

Date: April 30, 2025

To: Senator Michael Tipping, Senate Chair
Representative Amy Roeder, House Chair
Members, Joint Standing Committee on Labor

From: Bill Brown, Director of Actuarial and Legislative Affairs

Subject: LD 1791, Resolve, to Direct State Agencies to Implement the Social Security Fairness Act

Good afternoon Senator Tipping, Chair Roeder and the other distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor. I am Bill Brown, Director of Actuarial and Legislative Affairs for the Maine Public Employees Retirement System (MainePERS).

MainePERS is neither for nor against LD 1791, Resolve, to Direct State Agencies to Implement the Social Security Fairness Act. We are here to provide information and to offer any assistance the committee may request surrounding this bill.

Signed into law on January 5, 2025, the Social Security Fairness Act repealed both the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO). These provisions of federal law required the reduction of Social Security benefits for individuals who also receive pensions from jobs not covered by Social Security, such as those administered by MainePERS.

There are no actions required of MainePERS to implement the Social Security Fairness Act of 2023. The repeal of the WEP and GPO does not affect MainePERS service retirement benefits. MainePERS service retirees will continue to receive their same pension benefit amount. The WEP and GPO were reductions in Social Security benefits administered by the Social Security Administration.

MainePERS did have educational materials that referred to the WEP and GPO. These materials already have been updated to reflect the Social Security Fairness Act of 2023. We have advised MainePERS members to consult with the Social Security Administration for information about the effect these changes may have on their Social Security benefits. We have communicated this through our website and through mailings to members. Our Member Services Representatives also direct members who call, email or visit with questions to the Social Security Administration for accurate and timely information about their Social Security benefits.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony. I am happy to answer any questions. We will also be available for the work session.