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An Act To Protect State Employees When Their Contracts Have Expired

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

Sec. 1. 26 MRSA §979-T is enacted to read:

§ 979-T. Obligations during interim between contracts

During the interim after the expiration of a collective bargaining agreement and before the effective date of any subsequent collective bargaining agreement:

1. Merit increases. State employees covered by the expired collective bargaining agreement remain eligible for and must receive merit increases in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in the expired collective bargaining agreement; and

2. Health insurance premiums. The public employer of state employees covered by the expired collective bargaining agreement shall pay any increase in any employee health insurance premiums occurring during the interim.

SUMMARY

This bill provides that, during an interim between the expiration of a state employee collective bargaining agreement and before the effective date of any subsequent collective bargaining agreement, state employees covered by the expired collective bargaining agreement remain eligible for and must receive merit increases in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in the expired collective bargaining agreement and the public employer is required to pay any increase in employee health insurance premiums occurring during the interim.