



DATE: February 26, 2026

TO: Senator Margaret Rotundo
Representative Drew Gattine
Members, Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

FROM: Tom Record, Vice President
Maine Association of Retirees

SUBJECT: LD 2212, An Act Making Supplemental 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, 2026 and June 30, 2027

Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine, Members of the Committee, my name is Tom Record. I am Vice President of the Maine Association of Retirees (MAR). MAR is a nonprofit association whose membership includes nearly 11,000 of Maine's public service retirees. We speak today to encourage you to amend LD 2212 to fund LDs 111 and 328. Both of these bills were enacted by the House and Senate in May 2025 but were carried over on the Appropriations Table in June 2025. The connection to LD 2212 of both bills is that each is need of a funding vehicle.

LD 111 An Act to Increase the State's Share of Retired Teacher Health Insurance

- The amended bill increases the State contribution to the retired teachers' cost of health insurance premiums from 60% to 65% percent beginning in fiscal year 2025-2026. This continues the work of the 131st Legislature which increased the State's contribution to the retired teacher's cost of health insurance from 55% to 60%.

LD 328 An Act Requiring the State to Pay a Retired State Employee's or Retired Teacher's premium for Medicare Part B under Medicare Advantage

- This bill requires the State to cover the Medicare Part B premium for retired state employees and retired teachers enrolled in Medicare Advantage plans (currently \$202.90 per month or \$2434.80 annually) beginning in January 2026 except for those eligible for federally approved Medicaid services.
- MAR agrees with the comments of MSEA.
- MAR is not unaware of the potential costs. However, recent changes to eligibility requirements under the Medicare Savings Program, which pays the Part B premium, significantly reduces the number of retirees for which the State would have to pay the Part B premium. This is in addition to the number of retirees eligible for Medicaid, and State retirees who are eligible for payment of 100% of the Medicare Part B premium due to their eligibility through an agreement with the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

- The bill affects Title 5 Sec. 285 (state employee health insurance and Title 20-a Sec. 13451 (teacher benefits)).

Thank you for your consideration.

Leading the Way for Maine Retirees

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