

MAINE LEGISLATIVE RETIREMENT PROGRAM

(Authorized by 3 MRSA Chapter 29)

SUMMARY OF PROGRAM

- The Maine Legislative Retirement Program provides a defined benefit retirement plan for Legislators, similar to the retirement plans administered by the Maine Public Employees Retirement System (MainePERS) for state employees, judges and teachers.
- Legislators' retirement benefits are determined by a formula based on retirement age, length of legislative service and compensation.
- Disability retirement and death benefits are also available.

MEMBERSHIP

- Generally, membership in the Maine Legislative Retirement Program (MLRS) is mandatory for all Legislators entering service on or after December 3, 1986.
- There are exceptions for Legislators who are already members of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System. Any Legislator who was a member under the State Employee and Teacher Retirement Plan on December 2, 1986 has the option to continue to be a member under that plan instead of becoming a member under the MLRS.
- Under very specific and limited circumstances, the President of the Senate or the Speaker of the House may, upon a Legislator's request, waive the membership requirement if the Legislator participates in social security or another retirement plan.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PLAN

- The program is funded by Legislator (employee) and Legislature (employer) contributions.
- **Legislator contributions are made through payroll deduction.** Pursuant to 3 MRSA §804, **the rate for legislators is 7.65% of earnable compensation.**
- The Legislature's contribution is determined on an actuarial basis by MainePER's actuary and is subject to change.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Visit the MainePERS Legislative Members page:
<https://www.mainebers.org/while-working/legislators/>
- Contact MainePERS:

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