

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
118TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1060, L.D. 1498, Bill, "An Act to Require Step-pay Increases in Wages in Expired Collective Bargaining Agreements"

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 1.

Further amend the bill in section 2 in that part designated "~~§979-R.~~" in the first paragraph in the first line (page 1, line 19 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "When" and inserting in its place the following: 'In the absence of an agreement to the contrary, when'

Further amend the bill in section 2 in that part designated "~~§979-R.~~" in the first paragraph in the last 2 lines (page 1, lines 23 and 24 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "before a new collective bargaining agreement takes effect" and inserting in its place the following: 'for a reasonable time thereafter'

Further amend the bill by inserting after section 2 the following:

'Sec. 3. 26 MRSA §1036 is enacted to read:

§1036. Wage increases in expired collective bargaining agreements

In the absence of an agreement to the contrary, when a collective bargaining agreement has expired, public employers shall pay wages according to the wage plan of the expired

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A.W.S.

agreement, including any pay raises derived from a wage-escalator clause in the expired agreement, during the period of mediation, fact-finding or arbitration and for a reasonable time thereafter.

Sec. 4. 26 MRSA §1295 is enacted to read:

§1295. Wage increases in expired collective bargaining agreements

In the absence of an agreement to the contrary, when a collective bargaining agreement has expired, public employers shall pay wages according to the wage plan of the expired agreement, including any pay raises derived from a wage-escalator clause in the expired agreement, during the period of mediation, fact-finding or arbitration and for a reasonable time thereafter.

Sec. 5. Application. This Act applies only to collective bargaining contracts negotiated after October 1, 1997.'

Further amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section number to read consecutively.

Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the summary the following:

FISCAL NOTE

Although generally in the past the State has voluntarily complied with the provisions of this bill, its effect on the State's future collective bargaining costs can not be determined.

The bill may result in additional salary costs to the University of Maine System estimated to be \$1,000,000 annually. The system has indicated that it would request additional General Fund appropriations to provide for these costs.'

SUMMARY

This amendment removes from the bill changes to the laws governing municipal public employees labor relations and amends the laws governing University of Maine System labor relations and judicial employees labor relations. With the amendment, the bill requires the State, the judicial branch and public employers subject to laws governing the University of Maine System to continue to pay wage increases according to the wage plan of an expired collective bargaining agreement until impasse is

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2 reached. The amendment permits the parties to negotiate a
specific agreement for an alternative method for handling wage
4 increases following the expiration of the collective bargaining
agreement. An application section limits the scope of the bill
to those contracts negotiated after October 1, 1997.

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