



2014 Legislative Update

LEGISLATION ENACTED IN THE SECOND REGULAR SESSION OF THE 126TH LEGISLATURE

An Act to Expand the Number of Qualified Educators

PL 2013, c. 486 [L.D. 39]
Effective Date: August 1, 2014

This bill amends the restoration to service provisions that apply to “classroom-based employees” who have reached normal retirement age and who retire after September 1, 2011. The bill also establishes a working group to review the impact that the restoration to service provisions enacted in 2011 has had on employers and to report out the group’s findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, no later than January 8, 2015.

An Act to Update Statutory Dates for the Government Evaluation Act Review of Agencies

PL 2013, c. 505 [L.D. 1800]
Effective Date: August 1, 2014

This bill updates the date on which various agencies are reviewed under the State Government Evaluation Act. As enacted, MainePERS is scheduled for its next review in 2021.

An Act to Increase the Base for the Cost-of-living Increase for Retired State Employees and Teachers

PL 2013, c. 578 [L.D. 232]
Effective Date: April 29, 2014

This bill increases the base for the calculation of the one-time, noncumulative cost-of-living adjustment payment in 2014 from \$20,000 to \$30,000. This increase applies only to the 2014 one-time payment and does not change the \$20,000 limitation that applies to cumulative cost-of-living adjustments.

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

PL 2013, c. 588 [L.D. 1841]
Effective Date: April 30, 2014

This bill was introduced to correct errors and inconsistencies throughout the laws of Maine. Included in this bill are technical changes to the laws that govern the Participating Local District Retirement Program. These changes were requested by MainePERS.

An Act to Implement Recommendations Contained in the State Government Evaluation Act Review of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System

PL 2013, c. 602 [L.D. 1806]
Effective Date: August 1, 2014

This bill implements the recommendations contained in the State Government Evaluation Act review of MainePERS. It contains three parts:

- Part A clarifies that the Board may combine the assets of the State Employee and Teacher Retirement Program with the assets of other programs for investment purposes but that those assets may not be combined for benefit purposes or for administrative expenses. MainePERS requested that this language be enacted into law.
- Part B adds emergency medical services persons to the categories of participating local district employees that can be included in a special plan, if a participating local district so elects.
- Part C requires the MainePERS Executive Director to establish a task force to make recommendations to the Board on an environmental, social and governance (ESG) policy. The task force must report the recommendations made and any resulting action taken by the Board to the Legislature by January 15, 2015.

An Act to Review the Laws Governing Retirement Benefits for Certain State Employees

P&S 2013, c. 30 [L.D. 1175]
Effective Date: August 1, 2014

This bill directs MainePERS to determine the number of active members currently in the 1998 Special Plan who also have covered capacity service in a regular plan and to determine the cost if all of the regular plan service were treated as service under the 1998 Special Plan. By January 15, 2015, the System is required to report that information to the Legislature, along with any implementing legislation necessary to allow the service to be treated under the 1998 Special Plan.

