



Professional Fire Fighters of Maine

Affiliated with the International Association of Fire Fighters

Testimony of Michael Scott, President

Tuesday, May 12, 2025

LD 1947 – “An Act to Amend the Laws Pertaining to the Maine Public Employees Retirement System”

Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder and other esteemed members of the Labor Committee. My name is Michael Scott, I live and work in the City of Auburn. I'm here to testify in support of LD 1947 as the President of the Professional Fire Fighters of Maine, representing over 1,200 First Responders and their families across the State of Maine. Thank you for this important opportunity to speak on behalf of the brave men and women who serve as first responders.

I am writing to express my strong support for LD 1947, particularly its provisions aimed at enhancing flexibility in overpayment reimbursements and reducing quorum requirements. These measures will significantly improve the efficiency and responsiveness of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System (MainePERS).

Flexibility in Overpayment Reimbursement

The current rigid framework for overpayment recovery can place undue financial strain on retirees, especially those on fixed incomes. By introducing more flexible repayment options, LD 1947 acknowledges the unique circumstances of each retiree and allows for tailored solutions that are both fair and manageable. This approach not only eases the financial burden on retirees but also fosters a more compassionate and understanding system.

Reduction in Quorum Requirements

The proposed reduction in quorum requirements is a realistic step towards ensuring that the PLD Advisory Board can operate more efficiently. In times when achieving a full quorum can be challenging, this adjustment will enable the board to make timely decisions, thereby preventing delays in crucial matters such as benefit adjustments and policy updates. A more agile decision-making process will enhance the overall effectiveness of the Advisory Board and better serve its members.

Conclusion

LD 1947 represents a thoughtful and necessary modernization of MainePERS operations. By introducing flexibility in overpayment reimbursements and reducing quorum requirements, the bill addresses current challenges and sets the stage for a more responsive and equitable retirement system. I urge the committee to support this legislation and will be more than willing to answer any questions you may have this afternoon.

Thank you for your time.

Michael Scott

Michael Scott, President