



**State YMCA of Maine**  
**YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT**



***BILL # 2011 -109***

***Bill Sponsor:*** Devin Ward

***Bill Co-Sponsor(s):*** Elizabeth Coyne

***School / Club / YMCA:*** Maine School of Science and Mathematics

***Endorsed By:*** Daniel Melega

***Referred to the committee on:*** BUSINESS AND LABOR

**An Act Relating To:**

To Revise Chapter 505-A: RETIRED TEACHERS' HEALTH INSURANCE HEADING: PL 1989, C.  
878, PT. A, §46 (RPR)

***Be it enacted by the State YMCA of Maine's 2011 Youth in Government Program as follows:***

1. **SECTION 1:** The legislation will be revised to explicitly include all school in the state of Maine who
2. are funded more than \$10,000 per year by the state of Maine.
3. **SECTION 2:** The legislation will be revised to explicitly state that all public teachers may or may
4. not elect to be included in the "Maine Public Employees Retirement System".
5. **SECTION 2A:** Those public teachers who elect to not participate in the system noted in Section 2,
6. will participate in the national Social Security System.
7. **SECTION 3:** Section 2 of the legislation will be revised to state; "Any retired teacher who receives
8. a retirement benefit from the Maine Public Employees Retirement System is eligible for group
9. accident and sickness or health insurance, provided that the retired teacher has a minimum of 3 years
10. creditable service..."
11. **SECTION 3A:** Section 2 of the legislation currently states, "... provided that the retired teacher has
12. a minimum of 5 years creditable service..."
13. **SECTION 4:** The Section 2-A of the legislation will be removed entirely.
14. **SECTION 4A:** The Section 2-A of the legislation is as follows: "Any retired teacher eligible for
15. group accident and sickness or health insurance under subsection 2, or terminated teacher who does
16. not retire but... who becomes a member of the Legislature or who becomes employed by the
17. Legislature must be permitted to reenroll in the teachers' group plan within 90 days of the date the
18. retired teacher ceases to be a Legislator or terminates employment with the Legislature. The retired or
19. terminated teacher seeking to reenroll must show that continuous insurance coverage was maintained
20. from at least one year immediately prior to retirement from the school district to within 90 days of the
21. date of reenrollment."
22. **SECTION 5:** A section will be added to the legislation stating that the amount of retirement pay will
23. be determined by an actuary provided by the county in which the specified school district that the
24. teacher last taught in.
25. **SECTION 6:** The sections 2-B and 2-C of the legislation will be revised to include the stipulation
26. that the teacher must not terminate employment or break employment from the public school they
27. have most recently worked at, for more than 18 months directly following.
28. **SECTION 6A:** This restriction is lifted on condition that the individual has a legitimate notice from
29. a primary care physician stating that they were unable for that period of time lasting longer than 18
30. months.
31. **SECTION 7:** This bill will be reviewed in the first six months of 2013 by a committee appointed by
32. he Department of Education to evaluate the fiscal impact, its effect on Maine teachers, and if general
33. reaction has been positive or negative.

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**STATEMENT OF FACT:**

In the year 2007, 205.4 million dollars were spent by the department of education for public teacher retirement.

**JUSTIFICATION:**

The purpose in the creation of this bill is to make Maine a more attractive place for teachers to work. By expanding the bill to cover more teachers, while at the same time removing extraneous sections to only include teacher who have taught most recently, increases the overall incentive to be a public teacher in Maine.

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION:**

The financial impact of this bill would be approximately \$5,000,000. It would be difficult to estimate due to the unpredictability of the number of teachers who would choose Social Security over the “Maine Public Employees Retirement System”, and how the number of teachers who are retired and living in Maine will change over time.

**REFERENCES:**

<http://www.maine.gov/education/data/sfinstatewide/stateandlocalfundsgraph.pdf>

<http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/statutes/20-A/title20-Asec13451.html>

<http://www.maine.gov/education/data/tchretirement.html>

**BILL SUMMARY**

This bill will expand the Maine Public Employees Retirement System for teachers, to encourage more educators in Maine, while at the same time restricting the system to apply to only those who have been public teachers recently.



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**BILL # 2011 -209**

**Bill Sponsor:** Nicole Giggey

**Bill Co-Sponsor(s):** Imogen Page, David Reilley

**School / Club / YMCA:** The Maine School of Science and Math

**Endorsed By:** Daniel Melega

**Referred to the committee on:** EDUCATION

**An Act Relating To:**

To add more emphasis on gifted student programs in K-12 schools

**Be it enacted by the State YMCA of Maine's 2011 Youth in Government Program as follows:**

1. The state of Maine will grant approximately 2% of the total education budget toward funding gifted
2. programs in K-12 schools by shifting funding from underachieving student support services.
3. **SECTION 1:** \$10 million will be transferred from programs for underachieving and special needs
4. children to programs for gifted students. This adds to a total of 2% of the total education budget going
5. towards the preservation and improvement of gifted programs in Maine.

**STATEMENT OF FACT:**

Gifted programs are disappearing around the state and country due to a shifted focus onto children with learning disabilities due to the implementation of the No Child Left Behind act  
The Obama administration plans to allocate \$12.8 billion to special education programs for the 2011 budget.

In 2006, \$9.6 million of \$1.5 billion was put towards gifted programs, and the budget has only gotten higher. This is only .64% of the total budget.

The state of Maine's biennial budget for education in 2010-2011 is \$5.7 billion.  
10-20% of all high school dropouts test into a gifted range.

**JUSTIFICATION:**

An intention of this bill is to decrease the dropout rate of gifted students in the state of Maine. It also will improve the amount of intelligent children going into the work force, producing a more competitive and prepared generation

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION:**

The transfer of funds is within the already allocated education budget limits and so is just a transfer of focus. There would be approximately \$10,000 for printing costs.

**REFERENCES:**

<http://leftbrainrightbrain.co.uk/2010/02/obamas-disappointing-education-budget/>

[http://www.davidsongifted.org/db/Articles\\_id\\_10361.aspx](http://www.davidsongifted.org/db/Articles_id_10361.aspx)

<http://www2.ed.gov/news/pressreleases/2005/02/02072005.html>

[http://sunshinereview.org/index.php/Maine\\_state\\_budget](http://sunshinereview.org/index.php/Maine_state_budget)

**BILL SUMMARY**

This bill will shift approximately \$10 million dollars of already allotted education money from special needs programs to gifted student instruction. It will create more diversity among students and have a stronger base for the future work force.



**State YMCA of Maine**  
**YOUTH INGVERNMENT**



**BILL # 2011 -308**

**Bill Sponsor:** Imogen Page

**Bill Co-Sponsor(s):** Nicole Giggey, Devin Ward, Peter Taddeo

**School / Club / YMCA:** Maine School of Science and Mathematics

**Endorsed By:** Daniel Melega

**Referred to the commit ee on:** FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

**An Act Relating To:**

To require that taxes on tobacco products in the State of Maine be raised

**Be it enacted by the State YMCA of Maine's 2011 Youth in Government Program as follows:**

1. **SECTION 1:** The State of Maine will raise its cigarette tax (initiated in 1941) from \$2.00 to \$3.00
2. per pack of twenty cigarettes, and ensure that there is a tax of at least 30% of initial price on all other
3. 'tobacco products' as defined by the Maine Revenue Services.
4. **SECTION 2:** 75% of the revenue generated by this tax increase will be awarded to small Maine
5. agricultural businesses to assist them in growing and keeping their prices competitive. This is to
6. assure that fresh, local food is affordable to the citizens of Maine and to help keep money spent on
7. food within the state, rather than have it go to international corporations. 10% will fund free Quit
8. Smoking programs through Tobacco Free Maine, an organization assisting and educating Maine
9. citizens in quitting tobacco and the dangers of its use. The remaining 15% of revenue will go to the
10. state.

**STATEMENT OF FACT:**

Tobacco causes more deaths in the State of Maine than alcohol, AIDS, car crashes, illegal drugs, murders and suicides combined. Local foodservice businesses in Maine and throughout the United States have difficulty competing with large, public corporation department stores and supermarkets such as Wal-Mart. In the year 2005, with cigarette taxes set at \$2.00 per pack, the State of Maine collected \$91.9 million in all tobacco taxes.

**JUSTIFICATION:**

If taxes on tobacco are raised, public health will benefit because Maine citizens will purchase fewer tobacco products and will be able to purchase more fresh produce at lower costs. Another intention of this bill is to support and create agricultural jobs in Maine

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION:**

Assuming that tobacco sales in the State of Maine are approximately consistent with sales in 2005, an additional \$45.95 million will be collected. 75% or \$34,462,500 of this will be awarded to local agricultural businesses, 10% or 4,595,000 will be used to finance Tobacco Free Maine programs, and the remaining 15% or \$6,892,500 will go to the state.

**REFERENCES:**

<http://www.stateline.org/live/details/story?contentId=178571>

<http://www.tobaccofreemaine.org/explore>

[http://choosebangor.com/assets/Retail\\_Sales.pdf](http://choosebangor.com/assets/Retail_Sales.pdf)

**BILL SUMMARY**

The State of Maine will generate revenue for the purpose of facilitating subsidies on fresh produce sold by small farm-owners to the citizens of Maine by raising taxes on cigarettes and other tobacco products



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***BILL # 2011 --501***

***Bill Sponsor:*** Ryley Thompson

***Bill Co-Sponsor(s):*** Dawn Rush

***School / Club / YMCA*** Erskine Academy:

***Endorsed By:*** Lori Dube

***Referred to the committee on:*** **JUSTICE**

**An Act Relating To:**

Allow couples of the same sex to marry

***Be it enacted by the State YMCA of Maine's 2011 Youth in Government Program as follows:***

1. **SECTION 1:** The State of Maine will issue a law that will allow marriage of persons of the same sex.
2. same sex.
3. **SECTION 2:** This bill will ensure that marriage is the bond between two people rather than a man and a woman and that regardless of sex of the persons being married, they will be allowed to marry and will not be discriminated against because of their sexual orientation.
4. and a woman and that regardless of sex of the persons being married, they will be allowed to marry
5. and will not be discriminated against because of their sexual orientation.

**STATEMENT OF FACT:**

It is estimated that 2,300 same sex couples will be married in the first three years of the bill being active, and over 15,500 couples would come from out of state to become married bringing revenue from out of state to Maine. The United States Constitution guarantees equality for all, along with the statement all men are created equal. Any organization or individual authorized to perform marriages may continue to marry only heterosexual couples Without being sued for choosing not to marry couples of the same sex.

**JUSTIFICATION:**

Couples of the same sexual orientation have been discriminated against because of people's religion or principles, but neither should matter because religion and government are not mixed. This bill comes to the principles of separation of church and state along with the statement "all men are created equal"

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION:**

In February 2009, an estimate of \$60 million additional revenue from same sex marriages and related tourism over the next three years. An additional \$3.6 million would come to the state from increase of sales tax, and marriage licenses

**REFERENCES:**

<http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/document/>

<http://www.usconstitution.net/const.html>

[http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/bills\\_124th/billtexts/SP038401.asp](http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/bills_124th/billtexts/SP038401.asp)

<http://www.ncsl.org/default.aspx?tabid=16430>

**BILL SUMMARY**

This bill if decided to take effect, will allow the legal marriage between persons of the same sex. If decided to take effect the state of Maine will gain additional revenue because of same sex marriages and people moving to Maine to become married.



State YMCA of Maine  
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**BILL # 2011 -607**

**Bill Sponsor:** James Lee

**Bill Co-Sponsor(s):** Isabelle O'Brien

**School / Club / YMCA:** Maine School of Science and Mathematics

**Endorsed By:** Daniel Melega

**Referred to the committee on:** NATURAL RESOURCES

**An Act Relating To:**  
Supporting Geothermal Energy

*Be it enacted by the State YMCA of Maine's 2011 Youth in Government Program as follows:*

1. **SECTION 1:** Maine will tax \$2 per year for every ton of CO2 emitted over the cap or not covered
2. by CO2 allowances produced by major electrical generation companies.
3. A. "Major Maine electrical company" is a company that sells more than 10% of electricity generated
4. on grid, or produces > 25 MWe.
5. B. "Cap" is 1,000,000 tons of CO2 per year for every major electrical company not covered by
6. allowance.
7. **SECTION 2:** 60% of the money will go to grants for geothermal energy projects, and the other
8. 40% will go to the state.
9. **SECTION 3:** A business tax cut of 5-10% will be awarded to every major electrical company that
10. has 10% or more of its energy produced by geothermal energy that will stimulate the economy.
11. **SECTION 4:** Geothermal energy projects will be directly regulated by a state committee.
12. **SECTION 5:** Projects will be completed by in Maine drilling companies and run by in state
13. electrical workers.
14. **SECTION 6:** In order to prevent a substantial increase in electrical costs, I propose this bill be
15. enacted in five years

**STATEMENT OF FACT:**

Geothermal energy is reliable and renewable. The plants have less than 9% of the emissions of other plants and can be made in multiple geographic locations with new extraction techniques

**JUSTIFICATION:**

The five year delay will give time for electrical companies to generate 10% or more green energy and receive the tax cut reducing cost, but still generate significant revenue because of project delays and heavy reliance on coal. CO2 emissions from fossil fuels, like coal or petroleum, are entirely imported from out of the state. Green energy can be produced in state and generate many jobs.

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION:**

Current major electrical utilities produce over one million tons of emissions every year, and there are only five major electrical utilities are classified as a major electrical utility. This is around 1.4 million tons of CO2, so 400,000 tons over the limit which equates to \$800,000 yearly per electrical utility; in all that is 4 million dollars. Subtracting 10,000 for printing and distribution the state stands to make around \$1,600,000, and stimulate the economy with \$2,400,000 with green energy projects. It is projected to remain this way for ten years.

**REFERENCES:**

[http://www2.bc.edu/~kafka/Why\\_Quakes/why\\_quakes.html](http://www2.bc.edu/~kafka/Why_Quakes/why_quakes.html) Website

<http://dspace.mit.edu/bitstream/handle/1721.1/31238/MIT-EL-77-010-C-05238394.pdf?sequence=4> Article

<http://www.maine.gov/dep/bep/2008/5-1-2008/Ch%20158%20Board%20Memo.pdf> Website

**BILL SUMMARY**

Maine will support geothermal energy by putting a tax on CO2 emissions in addition to RGGI CO2 allowances.