

1 2 3	(Governor's Bill) SECOND REGULAR SESSION
4 5	ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE
6 7	Legislative Document No. 2067
8 9	H. P. 2183 Referred to the Committee on Labor suggested and ordered printed. EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk Presented by Representative Joyce of Portland.
10 11 12	STATE OF MAINE
13 14 15	IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-TWO
16 17 18	AN ACT to Open State Collective Bargaining to the Public.
19	Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:
20 21	Sec. 1. 1 MRSA §405, sub-§6, ¶D, first sentence, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 758, is amended to read:
22 23 24 25 26	Negotiations Except as provided by Title 26, section 979-D, subsection 6, negotiations between the repre- sentatives of a public employer and public employees may be open to the public provided both parties agree to conduct negotiations in open sessions.
27 28	Sec. 2. 26 MRSA §979-D, sub-§3, ¶C, as enacted by PL 1973, c. 774, is amended to read:
29 30 31 32	C. The fact-finding proceedings shall be as provided by section 965, subsection 3 <u>, except that the findings</u> and recommendations of the fact-finding panel shall become public immediately.

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Sec. 3. 26 MRSA §979-D, sub-§6 is enacted to read:

2 6. Open bargaining. Collective bargaining for compre-3 hensive agreements under this chapter shall be open to the 4 public. This includes negotiations, mediation, fact-finding and interest arbitration. Notwithstanding any other provi-5 sion of law, notice of the proceedings shall consist of a 6 posting giving the time, place, parties and general subject matter at issue, no later than one day in advance at a con-7 8 spicuous location in the Statehouse. Meetings among the 9 representatives of one party or between one party and a 10 11 mediator, fact-finder or interest arbitrator shall not be 12 open to the public.

13 Sec. 4. 26 MRSA §979-P, as enacted by PL 1979, c. 125, 14 §2, is repealed.

STATEMENT OF FACT

16 This bill opens state collective bargaining to the 17 public. The traditional policy of collective bargaining 18 behind closed doors is contrary to the public's right to 19 know how the decisions to spend their tax dollars are made. 20 An open bargaing process will lead to a more effective and 21 responsible bargaining process.

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