

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
December 3, 2014 to July 16, 2015

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PUBLISHED BY THE REVISOR OF STATUTES
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MAINE REVISED STATUTES ANNOTATED,
TITLE 3, SECTION 163-A, SUBSECTION 4.

Augusta, Maine
2015

CHAPTER 322
H.P. 556 - L.D. 822

**An Act To Allow a Former
Spouse of a Member of the
Maine Public Employees
Retirement System To Begin
Collecting Benefits When the
Former Spouse Reaches the
Member's Retirement Age**

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §17059, sub-§4, ¶H, as enacted by PL 1991, c. 746, §9 and affected by §10, is amended to read:

H. Does not require the payment of benefits to an alternate payee before the retirement of a member other than when the payee reaches the member's normal retirement age, the distribution of a withdrawal of contributions to a member or other distribution to a member required by law.

Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §17059, sub-§5, ¶E, as enacted by PL 1991, c. 746, §9 and affected by §10, is amended to read:

E. The order may not require any action on the part of the retirement system contrary to its governing laws or plan provisions other than the direct payment of the benefit awarded to an alternate payee or the direct payment of the benefit awarded to an alternate payee before the retirement of a member and when the payee reaches the member's normal retirement age.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 323
H.P. 818 - L.D. 1185

**An Act To Establish the
Municipal Gigabit Broadband
Network Access Fund**

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

Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §9211-A is enacted to read:

§9211-A. Municipal Gigabit Broadband Network Access Fund

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Applicant" means a community, regional partnership or municipality that applies for a grant under this section.

B. "Community" means a municipality with a population of at least 1,200 people, as determined by the authority in accordance with the United States Census data, or a municipality that has received a waiver from this population requirement from the authority upon a determination that the municipality is in an unserved or underserved area.

C. "Fund" means the Municipal Gigabit Broadband Network Access Fund established in this section.

D. "Regional partnership" means 2 or more municipalities that do not, on their own, meet the requirements of paragraph B and have joined together with one or more contiguous municipalities in the region to achieve the population requirements of paragraph B.

2. Fund established. The Municipal Gigabit Broadband Network Access Fund is established as a nonlapsing, revolving fund administered by the authority for the purposes of supporting the activities and projects of the authority under this section. All money in the fund must be continuously applied by the authority to carry out this section. The authority may receive and deposit in the fund funds from the following sources:

A. Federal funds and awards that may be used for the purposes of this section;

B. The proceeds of bonds issued for the purposes of this section; and

C. Any other funds from public or private sources received in support of the purposes for which the fund is established.

3. Purpose of the fund. The fund is established to address the need in the State for access to ultra high-speed broadband infrastructure that will enhance the State's competitiveness in national and international economies. To the extent funds are available, the fund must be used to provide grants to communities, regional partnerships and municipalities to support public-private partnerships to support a municipal gigabit fiber-optic broadband network in their regions with the following goals:

A. Provide high-speed broadband access to attract, create and grow the State's economy and market the products and services of businesses in the State in national and international markets with ultra high-speed symmetric connectivity and address challenges in geography;

B. Provide expanded health care services by facilitating access to telemedicine, as defined in Ti-