

# 2004 Legislative Update

## Legislation Enacted in the Second Regular and Second Special Sessions of the 121<sup>st</sup> Legislature

### An Act to Update Laws Affecting the Military

**PL 2003, Chapter 583 [LD 1752]  
Effective Date: July 30, 2004**

This bill reduces from 15 to 5 the number of consecutive days that a member of the Maine National Guard must be on active state service in order for MSRS membership to be available under the optional membership provisions. All other requirements and limitations as previously enacted in by PL 2003, Chapter 404 remain the same. (*See the Summer 2003 issue of Retirement News for in-depth article.*)

### An Act To Amend the Laws Concerning Optional Membership for Participating Local Districts in the Maine State Retirement System

**PL 2003, Chapter 630 [LD 1810]  
Effective Date: July 30, 2004**

This bill changes the purchase of service provisions that apply to optional members in participating local district (PLD) plans. It also removes the requirement that a member returning to MSRS membership must wait two years prior to being eligible to repay previously withdrawn member contributions. This change applies to all members.

### An Act to Protect the Privacy of Home Information of Maine State Retirement System Members, Benefit Recipients and Staff

**PL 2003, Chapter 632 [LD 1687]  
Effective Date: July 30, 2004**

This bill makes specific information pertaining to MSRS members, retirees and staff confidential. It also provides that the confidentiality of home contact information for members and retirees can be waived by signing a waiver form provided by the Retirement System. (*See related article in the Summer 2004 issue of Retirement News.*)

### An Act Concerning Disability Retirement Benefits under the Maine State Retirement System

**PL 2003, Chapter 675 [LD 1814]  
Effective Date: July 30, 2004**

This bill changes the standard by which it is determined whether a disability retirement benefit recipient is able to engage in substantially gainful activity (SGA). This bill changes that standard from 80% of AFC to either \$20,000 or 80% of AFC, whichever is greater. (*See related article in the Summer 2004 issue of Retirement News.*)

### An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Purchase of Military Time Service Under the Maine State Retirement System

**PL 2003, Chapter 693 [LD 1836]  
Effective Date: July 30, 2004**

This bill provides the ability for the recipients of specific military awards to purchase military service credit at a subsidized rate under specific conditions. The changes do not apply to PLD members. (*See related article in the Summer 2004 issue of Retirement News.*)