

2022 Legislative Update

LEGISLATION ENACTED DURING THE 130th SECOND REGULAR SESSION

An Act to Amend Certain Laws Pertaining to the Maine Public Employees Retirement System

PL 2021, c. 548 [L.D. 1922]
Effective Date: August 8, 2022

This law makes several changes to retirement laws, including to clarify existing law and remove inconsistencies, align State law with federal law, remove obsolete sections, correct cross-references and make other non-substantive changes.

An Act to Promote Electronic Filing of State Agency and Legislative Committee Publications

PL 2021, c. 549 [L.D. 1947]
Effective Date: August 8, 2022

This law reduces the number of copies of certain publications that must be provided to the State Librarian. For MainePERS, this pertains to the System's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR).

An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Right to Know Advisory Committee Concerning Remote Participation

PL 2021, c. 611 [L.D. 1971]
Effective Date: August 8, 2022

This law addresses how a public entity without a remote meeting policy can meet remotely to address an urgent issue. It specifies how the public must be made aware of the ability to participate in the meeting and authorizes the public body to adopt a remote meeting policy via the emergency remote meeting.

An Act to Update Dates and Committees of Jurisdiction for the State Government Evaluation Act Review of Agencies

PL 2021, c. 617 [L.D. 408]
Effective Date: August 8, 2022

This law updates the date when MainePERS will next be scheduled for a review under the Government Evaluation Act. This review is done every eight years, with the System last reviewed in 2021. The System will next be reviewed in 2029.

An Act To Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds, and to Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2022 and June 30, 2023

PL 2021, c. 635 [L.D. 1995]
Effective Date: April 20, 2022

This law is the State supplemental budget for fiscal years 2022 and 2023. Part NN of the budget includes funding to provide an additional 1% cost-of-living adjustment to eligible retirees from the State-sponsored plans effective September 2021. It also increases the “COLA base,” the amount subject to COLA, for September 2022 to \$24,186.25. This amount reflects the full 5.4%, June 30, 2021 CPI-U.

Also of interest is Part DDD, which changes Maine tax code to increase the pension deduction amount on a graduated basis over the next three years.

An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Secretary of State Regarding Notarial Acts

PL 2021, c. 651 [L.D. 2023]
Effective Date: August 8, 2022

This law generally rewrites the laws pertaining to notarization. More specifically, the law:

- Permits remote notarization if certain requirements are met
- Permits electronic notarization if certain requirements are met

An Act to Amend the Remote Meeting Law in Maine’s Freedom of Access Act

PL 2021, c. 666 [L.D. 1772]
Effective Date: August 8, 2022

This law removes certain restrictions on when public bodies like the MainePERS Board of Trustees can hold public proceedings remotely.