

# 1999 Legislative Update

## Legislation Enacted in the First Regular Session of the 119th Legislature

**An Act to Amend the Laws Relative to Vesting in the Maine State Retirement System and to Protect Retirement Benefits Once the Right to Those Benefits has Attached**

**PL 1999, Chapter 489 [L.D. 267]  
Amending: 5 MRSA, §§17001, 17801,  
17806, 17851, 17851-A, 17852  
Effective Date: October 1, 1999  
Members Affected: State Employees and  
Teachers**

This law changes from ten years to five years the requirement of creditable service needed in order for eligible State employee and teacher members to receive a service retirement benefit. This bill also sets forth protections for those members. *(See related article on page 1.)*

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**An Act to Allow Former Employees of Head Start Credit in the Maine State Retirement System**

**PL1999, Chapter 250 [L.D. 1033]  
Amending: 5 MRSA §17764  
Effective Date: September 18, 1999  
Members Affected: State Employees and  
Teachers**

This bill allows State employee and teacher members of the Maine State Retirement System, who formerly were employed by a Head Start program, to purchase up to two (2) years of service credit by paying the full actuarial cost.

**An Act to Expand the Uniform 1998 Special Retirement Plan to Include Baxter State Park Authority Rangers, Fire Marshals and Certain Additional Correctional Employees**

**PL 1999, Chapter 493 [L.D. 1376]  
Amending: 5 MRSA §§17851, 17851-A,  
17852  
Effective Date: January 1, 2000  
Members Affected: Some State Employees**

This bill extends coverage of the 1998 Special Plan to three additional groups of State employees: Baxter State Park Authority Rangers; State Fire Marshal, Fire Marshal Inspectors and Fire Marshal Investigators; and certain additional employees of the Department of Corrections. *(See related article on page 2.)*

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**An Act to Amend the Calculation of Service Credits Under the Maine State Retirement System Pertaining to the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act of 1973 Employees**

**PL 1999, Chapter 241 [L.D. 2204]  
Amending: 5 MRSA §§17707, 17761, 18308,  
18361  
Effective Date: September 18, 1999  
Members Affected: State, Teacher and PLD**

This bill allows eligible former Comprehensive Employment and Training Act of 1973 (CETA) employees hired before July 1, 1979 to purchase service credits by paying the full actuarial cost.

**(Legislative Update continued)**

**An Act to Provide Equity for Veterans of the Vietnam War and the Persian Gulf Conflict**

**PL 1999, Chapter 462 [L.D. 1938]  
Amending: 5 MRSA §7054; 36 MRSA §653;  
and 37-B MRSA §504  
Effective Date: September 18, 1999  
Members Affected: State, Teacher and PLD**

This bill expands the period of time under which members who served in the armed forces during the Vietnam war or the Persian Gulf conflict may be eligible to purchase military time toward their service credit.

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**Legislation Carried Over to the Second Regular Session of the 119th Legislature**

**L.D. 1091**

**An Act to Amend Maine State Retirement System Rules to Allow Monthly Partial Direct Service Payments to Purchase Service Credit**

**L.D. 1165**

**An Act Regarding the Retirement Plan for Rangers in the Law Enforcement Bargaining Unit at Baxter State Park**

**L.D. 1790**

**An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Designation of a Beneficiary of Maine State Retirement System Benefits**

**L.D. 2124**

**An Act to Change the State Retirement System from a Defined Benefit Plan to a Defined Contribution Plan**

**L.D. 2177**

**An Act to Require the Spouse of a Member of the Maine State Retirement System to Receive the Member's Death Benefit**

**Other Carry-Over Legislation of interest to our teacher members**

**L.D. 1730**

**An Act to Increase Health Benefits for Retired Educators**

**To receive a copy of any enacted laws, contact the Engrossing Division of the Office of the Revisor of Statutes at (207) 287-1324.**