

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(New Draft of H.P. 408, L.D. 491)

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1673

H.P. 1263

House of Representatives, May 24, 1983

Reported by the Majority from the Committee on Labor and printed under Joint Rule 2.

Original bill sponsored by Representative Tuttle of Sanford. Cosponsored by Senator Clark of Cumberland, Senator Dutremble of York and Representative Michael of Auburn.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to Amend the State Employees  
Labor Relations Act.

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

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

C. The fact-finding proceedings shall be as provided by section 965, subsection 3, except that the issues to be submitted by the parties to the fact-finding panel shall be limited to controversies over cost items and the panel shall have a period of 90 days in which to hear the contending parties to the controversy. That 90-day period shall begin upon the first scheduled hearing called by the panel. The fact-finding panel shall determine which items are cost items.

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STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this new draft is to shorten the fact-finding process under the State Employees Labor Relations Act in 2 ways.

First, the issues that may be presented to the fact-finding panel by either labor or management are limited to controversies over cost items. This will reduce the volume of issues that the panel must consider and because cost items are usually the major disputed issues, recommendations by the panel should increase the pressure on both sides to come to agreement.

Second, once the fact-finding panel is chosen and holds its first scheduled hearing, it is limited to a 90-day period in which to hear the contending parties rather than an unlimited time as at present. This will provide a reasonable time frame in which to conduct hearings, yet limits the length of the process. This will not restrict the panel's time to consider arguments or to prepare their recommendations.

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