

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
116TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
AGING, RETIREMENT AND VETERANS

JULY 1993

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**ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
BILL SUMMARIES**

JULY 1993

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.

The committee report or reports, the prime sponsor for each bill and the lead co-sponsor in each house if one has been designated are listed below each bill title. 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

P&S XXX

RESOLVE XXX

CON RES XXX

EMERGENCY

CARRIED OVER

ONTP

ENACTMENT FAILED

INDEF PP

FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT

FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT

DIED BETWEEN BODIES

CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE

VETO SUSTAINED

UNSIGNED

DIED ON ADJOURNMENT

Chapter # of enacted Public Law

Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law

Chapter # of enacted Resolve

Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses

Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days

Bill carried over to Second Session

Ought Not to Pass report accepted

Bill failed to get majority vote

Bill Indefinitely Postponed

Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote

Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote

House & Senate disagree; bill died

Committee of Conference formed but unable to agree

Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto

Not signed by Governor within 10 days

Action incomplete when session ended; bill died

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.

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

4693NRG

**LD 1132 An Act Authorizing Judicial Retirement Service Credit for
Service as a Workers' Compensation Commissioner ONTP**

SPONSOR(S) COMMITTEE REPORT AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
CONLEY ONTP

SUMMARY

This bill would have provided that workers' compensation commissioners who were appointed judges no earlier than July 1, 1983 and no later than December 1, 1984 are entitled, without further contribution, to credit in the Maine Judicial Retirement System for their creditable service as members of the Maine State Retirement System prior to July 1, 1983 and for service as commissioners from July 1, 1983 to November 30, 1984.

**LD 1180 An Act to Amend the Group Life Insurance Laws PUBLIC 386
Administered by the Maine State Retirement System**

SPONSOR(S) COMMITTEE REPORT AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
VIGUE OTP-AM S-279

SUMMARY

This bill amends the laws governing the group life insurance administered by the Maine State Retirement System. It makes clear that annual base compensation is used as a basis for establishing the amount of group life coverage for a participant prior to retirement only. It changes the effective date of basic coverage so that the effective date for all coverage is the first day of the month following one month of employment. It simplifies the determination of the amount of basic life insurance an employee takes into retirement at no cost to the employee by making it equal to the employee's average final compensation. It provides for the inclusion of payment of life insurance benefits in the recently enacted provision governing recovery of overpayment by the retirement system. It establishes employer and retirement system responsibilities with respect to group life insurance forms and notice requirements related to employees' rights and duties with respect to continuation, temporary extension and conversion of life insurance coverage.

The committee amendment, which was not adopted, would have established a 60-day period in which to get the form electing continuation of life insurance to the Retirement System and would have deleted a sentence stating that the system is not liable for errors of the employer in providing information to employees on life insurance options. The Senate amendment (S-279) removed the committee amendment and removed from the bill the two sections that attempted to establish employer and retirement system responsibilities.

**LD 1182 An Act Allowing Participating Local Districts to Determine ONTP
Eligibility in the Maine State Retirement System**

SPONSOR(S) COMMITTEE REPORT AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
AMERO ONTP

SUMMARY

This bill would have allowed municipalities to withdraw certain classes of employees from participation in the Maine State Retirement System as long as the employees are covered by social security. This would

allow municipalities to offer their employees a wider range of pension system options at a lower cost than the Maine State Retirement System alone can offer.

LD 1245 An Act Related to Disability Retirement under the Maine State Retirement System

CARRIED OVER

SPONSOR(S)
TUFTS

COMMITTEE REPORT

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

SUMMARY

The bill amends the disability plans of the Maine State Retirement System to provide that a member is not eligible for disability retirement benefits based on a disability that arises in connection with commission of a crime and may not receive a benefit for a period of time during which the person is incarcerated for a period of 30 days or more. The bill also provides that if a recipient of a disability retirement benefit appeals the executive director's decision to discontinue that benefit, benefits must be continued until the exhaustion of all administrative appeals. This bill amends the legislative disability retirement provisions to put Legislators under the disability plan established in 1989 for state employees.

This bill was carried over to the Second Regular Session.

LD 1246 An Act to Amend Laws Administered by the Maine State Retirement System

PUBLIC 387
EMERGENCY

SPONSOR(S)
BARTH

COMMITTEE REPORT
OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
H-562

SUMMARY

This bill requires that if a teacher's salary is paid from grant money, the retirement costs must also be paid from those funds, it adds a provision relating to the purchase of service credits for teaching in private or parochial schools that was not included when the section was last amended, and it repeals the provisions that direct the use of tables of annuities in calculating reductions for early retirement. It also amends special plan provisions for state police officers and law enforcement officers to alter the definition of surviving spouse and makes changes to conform with the requirements of Public Law 1975, chapter 622, as to the calculation of special plan benefits. It adds a section that appears to have been omitted from the participating local district provisions when the laws were recodified during the 112th Legislative Session. It clarifies the definition of the term "actuarial equivalent" and corrects an improper reference to school administrative unit. It extends from 37 to 60 days the maximum time for the system to pay refunds of contributions to former members and it provides that disability benefits may be discontinued as soon as the recipient has exhausted all administrative appeals.

The committee amendment (H-562) adds an emergency preamble and a mandate preamble, requires the Board of Trustees to establish a defined contribution plan by July 1, 1994, and permits the executive director to delegate powers and duties to retirement system staff with the approval of the board. It authorizes the executive director to review and simplify current reporting requirements and to recommend a schedule of penalties to be adopted as rules to ensure employer compliance. The amendment also deletes those sections of the bill that would have allowed the discontinuance of disability benefits while an appeal is pending in the court system and also deletes the sections of the bill that removed a reference to an annuity table. It changes the definition of surviving spouse in certain instances with the same result