

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 901

H. P. 764

House of Representatives, February 18, 1981

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Jalbert of Lewiston.

Cosponsor: Representative P. Paradis of Augusta.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-ONE

AN ACT Relating to Arbitration under the State Employees Labor Relations Act.

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

26 MRSA § 979-D, sub-§ 4, ¶ D-1 is enacted to read:

D-1. Notwithstanding paragraph D, for a 2-year period following enactment of this paragraph, the determination by the arbitrator shall be final and binding on the parties, subject to submission of cost items to the Legislature pursuant to subsection 1, paragraph E, subparagraph (3). This paragraph is repealed 2 years from its initial effective date.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to permit determinations by an arbitrator with respect to issues over salaries, pensions and insurance to be binding on the executive and the employee bargaining agents in state employee collective bargaining. Under the State Employees Labor Relations Act, such contract items, like other cost items, are required to be submitted to the Legislature for approval. With the present advisory nature of arbitration of such issues, impasse between the executive and employee bargaining agents on these matters can forestall submission to the Legislature indefinitely. This bill would foster improved labor relations by providing a means for resolution of issues which the parties have been

unable to resolve in order to permit timely submission of cost items to the Legislature.

The bill sunsets this provision after an initial trial period of 2 years.