

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

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ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 947**

S. P. 317

In Senate, March 5, 1979

Referred to the Committee on Labor. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

Presented by Senator Farley of York.

MAY M. ROSS, Secretary of the Senate

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-NINE

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**AN ACT to Continue Medical Benefits to Employees During Collective Bargaining  
Negotiations, Lockouts, Strikes and Other Job Actions.**

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

26 MRSA § 8 is enacted to read:

**§ 8. Continuation of benefits during collective bargaining negotiations, lockouts, strikes and other job actions**

No individual, firm, corporation or other entity engaged in private business shall, during the course of collective bargaining negotiations, including impasse, fact finding, mediation and arbitration or during a lockout, strike or other job action, eliminate, suspend or reduce, alter or permit the elimination, suspension, reduction or alteration of any medical, health, accident or life insurance coverage or benefits available to its employees prior to the negotiations, lockout, strike or other job action by virtue of their employment, whether provided by collective bargaining contract, individual employment contract or other employment agreement or arrangement.

## STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill provides that employers may not suspend, alter or terminate employees' medical, health, accident or life insurance benefits during collective bargaining negotiations, lockouts, strikes or other job actions. It protects basic needs of employees and eliminates the possibility that an employer may use such tactics to pressure employees to their disadvantage.