**An Act To Allow Certain Police Officers To Return to Participation in the Maine Public Employees Retirement System**

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

**Sec.** **1. Police officer eligible to return to Participating Local District** **Retirement Program.** Notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 18252-A, subsection 1 or any other provision of law to the contrary, a police officer who was a member of the Participating Local District Retirement Program and who, pursuant to section 18252-A, subsection 1, did not elect to remain a member of that program and is covered under a plan provided by the employer under Title 5, section 18252‑B may elect to become a member of the Participating Local District Retirement Program under the following conditions:

1. The police officer must elect to return to the Participating Local District Retirement Program before January 1, 2022;

2. The police officer must, in accordance with Title 5, section 18358, purchase service credit for the period during which the police officer elected not to be a member of the Participating Local District Retirement Program or for the police officer's total years of service if the police officer so chooses at the time of the election; and

3. The police officer must, in accordance with Title 5, section 18304, repay contributions withdrawn unless doing so would require the employer, without the employer's agreement, to make an employer contribution to both the Participating Local District Retirement Program and the plan provided by the employer under Title 5, section 18252-B.

A police officer who becomes a member of the Participating Local District Retirement Program under this Act and who terminates service, except by death or by retirement, may, at that member's discretion, withdraw accumulated contributions in accordance with Title 5, section 18306-A but may not thereafter become a member of that program while employed by the same employer.

**SUMMARY**

Current law states that a member of the Participating Local District Retirement Program on the date on which an employer offers an alternative retirement program may make a one-time irrevocable election to remain under that program or to join the alternative retirement plan offered by the employer. This bill allows police officers to make a one-time election to rejoin the Participating Local District Retirement Program under certain conditions.