

2019 -- H 5440

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

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A N A C T

RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS

Introduced By: Representatives Price, Roberts, Filippi, and Quattrocchi

Date Introduced: February 14, 2019

Referred To: House Labor

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 28-7-14 of the General Laws in Chapter 28-7 entitled "Labor
2 Relations Act" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **28-7-14. ~~Exclusive representation of employees.~~ Exclusive representation and**
4 **collective bargaining.**

5 (a) Representatives designated or selected for the purposes of collective bargaining by the
6 majority of the employees in a unit appropriate for those purposes, or by the majority of the
7 employees voting in an election conducted pursuant to §§ 28-7-15 -- 28-7-19, shall be the
8 exclusive representatives of all the employees in the appropriate unit for the purposes of
9 collective bargaining in respect to rates of pay, wages, hours of employment, or other conditions
10 of employment; provided, that employees, directly or through representatives, shall have the right
11 at any time to present grievances to their employer.

12 (b) Every proposed new collective bargaining agreement, and any amendments to new or
13 existing collective bargaining agreements, shall be conspicuously posted on the board's website
14 prior to execution.

15 SECTION 2. Section 45-5-22 of the General Laws in Chapter 45-5 entitled "Councils and
16 Governing Bodies" is hereby amended to read as follows:

17 **45-5-22. Collective bargaining fiscal impact statements.**

18 (a) Prior to executing any collective bargaining agreement between a city or town and
19 representatives of police personnel, firefighters, and/or other municipal employees, (other than

1 teachers and/or other school employees), the city or town council shall prepare or cause to be
2 prepared a collective bargaining fiscal impact statement. These statements shall set forth, in dollar
3 amounts, estimates of the fiscal impact, during the term of the proposed agreement. No comment
4 or opinion relative to the merits of the terms of the contract shall be included, except that
5 technical or mechanical errors or defects may be noted.

6 (b) The fiscal impact statement and the ~~awarded~~ proposed contract shall be publicized
7 and shall be made immediately available ~~upon~~ prior to ratification of the contract.

8 SECTION 3. Section 45-9-9 of the General Laws in Chapter 45-9 entitled "Budget
9 Commissions" is hereby amended to read as follows:

10 **45-9-9. Collective bargaining agreements.**

11 (a) Notwithstanding chapter 7 of title 28 or any other general or special law or any charter
12 or local ordinance to the contrary, new collective bargaining agreements, and any amendments, to
13 new or existing collective bargaining agreements, (collectively, "collective bargaining
14 agreements") entered into by the city, town, or fire district or the school department, shall be
15 subject to the approval of the fiscal overseer, budget commission, or receiver if the fiscal
16 overseer, budget commission, or receiver is in effect at the time. No collective bargaining
17 agreement shall be approved under this section unless the fiscal overseer, budget commission, or
18 receiver has participated in the negotiation of the collective bargaining agreement and provides
19 written certification to the director of revenue that after an evaluation of all pertinent financial
20 information reasonably available, the city's, town's, or fire district's financial resources and
21 revenues are, and will continue to be, adequate to support such collective bargaining agreement
22 without a detrimental impact on the provision of municipal or fire district services. A decision, by
23 the fiscal overseer, budget commission, or receiver, to disapprove of a collective bargaining
24 agreement under this section shall be made in a report to the parties; provided, however, that the
25 report shall specify the disapproved portions of the agreement and the supporting reasons for the
26 disapproval. This section shall not be construed to authorize a fiscal overseer, a budget
27 commission, or a receiver under this chapter to reject or alter any existing collective bargaining
28 agreement, unless by agreement, during the term of such collective bargaining agreement.

29 (b) Every proposed new collective bargaining agreement, and any amendments to new or
30 existing collective bargaining agreements, shall be conspicuously posted on the municipality's
31 website prior to execution.

32 SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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1 This act would require that collective bargaining agreements would be posted on
2 government websites prior to execution.

3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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