



# Administrative Office of the Courts

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## **Judicial Branch testimony neither for nor against LD 1588, An Act to Provide Public Sector Labor Unions Reasonable Access to Information Regarding Employees:**

Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder, members of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing, my name is Julie Finn and I represent the Judicial Branch. I would like to provide testimony and comments regarding this bill.

LD 1588, in part, expands the rights of bargaining agents of public sector unions for access to personal contact information about members of a bargaining unit from information regarding newly hired employees to, upon request, personal contact information regarding all other employees. The collective bargaining agreements negotiated between the Maine State Employees Association (MSEA) and the Judicial Branch contain the following provision:

### **ARTICLE 18. EMPLOYEE DATA (2015)**

The Judicial Branch shall furnish to MSEA, upon request, but not more than quarterly, and at Association expense, a computer listing of current information, specified hereinafter, for each employee in positions covered by this Agreement. The computer listing shall contain, to the extent practicable, the name, address, Social Security number (or other unique identifier), position title, step and grade level, worksite, date of hire, home phone number and work phone number for each unit employee. Additionally, the Judicial Branch shall furnish to MSEA and c.c. to the Field Representative the above information for all new employees within two (2) weeks of their date of hire. MSEA will be notified within two (2) weeks following the separation of an employee of the name and Social Security number (or other unique identifier). MSEA shall indemnify, defend and hold the Judicial Branch harmless against all claims and suits that may arise as a result of the Judicial Branch's furnishing such listing to the Association.

Article 18, which appears in all of the Judicial Branch collective bargaining agreements, covers the same issues presented by LD 1588. The language of Article 18 provides more detail and

information than is contained in LD 1588. Specifically, Article 18 requires that information regarding new and departing employees be provided within two weeks whereas LD 1588 allows 30 days.

In addition, the provision in the contract states that the information will be provided “upon request, but not more than quarterly.” The timeliness requirement is important to our Human Resources staff by ensuring that frequent requests do not become overly burdensome

I wanted to raise these issues with the committee to ensure that any discrepancies might be addressed.

Thank you for your time and consideration.