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## 2017 Legislative Update

### LEGISLATION ENACTED IN THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE 128TH LEGISLATURE

#### **An Act To Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government and To Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2017**

PL 2017, c. 2 [L.D. 302]  
Effective Date: March 15, 2017

This law is the State supplemental budget for fiscal year 2017. The one item in the law relevant to MainePERS removes the requirement that the Maine Community College System make payments toward the unfunded actuarial liability based on the salaries of employees who opt not to join MainePERS. The law includes an appropriation to MainePERS for the amounts due in the FYs 2016-17 and 2018-19 biennia. Future pension rates provided to the State will be calculated to exclude the salaries of the employees who are not MainePERS members.

#### **An Act to Except from the Freedom of Access Act Certain Information in the Possession of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System**

PL 2017, c. 46 [L.D. 410]  
Effective Date: November 1, 2017

This law expands the categories of non-public information to include medical information used in the System's administrative appeals and personal financial information.

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

PL 2017, c. 88 [L.D. 409]  
Effective Date: November 1, 2017

This law primarily makes technical corrections. Included in the less technical changes are updates related to the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) reporting requirements, expansion of the Medical Board composition to include clinical psychologists, and clarification of how monies appropriated for military service purchases can be allocated.

**An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2018 and June 30, 2019**

PL 2017, c. 284 [L.D. 390]  
Effective Date: July 4, 2017

This law is the State budget for fiscal years 2018 and 2019. It includes funding for the State Employee/Teacher, Legislative and Judicial Retirement Programs and the Group Life Insurance Program, and appropriations for the pay-as-you-go benefit plans for retired Governors and certain retired Judges. This law also establishes a limitation on compensation and benefits for active retired judges, consistent with the limitations that apply to other retired state employees who retire and return to work.

**Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Reduce Volatility in State Pension Funding Requirements Caused by the Financial Markets**

Constitutional Resolution, c. 1 [L.D. 723]  
Effective Date: July 20, 2017

This Resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to change the period over which experience losses are amortized from 10 years to 20 years. This change would apply to experience losses currently being amortized over 10 years and losses experienced in the future. It would not impact the unfunded actuarial liability that existed as of June 30, 1996. This proposal will be included on the statewide election ballot in November 2017.

**Resolve, To Require a Review of the State Employee and Teacher Retirement Plan**

Resolve, c. 14 [L.D. 917]  
Effective Date: June 7, 2017

This Resolve establishes a working group to evaluate and design plan options for state employees and teachers. The working group is required to report its recommendations to the Legislature no later than January 1, 2018.

