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An Act Relating to Retirement and Death Benefits for Certain Law Enforcement Officers

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §17851-A, sub-§1, ¶L, as amended by PL 2001, c. 646, §1, is further amended to read:

L. Oil and hazardous materials emergency response workers in the employment of the Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Response Services who participate in a standby rotation on January 1, 2002 or are hired thereafter; and

Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §17851-A, sub-§1, ¶M, as enacted by PL 2001, c. 646, §2, is amended to read:

M. Capital security officers in the employment of the Department of Public Safety, Bureau of Capital Security on July 1, 2002 or hired thereafter; and

Sec. 3. 5 MRSA §17851-A, sub-§1, ¶N is enacted to read:

N. Detectives in the employment of the Office of the Attorney General on July 1, 2007 or hired thereafter.

Sec. 4. 5 MRSA §17851-A, sub-§4, ¶A, as repealed and replaced by PL 2003, c. 510, Pt. D, §3 and as affected by §§6 and 7, is amended to read:

A. If all of the member's creditable service in any one or a combination of the capacities specified in subsection 1 was earned after June 30, 1998 and before September 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A and B; after June 30, 1998 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs C to H; after December 31, 1999 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K; after December 31, 2001 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph L; and after June 30, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph M; and after June 30, 2007 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph N; if service credit was purchased by repayment of an earlier refund of accumulated contributions for service in any one or a combination of the capacities specified in subsection 1 after June 30, 1998 and before September 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A and B; after June 30, 1998 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs C to H; after December 31, 1999 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K; after December 31, 2001 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph L; and after June 30, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph M; and after June 30, 2007 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph N; or if service credit was purchased by other than the repayment of an earlier refund and eligibility to make the purchase of the service credit, including, but not limited to, service credit for military service, was achieved after June 30, 1998 and before September 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A and B; after June 30, 1998 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs C to H; after December

31, 1999 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K; after December 31, 2001 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph L; and after June 30, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph M; and after June 30, 2007 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph N, the benefit must be computed as provided in section 17852, subsection 1, paragraph A.

(1) If the member had 10 years of creditable service on July 1, 1993, the benefit under subsection 2, paragraph B must be reduced as provided in section 17852, subsection 3, paragraphs A and B.

(2) If the member had fewer than 10 years of creditable service on July 1, 1993, the benefit under subsection 2, paragraph B must be reduced by 6% for each year that the member's age precedes 55 years of age.

Sec. 5. 5 MRSA §17851-A, sub-§4, ¶B, as repealed and replaced by PL 2003, c. 510, Pt. D, §4 and as affected by §§6 and 7, is amended to read:

B. Except as provided in paragraphs D and E, if some part of the member's creditable service in any one or a combination of the capacities specified in subsection 1 was earned before July 1, 1998 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A to H; before January 1, 2000 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K; before January 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph L; and before July 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph M; and before July 1, 2007 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph N and some part of the member's creditable service in any one or a combination of the capacities specified in subsection 1 was earned after June 30, 1998 and before September 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A and B; after June 30, 1998 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs C to H; after December 31, 1999 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K; after December 31, 2001 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph L; and after June 30, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph M; and after June 30, 2007 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph N, then the member's service retirement benefit must be computed in segments and the amount of the member's service retirement benefit is the sum of the segments. The segments must be computed as follows:

(1) The segment or, if the member served in more than one of the capacities specified in subsection 1 and the benefits related to the capacities are not interchangeable under section 17856, segments that reflect creditable service earned before July 1, 1998 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A to H; before January 1, 2000 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K; before January 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph L; and before July 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph M; and before July 1, 2007 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph N or purchased by repayment of an earlier refund of accumulated contributions for service before July 1, 1998, for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A to H; before January 1, 2000 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K; before January 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph L; and before July 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph M; and before July 1, 2007 for employees identified in subsection 1,

paragraph N in a capacity or capacities specified in subsection 1 or purchased by other than the repayment of a refund and eligibility to make the purchase of the service credit, including, but not limited to, service credit for military service, was achieved before July 1, 1998 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A to H; before January 1, 2000 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K; before January 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph L; and before July 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph M; and before July 1, 2007 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph N, must be computed under section 17852, subsection 1, paragraph A. If the member is qualified under subsection 2, paragraph B and:

(a) Had 10 years of creditable service on July 1, 1993, the amount of the segment or segments must be reduced as provided in section 17852, subsection 3, paragraphs A and B; or

(b) Had fewer than 10 years of creditable service on July 1, 1993, the amount of the segment or segments must be reduced as provided in section 17852, subsection 3-A; and

(2) The segment that reflects creditable service earned after June 30, 1998 and before September 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A and B; after June 30, 1998 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs C to H; after December 31, 1999 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K; after December 31, 2001 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph L; and after June 30, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph M; and after June 30, 2007 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph N or purchased by repayment of an earlier refund of accumulated contributions for service after June 30, 1998 and before September 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A and B; after June 30, 1998 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs C to H; after December 31, 1999 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K; after December 31, 2001 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph L; and after June 30, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph M; and after June 30, 2007 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph N in any one or a combination of the capacities specified in subsection 1, or purchased by other than the repayment of a refund and eligibility to make the purchase of the service credit, including, but not limited to, service credit for military service, was achieved after June 30, 1998 and before September 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A and B; after June 30, 1998 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs C to H; after December 31, 1999 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K; after December 31, 2001 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph L; and after June 30, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph M; and after June 30, 2007 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph N must be computed under section 17852, subsection 1, paragraph A. If the member is qualified under subsection 2, paragraph B and:

(a) Had 10 years of creditable service on July 1, 1993, the segment amount must be reduced in the manner provided in section 17852, subsection 3, paragraphs A and B for each year that the member's age precedes 55 years of age; or

(b) Had fewer than 10 years of creditable service on July 1, 1993, the segment amount must be reduced by 6% for each year that the member's age precedes 55 years of age.

Sec. 6. 5 MRSA §17851-A, sub-§5, as repealed and replaced by PL 2003, c. 510, Pt. D, §5 and as affected by §§6 and 7, is amended to read:

5. Contributions. Notwithstanding any other provision of subchapter 3, after June 30, 1998 and before September 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A and B; after June 30, 1998 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs C to H; after December 31, 1999 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K; after December 31, 2001 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph L; and after June 30, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph M; and after June 30, 2007 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph N, a member in the capacities specified in subsection 1 must contribute to the retirement system or have pick-up contributions made at the rate of 8.65% of earnable compensation until the member has completed 25 years of creditable service as provided in this section and at the rate of 7.65% thereafter.

Sec. 7. 25 MRSA §1611, sub-§5, as amended by PL 2005, c. 519, Pt. XXX, §1, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

5. Law enforcement officer or officer. "Law enforcement officer" or "officer" means a person who by virtue of public employment is vested by law with the power to make arrests for crimes or serve criminal process, whether that power extends to all crimes or is limited to specific crimes. As used in this chapter, "law enforcement officer" or "officer" does not include federal law enforcement officers or attorneys prosecuting for the State.

Sec. 8. Transition. Notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 17851-A, subsection 1, paragraph N, a person hired by the Office of the Attorney General prior to July 1, 2007 may elect to participate in the 1998 Special Plan of the Maine State Retirement System, as long as the election is made not later than 180 days after the effective date of this Act.

SUMMARY

This bill allows detectives in the Office of the Attorney General to elect to participate in the 1998 Special Plan of the Maine State Retirement System. Under that plan, a person may retire at 55 years of age with 10 years of creditable service, or may retire before 55 years of age with 25 years of creditable service and a reduced benefit.

This bill also amends the definition of "law enforcement officer" for purposes of the law governing death benefits to ensure that all sworn law enforcement officers are eligible to receive so-called "line of duty" death benefits.