

Douglass Moore
Durham, Maine

April 22, 2025

Testimony in Support of LD 1683 An Act Regarding Disability Retirement Benefits under the Maine Public Employees Retirement System.

Good afternoon, Sen. Tipping, Rep. Roeder, and to all the members of the Labor Committee. My name is ----- . I am speaking on behalf of Douglass S. Moore who would like to give testimony in Support of LD 1683 An Act Regarding Disability Retirement Benefits under the Maine Public Employees Retirement System.

Mr. Moore started working for the Town of Freeport Public Works Department in 1985. He has been a Maine PERS disabled employee since the year 2014 when the complications from a 1989 work injury forced him into disability retirement.

His back was injured when another vehicle crashed into his dump truck at 55 miles an hour, head on. With support from workers compensation, he was able to stay employed for another 25 years. However, no longer being able to work since 2014 has been difficult for him. He was a very dedicated employee giving all to a job he loved. His battle with constant pain, and inability to concentrate, etc. requires him to seek assistance with his testimony.

The bill repeals the MePERS Social Security disability offset. After working for years and paying into the MePERS Participating Local District retirement plan (PLD plan), Mr. Moore has not been receiving the 59% defined benefit the taxpayers of Freeport and he paid for through employee and employer contributions into MainePERS. Applied retroactively to his date of retirement, the bill restores to Mr. Moore the money he has been underpaid by MainePERS due to the unfair MePERS Social Security offset.

Two years after Mr. Moore was approved for Maine PERS disability retirement, he was approved for Social Security disability. This is when the first offset was first applied. MainePERS claimed an overpayment of \$25,444.80 and Mr. Moore was forced to give most of his Social Security disability back pay to MainePERS. No longer receiving full MainePERS benefits due to the offset added to his stress.

Mr. Moore needs his 59% disability benefit. He now has to pay others to do the many things he used to do at home. He had to have a ramp installed at his house and he uses an adjustable bed. Over time he'll need even more help. The Moores have had to simplify their lives to pay for household bills, medications, ongoing treatments for his back injury (many of which are not covered by insurance), etc. Receiving the money withheld from him by Maine PERS would certainly help.

Mr. Moore urges the committee to repeal the Maine PERS Social Security offset with a unanimous Ought to pass and restore to him the underpayment of his retirement funds. Thank you for your time.