

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
115TH LEGISLATURE**

**FIRST REGULAR SESSION
AND
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

**BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
AGING, RETIREMENT AND VETERANS**

AUGUST 1991

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**ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
AND
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
BILL SUMMARIES
AUGUST 1991**

This document is a compilation of the bill summaries prepared by this office for the Joint Standing Committees and Joint Select Committees of the Maine Legislature. The volume is organized alphabetically by committee; within each committee, the summaries are arranged by LD number. A subject index is provided at the beginning of each committee's summaries.

All adopted amendments are listed, by paper number (e.g., H - 584 or S - 222), together with the sponsor for floor amendments. Final action on each bill is listed to the right of the title. Various types of final action are abbreviated as follows:

PUBLIC XXX	<i>Chapter # of enacted Public Law</i>
P&S XXX	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law</i>
RESOLVE XXX	<i>Chapter # of enacted Resolve</i>
CON RES XXX	<i>Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses</i>
EMERGENCY	<i>Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days</i>
CARRIED OVER	<i>Bill carried over to 2nd Session</i>
FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT	<i>Bill failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
ONTP	<i>Ought Not to Pass report accepted</i>
LVWD	<i>Leave to Withdraw report accepted</i>
INDEF PP	<i>Bill Indefinitely Postponed</i>
DIED BETWEEN BODIES	<i>House & Senate disagree; bill died</i>
VETO SUSTAINED	<i>Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto</i>
UNSIGNED	<i>Not signed by Governor within 10 days</i>
DIED ON ADJOURNMENT	<i>Action incomplete when 1st session ended</i>

These summaries were prepared by the analyst or analysts assigned to the committee. But, this document was produced by the efforts of all the office staff, including secretaries: Charlene Raymond and Valarie Parlin, and especially Laurette Knox who coordinated preparation of the overall document.

If you have any suggestions or comments on these summaries, please let us know.

LD 1157 An Act to Amend the Teacher Retirement Laws

**PUBLIC 360
EMERGENCY**

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
CLARK N JALBERT O'DEA	OTP-AM	S-195

SUMMARY

This bill permits a President of the Maine Teachers Association to continue as a member of the Maine State Retirement System with the MTA paying the employer's share of the retirement costs.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-195) provides that for a teacher serving as President of the Maine Teachers Association "earnable compensation" is the amount that the teacher would have earned if the teacher had remained in a teaching position. The amendment also removes the reference to the length of the president's term, which could change in the future.

LD 1187 An Act to Amend and Clarify the Definition of Earnable Compensation in the Maine State Retirement System Laws

PUBLIC 432

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
CLARK N GOULD R R MERRILL HANDY	OTP	S-186 MCCORMICK

SUMMARY

This bill clarifies the definition of "earnable compensation" as it pertains to the Maine State Retirement System laws by limiting the length of a working day.

Senate Amendment "A" (S-186) deletes language defining a day as being limited to 8 hours of working time, for purposes of calculating "earnable compensation" under the retirement laws. The amendment is not intended to express any legislative intent with regard to the definition of day currently used by the retirement system.

LD 1225 An Act Relating to Ordinary Death Benefits under the Maine State Retirement System

PUBLIC 469

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
MARTIN J CLARK N	OTP-AM	H-450

SUMMARY

This bill makes the "automatic option 2" available to the beneficiaries of state employee and teacher members of the Maine State Retirement System who die while in service, regardless of the number of years of service or age at the time of death of the member.

This benefit will be available to beneficiaries of employees of a participating local district only after the district has adopted this provision in the manner set forth in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 18202.

Committee Amendment "A" ((H-450) changes the method of reduction of benefits for beneficiaries of members dying before reaching 60 years of age from an actuarial reduction to the method currently provided in statute for members retiring early. The amendment also makes technical changes to effectively accommodate the delayed effective date of July 1, 1993 for the substantive provisions of the bill and adds a fiscal note.

LD 1323 An Act to Establish the Maine Volunteer Firefighters Retirement System CARRIED OVER

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
MITCHELL J CLARK N GILL BUSTIN		

SUMMARY

This bill establishes the Maine Volunteer Firefighters Retirement System to provide pension and death benefits for member firefighters.

This bill was carried over to the Second Regular Session.

LD 1325 An Act to Extend the Period of Time to Allow Certain School Secretaries to Elect Not to Be Members of the Maine State Retirement System PUBLIC 254 EMERGENCY

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
MCCORMICK	OTP	

SUMMARY

This bill changes the date for certain school secretaries of irrevocable election of the Maine State Retirement System from January 1, 1991 to July 1, 1991. This was necessary as The Social Security System will recognize school secretaries to be part of the Social Security System as of July 1, 1991. The original date of irrevocable election was January 1, 1991. School secretaries choosing retirement coverage through the Maine State Retirement System prior to January 1, 1991 are ineligible for the social security coverage unless the date is changed.

LD 1391 An Act Concerning Access to Maine Veterans' Homes and the Veterans' Memorial Cemetery DIED BETWEEN BODIES

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
GRAHAM AULT BUTLAND THERIAULT	ONTP MAJ OTP-AM MIN	

SUMMARY

This bill repeals the language that requires veterans to serve in the Armed Forces during a period of conflict, to be eligible to be a resident in a veterans' home or to be buried at the Veterans' Memorial Cemetery. Currently, a veteran must have served in the United States Armed Forces during a period of conflict to be eligible to be a resident in Maine Veterans' Homes and to be buried at the Veterans' Memorial Cemetery.