

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 1534

6
7 S.P. 506

In Senate, April 29, 1983

8 Submitted by the Department of Personnel pursuant to Joint Rule 24.
9 Referred to the Committee on Labor. Sent down for concurrence and
ordered printed.

10 JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator Sewall of Lincoln.

11 Cosponsors: Representative Scarpino of St. George, Representative
Roderick of Oxford and Representative Willey of Hampden.

12 STATE OF MAINE
13

14 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
15 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-THREE
16

17 AN ACT to Open State Collective
18 Bargaining to the Public.
19

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

22 Sec. 1. 1 MRSA §405, sub-§6, ¶D, as enacted by
23 PL 1975, c. 758, is repealed and the following
24 enacted in its place:

25 D. Except as provided by Title 26, section
26 979-D, subsection 6, negotiations between the
27 representatives of a public employer and public
28 employees may be open to the public provided that
29 both parties agree to conduct negotiations in
30 open sessions. Discussion of labor contracts and
31 proposals and meetings between a public agency
32 and its negotiators;

33 Sec. 2. 26 MRSA §979-D, sub-§3, ¶C, as enacted
34 by PL 1973, c. 774, is amended to read:

1 C. The fact-finding proceedings shall be as pro-
2 vided by section 965, subsection 3, except that
3 the findings and recommendations of the fact-
4 finding panel shall become public immediately.

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

7 6. Open bargaining. Collective bargaining for
8 comprehensive agreements under this chapter shall be
9 open to the public. This includes negotiations,
10 mediation, fact-finding and interest arbitration.
11 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, notice of
12 the proceedings shall consist of a posting giving the
13 time, place, parties and general subject matter at
14 issue, no later than one day in advance at a conspic-
15 uous location in the Statehouse. Meetings among the
16 representatives of one party or between one party and
17 a mediator, fact-finder or interest arbitrator shall
18 not be open to the public.

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20 c. 125, §2, is repealed.

21 STATEMENT OF FACT

22 This bill opens state collective bargaining to
23 the public. The traditional policy of collective
24 bargaining behind closed doors is contrary to the
25 public's right to know how the decisions to spend
26 their tax dollars are made. An open bargaining pro-
27 cess will lead to a more effective and responsible
28 bargaining process.

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