

**Testimony of Kirsten LC Figueroa, Commissioner
Department of Administrative and Financial Services**

**Before the Joint Standing Committees on
Appropriations and Financial Affairs
and Labor**

“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, 2025, June 30, 2026 and June 30, 2027”

February 6, 2025

Good afternoon, Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs; Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor. I am Kirsten Figueroa, the Commissioner of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services. I am here today to testify in support of the fiscal year 2026-2027 biennial budget bill, LD 210, specifically the item on today's agenda for the Retirement Allowance Fund.

Maine Public Employees Retirement System

The Retirement Allowance Fund is on **page A-615** of the budget document. Title 2, Section 1-A of Maine Revised Statutes authorizes the retirement benefit for former Maine Governors and their surviving spouses. Title 4, Chapter 29 provides retirement benefits to judges who retired prior to 1984 and their surviving spouses. In accordance with both statutes, the Maine Public Employees Retirement System estimates the appropriation necessary to fund benefits payable from these pay-as-you-go plans each biennium.

There is one initiative in this program. This initiative is an appropriation of \$8,339 in FY26 and \$30,643 in FY27 for retirement costs associated with retired Governors and their surviving spouses. As with other System retirees, retired Governors receive an annual cost-of-living adjustment, which increases the amount of benefits to be paid year to year.

This concludes my testimony. Thank you. I am happy to answer any questions.