township, MacDOUGALL of North Berwick,
MATTHEWS of Winslow, TARAZEWICH of Waterboro, TREADWELL of Carmel,
Senators: MARTIN of Aroostook, SAWYER of Penobscot.

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

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4 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §285, sub-§1, ¶G**, as amended by PL 1997, c. 652, §1 and affected by §4, is further amended to read:

6 G. Subject to subsection 1-A, employees in any of the
8 categories denominated in paragraphs A to F-1 and paragraph F-3 who:

10 (1) On April 26, 1968, have retired and who were
12 covered under group health plans that by virtue of Public Law 1967, chapter 543 were terminated;

14 (2) After April 26, 1968, retire and who on the date
16 of their retirement are currently enrolled in this group health plan as employees;

18 (3) After December 2, 1986, and after reaching normal
20 retirement age, cease to be members of the Legislature and are recipients of retirement allowances from the
22 Maine State Retirement System based upon creditable service as teachers, as defined by section 17001,
24 subsection 42. This paragraph also applies to former members who were members on December 2, 1986;

26 (4) After December 2, 1986, and not yet normal
28 retirement age, cease to be members of the Legislature and are recipients of retirement allowances from the
30 Maine State Retirement System based upon creditable service as teachers, as defined by section 17001,
32 subsection 42. This paragraph also applies to former members who were members on December 2, 1986; or

34 (5) After January 1, 1999, terminate employment under
36 which they were eligible for the group health plan but do not retire at that time and who satisfy the
38 requirements of subsection 1-A, paragraph D or paragraph E or after January 1, 2002 terminate legislative service under which they were eligible for the group health plan but do not retire at that time and who satisfy the requirement of paragraph F or G; and

42 **Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §285, sub-§1-A, ¶¶F and G** are enacted to read:

44 F. If terminating legislative service but not retiring at that time, have at least 8 years of creditable service under Title 3, section 802 and remain a member of the Maine Legislative Retirement System, make a one-time election to

2 continue coverage from the date of termination until
3 retirement and pay the costs of the coverage plus the cost
4 incurred by the Department of Administrative and Financial
5 Resources, Bureau of Human Resources, Division of State
6 Employee Health Insurance in administering coverage under
7 the group health plan. If a terminated Legislator who
8 elects coverage under this paragraph fails to pay the cost
9 of coverage and any administrative costs in the amount and
10 manner determined by the division, the coverage may be
11 cancelled in accordance with requirements of Title 24 and
12 Title 24-A. Regardless of election of coverage or
13 cancellation of coverage under this paragraph, a Legislator
14 terminating service as provided in this paragraph may elect
15 coverage upon retirement under paragraph G; or

16 G. If retiring and not in service immediately prior to
17 retirement, have at least 8 years of creditable service
18 under Title 3, section 802 and make a one-time election at
19 retirement to continue under or rejoin the group health
20 plan. Coverage of preexisting conditions upon rejoining the
21 group health plan under this paragraph is governed by Title
22 24-A, chapter 36. The payment provisions of subsection 7
23 apply to retirees exercising the option under this paragraph.

24 **SUMMARY**

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28 This bill provides a health insurance coverage option for
29 Legislators similar to that available to state employees and
30 teachers. If a Legislator covered by the state-paid group health
31 insurance plan terminates legislative service with at least 8
32 years of creditable service in the Maine Legislative Retirement
33 System but does not retire at that time, the Legislator may elect
34 to continue coverage under the group plan by paying the premium
35 until retiring. Whether or not the Legislator exercises the
36 option, that Legislator may elect at retirement to rejoin the
group plan and to have the State pay the health insurance
premiums.