

## OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS

To: Members, Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing  
From: Steven Langlin, Legislative Analyst  
Date: February 17, 2021  
Subj: **LD 37, “An Act To Amend the Laws Concerning the Retired County and Municipal Law Enforcement Officers and Municipal Firefighters Health Insurance Program” (Libby)**

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### SUMMARY

This bill amends language contained in Public Law 2019, chapter 446 governing contributions under the open enrollment provisions of the Retired County and Municipal Law Enforcement Officers and Municipal Firefighters Health Insurance Program. Currently, the law requires a person hired on or after October 1, 2019 to enroll no later than 5 years after hire, conditioned on the enrollment and eligibility requirements of the applicable health plan; this bill removes that condition. The bill also changes the percentage of gross wages for contributions and the time period during which contributions of gross percentages must be made.

The bill removes the requirement of 60 months of contributions by enrollees. The bill also changes the State's payment of certain premium subsidies from payment to the plan to payment directly to enrollees. The amendments to the open enrollment provisions are retroactive to September 19, 2019, and the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Human Resources, office of employee health and benefits is required to ensure correct contribution amounts for those who enrolled between September 19, 2019 and the effective date of this legislation.

### TESTIMONY

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| <p><b>Proponents</b><br/><i>Sponsor (<a href="#">written testimony</a>)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• This bill fixes technical errors in <a href="#">LD 1674</a> (P.L. 2019, chapter 446).</li><li>• This bill is unanimous OTP-AM report from LBHS prior to adjournment last year due to COVID-19 (See <a href="#">LD 2049</a>).</li></ul> <p><i>Paul Gaspar, ME Association of Police (<a href="#">written testimony</a>)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Original stakeholder in this bill</li></ul> <p><i>Ronnie Green, Professional Firefighters of Maine (<a href="#">written testimony</a>)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Emergency bill to allow participants to enroll before open enrollment ends Dec. 31, 2021.</li><li>• Language referencing “60 months” was language passed in the 122<sup>nd</sup> Legislature that should have been repealed in 2012. It ensured participants paid a minimum of 60 months of contributions before</li></ul> | <p><b>Opponents</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• None</li></ul> <p><b>Neither For Nor Against</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• None</li></ul> |
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receiving a subsidy.

*Matthew Cyr, Windham ([written testimony](#))*

**OTHER:**

- Statute governing provisions of this bill can be found [here](#).
- This bill is an emergency and takes effect when enacted.

**PRELIMINARY FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:**

- Minor impact – see attached.



# 130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 37

LR 336(01)

**An Act To Amend the Laws Concerning the Retired County and Municipal Law Enforcement Officers and Municipal Firefighters Health Insurance Program**

**Preliminary Fiscal Impact Statement for Original Bill**

**Sponsor: Sen. Libby of Androscoggin**

**Committee: Labor and Housing**

**Fiscal Note Required: Yes**

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## Preliminary Fiscal Impact Statement

Minor Impact - Firefighters and Law Enforcement Officers Health Insurance Program Fund

### **Fiscal Detail and Notes**

The bill makes several changes to the Retired County and Municipal Law Enforcement Officers and Municipal Firefighters Health Insurance Program to correct unintended technical errors in the law. These changes are not expected to result in significant costs to the program and any additional costs can be absorbed within existing resources.