

2016 Legislative Update

LEGISLATION ENACTED IN THE SECOND REGULAR SESSION OF THE 127TH LEGISLATURE

An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Participating Local Districts in the Maine Public Employees Retirement System

PL 2015, c. 384 [L.D. 995]
Effective Date: July 29, 2016

This law establishes how MainePERS membership issues are decided and addressed for participating local district employees whose plan participation is optional.

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

PL 2015, c. 385 [L.D. 1021]
Effective Date: March 6, 2016

This law primarily makes technical corrections. It also includes a change for members who retire from State employment on or after July 1, 2015 and whose retirement benefit would increase if lost wages due to frozen merit increases in fiscal year 2012 were included in the calculation of the retirement benefit. It permits members to elect to include the lost wages if they pay the associated back contributions and interest. Similar lost wages in other fiscal years are already treated in this manner, and this bill corrects an oversight that unintentionally excluded fiscal year 2012.

An Act to Allow Members of the State Employee and Teacher Retirement Program to Reapply for Disability Retirement Benefits after Denial and To Direct the Board of Trustees of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System To Explore the Feasibility of Offering Long-term Disability Insurance Coverage

PL 2015, c. 392 [L.D. 1463]
Effective Date: July 29, 2016

This law clarifies, but does not change, the terms under which a member who has been denied disability retirement benefits may reapply for benefits. The law also authorizes MainePERS to study the feasibility of offering a long-term disability insurance program.

2016 Legislative Update *(continued)*

Resolve, Directing the Department of Administrative and Financial Services and the Maine Public Employees Retirement System to Identify Retirees Whose Retirement Benefit Calculations Were Adversely Affected by Certain Pay Freezes and To Calculate Costs Associated with Authorizing Those Retirees To Include Such Lost Wages in Retirement Benefit Calculations

Resolve, c. 78 [L.D. 1677]
Effective Date: April 15, 2016

This law directs the Department of Administrative and Financial Services and MainePERS to identify pre-July 1, 2015 retirees whose retirement benefit would increase if lost wages due to frozen merit increases in fiscal years 2012 and 2013 were included in the calculation of the retirement benefit, and to calculate the projected costs associated with permitting those increases. The information required by this law will be reported to the Legislature in January 2017 for further consideration.

