



Craig V. Hickman
Senator, District 14

THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Testimony of Senator Craig V. Hickman in support of
LD 1872, "An Act to Reinvest in the Pension Funds of the
Maine Public Employees Retirement System,"
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Labor
Tuesday, May 13, 2025

Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder, and honorable members of the Committee on Labor, my name is Craig Hickman, and I am proud to represent Senate District 14, twelve municipalities in southern Kennebec County including my beloved hometown of Winthrop. Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of LD 1872, "An Act to Reinvest in the Pension Funds of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System."

In the 125th Legislature, then-Governor Paul LePage gutted MainePERS to pay for tax cuts that mostly benefited wealthy Mainers. During my first few terms, I presented legislation to address this deficit on behalf of our public retirees. Unfortunately, these bills were not funded.

Ever since, our public employees' retirement fund, meant to pay for the promises that we made to those who served our state as police officers, snow plow drivers, child protection caseworkers, constituent service representatives, and more, has been in a deficit — a deficit which makes it very hard to keep these promises.

What we did to our state employees beginning in the 125th Legislature is unconscionable. We must remedy the situation, restore the balance of our state employees' retirement fund, and ensure we make our public employees whole for what they were promised.

This bill tries to move things forward, and I urge you to vote "Ought to Pass" on LD 1872.

Thank you for allowing me to speak in support of this bill. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Craig V. Hickman
State Senator, District 14