

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1095

H.P. 690

House of Representatives, March 9, 2023

**An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Public Sector Bargaining in
Public Schools by Providing an Exemption to the Time Limit on
Negotiations**

Reference to the Committee on Labor and Housing suggested and ordered printed.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative ROEDER of Bangor.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 26 MRSA §965, sub-§1, ¶B-1**, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 752, §2, is
3 amended to read:

4 B-1. For a public employer that is a school ~~district~~ administrative unit and the
5 bargaining agent representing ~~teachers~~ employees within that ~~school-district unit~~, to
6 meet within 10 days after receipt of written notice from the other party requesting a
7 meeting for collective bargaining purposes, as long as the parties have not otherwise
8 agreed in a prior written contract. This exception does not apply in circumstances
9 relating to wages, hours, working conditions or contract grievance arbitration. This
10 obligation is suspended during the period between a referendum approving a new
11 regional school unit and the operational date of the regional school unit, as long as the
12 parties meet at reasonable times during that period;

13 **SUMMARY**

14 Current law provides that the obligation of a public employer that is a school district
15 and a bargaining agent representing teachers to bargain collectively includes their mutual
16 obligation to meet within 10 days after receipt of written notice from the other party
17 requesting a meeting for collective bargaining purposes. This bill changes the scope of the
18 law from school districts to school administrative units and from teachers to employees of
19 the school administrative unit. It also adds an exception to the mutual obligation to meet
20 if the parties have otherwise agreed in a prior written contract. It provides that this
21 exception does not apply in circumstances relating to wages, hours, working conditions or
22 contract grievance arbitration.