

DATE: January, 20, 2026

TO: Senator Michael Tipping, Chair
Representative Amy Roeder, Chair
Members, Joint Standing Committee on Labor

FROM: Bill Brown, Director, Actuarial and Legislative Affairs

SUBJECT: Testimony on LD 2085, An Act to Modify Service Retirement Provisions to
Include Additional Emergency Communications Positions in the 1998 Special
Plan

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

MainePERS is neither for nor against LD 2085. We are here to provide information and to offer any assistance the Committee may request regarding this bill.

State employees are covered by either a “regular plan” or a “special plan.” The majority of state employees are covered by the regular plan, which permits retirement after twenty-five years of service and/or attainment of normal retirement age of 60, 62 or 65. Special plans typically allow for retirement with fewer years of service and/or at a younger age. Because of the more favorable provisions of the special plans, they are more expensive to fund.

Most emergency communications positions at the Department of Public Safety are covered by the 1998 Special Plan. PL 2021, c. 398, Pt. KKK moved emergency communications specialists, specialist – leads, specialist supervisors and dispatch system administrators to the special plan as of July 1, 2020. As drafted, LD 2085 would move two additional positions from the regular plan to the special plan. Under this plan, participants become eligible to retire in one of two ways: 1) by accruing 25 years of service in a covered capacity; or 2) by accruing 10 years under the 1998 Special Plan and attaining age 55. Under the first provision, all service in a covered capacity is counted towards meeting the 25-year requirement while under the second provision, only service earned in a covered capacity after the date that a specific group is included in the plan is counted towards meeting the 10 year requirement.

There is no unfunded actuarial liability created by this bill because the employees in these positions were in other positions covered by the 1998 Special Plan as of the most recent valuation. There would be an increase in normal costs and member contributions going forward, but those are not required to be funded up front.

On a technical note, MainePERS recommends that an effective date for including these positions be specified in any amendments should the committee choose to advance this legislation.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony. I would be happy to answer your questions and will be available at your work session.