



2011 Legislative Update

Legislation enacted in the First Regular Session of the 125th Legislature

The following legislation pertaining to either the programs or the operations of the Retirement System was passed during the First Regular Session of the 125th Legislature.

L.D. 128 – Access to State Forms

This bill requires that every state agency, department, board, office, commission, institution, authority or public instrumentality that requires filing of information by the public shall make a paper copy of any required filing form available, upon request, by regular mail at no cost to the requestor.

This bill was signed by the Governor and enacted as PL 2011, c. 33 and was effective September 28, 2011.

L.D. 1043 – State Budget

This bill is the State's biennial budget for fiscal years 2012 and 2013. It includes several sections that pertain to retirement plan provisions for active and retired State employees, teachers, judges and legislators, including changes to: normal retirement age, cost-of-living adjustments, restoration to service, and eligibility for paid/subsidized retiree health care. It also includes a provision to establish a working group to develop a new retirement plan for State employees and teachers hired after June 30, 2015.

This bill was signed by the Governor and enacted as PL 2011, c. 380 and was effective June 20, 2011.

L.D. 1553 – Charter Schools

This law authorizes the establishment of charter schools in Maine. It requires the System to review the laws governing participating local districts' retirement plans and to report any legislation necessary to permit charter schools to participate in the System as participating local districts.

This bill was signed by the Governor and enacted as PL 2011, c. 414 and was effective September 28, 2011.

L.D. 1480 – Corrections of Errors and Inconsistencies in the Laws of Maine

This bill changes the retirement date associated with the new restoration to service provision enacted in L.D. 1043 (see above).

This bill was signed by the Governor and enacted as PL 2011, c. 420 and was effective July 6, 2011.

L.D. 1524 - Amend Retirement Laws

This bill addresses various substantive and non-substantive, technical matters of retirement law, including changes to the confidentiality laws that pertain to investment matters and to personnel records of MainePERS employees; clarification of a number of provisions for further consistency with federal law; and, clarification of a number of group life insurance provisions that have created ambiguity in the administration of the program.

This bill was signed by the Governor and enacted as PL 2011, c. 449 and was effective September 28, 2011.

L.D. 1008 – Use of Social Security Numbers

This resolve directs the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to create a policy to be used as guidance by state agencies that encourages the agencies to limit their use of social security numbers in outgoing written correspondence and interdepartmental correspondence by either not including a social security number at all or using only the last 4 digits of a social security number.

This bill was signed by the Governor and enacted as Resolve, c. 56 and was effective September 28, 2011.