

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

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**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

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

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
	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

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
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.

Persons already employed as State Police officers on July 1, 1995 must decide within 90 days of that date. The decision is irrevocable. The Maine State Troopers Association is required to pay for the actuarial services needed by the Maine State Retirement System to develop a method for calculating the actuarial cost and interest to be applied when a State Police officer makes the election. The amendment also adds a fiscal note to the bill.

LD 1844 An Act to Amend the Maine State Retirement System Laws ONTP
Relating to Provision of Legal Services

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
TUFTS	ONTP	

SUMMARY

This bill would have changed the law that requires the Attorney General to serve as legal advisor to the Board of Trustees of the Maine State Retirement System and requires the Attorney General's approval for the system to use private counsel. This bill would have allowed the board of trustees and the executive director to provide for its own legal services as it determines necessary, either by using the Attorney General's office, appointing a general counsel, employ private legal counsel or staff attorneys or using a combination of those resources.

LD 1896 An Act to Correct the Implementation of Recent Changes to PUBLIC 580
the Retirement Laws EMERGENCY

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
ESTY	OTP-AM	S-474

SUMMARY

This bill is intended to clarify the application of recent retirement system amendments. Those amendments expressly stated that certain new provisions would not apply to any collective bargaining agreement that was executed prior to July 1, 1993. This bill retroactively changes this cutoff date from July 1, 1993 to August 1, 1993.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-474) accomplishes the same purpose as the original bill but limits the exemption to a collective bargaining agreement executed by July 1, 1993 or ratified in its final form by one party to the agreement prior to July 1, 1993. The amendment also adds a fiscal note to the bill.

LD 1907 An Act to Authorize an Increase in the Holdings of the P & S 76
Farmington Home for Aged People EMERGENCY

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
BAILEY R	OTP	

SUMMARY

This emergency bill increases the amount of holdings that the Farmington Home for Aged People is allowed under its charter from \$100,000 to \$4,000,000.