



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

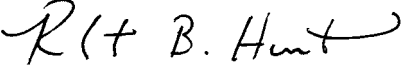
No. 1236

H.P. 811

House of Representatives, March 25, 2025

An Act to Address Employee Retention of State Employees Who Are Firefighters at Bangor International Airport

Reference to the Committee on Labor suggested and ordered printed.


ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative ROEDER of Bangor.
Cosponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot and
Representatives: FAIRCLOTH of Bangor, RANA of Bangor, SUPICA of Bangor, Senator:
TIPPING of Penobscot.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §17851-A, sub-§1, ¶H**, as amended by PL 1999, c. 493, §5, is
3 further amended to read:

4 H. Firefighters Until September 30, 2025, firefighters in the employment of the
5 Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management at Bangor International
6 Airport on July 1, 1998, or hired thereafter, provided as long as the Federal Government
7 pays annually to the retirement system the full employer cost of the participation of
8 these employees;

9 **Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §17851-D** is enacted to read:

10 **§17851-D. Special plan for firefighters in employment of Department of Defense,**
11 **Veterans and Emergency Management at Bangor International Airport**

12 **1. Establishment and applicability.** Effective October 1, 2025, there is established
13 a special retirement plan for firefighters in the employment of the Department of Defense,
14 Veterans and Emergency Management at Bangor International Airport, referred to in this
15 section as "the special plan." The special plan applies to firefighters in the employment of
16 the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management at Bangor International
17 Airport on or after July 1, 1998, if the Federal Government pays annually to the retirement
18 system the full employer cost of the participation of these employees.

19 **2. Qualification for benefits.** A member employed under subsection 1 qualifies for
20 a service retirement benefit after completing 25 years of creditable service in that capacity,
21 whether or not the creditable service included in determining that the 25-year requirement
22 has been met was earned under the special plan established in this section or prior to its
23 establishment.

24 **3. Purchase of service credit to be used for qualification for benefits.** This
25 subsection governs the use of purchased service credit in order to qualify for benefits under
26 this section. For the purpose of meeting the qualification requirement of subsection 2:

27 A. Service credit purchased by repayment of an earlier refund of accumulated
28 contributions following termination of service is included if the time to which the
29 refund relates was served in the position described in subsection 1, regardless of
30 whether the time was served before or after the establishment of the special plan;

31 B. Service credit purchased under section 17760 is considered service under the special
32 plan; and

33 C. Service credit purchased other than as provided under paragraphs A and B is not
34 included.

35 **4. Computation of benefits.** The amount of the service retirement benefit for
36 members qualified under subsection 2 is 1/2 of the member's average final compensation
37 and an additional 2% of the member's average final compensation for each year of
38 membership service not included in determining qualification under subsection 2.

39 **5. Contributions.** Notwithstanding any provision of subchapter 3 to the contrary,
40 after September 30, 2025, a member in a position described in subsection 1 shall contribute
41 to the State Employee and Teacher Retirement Program or have pick-up contributions

1 made at the rate of 8.65% of earnable compensation until the member has completed 25
2 years of creditable service as provided in this section and at the rate of 7.65% thereafter.

3 **SUMMARY**

4 This bill establishes a new special retirement plan for firefighters employed by the
5 Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management at Bangor International
6 Airport that allows those employees to retire after 25 years of service regardless of age.