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Currently, if an individual is hired by a municipality participating in the local district retirement plan through the Maine Public Employees Retirement System (MPERS) and they initially decline joining MPERS, they cannot join later. The only way for this employee to join MPERS is to resign from the municipality employing them and take a job with another municipality at which time they have the option to join MPERS. Passage of this bill would allow employees vested in their communities to join MPERS rather than having to resign and start over working in another municipality just to have the ability to join the Maine Public Employees Retirement System.