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STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND HOUSING

TO: Senator Catherine E. Breen, Senate Chair
Representative Drew Gattine, House Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

FROM: Senator Shenna Bellows, Senate Chair
Representative Michael Sylvester, House Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing

DATE: March 4, 2020

SUBJECT: Supplemental budget recommendations

On March 4, 2020, the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing (LBHS Committee) reviewed the budget items pertaining to the committee's jurisdiction in LD 2126, An Act Making Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds, and Changing Certain Provisions of the law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2020 and June 30, 2021. All initiatives except for four received the unanimous support of the committee. Those four initiatives not receiving a unanimous vote are as follows:

- Under Administration – Labor 0030 (Page 1 and Sec. A-21, page 77)
Vote – 9-4 (Support – Senators Bellows and Lawrence and Representatives Tucker, Doore, Austin, Sylvester, Cuddy, Carney and Rykerson; Oppose – Senator Guerin and Representatives Bradstreet, Morris and Lockman);
- Under Employment Services Activity 0852 (Page 3 and Sec. A-21, page 78)
Vote – 9-4 (Senators Bellows and Lawrence and Representatives Tucker, Doore, Austin, Sylvester, Cuddy, Carney and Rykerson; Oppose – Senator Guerin and Representatives Bradstreet, Morris and Lockman);
- Under Employment Services Activity 0852 (Page 2 and Sec. A-21, page 78)
Vote 9-4 (Senators Bellows and Lawrence and Representatives Tucker, Doore, Austin, Sylvester, Cuddy, Carney and Rykerson; Oppose – Senator Guerin and Representatives Bradstreet, Morris and Lockman); and
- Under Safety Education and Training Programs 0161 (Page 3 and Sec. A-21, page 79)

Vote 12-1 (Support – Senators Bellows, Lawrence and Guerin and Representatives Tucker, Doore, Austin, Bradstreet, Sylvester, Cuddy; Morris, Carney and Rykerson; Oppose – Representative Lockman)

In addition, the members that voted unanimously supported all of the “language parts,” including the amendments discussed by the Department of Labor at the public hearing on February 26, 2020, and that are included in LD 2126 with the following exceptions:

- Part HH – 1 (Page 132)
Vote 9 -3 (Support – Senators Bellows and Lawrence and Representatives Tucker, Doore, Austin, Sylvester, Cuddy, Carney and Rykerson; Oppose – Senator Guerin and Representatives Bradstreet and Morris); and
- Part HH-2 (Page 132)
Vote 9-3 (Support – Senators Bellows and Lawrence and Representatives Tucker, Doore, Austin, Sylvester, Cuddy, Carney and Rykerson; Oppose – Senator Guerin and Representatives Bradstreet and Morris).

The Department of Labor offered three additional amendments to LD 2126, which were unanimously supported by all members that voted (Senators Bellows, Lawrence, Guerin, Representatives Tucker, Doore, Austin, Bradstreet, Sylvester, Cuddy, Morris, Carney and Rykerson). Those amendments are as follows.

- Part EE (Page 126, line 40) add ‘Program’ after ‘Unemployment’ and before ‘Administrative Fund’

Effective January 1, 2021, the contribution rate must also be reduced by the Unemployment Program Administrative Fund predetermined yield as defined in section 1167, subsection 1, paragraph C, except that a contribution rate under this paragraph may not be reduced below 1%.

- Part EE (Page 129, line 26) add ‘Program’ after ‘Unemployment’ and before ‘Administrative Fund’

(9) Beginning January 1, 2021, the contribution rate must also be reduced by the Unemployment Program Administrative Fund predetermined yield as defined in section 1167, subsection 1, paragraph C, except that a contribution rate under this paragraph may not be reduced below 1%.

- Part FF (Page 130, after line 41) add the following:

9. Maximum fund balance. The department shall transfer any cash balance that exceeds 180 days working capital as of December 31, 2023, and every year thereafter, from the Unemployment Program Administrative Fund to the State Unemployment Compensation Fund within 30 days.

The LBHS Committee did not vote on those portions of the budget relating to the Department of Public Safety. It is our understanding that the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety voted on those portions as those matters have been before that committee and were voted on in the biennial budget by that committee.

Lastly, the LBHS Committee would like to express its strong support for LD 1355, An Act To Expand the 1998 Special Retirement Plan To Include Civilian Employees Who Work for the Department of Public Safety Crime Lab and Computer Crimes Unit. This bill was unanimously supported last session and carried over on the Special Appropriations Table. We believe the cost to fund this bill is minimal in comparison to the benefits it will provide to these employees, who due to the nature of their employment, are exposed on a daily basis to horrific and traumatic images and videos. This small change could make a big difference in the recruitment and retention of employees to fill these important positions.

Please find attached related OFPR worksheets outlining the committee's recommendations regarding all budget initiatives.

Thank you and please let us know if you have questions or need additional information from the committee.

cc: Member, Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing
Maine Department of Labor

Sec. A-21. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

LABOR, DEPARTMENT OF

Administration - Labor 0030

Initiative: Establishes one Employment & Training Specialist III position and provides funding for related All Other costs. This initiative also provides one-time funding of \$1,300,000 for the development of additional registered apprenticeship programs. These one-time funds do not lapse but must be carried forward to the next fiscal year to be used for the same purpose.

Ref. #: _____ Committee Vote: 9-4 AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$5,825
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$5,825

Justification:

With the tight labor market, employers are looking for ways to enhance their employee recruitment. In Maine and across the country, Registered Apprenticeship programs are being used to help with this. Workers also benefit by earning a good wage while they learn. The Department is experiencing an unprecedented number of requests. This initiative is associated with the language part.

Blind and Visually Impaired - Division for the 0126

Initiative: Provides funding for the proposed reorganization of one Director Division for the Blind & Visually Impaired position to a Public Service Manager II position in order to achieve greater parity within the department, retroactive to July 1, 2019 and reduces All Other to fund the reorganization.

Ref. #: _____ Committee Vote: 13-0 AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Personal Services	\$0	\$7,580	\$7,794
All Other	\$0	(\$7,580)	(\$7,794)
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$0

Justification:

This position has equal responsibilities and expectations to its peers across the Department of Labor, but is one pay grade lower and remains subject to collective bargaining contracts. This position is considered to be a senior leadership position within the department. The position regularly advises the Commissioner on issues relating to blind and visually impaired service delivery and on proposed legislation and policy changes, and represents the department before the public.

Employment Security Services 0245

Initiative: Transfers and reallocates the costs for 28 positions from the Federal Expenditures Fund to the Other Special Revenue Funds within the same program and provides funding for related All Other and contracted technology costs. Position and allocation detail is on file with the Bureau of the Budget.

Ref. #: _____ Committee Vote: 13-0 AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	0.000	(17,000)
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	(\$2,299,836)
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0	(\$2,299,836)

Ref. #: _____ Committee Vote: 13-0 AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	0.000	17,000
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$2,299,836
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$3,972,713
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$6,272,549

Justification:

Funding for Maine's unemployment program has declined to a level that no longer supports the basic operations of the program. The program is countercyclical in that during sound economic times, less federal funds are available. Nationally, funding is not sufficient to support the systems, and small states have felt the impact even more. This is due to the core functions and systems that must be maintained regardless of the number of claims processed. The deficit has been growing, and thus far the Department has been able to use one-time funds to support the program. For the federal fiscal year beginning October 2019, the Department is facing a \$7.3 million shortfall and the remaining Reed Act funds will cover a portion of it. The Department will need to access the one-time 2009 ARRA funds to cover the balance. Going forward, those funds will be rapidly depleted. The Department is proposing a change in employer unemployment tax to fund operations in subsequent years in addition to benefits.

Employment Services Activity 0852

Initiative: Provides one-time funding to support Maine career exploration opportunities for Maine residents. These funds do not lapse but must be carried forward to the next fiscal year to be used for the same purpose.

Ref. #: _____ One Time _____ Committee Vote: 9-4 AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$1,000,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$1,000,000

Justification:

Funding is requested for the Department of Education, Department of Labor and Department of Economic and Community Development to provide education, training and career opportunities for students of all ages and backgrounds. This initiative is associated with the language part and corresponds with initiatives ECC F-A-7014 and EDU F-A-7035.

Employment Services Activity 0852

Initiative: Establishes one Employment & Training Specialist III position and provides funding for related All Other costs. This initiative also provides one-time funding of \$1,300,000 for the development of additional registered apprenticeship programs. These one-time funds do not lapse but must be carried forward to the next fiscal year to be used for the same purpose.

Ref. #: _____ Committee Vote: 9-4 AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	0.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$80,917
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$1,307,730
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$1,388,647

Justification:

With the tight labor market, employers are looking for ways to enhance their employee recruitment. In Maine and across the country, Registered Apprenticeship programs are being used to help with this. Workers also benefit by earning a good wage while they learn. The Department is experiencing an unprecedented number of requests. This initiative is associated with the language part.

Rehabilitation Services 0799

Initiative: Provides funding for the proposed reorganization of one Office Assistant II position and one Office Associate II position to 2 Rehabilitation Counselor I positions and reduces All Other to fund the positions.

Ref. #: _____ Committee Vote: 13-0 AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Personal Services	\$0	\$1,540	\$8,330
All Other	\$0	(\$1,540)	(\$8,330)
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$0

Justification:

These proposed reorganizations better align work duties with position classifications. Due to operational need and changing work responsibilities due to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation needs positions that have a greater scope of professional and paraprofessional allowable job tasks. These reclasses will better meet the needs of individuals with disabilities who are seeking employment.

Safety Education and Training Programs 0161

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of one Consumer Assistance Specialist position to a Labor & Safety Inspector position and reduces All Other to fund the position.

Ref. #: _____ Committee Vote: 12-1 AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Personal Services	\$0	\$4,915	\$5,507
All Other	\$0	(\$4,915)	(\$5,507)

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL

\$0 \$0 \$0

Justification:

This request provides funding for the approved reorganization of one Consumer Assistance Specialist position to a Labor & Safety Inspector position. This position will be the primary public resource for determining the appropriateness of minor labor activities and working conditions. Because of the tight labor market, we are seeing an increasing number of minor work permit applications that are denied because of inappropriate environments or activities. There is an increased need to educate the public on allowable industries and work activities that minors can perform.

LABOR, DEPARTMENT OF

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$0	\$2,394,472
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	\$0	\$0	(\$2,299,836)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	\$0	\$6,272,549
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$0	\$6,367,185

Sec. A-28. Appropriations and allocations.

The following appropriations and allocations are made.

PUBLIC SAFETY, DEPARTMENT OF

Division of Building Codes and Standards Z073

Initiative: Continues one Public Safety Inspector III position previously established by Financial Order 000433 F0, makes the position permanent and provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #:

Committee Vote: *Did not vote -*

AFA Vote: _____

See CJPS committee memo

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	0.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$89,059
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$38,948
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$128,007

Justification:

This position is needed to plan and coordinate trainings for code enforcement officials. Responsibilities include facilitating and providing specific training across the state to ensure that all code enforcement officials have access to the necessary trainings, specifically the 12 areas of training required for certification. In addition, this position will undertake the rule making process to adopt the codes and standards as required by statute and field technical questions pertaining to the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code. This position is funded by the elimination of the transfer of funds from Department of Public Safety, Uniform Building Codes and Standards Fund to the Department of Economic and Community Development, Office of Community Development to reflect the change in responsibility for training and certification of code enforcement officers enacted in Public Law 2019, chapter 517.

PUBLIC SAFETY, DEPARTMENT OF

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	\$0	\$128,007
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$0	\$128,007

Sec. A-33. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD

Administration - Workers' Compensation Board 0183

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of one Secretary position to a Paralegal position.

Ref. #: _____ Committee Vote: 13-0 AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Personal Services	\$0	(\$1,094)	\$1,252
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	(\$1,094)	\$1,252

Justification:

This position is being reorganized to meet operational needs providing higher level support to 4 Workers Compensation Advocates due to increased workload and complexity of cases. This reorganization was approved by the Bureau of Human Resources in October 2019. The increase in baseline revenue authorized by Public Law 2016, chapter 469 provides the resources to cover the increased costs.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	(\$1,094)	\$1,252
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	(\$1,094)	\$1,252

PART EE 12-0-Including EE-2 from LD 2126

Sec. EE-1. 26 MRS §1221 sub-§4-A, as amended by PL 2007, c. 352, Part A §2 is further amended to read:

A. The standard rate of contributions shall be 5.4%. No contributing employer's rate may be varied from the standard rate, unless and until the employer's experience rating record has been chargeable with benefits throughout the 24-consecutive-calendar-month period ending on the computation date applicable to such year; each contributing employer newly subject to this chapter shall pay contributions at the average contribution rate, rounded to the next higher 1/10 of 1%, on the taxable wages reported by contributing employers for the 12-month period immediately preceding the last computation date, provided such rate may not exceed 3.0% nor be less than 1%; provided that, with respect to the rate year beginning January 1, 1986, and each rate year thereafter, the rate shall not exceed 4.0% nor be less than 1% and until such time as the employer's experience rating record has been chargeable with benefits throughout the 24-consecutive-calendar-month period ending on the computation date applicable to such year, and for rate years thereafter the employer's contribution rate shall be determined in accordance with subsections 3 and 4.

Effective January 1, 2008, the contribution rate must be reduced by the Competitive Skills Scholarship Fund predetermined yield as defined in section 1166, subsection 1, paragraph C, except that a contribution rate under this paragraph may not be reduced below 1%.

Effective January 1, 2021, the contribution rate must also be reduced by the Unemployment Administrative Fund predetermined yield as defined in section 1167, subsection 1, paragraph C, except that a contribution rate under this paragraph may not be reduced below 1%.

PART EE SUMMARY

This Part reduces unemployment insurance trust fund contributions by a percentage equal to the unemployment administrative fund assessment except as described in section 1221, subsection 4-A, paragraphs A and B pertaining to new employer rates and contribution rate category 20.

PART FF 12-0

Sec. FF-1. 26 MRS §1167 is enacted to read:

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

- A. “Unemployment Program Administrative Fund contributions” means the money payments required by this section to be made into the Unemployment Program Administrative Fund by an employer as a percentage of the employer’s taxable payroll based on the Unemployment Program Administrative Fund predetermined yield in effect for the Fund rate year.
 - B. “Unemployment Program Administrative Fund planned yield” means the percentage of wages, as defined in section 1043, subsection 19, equal to .12% of the total wages for each contribution employer subject to this chapter.
 - C. “Unemployment Program Administrative Fund predetermined yield” means the amount determined by multiplying the ratio of total wages to taxable wages, as defined by section 1221, subsection 6, paragraph L, by the Unemployment Program Administrative Fund planned yield. The Unemployment Program Administrative Fund predetermined planned yield is rounded to the nearest .01%.
 - D. “Unemployment Program Administrative Fund rate year” has the same meaning as “rate year” under section 1221, subsection 6, paragraph F.
2. **Established.** The Unemployment Program Administrative Fund, referred to in this section as “the fund,” is established as a special fund in the State Treasury. All receipts, including interest, fines and penalties collect from the Unemployment Program Administrative fund contributions, must be paid into the fund. Income from the investment of the fund must be deposited to the credit of the fund. All money in the fund must be deposited, administered and disbursed in the same manner and under the same conditions and requirements as are provided by law for other special funds.
 3. **Administered.** The money in the fund must be administered by the commissioner exclusively for the purpose of administering Employment Security laws under chapter 26, subchapter 13 and for the costs of administering the fund.
 4. **Employers liable for the Unemployment Program Administrative Fund contribution.** Each employer, as defined in section 1043, subsection 9, other than an employer liable for a payment in lieu of a contribution, shall pay an Unemployment Program Administrative Fund contribution. Beginning January 1, 2021, Unemployment Program Administrative Fund contributions are payable in the same manner as described under section 1221, subsection 1 and in accordance with section 1221, subsection 4-A.
 5. **Receipts.** All receipts collected from Unemployment Program Administrative Fund contributions, including interest, fines and penalties on contributions not paid when due, must be paid into the fund.
 6. **Experience rating records.** Unemployment Program Administrative Fund contributions may not be credited to an employer’s experience rating record as described in section 1221, subsection 3.

7. Relationship to unemployment insurance contributions. Unemployment Program Administrative Fund contributions may not be considered as part of the employer's unemployment insurance contribution rate pursuant to section 1221. Unemployment insurance contributions for all employers subject to the contribution provisions of this chapter must be reduced by a percentage equal to the total Unemployment Program Administrative Fund contribution assessment as in section 1221, subsection 4-A. Exceptions pertaining to new employer rates and contribution rate category 20 are described in section 1221, subsection 4-A, paragraphs A and B.
8. Other provisions of the chapter. All provisions of this chapter and rules adopted under this chapter regarding payments, time limits, dates of payment, reports, interest and penalties on amounts not paid by employers when due, fines, liens and warrants that apply to the collection of contributions also apply to the collection of Unemployment Program Administrative Fund contributions.

PART FF SUMMARY

This Part establishes an Unemployment Program Administrative Fund for the purpose of operating the Maine Unemployment Insurance Program including both personnel and non-personnel costs, and for the costs of administering the Fund.

PART GG 12-0

Sec. GG-1. Money credited to the State of Maine account in the Unemployment Trust fund under Section 903(f) of the Social Security Act. Money credited to the account of the State of Maine in the Unemployment Trust fund by the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States of America on July 29, 2009 pursuant to Section 903(f) of the Social Security Act may not be requisitioned from the State of Maine's account or used except for the payment of benefits and for the payment of expenses incurred for the administration of the State of Maine's unemployment compensation law and public employment offices. Money used for the payment of benefits is requisitioned as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 26, section 1162. Money requisitioned and used for the payment of expenses incurred for the administration of the State of Maine's unemployment compensation law and public employment offices requires a specific appropriation by the legislature as defined in Sec. 2. That use is only permissible if the expenses are incurred and the money is requisitioned after the date of enactment of an appropriation law that specifies the purpose(s) for which such money is appropriated and the amount(s) appropriated therefore. Any amount which may be obligated under such appropriation is limited to an amount which does not exceed the amount by which (i) the aggregate of the amounts transferred to the account of the State of Maine pursuant to Section 903 of the Social Security Act exceeds, (ii) the aggregate of the amounts used by the State of Maine

pursuant to this Act and charged against the amounts transferred to the account of the State of Maine.

For purposes of this section, the amounts obligated under an appropriation for the above-described administrative purposes shall be charged against transferred amounts at the exact time the obligation is entered into. The appropriation, obligation, and expenditure or other disposition of money appropriated under this subsection shall be accounted for in accordance with standards established by the United States Secretary of Labor. Money appropriated as provided herein for the payment of administration shall be requisitioned as needed for the payment of obligations incurred under such appropriation and, upon requisition, shall be deposited in the employment security administration fund from which such payments shall be made. Money so deposited shall, until expended, remain a part of the unemployment fund and, if it will not be immediately expended, shall be returned promptly to the account of the State of Maine in the Unemployment Trust Fund.

Sec. GG-2. Appropriating money for the purpose of maintaining the Maine unemployment compensation and public employment system. There is hereby appropriated out of funds made available to Maine under Section 903 of the Social Security Act, as amended, the sum of \$27,534,100, in accordance with Sec. 1, to be used, under the direction of the Maine Department of Labor, for the purpose of maintaining and operating the Maine unemployment compensation and public employment systems. The uses may include both personnel and non-personnel administrative costs required to administer the Unemployment Insurance Program, deliver employment assistance services through the Department of Labor's career center system and provide labor market information program services for workers and employers in the state. The amount obligated pursuant to this act shall not exceed at any time the amount by which the aggregate of the amounts transferred to the account of the State of Maine pursuant to Section 903 (f) of the federal Social Security Act exceeds the aggregate of the amounts obligated for administration and paid out for benefits and required by law to be charged against the amounts transferred to the account of the State of Maine.

PART GG SUMMARY

This Part authorizes the use of UI Modernization funds under the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act, Section 903(f) of the Social Security Act, for the purposes of operating the Maine unemployment compensation and public employment systems.

PART HH

Sec. HH-1. Carrying balances; Department of Labor apprenticeship program.

Notwithstanding any provision of law, at the end of each fiscal year the State Controller shall carry forward, to be used for the same purposes, any unexpended balance of the \$1,300,000 appropriation in the All Other line category contained in Part A for the expansion of Maine's Apprenticeship program remaining in the Department of Labor, Employment Services Activity program, General Fund account. 9-3

Sec. HH-2. Carrying balances; Department of Labor career exploration programs.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, at the end of each fiscal year the State Controller shall carry forward, to be used for the same purposes, any unexpended balance of the \$1,000,000 appropriation in the All Other line category contained in Part A for career exploration programs remaining in the Department of Labor, Employment Services Activity program, General Fund account. 9-3

PART HH SUMMARY

This Part authorizes the one-time funds appropriated in Part A for Department of Labor, Department of Economic and Community Development and Department of Education programs associated with apprenticeships, career exploration, workforce development and preschool programs, toward the goal of enhancing Maine's current and future workforce, to carry forward into the next fiscal year for the purposes for which they were intended.

PART JJ

Did not vote - See CJPS Committee Report Back

Sec. JJ-1. 5 MRSA §17851-A, sub-§1, ¶N, as enacted by PL 2019, c.537, §3, is amended to read:

N. Emergency communications specialists, emergency communications specialist – leads, emergency communications specialist – supervisors, emergency dispatch system administrators, and emergency dispatch system administrators in the employment of the Department of Public Safety on July 1, 2020 who elect to participate in the 1998 Special Plan or hired thereafter.

Sec. JJ-2. 5 MRSA §17851-A, sub-§1, ¶K, as amended by PL 2019, c. 482, §1, is further amended to read:

The State Fire Marshal or a state fire marshal inspector in the employment of the Department of Public Safety on January 1, 2000 or hired thereafter or, until June 30, 2020, a state fire marshal investigator, a state fire marshal senior investigator, a state fire marshal investigator sergeant or a state fire marshal investigator lieutenant in the employment of the Department of Public Safety on January 1, 2000 or hired thereafter; and

Sec. JJ-3. 5 MRSA §17851-B, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 482, Sec. 2., is amended to read:

Effective July 1, 2020, there is established a special retirement plan for fire marshal investigators, and fire marshal senior investigators, fire marshal sergeants, and fire marshal lieutenants referred to in this section as "the special plan." The special plan applies to a state fire marshal investigator, state fire marshal senior investigator, and state fire marshal sergeant and a state fire marshal lieutenant.

PART JJ SUMMARY

This Part clarifies the job classifications in the Department of Public Safety that are eligible to elect to participate in the 1998 Special Plan of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System. Under that plan, a person may retire at 55 years or age with 10 years of creditable service or may retire before 55 years of age with 25 years of creditable service.