



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1922

S.P. 784

In Senate, May 11, 2023

An Act to Allow Bargaining Agents for Public Sector Unions to Merge

(AFTER DEADLINE)

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D M Grant".

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by President JACKSON of Aroostook.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 26 MRSA §967, sub-§3** is enacted to read:

3 **3. Merger of bargaining agents.** Two or more bargaining agents who are certified
4 by the executive director of the board and who are members or affiliates of the same public
5 employee organization may elect to merge. Bargaining agents seeking to merge shall file
6 with the executive director of the board, or a designee, a petition describing the proposed
7 merger. On receipt of a petition under this subsection, the executive director of the board
8 shall conduct an election among the employees represented by the petitioning bargaining
9 agents in which the only question on the ballot is the proposed merger of the bargaining
10 agents. On an affirmative vote of the majority of the employees represented by each
11 petitioning bargaining agent, the executive director of the board shall order the merger.
12 After a merger is ordered, the parties to a contract in which one other party to that contract
13 is one of the merged bargaining agents shall honor the terms of the contract unless the
14 public employer and the merged bargaining agent agree to different terms.

15 **SUMMARY**

16 This bill allows 2 or more bargaining agents who are certified by the Executive Director
17 of the Maine Labor Relations Board and who are members or affiliates of the same public
18 employee organization to merge.