

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-TWO

H.P. 325 - L.D. 449

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

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

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

B. ~~To~~ Except as provided in paragraph B-1, to meet within 10 days after receipt of written notice from the other party requesting a meeting for collective bargaining purposes, as long as the parties have not otherwise agreed in a prior written contract. This obligation is suspended during the period between a referendum approving a new regional school unit and the operational date of the regional school unit, as long as the parties meet at reasonable times during that period;

Sec. 2. 26 MRSA §965, sub-§1, ¶B-1 is enacted to read:

B-1. For a public employer that is a school district and the bargaining agent representing teachers within that school district, to meet within 10 days after receipt of written notice from the other party requesting a meeting for collective bargaining purposes. This obligation is suspended during the period between a referendum approving a new regional school unit and the operational date of the regional school unit, as long as the parties meet at reasonable times during that period;

Sec. 3. Reimbursement for certain collective bargaining costs. The Department of Education shall develop a process to provide reimbursement to those school administrative units that, but for the requirement in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 26, section 965, subsection 1, paragraph B-1 that a school administrative unit and bargaining unit representing teachers collectively bargain within 10 days of receipt of written notice even if otherwise agreed to in a prior written contract, would not otherwise engage in collective bargaining. Reimbursement must be provided to those school administrative units at 90% of the legal and other expenses incurred by those school administrative units to meet and engage in collective bargaining.

Sec. 4. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF

State Mandate Reimbursement - Collective Bargaining N399

Initiative: Provides ongoing funds to reimburse certain local school administrative units for 90% of the legal and other costs to meet and negotiate within 10 days after a written notice from the other party is made due to the exception to the mutual obligation to meet requirement in a collective bargaining agreement being repealed.

GENERAL FUND	2021-22	2022-23
All Other	\$0	\$52,200
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<hr/> \$0	<hr/> \$52,200