



2018 Legislative Update

LEGISLATION ENACTED DURING THE 128th SECOND REGULAR and SECOND SPECIAL SESSIONS

An Act to Authorize the Maine Public Employees Retirement System to Procure and Offer Long-term Disability Insurance

PL 2017, c. 378 [L.D. 176]
Effective Date: August 1, 2018

This law authorizes MainePERS to contract with an insurance company to offer long-term disability insurance (LTDI) to members through their employers. It allows the board to adopt rules to implement LTDI and requires two reports to the Legislature, one by January 31, 2019 and the other by January 31, 2020, regarding the status of any LTDI program that is implemented.

An Act to Align the Criteria Used by the Maine Public Employees Retirement System in Determining Veterans' Disability Claims with the Criteria Used by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs

PL 2017, c. 384 [L.D. 521]
Effective Date: August 1, 2018

This law changes disability retirement benefit eligibility for veterans who receive federal service-connected disability benefits. Under this law, a veteran who is a MainePERS member and who has been awarded a service-connected disability based on a determination of individual unemployability is presumed to be disabled under the laws that govern the MainePERS disability program. The presumption may be rebutted based on evidence not considered by the federal program. This law applies to disability retirement benefit applications filed on or after October 1, 2018.

An Act to Amend the Retirement Laws Pertaining to Participating Local Districts

PL 2017, c. 392 [L.D. 247]
Effective Date: April 18, 2018

This bill pertains to the PLD Consolidated Plan. It makes clear that the following plan provisions are as set out in the rule (i.e., Chapter 803) that governs that plan: 1) inclusion of unused vacation/sick leave; 2) retire-rehire; 3) employer contributions; 4) cost-of-living adjustments; 5) early retirement reductions; and 6) withdrawal liability payments.

(continued on next page)

**An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Retirement Benefits for
Capitol Police Officers**

PL 2017, c. 439 [L.D. 1653]
Effective Date: December 13, 2018

This law provides retroactive coverage in the 1998 Special Plan for Capitol Police Officers employed in that position on July 1, 2002 or hired thereafter, and employed as of the effective date of the law. This change is effective upon receipt of the funds necessary to pay the associated unfunded actuarial liability cost, as set forth in the enacted law.

**An Act Making Certain Appropriations and Allocations and Changing Certain
Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government**

PL 2017, c. 460 [L.D. 925]
Effective Date: July 9, 2018

This law is the Supplemental State budget, and Part K is the only section relevant to MainePERS. That Part sets forth how retirement benefits for certain correctional facility employees are to be computed if retirement results from the closure of a facility. Specifically, Part K permits eligible employees, as defined in the bill, to retire without a reduction for retiring before normal retirement age, contingent upon the funding of this benefit being received by MainePERS.

An Act to Correct Errors and Inconsistencies in the Laws of Maine

PL 2017, c. 475 [L.D. 1894]
Effective Date: September 12, 2018

This law is the errors and inconsistencies bill that makes corrections to previously enacted laws. Section 6 is the only MainePERS-related section, and corrects a cross-referencing error that was made in the System's omnibus bill last session.

Resolve, To Continue a Review of the State Employee and Teacher Retirement Plan

Resolve, c. 57 [L.D. 1907]
Effective Date: May 2, 2018

This Resolve authorizes the working group to continue to evaluate and design plan options for state employees and teachers. The working group is required to submit its final report to the Legislature no later than December 1, 2019.