

2005 Legislative Update

Legislation Enacted in the First Regular and Special Sessions of the 122nd Legislature

An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government... for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2005, June 30, 2006, and June 30, 2007

PL 2005, Chapter 12 [LD 468]
Effective Date: June 29, 2005

This bill is the "Part 1" State budget. Part R of this bill changes the amortization period of the unfunded actuarial liability associated with the retirement plan that covers State employees and teachers from 15 years from June 30, 2005, to 23 years from June 30, 2005, thereby extending the schedule to the full constitutional limit. Part X of this bill increases the portion of retiree health insurance paid by the State for teachers from 40% to 45%. As amended by PL 2005, Chapter 457, the effective date of this increase is January 1, 2006.

An Act to Increase the Limit on the Right to Rejoin the Maine State Retirement System

PL 2005, Chapter 76 [LD 515]
Effective Date: September 17, 2005
Members Affected: Some PLD Employees

This bill increases to two the number of times that a participating local district member who elects to terminate membership based on also having Social Security coverage may rejoin the MSRS. This new law is not applicable to employees of employers that are governed by the Consolidated Plan for Participating Local Districts until such time that the Advisory Committee that is responsible for the design of the Consolidated Plan elects to modify the plan accordingly. Additional information will be provided to participating local districts once the Board of Trustees has amended its Consolidated Plan rule.

An Act to Authorize the Maine State Retirement System to Provide Names and Addresses to Public Retiree Organizations

PL 2005, Chapter 149 [LD 209]
Effective Date: September 17, 2005
Members Affected: Members and retirees

This bill makes the home addresses of MSRS members and retirees no longer confidential to nonprofit or public organizations established to provide programs, services and representation to Maine public sector retirees if that information is used only for membership recruitment purposes. It also provides that members and retirees may sign a form indicating their desire that their home address not be released to the retiree organizations. (See related article on page 1.)

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