

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
116TH LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
AGING, RETIREMENT AND VETERANS

MAY 1994

**Staff:**  
*Lisa Copenhaver, Legislative Analyst*

*Office of Policy and Legal Analysis  
Room 101, State House Station 13  
Augusta, ME 04333  
(207)287-1670*

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DARLENE A. SHORES LYNCH, RESEARCHER  
CARRIE C. McFADDEN, RESEARCHER

STATE OF MAINE  
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS  
ROOM 101/107/135  
STATE HOUSE STATION 13  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333  
TEL: (207) 287-1670  
FAX (207) 287-1275

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

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
BILL SUMMARIES**

**MAY 1994**

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, 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*

*ONTP*

*INDEF PP*

*FAILED ENACTMENT*

*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*

*Ought Not to Pass report accepted*

*Bill Indefinitely Postponed*

*Bill failed to get majority vote*

*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 unable to agree; bill died*

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

5581LHS

**LD 1728 An Act to Establish Retirement Equity for Full-time Adult Education Teachers**

PUBLIC 539

**SPONSOR(S)**  
MITCHELL E

**COMMITTEE REPORT**  
OTP-AM

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**  
H-782

**SUMMARY**

This bill changes the provision granting only 1/2 a year's service credit to adult education teachers who teach a full accredited year so that those teachers will get a full year's credit.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-782) accomplishes the same purpose as the original bill by repealing the statutory provision granting only 1/2 year's service credit for one year of service as a full-time adult education teacher. By repealing this section, adult education teachers will be entitled to the same creditable service as other teachers. The amendment also adds a fiscal note.

**LD 1795 An Act to Establish the Administrative Operating Budget for the Maine State Retirement System for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1995**

P & S 73  
EMERGENCY

**SPONSOR(S)**

**COMMITTEE REPORT**  
OTP-AM

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**  
H-807

**SUMMARY**

The establishment of the Maine State Retirement System as a public instrumentality in the last legislative session carried with it the requirement that the system present to the Legislature for its approval an annual administrative operating budget. This bill is the system's first annual budget; it is for fiscal year 1994-95. The bill identifies Personal Services costs for the Office of the Executive Director, identifies Personal Services costs for all other retirement system staff and identifies All Other expenses for the system as a whole. For information purposes, the bill presents the attribution of expenses to the 3 retirement system member and employer categories: General Fund, non-General Fund and Participating Local District.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-807) adds \$60,000 to cover the costs of 2 additional positions needed to institute a program to allow the initial benefit payments to be made on the basis of a member's estimated benefit. The amendment also adds a fiscal note to the bill.

**LD 1822 RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Establish a Contractual Obligation for Members of the Maine State Retirement System**

DIED BETWEEN  
BODIES

**SPONSOR(S)**  
TITCOMB

**COMMITTEE REPORT**  
OTP-AM REP  
OTP-AM REP  
ONTP REP

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**  
S-515

**SUMMARY**

This resolution would have proposed a constitutional amendment that would establish a contractual relationship between the State and its employees for pension benefits and would prohibit the diminishment or impairment of those benefits.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-515) reworded the proposed constitutional amendment to apply only to state employees and teachers. The wording of the referendum question was also changed and a fiscal note was added to the resolution.

**LD 1841 An Act to Create Retirement Alternatives**

P & S 91  
EMERGENCY

<b>SPONSOR(S)</b>	<b>COMMITTEE REPORT</b>	<b>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</b>
	OTP-AM	H-867
		H-972 JALBERT
		S-606 PEARSON

**SUMMARY**

This bill establishes the Committee to Create Retirement Alternatives, composed of 7 members representing employers, employees and the public. The bill directs this committee to develop a comprehensive plan for changing the retirement benefits provided to certain state employees and teachers in accordance with the recommendations of the Committee to Study the Retirement System. The plan must include all necessary legislation, an actuarial analysis on the projected costs of the changes and a detailed proposal and timetable for educating employees on their options. The plan must be submitted to the Legislature by January 1, 1996.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-867) increases the membership of the Committee to Create Retirement Alternatives from 7 to 11 and makes the public representative a nonvoting member. It provides that the 5 labor members have one vote, the 5 management members have one vote and 2 votes are required for action by the committee. The amendment also requires the committee to consider changes to the special plans to address any inequities that are identified. The amendment removes an unnecessary and potentially confusing sentence and adds a fiscal note.

HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" (H-972) changes the responsibility for convening the first committee meeting from the Executive Director of the Legislative Council to the Chair of the Legislative Council.

SENATE AMENDMENT "A" TO COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-606) requires the Maine State Retirement System to provide actuarial services to the committee instead of allowing the committee to contract for these services and it authorizes an additional \$100,000 in the System's budget to pay for these services. The fiscal note indicates that this may increase future administrative charges included in the State's employer contribution rate.

**LD 1842 An Act Relating to Retirement Benefits for the State Police**

PUBLIC 626

<b>SPONSOR(S)</b>	<b>COMMITTEE REPORT</b>	<b>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</b>
PINEAU	OTP-AM MAJ	H-891
ESTY	ONTP MIN	

**SUMMARY**

This bill removes the existing requirement that State Police officers reach the age of 55 before they may retire with full benefits, a requirement that applies to any State Police officer hired after August 31, 1984. The bill entitles those officers to retire after 25 years of service regardless of age.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-891) replaces the original bill with a provision that allows State Police officers to elect to receive an unreduced retirement benefit before the age of 55 after 25 years of service if the officer pays the full actuarial cost of the benefit. The provision becomes effective July 1, 1995. State Police officers hired after that date must make their decision within 30 days of hire.