

# 2007 Legislative Update

## Legislation Enacted in the First Regular Session of the 123rd Legislature

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### **An Act To Provide Reinstatement of Group Life Insurance for Public Employees Returning from Unpaid Military Leave**

PL 2007, Chapter 17 [LD 154]  
Effective Date: September 20, 2007

This bill permits a member who did not continue group life insurance coverage while on an unpaid leave of absence in order to serve in the military to reinstate that coverage upon returning to work without filing evidence of insurability provided that specific timeframes are met. (See related article on page 6 of the [Summer 2007 issue of \*Retirement News\*](#).)

### **An Act Permitting Substitute Teachers to Opt Out of the Maine State Retirement System**

PL 2007, Chapter 305 [LD 323]  
Effective Date: September 20, 2007

This bill makes Maine State Retirement System membership optional for substitute teachers. (See related article on page 6 of the [Summer 2007 issue of \*Retirement News\*](#).)

### **An Act To Change the Name of the Maine State Retirement System**

PL 2007, Chapter 58 [LD 512]  
Effective Date: September 20, 2007

This bill changes the name of the retirement system from the Maine State Retirement System (MSRS) to the Maine Public Employees Retirement System (MainePERS) to better reflect the groups for which the System administers retirement plans. (See related article on page 1 of the [Summer 2007 issue of \*Retirement News\*](#).)

### **An Act To Continue To Allow Public Retiree Organizations Access to the Maine State Retirement System's List of All State Retirees**

PL 2007, Chapter 47 [LD 712]  
Effective Date: April 12, 2007

This bill removes the sunset provision which would have changed the manner in which home contact information in the possession of the System is made available to retiree organizations. With the passage of this bill, the retiree organizations will continue to be able to receive home contact information about members and benefit recipients unless the member or benefit recipient elects to have that information held confidential. (For a more complete explanation, see the [Summer 2005 issue of \*Retirement News\*](#).)

### **An Act To Allow Certain Special Education Teachers to Acquire Time from the Maine State Retirement System**

PL 2007, Chapter 303 [LD 827]  
Effective Date: September 20, 2007

This bill permits the purchase of up to one year of service for time prior to July 1, 1976 during which work was performed in other than a public school system as an educator or teacher of a child with a disability.

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## 2007 Legislative Update *(continued)*

### **An Act to Amend the Laws Relating to the Treatment of Maine State Retirement System Contributions for Terminated Members**

PL 2007, Chapter 137 ([LD 871]  
Effective Date: September 20, 2007

This act permits the System to issue an automatic refund of member contributions to a non-vested member who has been inactive for a period of at least three years. If a member does not wish to receive the refund, it may be returned within thirty days of its issuance and will be restored to the member's credit.  
(See related article on page 7 of the [Summer 2007 issue of \*Retirement News\*](#).)

### **An Act to Authorize the Board of Trustees of the Maine State Retirement System to Provide a Cost-of-Living Adjustment to Retired Employees of Participating Local Districts**

P&S 17 [LD 1373]  
Effective Date: June 4, 2007

This bill authorizes the Board to provide eligible participating local district retirees with an additional .3% cost-of-living adjustment effective September 1, 2006. The System anticipates that this additional adjustment will be reflected in retirement benefits paid in September 2007.  
(For a more complete explanation, see the [Summer 2006 issue of \*Retirement News\*](#).)

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