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## 2015 Legislative Update

### LEGISLATION ENACTED IN THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE 127<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE

#### An Act to Require Proper Notification of Life Insurance Cancellation

PL 2015, c. 61 [L.D. 220]  
Effective Date: May 10, 2015

This bill allows State employees, teacher members, legislators and judges who participate in the Group Life Insurance Program to designate a 3<sup>rd</sup> party to be notified along with the participant if coverage is scheduled to terminate due to nonpayment of premiums. The bill also requires that by July 1, 2015, MainePERS must provide all covered participants with the opportunity to designate a 3<sup>rd</sup> party for notification of cancellation purposes.

#### An Act to Amend the Boundaries of the Capitol Area

PL 2015, c. 168 [L.D. 1390]  
Effective Date: June 12, 2015

This bill redefines the boundaries of the Capitol area. The MainePERS building at 96 Sewall Street is removed from the Capitol Area as a result of the enactment of this bill.

#### An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Right to Know Advisory Committee to Create a Remedy for Unduly Burdensome and Oppressive Requests

PL 2015, c. 248 [L.D. 1086]  
Effective Date: October 15, 2015

This bill amends the Freedom of Access Act to authorize the denial of a request for inspection or copying of public records on the basis that the request is unduly burdensome or oppressive. The entity denying the request on this basis must seek protection from an unduly burdensome or oppressive request by filing an action in Superior Court.

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## **2015 Legislative Update** *(continued)*

### **An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Right to Know Advisory Committee Concerning Response Deadlines and Appeals**

PL 2015, c. 249 [L.D. 1087]

Effective Date: October 15, 2015

This bill clarifies the timeframe within which a written notice of denial of a public records request must be provided and makes clear that the response may be that the agency expects to deny the request in full or in part but cannot make that determination until such time as the requested records are reviewed. It also clarifies the procedures for an appeal from a denial of a request to inspect or copy public records.

### **An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2015, June 30, 2016 and June 30, 2017**

PL 2015, c. 267 [L.D. 1019]

Effective Date: June 30, 2015

This bill is the State budget for FYs 2016-2017. It includes several items relevant to MainePERS. In addition to funding for the State Employee/Teacher, Legislative and Judicial Retirement Programs and the Group Life Insurance Program, it includes the appropriation for the pay-as-you-go benefit plans for retired Governors and certain retired Judges. The budget also includes funding for subsidized military purchases for the remaining members who have requested to make a military service credit purchase under the subsidized provisions. Language is also included in the budget to permit future retirees to elect to pay the necessary contributions to include lost merit pay and/or longevity pay from FY 2013 as compensation towards their benefit calculation.

### **An Act to Clarify a Recently Enacted Law Designed to Expand the Number of Qualified Educators**

PL 2015, c. 321 [L.D. 522]

Effective Date: October 15, 2015

This law expands the restoration to service provisions for classroom-based employees enacted by PL 2013, chapter 486 to include classroom-based employees in schools in unorganized territories.

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## 2015 Legislative Update *(continued)*

### **An Act to Allow a Former Spouse of a Member of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System to Begin Collecting Benefits When the Former Spouse Reaches the Member's Retirement Age**

PL 2015, c. 322 [L.D. 822]  
Effective Date: October 15, 2015

This bill permits an alternate payee under a pre-retirement Qualified Domestic Relations Order ("QDRO") to begin to receive a benefit when s/he reaches the member's normal retirement age.

### **An Act to Improve Retirement Security for Retired Public Employees**

PL 2015, c. 334 [L.D. 86]  
Effective Date: July 12, 2015

This bill establishes a minimum cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) in fiscal years 2016 and 2017 of 2.55% of the portion of benefit subject to COLA for eligible retirees under the State/Teacher, Legislative and Judicial Retirement Programs. This adjustment is cumulative.

