



123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2007

Legislative Document

No. 1177

H.P. 858

House of Representatives, March 7, 2007

Resolve, To Establish the Commission on Retirement Policy Funding and Reform

Reference to the Committee on Labor suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. Mac failand

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND Clerk

Presented by Representative WOODBURY of Yarmouth. Cosponsored by Senator MILLS of Somerset and Representatives: DRISCOLL of Westbrook, FISCHER of Presque Isle, JOY of Crystal, MILLETT of Waterford, SAVIELLO of Wilton, TARDY of Newport, TUTTLE of Sanford, Senator: DOW of Lincoln. Sec. 1. Commission established. Resolved: That the Commission on
 Retirement Policy Funding and Reform, referred to in this resolve as "the commission," is
 established; and be it further

4 Sec. 2. Commission membership. Resolved: That the commission consists of 5 13 members appointed as follows:

6 1. Three members of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate;

- 7 2. Four members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the8 House;
- 9 3. A representative from the Maine State Retirement System, appointed by the 10 President of the Senate;
- 4. A representative from the Maine State Employees Association, appointed by thePresident of the Senate;
- 13 5. A representative from the teaching community, appointed by the President of the14 Senate;
- 6. A representative from the business community, appointed by the President of theSenate;
- 17 7. A representative from an elder issues group, appointed by the President of the18 Senate; and
- 8. A person with expertise in employee benefit program design, appointed by thePresident of the Senate; and be it further
- Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved: That the first-named Senate member is the Senate
 chair of the commission and the first-named House of Representatives member is the
 House chair of the commission; and be it further
- 24 Sec. 4. Appointments; convening of commission. Resolved: That all 25 appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this 26 resolve. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative 27 Council once all appointments have been completed. Within 15 days after appointment 28 of all members, the chairs shall call and convene the first meeting of the commission; and 29 be it further

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- 30 Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved: That the commission shall review and recommend 31 reforms to the Maine State Retirement System that make the system more consistent with 32 the labor market of 2010 and beyond. In conducting its review, the commission shall 33 specifically study:
- 34 1. The substantial increases in life expectancy;
- 35 2. The increased size of the retiree population;

1 3. The dramatic changes in retirement policy occurring in the private sector;

2 4. The need to retain older workers longer, as the labor market is increasingly 3 composed of older workers;

- 4 5. The large, unfunded liability for benefits;
- 5 6. The growing unfunded liability for retiree medical care; and
- 6 7. The discontinuities in the current system; and be it further

7 Sec. 6. Staff assistance. Resolved: That the Legislative Council shall provide
 8 necessary staffing services to the commission; and be it further

9 Resolved: That the legislative members of the Sec. 7. Compensation. commission are entitled to receive the legislative per diem, as defined in the Maine 10 Revised Statutes, Title 3, section 2, and reimbursement for travel and other necessary 11 expenses related to their attendance at authorized meetings of the commission. Public 12 members not otherwise compensated by their employers or other entities that they 13 represent are entitled to receive reimbursement of necessary expenses and, upon a 14 15 demonstration of financial hardship, a per diem equal to the legislative per diem for their 16 attendance at authorized meetings of the commission; and be it further

17 Sec. 8. Report. Resolved: That, no later than January 15, 2008, the commission 18 shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations, including suggested 19 legislation, for presentation to the Joint Standing Committee on Labor. The Joint 20 Standing Committee on Labor is authorized to introduce legislation related to its report to 21 the Second Regular Session of the 123rd Legislature at the time of submission of its 22 report; and be it further

23 Sec. 9. Extension. Resolved: That, if the commission requires a limited 24 extension of time to complete its study and make its report, it may apply to the 25 Legislative Council, which may grant an extension; and be it further

26 Sec. 10. Commission budget. Resolved: That the chairs of the commission, 27 with assistance from the commission staff, shall administer the commission's budget. Within 10 days after its first meeting, the commission shall present a work plan and 28 29 proposed budget to the Legislative Council for its approval. The commission may not 30 incur expenses that would result in the commission's exceeding its approved budget. 31 Upon request from the commission, the Executive Director of the Legislative Council 32 shall promptly provide the commission chairs and staff with a status report on the 33 commission budget, expenditures incurred and paid and available funds.

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SUMMARY

This resolve creates the Commission on Retirement Policy Funding and Reform to review and recommend reforms to the Maine State Retirement System that make the system more consistent with the labor market of 2010 and beyond.