

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

### 132<sup>nd</sup> SECOND REGULAR LEGISLATIVE SESSION

#### ENACTED LAWS

##### **An Act to Include Certain Nurses Under the 1998 Special Plan for Retirement**

PL 2025, Ch. 747 [LD 579]  
Effective Date: July 29, 2026

This law adds employees of the Department of Health and Human Services who have the job classifications of Nurse I, Nurse III, Hospital Nurse II, Hospital Nurse III, Hospital Nurse IV or Licensed Practical Nurse to the 1998 Special Plan.

##### **An Act Establishing the Retirement Improvement Fund**

PL 2025, Ch. 756 [LD 1003]  
Effective Date: July 29, 2026

This law establishes the Retirement Improvement Fund within the System, to be funded by future appropriations from any source to be determined by law. The contents of the Fund are to be used to increase the Benefit Base on which Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLAs) are applied in the State and Teacher Plan until the Base reaches \$40,000. Reporting regarding the Fund is required in the System's annual report to the committee of jurisdiction.

##### **An Act to Address Employee Retention of State Employees Who Are Firefighters at Bangor International Airport**

PL 2025, Ch. 759 [LD 1236]  
Effective Date: July 29, 2026

This law creates a special retirement plan for firefighters employed by the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management at Bangor International Airport. These employees are moved from the 1998 Special Plan to a plan requiring 25-years of service but with no age requirement.

##### **An Act to Clarify the Setting of Group Life Insurance Coverage Levels Under the Maine Public Employees Retirement System**

PL 2025, Ch. 562 [LD 2022]  
Effective Date: July 29, 2026

This law changes the source of information used to set Group Life Insurance (GLI) coverage levels to "earnable compensation".

**An Act to Include a Certain Emergency Communications Position at the Department of Public Safety in the 1998 Special Plan**

PL 2025, Ch. 595 [LD 2085]  
Effective Date: July 29, 2026

This law adds the position of Emergency Communications Director at the Department of Public Safety to the 1998 Special Plan.

**An Act to Improve the Public Employees Disability Retirement Program by Modifying Provisions Controlling the Reduction of Benefits and Clarifying Terminology**

PL 2025, Ch. 598 [LD 2169]  
Effective Date: July 29, 2026

This law changes the disability retirement program. The current earnings limitations applicable to recipients of disability retirement benefits is increased to at least \$35,500 or the greater of AFC or final annual rate of pay (FAC), all to be indexed by the Consumer Price Index (CPI). It also increases the amount of income to be considered substantially gainful activity (SGA) to at least \$35,500 or the greater of AFC or FAC, all to be indexed by CPI. The law also changes the consequence of exceeding earnings limitations from a recoupment to a waivable, prorated reduction of benefits for one year. It also provides a definition of FAC and ensures the elimination of debts due to earnings limitations and ensuring waivers of future benefit reductions if it is demonstrated that the overearnings will not continue.

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

PL 2025, Ch. 650 [LD 2212]  
Effective Date: July 29, 2026

This law is the supplemental State budget for fiscal years 2026 and 2027. It includes Part FFFF which moves certain employees of the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in the Office of the Attorney General and certain employees of the Department of Health and Human Services employed as Community Response Workers to the 1998 Special Plan.