

## **2025 Legislative Update**

### **LEGISLATION ENACTED DURING THE 132<sup>nd</sup> FIRST REGULAR and SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS**

#### **ENACTED LAWS**

##### **Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 201: Employer Reporting and Payments, a Major Substantive Rule of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System**

Resolves 2025, Ch. 109 [LD 89]  
Effective Date: September 24, 2025

This resolve approves Rule Chapter 201 as adopted by the MainePERS Board of Trustees, which sets out requirements regarding employer reporting and payment of contributions and premiums.

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

PL 2025, Ch. 2 [LD 609]  
Effective Date: June 20, 2025

This law is the State budget for fiscal years 2026 and 2027. It includes funding for the State Employee and Teacher Retirement, Legislative and Judicial Retirement Programs and the Group Life Insurance (GLI) Program.

##### **An Act to Create Consistency in Retirement Service Benefits Deferral Under the Maine Public Employees Retirement System**

PL 2025, Ch. 12 [LD 240]  
Effective Date: June 20, 2025

This law allows certain retirees from the State Employee and Teacher Retirement Program with a portion of their benefits based on participating local district (PLD) service to defer the receipt of the PLD benefit until normal retirement age.

##### **An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Right to Know Advisory Committee Concerning Public Record Requests**

PL 2025, Ch. 175 [LD 1827]  
Effective Date: September 24, 2025

This law expands the protection to agencies or officials by the courts from an unduly burdensome or oppressive Freedom of Access Act request to protection from a series of requests.

**An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Right to Know Advisory Committee  
Concerning Denials of Public Records Requests**

PL 2025, Ch. 186 [LD 1797]  
Effective Date: September 24, 2025

This law requires that a written notice of denial of all or a portion of a Freedom of Access Act request contain a citation to the statutory authority used as a basis for the denial.

**An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Right to Know Advisory Committee  
Concerning State Boards and Commissions**

PL 2025, Ch. 187 [LD 1813]  
Effective Date: September 24, 2025

This law requires that members of State boards and commissions must receive training regarding the Maine Freedom of Access Act and attest to that fact within 120 days of their appointment. It also requires that a staff member of the board or commission be appointed to serve as the public access officer for that organization.

**An Act to Allow Federal Civil Service to Count for Purposes of Maine Public Employees  
Retirement System Benefits**

PL 2025, Ch. 206 [LD 1025]  
Effective Date: September 24, 2025

This law allows members to purchase up to five years of service as a non-military federal employee at actuarial cost.

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

PL 2025, Ch. 221 [LD 1947]  
Effective Date: September 24, 2025

This law makes changes to clarify, update and make minor improvements to the statutes governing the Maine Public Employees Retirement System.

Sections 1, 5, 18 and 35 of the law remove the requirement that refunds to terminated members cannot be made sooner than 22 days after the receipt of all information required to support the issuance of the refund.

Sections 2 and 9 establish a definition of “duly acknowledged”. The definition includes electronic identification if the Board adopts such a process through future rulemaking.

Sections 3 and 13 establish definitions for “survive” and “surviving” to clarify the beneficiary or beneficiaries to whom death benefits are made. The change aligns with treatment under the probate code of situations where a beneficiary becomes deceased soon after the member.

Sections 6, 26, 41 and 43 remove the requirement for five years of continuous service before a member can be eligible for disability retirement benefits without meeting preexisting condition requirements.

Sections 7, 27, 28, 42, 44 and 45 remove the requirement that disability retirement benefit recipients who earn more than permitted under law repay those overearnings in the next

calendar year. The law now requires that recoveries take place in accordance with Title 5, Section 17054, that "...recovery practices must be reasonable and consider the personal economic stability of the retiree in the establishment of the recovery schedule."

Section 12 provides rulemaking flexibility in the methodology used to calculate benefits for part-time, seasonal, and temporary employees so that their less-than-full-time status does not negatively impact them relative to full-time employees.

Section 15 clarifies that a coach or an adult education teacher who does not meet the definition of "teacher" in their position is still a member of the State Employee and Teacher Retirement Program for that service if they are already a member from other employment.

Section 16 clarifies procedural requirements before initiating court action to recover overpaid benefits. It clarifies that the decision to initiate court action is not itself appealable.

Section 32, 33 and 34 permit the chief administrative officer of a participating local district to clarify ambiguities in actions taken by the governing body regarding plan participation.

Section 49 removes the requirement for a minimum percentage of members of a local district in order to participate in the group life insurance program.

Section 50 changes what constitutes a quorum for the Participating Local District Advisory Committee to six, including at least two labor and management members.

**An Act Regarding Disability Benefits Under the Maine Public Employees Retirement System**

PL 2025, Ch. 270 [LD 1638]  
Effective Date: September 24, 2025

This law eliminates the offset of Maine Public Employees Retirement System disability retirement benefits by Social Security benefits for the same condition as of January 1, 2024. The law also provides for the retroactive payment of previously offset benefits plus cost-of-living-adjustments and interest at 6.5%.

**An Act to Establish the Maine Charter School Commission as a Public Instrumentality of the State**

PL 2025, Ch. 320 [LD 1718]  
Effective Date: September 24, 2025

This law establishes the Maine Charter School Commission as a public instrumentality of the State making employees of the Commission potentially eligible to participate in the Maine Public Employees Retirement System.

**An Act to Authorize the Formation of Emergency Medical Services Districts**

PL 2025, Ch. 334 [LD 176]  
Effective Date: September 24, 2025

This law allows the creation of emergency medical services districts similar to fire services districts.

**An Act to Update Provisions of the Maine Administrative Procedures Act**

PL 2025, Ch. 384 [LD 1778]  
Effective Date: September 24, 2025

This law modernizes certain rule making provisions under the Maine Administrative Procedures Act.

**An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2025, June 30, 2026 and June 30, 2027**

PL 2025, Ch. 388 [LD 210]  
Effective Date: September 24, 2025

This law is a supplemental State budget for fiscal years 2025, 2026 and 2027. It includes funding for the State Employee/Teacher, Legislative and Judicial Retirement Programs, Group funding for the pay-as-you-go benefit plan for retired Governors.

Part R: Moves employees of the Department of Health and Human Services designated as Mental Health Worker I, II, III and IV to the 1998 Special Plan. [LD 579]

**An Act to Allow a Legislator to Choose to Be Paid on an Annual Basis**

PL 2025, Ch. 482 [LD 1575]  
Effective Date: September 24, 2025

This law allows members of the Legislature to choose to be paid in 26 equal payments through the year instead of throughout the session.