

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 449

H.P. 325

House of Representatives, February 16, 2021

**An Act To Strengthen the Ability of Public Employers and Unions
To Negotiate**

Received by the Clerk of the House on February 11, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Labor and Housing pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative McCREA of Fort Fairfield.
Cosponsored by Representatives: DUNPHY of Old Town, Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, GROHOSKI of Ellsworth, MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth, ROBERTS of South Berwick, SYLVESTER of Portland, WARREN of Hallowell, Senator: President JACKSON of Aroostook.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 26 MRSA §965, sub-§1, ¶B**, as amended by PL 2009, c. 107, §5, is further
3 amended to read:

4 B. To meet within 10 days after receipt of written notice from the other party
5 requesting a meeting for collective bargaining purposes, ~~as long as the parties have not~~
6 ~~otherwise agreed in a prior written contract~~. This obligation is suspended during the
7 period between a referendum approving a new regional school unit and the operational
8 date of the regional school unit, as long as the parties meet at reasonable times during
9 that period;

10 **SUMMARY**

11 Current law provides that the obligation of a public employer and a bargaining agent
12 to bargain collectively includes their mutual obligation to meet within 10 days after receipt
13 of written notice from the other party requesting a meeting for collective bargaining
14 purposes, as long as the parties have not otherwise agreed in a prior written contract. This
15 bill removes the exception for the case in which the parties have otherwise agreed in a prior
16 written contract.