

Testimony of Jeff McCabe  
Maine Service Employees Association, SEIU Local 1989

In Support of LD 258, "An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2023, June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025" (Emergency)  
(Governor's Bill)  
Sponsored by Representative Melanie Sachs

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs,  
and the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing  
Friday, February 10, 2023, State House Room 228, and Electronically

Senator Rotundo, Representative Sachs, members of the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder, members of the Committee on Labor and Housing, I'm Jeff McCabe, Director of Legislature and Politics the Maine Service Employees Association, Local 1989 of the Service Employees International Union. The Maine Service Employees Association represents over 13,000 workers across the state, including but not limited to workers in all three branches of Maine State Government, the Maine Community College System, Maine Maritime Academy and Child Development Services, the Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing/Governor Baxter School for the Deaf, as well as public workers for the City of Lewiston, Lewiston Schools, City of Auburn and York County Government.

Members of our union are encouraged by many initiatives impacting them in the Governor's proposed State Budget.

I'm here today for two reasons, the first to provide support to the Department of Labor and its budget request. MSEA has been fortunate to work with Commissioner Fortman on a number of issues. Commissioner Fortman knows what the department needs because she engages with workers to understand workloads, technology needs and more. Supporting the department's requests associated with reclasses, reorganizations and positions is vital at this time. You will hear more from our members at DOL in strong support of the proposals presented.

The second reason I'm here is to answer questions that I would even call homework that came up in the Labor and Housing Committee, around which bills did not get funded off of last session's special appropriations table and that are not included in the budget so far this year. For that I draw the two committees' attention to the items below:

- [LD 1746 An Act To Expand the 1998 Special Retirement Plan To Include Employees Who Work for the Office of Chief Medical Examiner](#)
- [LD 1808 An Act To Address Retention at the Maine State Police Crime Laboratory and the Department of Public Safety Computer Crimes Unit](#)
- [LD 1840 An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Retirement Benefit Reductions for Corrections Supervisors Currently Included in the 1998 Special Plan](#)

Members of 131<sup>st</sup> Legislature have reintroduced these bills in the 130<sup>th</sup> and currently not included but should be included in the budget are these retirement issues.

- [LD 197 An Act to Address Employee Retention at the Maine State Police Crime Laboratory and the Computer Crimes Unit in the Department of Public Safety](#)
- [LD 483 An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Retirement Benefit Reductions for Certain Employees Currently Included in the 1998 Special Plan](#)
- LR 377 which mirrors [LD 1746 An Act To Expand the 1998 Special Retirement Plan To Include Employees Who Work for the Office of Chief Medical Examiner](#)

Additionally, there is no language or funding in the proposed budget to address the retiree COLA crisis.

Thank you and I would be glad to answer any questions.