

2006 Legislative Update

Legislation Enacted in the
Second Regular Session of the 122nd Legislature
Effective date of all bills: August 23, 2006

[An Act To Require the Maine State Retirement System To Divest Itself of Holdings in Those Businesses or Corporations Doing Business in the Nation of Sudan and To Repeal Requirements Relating to Shareholder Initiatives by State Officials on State Investments in Northern Ireland](#)

PL 2005, Chapter 537 [LD 1758]

This bill requires the Board to review the System's investments and to determine the extent to which assets are invested in companies doing business in or with Sudan. Where such actions can be accomplished consistent with sound investment policy and its fiduciary responsibilities, the Board will divest the System of any such holdings. Certain types of holdings are exempted from this divestiture requirement. Divestment must be complete by January 1, 2008 and the Board must report on the progress of the divestment on January 1, 2007 and each January 1st thereafter. This divestiture requirement is repealed July 1, 2009. *See related article on page 1.*

[An Act to Clarify the Change of Beneficiary Provision in the Maine State Retirement System Laws](#)

PL 2005, Chapter 560 [LD 1850]

This bill amends the conditions under which a retirement beneficiary can be changed. Under current law, if a spouse or former spouse is the named retirement beneficiary, that beneficiary designation can be changed only with the consent of the beneficiary. Under this new law, spousal consent is required only if the designated beneficiary was the spouse at the time that the designation occurred (i.e. at retirement).

[An Act To Implement Task Force Recommendations Relating to Parity and Portability of Benefits for Law Enforcement Officers and Firefighters](#)

PL 2005, Chapter 636 [LD 1021]

Part A of this bill establishes a program to subsidize retiree medical insurance for municipal and county law enforcement officers and municipal firefighters. Eligibility to participate in this new program is directly linked to the retirement eligibility provisions of the retirement plan by which an individual is covered or from which retirement occurs. This new program will be administered by the State Division of Employee Health and Benefits and goes into effect on July 1, 2007. Questions regarding participation in this new program should be directed to that Division at (800) 422-4503.

Part B of this bill permits certain members to purchase portability of retirement service credit. In order to be eligible to make such a purchase, the member must be covered by a retirement plan that is also eligible for participation in the retiree health insurance program referenced above.

[An Act To Facilitate the Regionalization of Emergency Communications Dispatching Services](#)

PL 2005, Chapter 668 [LD 2086]

This bill permits public safety communications dispatchers who move from a participating local district (PLD) to the Department of Public Safety (DPS) as a result of the consolidation of dispatching services to elect to have their PLD plan service made portable to their State plan. For those who make such an election, the Department of Public Safety will pay the additional employer liability associated with the portability of service.

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