

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-SIX

S.P. 260 - L.D. 579

An Act to Include Certain Nurses Under the 1998 Special Plan for Retirement

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §17851-A, sub-§1, ¶T, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 650, Pt. FFFF, §3, is amended to read:

T. Employees of the Office of Chief Medical Examiner within the Department of the Attorney General on August 1, 2026 or hired thereafter; ~~and~~

Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §17851-A, sub-§1, ¶U, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 650, Pt. FFFF, §4, is amended to read:

U. Persons in the employment of the Department of Health and Human Services on August 1, 2026 or hired thereafter who provide crisis outreach and crisis services to adults with developmental disabilities or intellectual disabilities in a community-based or residential setting and who have the job classification of Community Response Worker; and

Sec. 3. 5 MRSA §17851-A, sub-§1, ¶V is enacted to read:

V. Persons in the employment of the Department of Health and Human Services on October 1, 2026 or hired thereafter who have the job classification of Nurse I, Nurse III, Hospital Nurse II, Hospital Nurse III, Hospital Nurse IV or Licensed Practical Nurse.

Sec. 4. 5 MRSA §17851-A, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2025, c. 650, Pt. FFFF, §5, is further amended to read:

2. Qualification for benefits. A member employed in any one or a combination of the capacities specified in subsection 1 after June 30, 1998 and before September 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A and B; after June 30, 1998 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs C to H; after December 31, 1999 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K; any employee identified in subsection 1, paragraph M; after June 30, 2020 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs N to P; after September 30, 2021 for employees identified in subsection 1,

paragraph Q; after September 30, 2025 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph R; after July 31, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph S; any employee identified in subsection 1, paragraph T; after July 31, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph U; after September 30, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph V; and any employee identified in subsection 1, paragraph L, qualifies for a service retirement benefit if that member either:

A. Is at least 55 years of age and has completed at least 10 years of creditable service under the 1998 Special Plan in any one or a combination of the capacities; or

B. Has completed at least 25 years of creditable service in any one or a combination of the capacities specified in subsection 1, whether or not the creditable service included in determining that the 25-year requirement has been met was earned under the 1998 Special Plan or prior to its establishment.

Sec. 5. 5 MRSA §17851-A, sub-§3, ¶A, as amended by PL 2025, c. 650, Pt. FFFF, §6, is further amended by amending subparagraph (1) to read:

(1) Service credit purchased by repayment of an earlier refund of accumulated contributions following termination of service is included only to the extent that time to which the refund relates was served after June 30, 1998 and before September 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A and B; after June 30, 1998 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs C to H; after December 31, 1999 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K; after June 30, 2020 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs N to P; and after September 30, 2021 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph Q in any one or a combination of the capacities specified in subsection 1. Service credit may be purchased for service by an employee identified in subsection 1, paragraphs L, M, R, S, T ~~and~~ U and V regardless of when performed; and

Sec. 6. 5 MRSA §17851-A, sub-§4, ¶A, as amended by PL 2025, c. 650, Pt. FFFF, §7, is further amended to read:

A. If all of the member's creditable service in any one or a combination of the capacities specified in subsection 1 was earned after June 30, 1998 and before September 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A and B; after June 30, 1998 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs C to H; after December 31, 1999 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K; after December 31, 2001 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph L; after June 30, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph M; after June 30, 2020 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs N to P; after September 30, 2021 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph Q; after September 30, 2025 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph R; ~~and~~ after July 31, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs S to U; and after September 30, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph V; if service credit was purchased by repayment of an earlier refund of accumulated contributions for service in any one or a combination of the capacities specified in subsection 1 after June 30, 1998 and before September 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A and B; after June 30, 1998 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs C to H; after December 31, 1999 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K; after December 31, 2001 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph L; after

June 30, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph M; after June 30, 2020 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs N to P; after September 30, 2021 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph Q; after September 30, 2025 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph R; ~~and~~ after July 31, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs S to U; and after September 30, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph V; or if service credit was purchased by other than the repayment of an earlier refund and eligibility to make the purchase of the service credit, including, but not limited to, service credit for military service, was achieved after June 30, 1998 and before September 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A and B; after June 30, 1998 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs C to H; after December 31, 1999 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K; after December 31, 2001 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph L; after June 30, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph M; after June 30, 2020 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs N to P; after September 30, 2021 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph Q; after September 30, 2025 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph R; ~~and~~ after July 31, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs S to U; and after September 30, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph V, the benefit must be computed as provided in section 17852, subsection 1, paragraph A.

(1) If the member had 10 years of creditable service on July 1, 1993, the benefit under subsection 2, paragraph B must be reduced as provided in section 17852, subsection 3, paragraphs A and B.

(2) If the member had fewer than 10 years of creditable service on July 1, 1993, the benefit under subsection 2, paragraph B must be reduced by 6% for each year that the member's age precedes 55 years of age.

Sec. 7. 5 MRSA §17851-A, sub-§4, ¶B, as amended by PL 2025, c. 650, Pt. FFFF, §8, is further amended to read:

B. Except as provided in paragraphs D, E, F, G, H, I ~~and~~ J and K, if some part of the member's creditable service in any one or a combination of the capacities specified in subsection 1 was earned before July 1, 1998 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A to H; before January 1, 2000 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K; before January 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph L; before July 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph M; before July 1, 2020 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs N to P; before October 1, 2021 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph Q; before October 1, 2025 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph R; ~~and~~ before August 1, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs S to U; and before October 1, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph V and some part of the member's creditable service in any one or a combination of the capacities specified in subsection 1 was earned after June 30, 1998 and before September 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A and B; after June 30, 1998 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs C to H; after December 31, 1999 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K; after December 31, 2001 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph L; after June 30, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph M; after June 30, 2020 for employees identified

in subsection 1, paragraphs N to P; after September 30, 2021 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph Q; after September 30, 2025 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph R; ~~and~~ after July 31, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs S to U; and after September 30, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph V, then the member's service retirement benefit must be computed in segments and the amount of the member's service retirement benefit is the sum of the segments. The segments must be computed as follows:

(1) The segment or, if the member served in more than one of the capacities specified in subsection 1 and the benefits related to the capacities are not interchangeable under section 17856, segments that reflect creditable service earned before July 1, 1998 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A to H; before January 1, 2000 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K; before January 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph L; before July 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph M; before July 1, 2020 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs N to P; before October 1, 2021 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph Q; before October 1, 2025 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph R; ~~and~~ before August 1, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs S to U; and before October 1, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph V or purchased by repayment of an earlier refund of accumulated contributions for service before July 1, 1998, for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A to H; before January 1, 2000 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K; before January 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph L; before July 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph M; before July 1, 2020 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs N to P; before October 1, 2021 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph Q; before October 1, 2025 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph R; ~~and~~ before August 1, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs S to U; and before October 1, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph V in a capacity or capacities specified in subsection 1 or purchased by other than the repayment of a refund and eligibility to make the purchase of the service credit, including, but not limited to, service credit for military service, was achieved before July 1, 1998 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A to H; before January 1, 2000 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K; before January 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph L; before July 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph M; before July 1, 2020 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs N to P; before October 1, 2021 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph Q; before October 1, 2025 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph R; ~~and~~ before August 1, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs S to U; and before October 1, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph V, must be computed under section 17852, subsection 1, paragraph A. If the member is qualified under subsection 2, paragraph B and:

(a) Had 10 years of creditable service on July 1, 1993, the amount of the segment or segments must be reduced as provided in section 17852, subsection 3, paragraphs A and B; or

(b) Had fewer than 10 years of creditable service on July 1, 1993, the amount of the segment or segments must be reduced as provided in section 17852, subsection 3-A; and

(2) The segment that reflects creditable service earned after June 30, 1998 and before September 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A and B; after June 30, 1998 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs C to H; after December 31, 1999 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K; after December 31, 2001 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph L; after June 30, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph M; after June 30, 2020 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs N to P; after September 30, 2021 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph Q; after September 30, 2025 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph R; ~~and~~ after July 31, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs S to U; and after September 30, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph V or purchased by repayment of an earlier refund of accumulated contributions for service after June 30, 1998 and before September 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A and B; after June 30, 1998 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs C to H; after December 31, 1999 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K; after December 31, 2001 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph L; after June 30, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph M; after June 30, 2020 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs N to P; after September 30, 2021 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph Q; after September 30, 2025 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph R; ~~and~~ after July 31, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs S to U; and after September 30, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph V in any one or a combination of the capacities specified in subsection 1, or purchased by other than the repayment of a refund and eligibility to make the purchase of the service credit, including, but not limited to, service credit for military service, was achieved after June 30, 1998 and before September 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A and B; after June 30, 1998 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs C to H; after December 31, 1999 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K; after December 31, 2001 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph L; after June 30, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph M; after June 30, 2020 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs N to P; after September 30, 2021 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph Q; after September 30, 2025 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph R; ~~and~~ after July 31, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs S to U; and after September 30, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph V must be computed under section 17852, subsection 1, paragraph A. If the member is qualified under subsection 2, paragraph B and:

(a) Had 10 years of creditable service on July 1, 1993, the segment amount must be reduced in the manner provided in section 17852, subsection 3, paragraphs A and B for each year that the member's age precedes 55 years of age; or

(b) Had fewer than 10 years of creditable service on July 1, 1993, the segment amount must be reduced by 6% for each year that the member's age precedes 55 years of age.

Sec. 8. 5 MRSA §17851-A, sub-§4, ¶K is enacted to read:

K. The service retirement benefit of a member to whom subsection 1, paragraph V applies and who qualifies for service retirement benefits under subsection 2 must be computed under section 17852, subsection 1, paragraph A on the basis of all of the member's creditable service in the capacity specified in subsection 1, paragraph V, regardless of when that creditable service was earned, except that for a member qualifying under subsection 2, paragraph B:

(1) If the member had 10 years of service on July 1, 1993, the benefit must be reduced as provided in section 17852, subsection 3, paragraphs A and B for each year the member's age precedes 55 years of age; or

(2) If the member had fewer than 10 years of creditable service on July 1, 1993, the benefit must be reduced by 6% for each year that the member's age precedes 55 years of age.

Sec. 9. 5 MRSA §17851-A, sub-§5, as amended by PL 2025, c. 650, Pt. FFFF, §11, is further amended to read:

5. Contributions. Notwithstanding any provision of subchapter 3 to the contrary, after June 30, 1998 and before September 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A and B; after June 30, 1998 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs C to H; after December 31, 1999 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K; after December 31, 2001 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph L; after June 30, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph M; after June 30, 2020 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs N to P; after September 30, 2021 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph Q; after September 30, 2025 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph R; ~~and~~ after July 31, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs S to U; and after September 30, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph V, a member in the capacities specified in subsection 1 must contribute to the State Employee and Teacher Retirement Program or have pick-up contributions made at the rate of 8.65% of earnable compensation until the member has completed 25 years of creditable service as provided in this section and at the rate of 7.65% thereafter.

Sec. 10. Transfer from Maine Budget Stabilization Fund; General Fund. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, on or before June 30, 2027, the State Controller shall transfer \$4,311,605 from the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund.

Sec. 11. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF
Dorothea Dix Psychiatric Center Z222**

Initiative: Allocates ongoing funds for the prospective costs of certain employees within the Department of Health and Human Services being allowed to participate in the 1998 Special Plan effective October 1, 2026.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$129,202
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$129,202</u>

Mental Health Services - Children Z206

Initiative: Provides ongoing funds for the prospective costs of certain employees within the Department of Health and Human Services being allowed to participate in the 1998 Special Plan effective October 1, 2026.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$1,568
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$1,568</u>

Riverview Psychiatric Center Z219

Initiative: Allocates ongoing funds for the prospective costs of certain employees within the Department of Health and Human Services being allowed to participate in the 1998 Special Plan effective October 1, 2026.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$87,156
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$87,156</u>

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
DEPARTMENT OF
DEPARTMENT TOTALS**

	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$1,568
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	\$216,358
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$217,926</u>

RETIREMENT SYSTEM, MAINE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

Retirement System - Retirement Allowance Fund 0085

Initiative: Provides one-time funds for the increase in the unfunded actuarial liability as a result of allowing the service retirement benefits for certain employees within the Department of Health and Human Services earned under the regular state employee and teacher plan to be calculated under the 1998 Special Plan effective October 1, 2026.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$4,310,037
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$4,310,037</u>

**RETIREMENT SYSTEM, MAINE PUBLIC
EMPLOYEES**

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$4,310,037
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$4,310,037
SECTION TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$4,311,605
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	\$216,358
SECTION TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$4,527,963