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Title: **Maine, State of and Operations Maintenance and Support Services Bargaining Unit, Maine State Employees Association, Service Employees International Union (SEIU), AFL-CIO-CLC, Local 1989 (2003) (MOA)**

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AGREEMENT

between

THE STATE OF MAINE

and

THE MAINE STATE  
EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION  
LOCAL 1989, SEIU, AFL-CIO, CLC

OPERATIONS  
MAINTENANCE  
AND SUPPORT SERVICES  
BARGAINING UNIT

2003-2005

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## **PREAMBLE**

Whereas, the Executive Branch of the State of Maine (hereinafter referred to as "State" or "employer") and the Maine State Employees Association, Service Employees International Union, Local 1989 (hereinafter referred to as "MSEA-SEIU") desire to establish a constructive, cooperative and harmonious relationship; to avoid any interruption or interference with the operations of the employer; to promote effective service and quality of work life towards the accomplishment of the missions of the State; and to establish an equitable and peaceful procedure for the resolution of differences;

Therefore, this Agreement by and between the parties is entered into as of October 13, 2003.

## **ARTICLE 1. UNION RECOGNITION**

Pursuant to the Maine Labor Relations Board certification dated January 5, 1978, the State recognizes the Maine State Employees Association (MSEA-SEIU) as the sole and exclusive representative for the purpose of representation and negotiations with respect to wages, hours of work and other conditions of employment for all employees included in the Operations, Maintenance and Support Services Bargaining Unit.

In the event of a dispute between the parties as to future inclusions or exclusions from the unit resulting from the establishment of new or changed classifications or titles, either party to this Agreement may apply to the Maine Labor Relations Board for resolution of the dispute.

Employees who are employed on a seasonal basis, i.e., for regularly recurring seasonal periods of three (3) months or more, shall be covered by the provisions of this Agreement upon the completion of six (6) months employment, subject to any special provisions relating to their employment. In order to qualify, such six (6) months must be worked in not more than three (3) consecutive years and only time in pay status during such seasons shall count. Employment time of persons outside State service who are on acting capacity assignment to a seasonal position, and employment time of persons holding a seasonal intermittent position shall not count towards the completion of such six (6) months.

Part-time employees will be covered by the provisions of this Agreement after completion of six (6) months of service except for the provision for dismissal for just cause. The just cause provision for dismissal shall apply after completion of 1,040 compensated hours exclusive of overtime hours. All benefits provided to part-time employees shall be prorated to the extent required by State law.

Temporary, seasonal and on-call employees, excluded by law from the bargaining unit, include project employees, seasonal employees not covered by the preceding paragraphs, persons from outside State service who are on acting capacity assignment, and intermittent employees. Project employees are employees appointed to a project position which is restricted to a planned work program to be completed within a specified period of time and which is not regularly recurring. Intermittent employees are employees who are appointed for a period of time on a sporadic basis and who work not more than one thousand forty (1,040) hours in any consecutive twelve (12) month period beginning with the date of hire or anniversary of date of hire.

Any employee designated as intermittent, who works in excess of the limits set out above and who works more than 1,040 regularly scheduled hours during the period since appointment as an intermittent employee without a break in service due to resignation or dismissal shall be covered by the terms of this Agreement. The sporadic periods such an employee is not in pay status because of the sporadic nature of the position shall not be considered to be a break in service. Where a legislative position count permits, such employee shall be placed in a

permanent or limited period full-time or part-time position as appropriate, provided that he or she is eligible for appointment. If necessary, the employee may reopen the appropriate register to establish eligibility.

Nothing in this Article shall be interpreted as removing any rights or benefits of temporary, intermittent, project or seasonal employees provided under Title 5, MRSA, Sections 553-A and 559, Public Law 667, 1978, or any other provision of law or rule.

## **ARTICLE 2. ACCESS TO EMPLOYEES**

MSEA-SEIU shall have access to employees covered by this Agreement to carry out its legal responsibilities as a bargaining agent as provided for in this Article.

MSEA-SEIU's representatives will be granted reasonable access to employees during employees' working hours for the purpose of investigating and processing grievances and for the purposes of administering this Agreement. Such access will be subject to the representative providing the appropriate State representative with advanced notice of the visit. Such access will not disrupt State operations or violate agency security procedures. If access needs to be temporarily delayed for special reasons, those reasons shall be explained to the MSEA-SEIU representative.

Any MSEA-SEIU representative may have access to employees in this unit for the purpose of explaining MSEA-SEIU programs and benefits during employees' non-working time, e.g., breaks, lunch periods and after hours, provided such access does not interfere with State operations. Such access shall be to non-work areas.

## **ARTICLE 3. ACTING CAPACITY**

### **1. Temporary Assignments**

When an employee is assigned temporarily by his/her appointing authority to a job for which he/she is qualified in a higher pay grade for a period of five (5) days or his/her regular workweek, whichever is less, the employee shall be paid retroactively from the initial date of the temporary transfer for the duration of the temporary assignment. The employee shall be paid as if he/she had been promoted during such assignment. In no event may an employee acquire any status in a higher classification as a result of his/her temporary assignment. Acting capacity assignments shall not be made on an arbitrary or capricious basis. Employees shall not be rotated in acting capacity in an arbitrary or capricious manner in order to avoid payment of acting capacity pay.

This Article shall not be used in lieu of the proper processing of any request for reclassification or reallocation of a position pursuant to the Personnel Rules and the Reclassifications Article, or the filling of a vacancy pursuant to the Personnel Rules and the Seniority Article.

## **2. Seasonal Employees – Off Season Assignments**

A seasonal employee who accepts a temporary or acting capacity assignment during his or her off season shall be eligible to accrue vacation, sick leave, and holiday benefits upon appointment to the temporary or acting capacity assignment. Vacation, sick leave, or holiday benefits accrued in an employee's regular seasonal position shall not overlap into benefits accrued in the temporary or acting capacity assignment for the same period of time. Full-time seasonal employees shall accrue no more than eight (8) hours of sick leave in any one month, pro-rated for part-time employees.

## **ARTICLE 4. APPROVAL OF LEGISLATURE**

The parties hereto agree to jointly support any legislative action necessary for implementation of any provision of this Agreement. If the Legislature rejects any provision submitted to it, the entire Agreement shall be returned to the parties for further bargaining.

## **ARTICLE 5. BEREAVEMENT LEAVE**

Each employee covered by this Agreement shall be allowed up to five (5) days leave with pay, for absence resulting from the death of a spouse or significant other living in the same household with the employee, child, stepchild, parent or stepparent and up to three (3) days of leave with full pay for absences resulting from the death of other members of the employee's immediate family, as defined below.

"Other members of the immediate family" shall mean the parents of the spouse, guardian, brothers, stepbrothers, sisters, stepsisters, wards, grandparents and grandchildren of the employee.

"Significant other" means that a relationship exists between two people, neither of whom is married, that is intended to remain indefinitely and where there is joint responsibility for each other's common welfare, there are significant shared financial obligations, and there is a shared primary residence. This relationship must have existed for at least two (2) continuous years before benefits under this Article may be provided.

## **ARTICLE 6. BULLETIN BOARDS**

The State shall continue to provide present bulletin board space for the use of MSEA-SEIU at each work location where bulletin boards are presently provided for the purpose of posting bulletins, notices and other materials in conformance with this Article. The posting of any MSEA-SEIU materials shall be restricted to such bulletin board space only except that, in each work location where bulletin board space is not provided for MSEA-SEIU, the State shall designate an appropriate alternative space where such materials may be posted.

In no instance may MSEA-SEIU post any material which is profane, obscene or defamatory to the State, its representatives or any individual, or which constitutes campaign material between competing employee organizations if it is determined that the posting of such material would violate any obligation of the State for neutrality. MSEA-SEIU is solely responsible for the accuracy and ethical standards of any material posted pursuant to this Article. The State retains the right to remove any materials in violation of this Article.

All posted MSEA-SEIU materials shall be signed by an authorized representative of the Association or stamped with an official MSEA-SEIU logo.

## **ARTICLE 7. CHILD CARE**

**A.** Full-time employees employed as of March 1 who meet all of the following criteria shall be eligible for a lump sum payment each year. Eligible employees may apply for this payment between March 1 and April 15 of each year. Payment shall be made within thirty (30) days of receipt of the completed application. Any application received after April 15 will be considered on a case by case basis and shall not be arbitrarily rejected.

- 1.** Employed full time during the entire previous calendar year;
- 2.** Full-time State employees employed for more than six (6) months but less than twelve (12) months of the previous calendar year are eligible for this program on a prorated basis;
- 3.** Part-time and seasonal employees covered by this Agreement who have completed one thousand forty (1,040) hours of regularly scheduled work in any calendar year in which they qualify on a prorated basis; and
- 4.** Had a minimum of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) employment-related child care expenses for the previous calendar year.

**B.** Employees must submit a copy of their Form 1040 and a copy of their receipt for child care expenses for the previous calendar year to be eligible for reimbursement.

**C.** Employees with an adjusted gross family income of less than \$26,000 for the previous calendar year shall be eligible for reimbursement not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00). Employees with an adjusted gross family income of less than \$31,000 but more than \$26,000 for the previous calendar year shall be eligible for reimbursement not to exceed seven hundred

dollars (\$700.00). Employees with an adjusted gross family income of less than \$36,000 but more than \$31,000 for the previous calendar year shall be eligible for reimbursement not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00).

## **ARTICLE 8. CHILDBEARING AND ADOPTION LEAVE**

Childbirth or adoption leave shall be granted to an employee without salary for a period not to exceed one (1) year inclusive of any period of disability covered under the Sick Leave Article. Employees shall have the option of using accumulated compensating time and annual leave during such period. Employees shall be allowed to retain insurance benefits during such leave. Except during any period covered by the use of compensating time or annual leave, retention of insurance benefits shall be at the employee's expense.

## **ARTICLE 9. COMPENSATING TIME**

Compensating time earned by an employee may be accumulated up to two hundred forty (240) hours. Except where operational needs require otherwise, employees shall be entitled to use compensating time at times of their choice.

Employees who have more than two hundred forty (240) hours upon the signing of this agreement, will be paid for any hours beyond two hundred forty (240).

## **ARTICLE 10. COMPENSATION**

### **A. Salary Schedule Progression**

Employees shall progress from step to step in salary grade on the basis of satisfactory job performance based upon established standards of performance.

Seasonal employee's initial anniversary date shall be established after being in pay status for two thousand eighty (2,080) hours. Such date shall then be used for annual performance evaluation and step progression consideration.

When an employee's anniversary date falls on any day from the first day of a pay week through Wednesday of the pay week, the employee's merit increase shall be effective as of the first day of the pay week within which the anniversary date falls. Otherwise, the merit increase shall be effective on the first day of the next pay week.

Grievances arising from the denial of merit increases shall not be arbitrable under this Agreement but shall be processed pursuant to the Agency Merit Increase Appeal Procedures developed under the 1978-1980 Agreement between the parties. In agencies where such appeal procedures do not fit, the parties shall

establish additional procedures in the manner established by the predecessor Agreement. A decision of an Agency Appeals Board shall be final and binding, subject to appeal to the Director of Human Resources on the following grounds only: that the decision of the Agency Appeals Board was based upon clearly erroneous findings of fact, or that the decision of the Agency Appeals Board was based upon erroneous application of performance standards.

## **B. Call Out**

Any employee who is eligible for overtime who is called out for work outside of and not continuous with his/her regular hours will be paid a minimum of four (4) hours of the employee's regular rate of pay or hours actually worked at the appropriate rate, whichever is greater. This section shall not apply to an employee who is called in four (4) hours or less prior to the start of his/her workday or shift and who continues to work that day or shift or to an employee held over at the end of their regular workday.

Notwithstanding this provision, employees in agencies which have been compensated for call out on a higher basis as of January 1, 1997 shall continue to be compensated on the higher basis.

## **C. Overtime**

**1.** Excepting employees designated as non-standard and Ferry Service employees compensated for overtime on a sliding scale basis, full-time employees in pay ranges 01 through 21 shall be paid one and one-half (1½) times the hourly rate of pay after actually working eight (8) hours in any day, or after their regular scheduled hours if greater, or forty (40) hours of actual work in any workweek.

The above provisions shall apply to full-time employees working alternative compressed workweeks but shall not include other alternative work schedules such as flextime schedules, etc., or part-time employees who shall be eligible for overtime after forty (40) hours of actual work in any week. In lieu of premium pay employees may, upon mutual agreement, take compensating time at the rate of one and one-half (1½) hours of compensating time for each hour of overtime worked.

**2.** Employees in pay ranges 21 and above who, on September 3, 1984 were receiving some form of overtime compensation, shall continue to do so until they vacate their present positions. Notwithstanding, the foregoing, the State's policy with respect to special exceptions which have been made or which are made in the future under that policy, will continue.

**3.** Employees in pay ranges 22 and above who do not receive any form of overtime compensation shall receive two (2) personal leave days per year with pay, as of January 1 of each year. Employees who first become eligible for personal leave days under this Article on or after July 1 of a calendar year shall receive only one (1) day for the year, instead of two (2). Except where operational

needs require otherwise, these employees shall be entitled to take these personal leave days at times of their choice. These personal leave days shall not be carried forward or accrued from year to year unless the employee is denied his/her personal leave day because of operational needs.

4. Time during which an employee is excused from work with pay under the Holidays Article, shall be considered as time worked for the purpose of computing overtime.

5. There shall be no pyramiding or duplication of compensation by reason of overtime or holiday or other premium pay provision of this Agreement. It is understood, however, that with this limitation, the method of payment which gives the greatest amount will be followed.

6. The State shall furnish a list of hourly rates of overtime pay for Ferry Service employees. These lists shall be posted at Ferry Service Terminals, employee housing and crew areas on the Ferry.

#### **D. Shift Differentials**

A shift differential of twenty-five cents (\$.25) per hour shall be paid for shifts starting between 2:00 p.m. and 9:59 p.m. for employees regularly assigned to such shifts. A shift differential of thirty-five cents (\$.35) per hour shall be paid for shifts starting between 10:00 p.m. and 3:00 a.m. for employees regularly assigned to such shifts. The differential provided herein shall be part of base pay for overtime pay and other purposes. Employees at the Maine State Prison who are regularly assigned to the 5:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. shift are to be paid a shift differential of thirty-five (\$.35) cents per hour. Employees of mental health and correctional facilities shall be eligible for the second shift differential when their shift begins between 12:00 noon and 4:59 p.m.

### **E. Double Shift Premium**

An employee required to work two (2) shifts in a twenty-four (24) hour period will be paid an additional four dollars (\$4.00) for the week. This provision does not apply to employees who voluntarily work such shifts for their own convenience. The State retains the right to establish schedules which minimize the payment of the premiums provided under this provision.

### **F. Divers' Stipend**

All qualified employees assigned to SCUBA diving activities shall, when actually diving in the water, including training activities, be compensated at the rate of ten dollars (\$10.00) an hour in addition to their regular hourly rate of pay. Employees shall be compensated for a minimum of one (1) hour of such work regardless of the length of the diving assignment.

### **G. Longevity**

1. Employees with fifteen (15) years but less than twenty (20) years of continuous State service shall receive longevity pay of thirty cents (\$.30) per hour to the base. Employees who become eligible after that date shall receive the longevity pay of thirty cents (\$.30) per hour to the base upon eligibility.

2. Employees with twenty (20) years of continuous State service shall receive longevity pay of a total of forty cents (\$.40) per hour to the base. Employees who become eligible after that date shall receive the longevity pay of a total of forty cents (\$.40) per hour to the base upon eligibility.

3. Continuous State service is defined as continuous employment, including all authorized leaves of absences since the last date or hire into a status-granting position.

### **H. Weekend Differential**

Employees assigned to State institutions other than Maine State Prison shall be eligible for a weekend differential of fifty cents (\$.50) per hour to the base for shifts beginning between 10:00 p.m. Friday and 9:59 p.m. Sunday. Employees at the Maine State Prison shall be eligible for a weekend differential of fifty cents (\$.50) per hour to the base for shifts beginning between 8:30 p.m. Friday and 8:29 p.m. Sunday.

### **I. Direct Care Stipend**

Employees in positions in classifications listed in Appendix A who have direct responsibility for care, treatment and security of persons residing in

State institutions of the Departments of Behavioral and Developmental Services, and Corrections shall receive thirty cents (30¢) per hour to the base.

## **ARTICLE 11. COMPLAINTS AND INVESTIGATIONS**

**1.** This article applies to complaints or allegations made externally and not from normal supervisory activities.

**2.** A department head shall be responsible for ensuring that all allegations of misconduct or other complaints against an employee on which any action is to be taken or a record is to be made shall be investigated. The investigator shall be allowed to interview the complainant prior to notifying the employee.

**3. Probable cause determination; minor discipline only.** In the course of determining whether probable cause exists to conduct an investigation, in cases that could result only in minor discipline (a verbal or written reprimand), an investigator (or other designated management representative) may conduct an informal interview with the employee(s) about whom a complaint has been made. The purpose of the interview is to assist in the determination of probable cause for an investigation under this article.

**a.** Any interview of an employee under this section shall be voluntary. Prior to being interviewed with respect to a determination of probable cause, the employee shall be informed in writing of the nature of the allegation and the purpose of the interview, and be afforded a reasonable opportunity to contact and consult privately with a union steward or other union representative.

**b.** The interview shall be conducted at a reasonable time and, when practicable, on the department's premises when the employee is on duty. A union representative may participate in the interview.

**c.** The interview shall be limited to questions that are directly, narrowly, and specifically related to the allegation(s). The employee shall not be subjected to any offensive language nor be threatened with transfer, dismissal or other disciplinary action. Confidentiality of the interview shall be maintained.

**d.** The employee may terminate the interview at any time.

**e.** Upon completion or termination of the interview, the remaining sections set forth in this article shall be followed.

**f.** An interview of an employee under this section is not required in order to proceed under sections 4 or 5 below.

**4. No probable cause.** If after preliminary investigation no probable cause is found, the investigation shall terminate and the employee shall be informed in writing that a complaint was made against him or her but was unfounded.

**5. Notice of probable cause.** When an investigator believes that probable cause has been established, the investigator shall inform in writing the employee under investigation and his or her supervisor of the nature of the investigation.

**6. Investigatory interview.** When the employee under investigation is to be interviewed concerning the alleged conduct which could result in discharge or other discipline, the employee and his or her representative shall be notified in writing, at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the interview. In the event of an emergency, such reasonable notice as the circumstances permit shall be given. The notice shall state that an official investigation is being conducted and shall state the subject matter of the investigatory interview.

**a.** Prior to being interviewed pursuant to this section, the employee shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity and facilities to contact and consult privately with his or her union representative or union attorney.

**b.** Any interview of an employee under this section shall be conducted at a reasonable time, at a suitable location and, when practicable, on the department's premises when the employee is on duty. The union representative or union attorney may participate in the interview.

**c.** The interview shall be limited to questions that are directly, narrowly, and specifically related to the employee's job performance as it relates to the allegation(s) or complaints. The employee shall not be subjected to any offensive language nor be threatened with transfer, dismissal or other disciplinary action. Confidentiality of the interview shall be maintained.

**7. Employee witnesses.** If an employee is to be interviewed as a witness only, the employee and his or her representative shall be so informed at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the interview. If during the course of the interview it becomes apparent that the employee witness may be subject to discipline as a result of conduct which is the subject of the interview, the interview shall be terminated and the employee afforded the protections of this Article.

**8.** No employee shall be required or requested to submit to any test or examination. A test or examination may be given if requested by the employee.

**9.** The employee shall be informed in writing promptly, but not later than five (5) workdays, when the investigation is completed and of any determinations made, except when the matter has been terminated under paragraph 4.

**10.** If the result of an investigation is that the allegation(s) or complaint(s) are unsubstantiated, no records pertaining to these allegation(s) or complaint(s) shall be put into the employee's personnel file.

## **ARTICLE 12. CONCLUSION OF NEGOTIATIONS**

**A.** The State and MSEA-SEIU agree that this Agreement is the entire Agreement, terminates all prior Agreements or understandings and concludes all collective negotiations during its term. Neither party will during the term of this Agreement seek to unilaterally modify its terms through legislation or other means which may be available to them.

**B.** Each party agrees that it shall not attempt to compel negotiations during the term of this Agreement on matters that could have been raised during the negotiations that preceded this Agreement, matters that were raised during the negotiations that preceded this Agreement or matters that are specifically addressed in this Agreement.

## **ARTICLE 13. CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION**

The parties acknowledge that problems of general administration (as opposed to individual employee grievances) may arise during the administration of this Agreement which may require the State and MSEA-SEIU to meet from time to time for the purpose of reviewing the general administration of the Agreement. The parties agree to so meet within a reasonable time at the request of either party. Unless a problem is of an emergency nature, the party requesting a meeting will submit a written agenda one (1) week in advance of any such meeting.

## **ARTICLE 14. COPIES OF AGREEMENT**

The parties shall jointly arrange for printing copies of this Agreement. Each party shall pay for the copies it requires for distribution.

## **ARTICLE 15. COURT SERVICE**

If an employee is required to appear in court or pursuant to a subpoena or other order of a court or body or to perform jury service, and such appearance or service results in his/her absence from work, he/she shall be granted court service leave for the period of time necessary to fulfill such requirement. Any employee who makes an appearance and whose service is not required shall return to work as soon as practicable after release.

An employee on court service leave for a full day shall receive the difference between the payment received for such court service, excluding any travel allowance, and his/her regular pay.

Any employee returning to work from court service leave shall be paid by the State for his/her actual hours worked or a minimum of the difference between payment received from the court, excluding any travel allowance, and his/her regular pay, whichever is greater.

The provisions of this Article shall not apply to an employee summoned to or appearing before a court or body as a party to any private legal action which is not job related.

#### **ARTICLE 16. COURT TIME**

An employee who is called to appear as a witness in his/her official capacity by a court, including administrative court, on a scheduled day off, a scheduled vacation day or other approved day off shall be paid for the hours so spent, including actual, necessary travel time, at his/her regular hourly rate. This hourly rate shall include the non-standard premium for those employees designated as non-standard. Payment under this Article shall be the total payment for such court time from all sources other than regular pay for the scheduled day off. An employee who is assigned a State vehicle shall be entitled to use such vehicle on such occasions.

#### **ARTICLE 17. DEFERRED COMPENSATION**

The State agrees to submit deductions of the employees who participate in the Deferred Compensation program by payroll deduction as soon as practicable but no later than ten (10) workdays after such deductions are made.

#### **ARTICLE 18. DENTAL INSURANCE**

The State agrees to pay one hundred percent (100%) of the employee premium of a dental insurance program for full-time employees. The benefit levels of this program shall provide one hundred percent (100%) coverage for preventive care and eighty percent (80%) coverage for general service care. The State agrees to provide payroll deduction for dental insurance, provided such arrangements are agreed to by the insurance carrier. Dependent coverage will be available provided there is sufficient employee participation in the dental insurance program. Dependent coverage will be at the employees' expense.

## **ARTICLE 19. DEPENDENT CHILDREN POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION BENEFIT**

In the event an employee is killed during the performance of his/her job duties, the State shall pay the tuition of his/her dependent children who are accepted as students through the normal admissions process to attend the University of Maine, the State Vocational/Technical Institute System, or the Maine Maritime Academy. Each dependent child shall be eligible for this benefit for five (5) years from his/her first admission date to either system or until the requirement for a degree has been met, whichever comes first.

## **ARTICLE 20. DISCIPLINE**

**1.** No employee shall be disciplined by the State without just cause. Notwithstanding the foregoing, new employees in an initial probationary period may be dismissed without the necessity on the part of the State of establishing just cause.

Disciplinary action shall be limited to the following: oral reprimand, written reprimand, suspension, demotion, dismissal. The principles of progressive discipline shall be followed.

**2.** No employee covered by this Agreement shall be suspended without pay, demoted or dismissed without first having been given notice in writing of the disciplinary action to be taken. The conduct for which disciplinary action is being imposed and the action to be taken shall be specified in a written notice. Any employee receiving a notice of suspension, demotion, or dismissal will be afforded an opportunity to meet with the appointing authority or his/her representative prior to the action proposed. The employee will be entitled to have a Union representative or steward present. At that meeting the appointing authority or his/her designee will give the employee an explanation of the employer's evidence against the employee (if that has not already been provided) and offer the employee an opportunity to respond. Employees are on notice that a finding of having committed the offense of physical abuse is excluded from progressive discipline and may result in termination on first offense.

Any employee suspended without pay, demoted or dismissed, may initiate appeal of such disciplinary action at the department or agency head step of the Grievance and Arbitration Procedure within fifteen (15) workdays after the employee becomes aware of such disciplinary action.

## **ARTICLE 21. DUES DEDUCTION**

1. MSEA-SEIU shall have exclusive rights to payroll deduction of membership dues, service fees and premiums for current MSEA-SEIU sponsored insurance programs. Deductions for other programs may be mutually agreed to by the parties.

2. The State agrees to deduct MSEA-SEIU membership dues, service fees and insurance premiums from the pay of those employees who individually request in writing that such deductions be made. Employees who have already authorized such deductions shall not be required to submit new authorizations upon the execution of this Agreement. The employee's written authorization for payroll deductions shall contain the employee's name, social security number, agency in which employed, and work location. Such authorization shall be transmitted by an authorized representative of MSEA-SEIU or the employee to the State Controller through the applicable agency payroll clerk. When such authorization is transmitted directly from the employee to the agency payroll clerk, a copy of the authorization shall be sent to MSEA-SEIU.

3. Any change in the amounts to be deducted shall be certified to the Director of the Bureau of Employee Relations by the Treasurer of MSEA-SEIU at least thirty (30) days in advance of the change. The aggregate deductions of all employees shall be submitted to MSEA-SEIU together with an itemized statement as soon as practicable but no later than ten (10) workdays after such deductions are made.

4. MSEA-SEIU shall indemnify and hold the State harmless against any and all claims, suits, orders or judgments brought or issued against the State as the result of the action taken or not taken by the State under the provisions of this Article.

5. New employees eligible upon completion of six (6) months service for coverage by this Agreement may also have such payroll deduction during their initial six (6) month period.

## **ARTICLE 22. EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE LABOR/MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

There shall be a broad-brush comprehensive Employee Assistance Program ("EAP") to provide confidential assessment and referral services for State employees. The EAP is intended to aid State employees and their families, and retirees, in cases where personal problems of any nature are having a detrimental effect on the employee's job performance. Services provided directly by the EAP shall be at no cost. There shall be a Labor/Management Committee on the State EAP. The Committee shall be comprised of a representative of each State bargaining unit represented by the Union and an equal number of management representatives selected by the Governor. Committee members may participate in Committee activities during work hours without loss of pay or benefits. The

purpose of the Committee is to advocate, support and review the operation of the State EAP to assure a program which enhances the productivity, performance, working conditions, morale and quality of life of State employees. The role of the Committee is to work with the program administrator to maintain effective program operation for employees, retirees and their families.

### **ARTICLE 23. EMPLOYEE DATA**

1. So long as not prohibited by law, the State shall furnish to MSEA-SEIU quarterly, at Union expense, a computer listing and a personal computer floppy diskette of the then-available information, specified hereinafter, for each employee covered by this Agreement. The computer listing and diskette shall contain, to the extent practicable, the name, address, social security number, class code, classification, pay range and step, employing agency and initial date of hire for each employee covered by this Agreement. MSEA-SEIU shall indemnify, defend and hold the State harmless against all claims and suits which may arise as a result of the State's furnishing such listing and disk to MSEA-SEIU.

2. Upon mutual agreement, the State and MSEA-SEIU will use technology available to each party for the purpose of receiving the aforementioned electronic data in the most efficient manner possible. By mutual agreement, such information transmitted to MSEA-SEIU in a hard copy format will be transmitted electronically after agreement between the parties on format and content.

### **ARTICLE 24. EMPLOYEE DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING**

1. The State agrees to provide advice and counseling to employees with respect to career advancement opportunities and agency developments which have an impact on their careers.

2. Regular review of its job-related and career development and training programs will be made by the State in order to provide suitable programs for employees covered by this Agreement. When undertaking any such review, the State shall notify employees of such review and take into account suggestions and proposals made by employees.

3. Employees shall be given a reasonable notice of applicable development and training programs available. Such notice shall include an explanation of the procedure for applying for the program. Notices of development and training programs shall be posted for reasonable periods in advance on bulletin boards at applicable work locations within the agencies involved. An appointing authority shall make every effort to permit employees' participation in such career development and training programs. Participation in

any training inside or outside of work hours which is required by the State as a condition of fulfilling the requirements of the employee's job, or any in-service State training which is conducted or undertaken during normally scheduled work hours will be considered as time worked.

4. The State shall pay tuition, course-related fees, other approved course required costs and for necessary travel and lodging pursuant to established policies and procedures.

## **ARTICLE 25. EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATION LEAVE**

### **A. Leave for MSEA-SEIU Organization Activities**

The State shall provide Employee Organization Leave without loss of pay or benefits for members and officers of the MSEA-SEIU Board of Directors to attend a maximum of one (1) one-day meeting per month of the Board of Directors. For purposes of this Article, the Board of Directors shall consist of sixteen (16) members: twelve (12) from the Council, the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer of MSEA-SEIU. Additionally, the State shall provide one (1) day per year Employee Organization Leave with pay for up to two hundred ninety (290) MSEA-SEIU members who have an official capacity to attend the annual MSEA-SEIU Council meeting. At MSEA-SEIU's discretion, an employee requiring two (2) days leave to attend the annual meeting may be allotted two (2) of the two hundred ninety (290) days.

Those affected employees shall take either vacation or compensating time to attend the convention. After the convention, within ten (10) workdays, MSEA-SEIU shall furnish the Bureau of Employee Relations with the list of names and work locations of employees who shall be granted the two hundred ninety (290) days allowed under this section. The State shall restore vacation and comp time credits used within ten (10) workdays of receipt of MSEA-SEIU's list of eligible employees.

Employees who have no vacation or compensating time credits shall be granted Organization Leave as currently provided. In such case, MSEA-SEIU shall provide the Bureau of Employee Relations with at least two (2) weeks notice of names and work locations of the affected employees. Employees requiring use of vacation or compensating time credits shall be allowed to do so as they have in the past in accordance with the Employee Organization Leave Articles of their respective contracts (i.e., not restricted by terms of Vacation or Compensating Time Articles).

### **B. Leave for Negotiations**

Members of the MSEA-SEIU bargaining team (whose numbers shall not exceed four (4) for each unit plus the President and Vice President of MSEA-SEIU)

shall suffer no loss in pay or benefits for participation in negotiations for a successor Agreement. Additionally, leave may be requested for other members necessary for participation on specific negotiations issues and such leave shall not be unreasonably denied.

MSEA-SEIU shall give reasonable notice to the Bureau of Employee Relations of the names of those bargaining team members who will be attending particular bargaining sessions. MSEA-SEIU recognizes that exceptional circumstances might preclude the release of an individual on a particular day. The Bureau of Employee Relations will notify affected agencies of those individuals designated or otherwise requested to be made available on particular dates for participation in negotiations and will inform those agencies of the day, or days, when negotiations will take place.

No additional compensation shall be paid if negotiations extend beyond the end of an employee's normal work hours. However, every effort shall be made to schedule non-standard workweek employees so that their days off shall not fall on days of negotiations.

Any designated employee who has a State vehicle assigned shall be allowed to use the vehicle while traveling to and from negotiations. Such employee shall be considered to be in duty status and shall have his/her uniform available for necessary use.

### **C. Stewards and Chief Stewards**

**1.** The Union may designate a reasonable number of employees to act as stewards and chief stewards on their behalf. A list of such employees designated as stewards or chief stewards shall be given to the Bureau of Employee Relations and to appropriate officials at the institution or agency levels on a quarterly basis in July, October, January and April. Such stewards or chief stewards will be allowed a reasonable amount of time away from their work without loss of pay to investigate and process grievances. Prior to leaving his/her workstation to attend such business, a steward or chief steward shall obtain consent of his/her supervisor. If operational considerations or workloads temporarily delay the release of a steward or chief steward to attend to proper duties under this Article, he/she will be released for such purposes as soon as practicable. Whenever a steward or chief steward works on union business and such work extends beyond the end of his/her normal workday, such activity shall not be considered as time worked for overtime purposes. Any travel or other expenses of stewards' or chief stewards' activities shall not be borne by the State.

**2.** Stewards and chief stewards shall be entitled to two (2) days of leave per year without loss of pay or benefits to participate in official MSEA sponsored steward training. Up to thirty-five (35) Chief Stewards shall be entitled to an additional one (1) day of leave per year without loss of pay or benefits to attend official MSEA-SEIU advanced Chief Steward training. MSEA shall provide the Bureau of Employee Relations with at least two (2) weeks' notice of names and

work locations of the stewards and chief stewards participating. No additional compensation shall be paid if the training extends beyond the end of the employee's normal work hours. Such leave shall not be withheld unless operational needs so require and shall not be arbitrarily denied.

**D. MSEA-SEIU Grievance Committee**

MSEA-SEIU grievance committee members traveling one hundred (100) miles or more to monthly grievance committee meetings shall be entitled to leave without loss of pay or benefits for actual and necessary travel time. The State shall provide up to eight (8) days for each of eight (8) grievance committee members, leave of absence without loss of pay or benefits, to serve on behalf of the four (4) employee bargaining units. Such leave shall not be withheld unless operational needs so require and shall not be arbitrarily denied.

**E. Leave for Other Organizational Business**

Employees engaged in MSEA-SEIU business may apply for administrative leave without pay. Such applications shall not be unreasonably denied, and if denied the reasons for the denial shall be stated to the applicant in writing.

**F. Travel Time**

Leave provided in paragraphs A and B of this Article shall apply to and cover actual and necessary travel to and from such meetings required during normal working hours on the day of the meeting or negotiations, except that MSEA-SEIU bargaining team members traveling 100 miles or more to negotiations shall be entitled to travel time outside of days of negotiations.

**G. Leave to Attend Pre-Retirement Counseling Programs**

Employees who will be eligible for retirement within one (1) year and who are regularly assigned to an evening shift will be granted one (1) leave day without loss of pay to attend the Maine State Employees Association pre-retirement counseling program.

## **ARTICLE 26. EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT**

### **A. Mileage Allowance**

1. Effective January 1, 2005, the mileage allowance will be increased to thirty-four cents (\$.34) per mile.

2. Employees who are handicapped and who operate their own personal wheelchair lift or other specially equipped vehicle on State business shall receive a mileage reimbursement rate of forty-five cents (\$.45) per mile.

The State retains the right to require employees to use State vehicles in lieu of mileage reimbursement.

### **B. Lodging and Meal Expenses**

1. Employees in travel status in the performance of their duties shall be entitled to expenses of necessary lodging and/or meals as provided for in Section 40 of the Manual of Financial Procedures, Travel and Expense Reimbursement Policy.

Nothing contained in this Article shall be deemed to alter the present State policy prohibiting reimbursement for noon meals unless the meal is part of an organized meeting or program or overnight travel.

2. Estimated travel expenses shall be advanced to employees when reasonable and when requested. Any reimbursement of expenses shall be made as soon as possible following the submission of expense reports.

3. Ferry Service employees on unscheduled or unexpected stopovers away from their home ports during meal times shall be entitled to reasonable meal expenses, not to exceed the dollar amounts for breakfast, lunch and dinner listed in Section 40 of the Manual of Financial Procedures, Travel and Expense Reimbursement Policy.

4. Receipts shall not be required for reimbursement for meals eight dollars (\$8.00) and under.

5. Meal allowances for extended days will be paid at the rate of five dollars (\$5.00) for breakfast and fourteen dollars (\$14.00) for dinner.

6. Notwithstanding this provision, no employee shall receive less than the per diem reimbursement allowance of twenty-two dollars (\$22.00) which was authorized prior to the adoption of this provision.

### **C. Telephone Expenses**

1. When an employee is specifically required by the State to have a telephone in his or her residence, the State shall pay nine dollars (\$9.00) of the basic monthly charge. These payments shall be made on a semiannual basis in January and July and shall be prorated for those employees who become eligible or terminate State service between the semiannual payments.

2. The State shall pay all employees' authorized telephone toll charges. In lieu of submitting copies of their personal telephone toll charge statements, employees may elect to submit an itemized accounting of such calls on a regular State voucher.

3. The State shall issue telephone credit cards as needed on a case-by-case basis.

4. An employee away from home overnight on the business of the State shall have the right to one (1) five (5) minute telephone call per night within or to the State of Maine at the State's expense. When an employee is away from home overnight for two (2) or more continuous nights, that employee may aggregate the above five (5) minute period into one (1) or more telephone calls as long as the total time used does not exceed the total time allowed.

5. An employee who reports to work and then is required to work unscheduled overtime shall have the right to one (1) five (5) minute telephone call to notify a member of his/her household.

#### **D. Uniform Maintenance Allowance**

The State shall continue to supply uniforms to employees whom it requires to wear uniforms as a condition of employment. When uniform maintenance is the responsibility of the employee, such employee shall be paid a uniform maintenance allowance of two hundred dollars (\$200.00) per year unless the State makes other arrangements for uniform maintenance. The uniform maintenance allowance shall be paid to full-year employees on a semiannual basis in January and July and shall be prorated for those employees who become eligible or terminate State service between the semiannual payments. Seasonal employees shall be paid the uniform maintenance allowance on a monthly basis provided that such employee is in pay status as of the fifteenth (15th) of any calendar month.

The classes currently receiving uniforms and which shall be eligible for the uniform maintenance allowance are as follows:

- Forest Insect Ranger I
- Forest Insect Ranger II
- Forest Watchperson
- Log Scaler
- Park Ranger
- Baxter Park Trail Crew Leader
- Baxter Park Maintenance Mechanic
- Military Security Guards (Bangor Air Force Base)
- Allagash Park Ranger
- Military Firefighter Supervisor
- Military Fire Chief
- Military Firefighter

#### **E. Reimbursement for Advanced Courses**

Employees shall be reimbursed by their appointing authority for tuition, course-related fees and other course-required and approved costs paid for advanced courses in their field which will help improve their skills and improve the services provided by the State and which are taken while in the employ of the State, provided that prior approval for taking any such course shall have been obtained from the appointing authority and provided that the employee shall have met the agency's requirements for satisfactory completion of the course. Each appointing authority shall endeavor to allocate a reasonable amount of available funds in each fiscal year to reimburse employees for such approved advanced courses.

#### **F. Reimbursement for State Vehicle Engine Protection**

The State shall reimburse Department of Transportation employees at the rate of seven dollars (\$7.00) per week for any week in which the employee was required to use his/her electrical source to plug in State installed heaters in State trucks.

#### **G. Assignment Out-of-State**

Where it is reasonably anticipated that an Employee will be assigned to work out-of-state for more than five (5) consecutive workdays with an intervening Saturday and Sunday without a work assignment, the affected Employee may request in advance of the work assignment that his/her appointing authority approve reimbursement for expenses necessary to return the Employee to his/her Maine headquarters for the weekend. Such a request shall be approved if the travel costs incurred by returning to Maine for the weekend are equal to or less than lodging and estimated meal expenses for the weekend if the Employee remains at the out-of-state assignment location.

#### **H. Payment of all Monthly, Annual and Biannual Allowances and Reimbursements for Department of Transportation**

For the purpose of payment, all monthly, annual and biannual allowances and reimbursements due all employees will be lumped together, and paid twice a year. Reimbursement for the period between November and April will be made on or before May 31. Reimbursement for the period between May and October will be made on or before November 30. The actual reimbursement for each employee will be prorated based on their work status during that period.

#### **I. Corporate Credit Cards**

The State shall provide Corporate Credit Cards for those employees who travel as part of their jobs. This Corporate Credit Card shall be issued in the name of the employee with the State and Agency name affixed. The payment of the monthly credit card bill will be the responsibility of the employee. Also, it will be the responsibility of the employee to submit periodic expense reports as determined by the respective Department. Late charges which result from the State's failure to reimburse employees in a timely manner will be the responsibility of the State. Personal charges on the Corporate Credit Card will be prohibited. Failure to pay credit card bills as required or personal use of the credit card may result in revocation of credit card privileges.

## **ARTICLE 27. FACILITIES**

### **A. Ferry Service Relief Crew Facilities**

1. Each house or building shall be adequately furnished with clean furnishings in good repair. Each house or building shall be equipped with a properly functioning television set. It shall be the responsibility of Ferry Service crew members to help maintain houses and buildings in good repair.

### **B. Highway Crew Facilities**

1. Trailers provided for highway crew shall be furnished with clean furnishings in good repair. The State shall supply cleaning materials and assign employees to maintain the trailers during working hours.

2. Highway crews shall be provided with adequate clean, sanitary facilities to the extent necessary and practicable.

3. Highway crews shall continue to be provided with the materials to build lockers during working time for storage of personal property.

## **ARTICLE 28. FERRY SERVICE SEAMEN WORK ASSIGNMENTS**

Ferry Service Seamen assigned to ferry service vessels shall be assigned by their captains to work on the vessels as long as such work is available before being assigned duties off of vessels during any non-operating periods.

## **ARTICLE 29. GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE**

### **1. Definitions and Scope**

1.1 Employees shall have the right to present grievances in accordance with the procedures prescribed in this Article.

**1.2** For purposes of this Agreement, a grievance is a dispute concerning the interpretation or application of the terms or provisions of this Agreement. It is intended that this shall not mean administrative matters under the Retirement System and the Group Health Insurance Program.

## **2. Procedure**

**2.1 Step 1:** Within fifteen (15) workdays after the act or omission which gives rise to the grievance or an employee becomes aware or should have reasonably become aware that he/she has a grievance, the employee and/or his/her representative shall present the grievance orally to his/her immediate supervisor. The immediate supervisor shall be responsible to taking such steps as are advisable, including consultation with superiors with authority to resolve the grievance, in an effort to resolve the grievance.

**2.2 Step 2:** If the grievance is not resolved within ten (10) workdays of submission at Step 1, within ten (10) workdays thereafter the employee and/or his/her representative may present the grievance in writing, stating the nature of the grievance and the remedial action requested as follows:

**(a)** Major Departments and Agencies. (i) In departments or agencies organized into bureaus, divisions or institutions, the grievance shall be submitted to the bureau, division or institution head, as designated by the department or agency head, who shall provide the employee and/or his/her representative with his/her decision in writing within ten (10) workdays of submission. (ii) If the grievance is not thereby resolved, within ten (10) workdays after the receipt of the bureau, division or institutional head's written decision it shall be submitted to the department head. The department head or his/her representative may meet with the employee and/or his/her representative and shall provide the employee and/or his/her representative with his/her decision in writing within ten (10) workdays of submission or, if a hearing is held, within fifteen (15) workdays of submission.

**(b)** Other Agencies. In departments or agencies not organized into bureaus, divisions or institutions, the grievance shall be submitted to the department or agency head. The department or agency head or his/her representative may meet with the employee and/or his/her representative and shall provide the employee and/or his/her representative with his/her decision in writing within ten (10) workdays of submission or, if a hearing is held, within fifteen (15) workdays of submission.

**2.3 Step 3:** If the grievance is not resolved at Step 2, within ten (10) workdays after receipt of the written decision of the department or agency head the employee and/or his/her representative may appeal to the State Director of Employee Relations by filing with him/her a written notice of appeal, together with copies of the written grievance and the Step 2 decision. The Director of Employee Relations or his/her representative may meet with the employee and/or his/her representative and shall provide the employee

and/or his/her representative with a written decision within fifteen (15) workdays of receipt of the appeal; or, if a meeting is held, within ten (10) workdays after the conclusion of such meeting.

**2.4 Step 4:**

**(a)** If the grievance has not been satisfactorily resolved at Step 3, then MSEA-SEIU may submit the grievance to arbitration by submitting a request for arbitration to the Director of Employee Relations as well as a statement of the grievance specifying the Article, section or clause of the contract alleged to have been violated, along with the concise statement of facts surrounding the issue and the remedial action requested. The request for arbitration shall be received by the Bureau of Employee Relations through personal service or by mailing by registered or certified mail within fifteen (15) workdays of the receipt of the Step 3 decision.

**(b)** Upon receipt by the Director of Employee Relations of a request for arbitration, the parties shall attempt to mutually agree upon an arbitrator. If unable to agree upon an arbitrator within five (5) workdays of receipt of the request for arbitration, the arbitrator shall be selected through the American Arbitration Association ("AAA") in accordance with the AAA rules then in effect.

The request for arbitration along with a request for a list of arbitrators must be received by AAA within six (6) weeks of the Bureau of Employee Relations' receipt of the request for arbitration, in order for the AAA administration fees to be shared equally by the parties. If such request is not received by AAA by the expiration of the six (6) weeks but is filed within twelve (12) weeks, MSEA-SEIU shall pay the entire AAA administration fee. If a request has not been received by AAA within twelve (12) weeks of the Bureau of Employee Relations' receipt of the request for arbitration, MSEA-SEIU will be deemed to have waived its right to appeal the Step 3 decision to arbitration.

**(c)** The decision of the arbitrator shall be final and binding consistent with applicable law and this Agreement. The arbitrator shall have no authority to add to, subtract from or modify any provisions of this Agreement. The arbitrator shall have no authority to award interest on any award. All costs of arbitration, including fees and expenses of the arbitrator, shall be divided equally between the parties, except as provided in section 2.4(b) of this Article, and except that each party shall bear the costs of preparing and presenting its own case.

**(d)** The arbitrator shall fix the time and place of the hearing, taking into consideration the convenience of the parties. The arbitrator shall be requested to issue a written decision within thirty (30) days after completion of the proceedings. The arbitrator shall be bound by the rules of the AAA which are applicable to labor relations arbitrations and which are in effect at the time of the arbitration. In the event of a disagreement regarding the arbitrability of an issue, the arbitrator shall make a preliminary determination as to whether the issue is arbitrable. Once a determination is made that such a dispute is arbitrable, the arbitrator shall then proceed to determine the merits of the dispute.

**(e)** In grievances involving discharge of an employee and/or discipline which has led to a discharge, the arbitration hearing shall be held within four (4) months of the Step 3 decision. Subsequent hearing dates, if necessary, shall be held at the earliest date(s) offered by the assigned arbitrator and which is mutually acceptable to the parties. The parties agree that in the event of a conflict in the scheduling of grievance arbitrations, grievances involving discharge and/or discipline which has led to a discharge shall have priority over all other pending grievance arbitration matters between the parties.

### **3. General Provisions**

**3.1** The State shall not deny any employee MSEA-SEIU representation at any stage of the grievance procedure and MSEA-SEIU shall have the exclusive right to represent employees in any grievance. When an employee elects to pursue a grievance at Steps 1, 2, or 3 without representation, MSEA-SEIU shall have the right to be present at any grievance step meeting and shall receive copies of written determinations, if any, at all stages. No resolution of a grievance shall be inconsistent with the provisions of this Agreement.

**3.2** All of the time limits contained in this Article may be extended by mutual agreement of the parties and such extensions shall, in order to be effective, be confirmed in writing. The parties may mutually agree to bypass steps of the grievance procedure.

**3.3** In no event can a grievance be taken to the next or any succeeding step of this procedure unless the employee and/or his/her representative meets the time limits or extensions thereof. Failure of the State and its representatives to adhere to the prescribed time limits or extensions thereof shall constitute a waiver of the applicable step and the employee and/or MSEA-SEIU may proceed to the next step.

**3.4** Grievances resolved at Steps 1 or 2 shall not constitute a precedent unless a specific agreement to that effect is made by the State Director of Employee Relations or his/her designee and MSEA-SEIU.

**3.5** Any grievance involving two (2) or more employees within the bargaining unit within the same department or agency may be processed jointly and shall be initiated with the most immediate common supervisor of the employees involved.

**3.6** An aggrieved employee and/or his/her representative shall have the right to inspect and to obtain copies of any records, documents and other materials relevant to the grievance and in the possession of the State. The State shall have the right to inspect and to obtain copies of any records, documents and other materials relevant to the grievance and in the possession of the Union.

**3.7** An aggrieved employee and any employee witnesses as may be reasonable shall not suffer any loss of pay and shall not be required to charge leave credits as a result of processing grievances during such employee's or witnesses' regularly scheduled working hours, provided, however, that when such

activities extend beyond such employee's or witnesses' scheduled working hours such time shall not be considered as time worked. Such release time shall not be construed to include preparation of paper work, record-keeping, conferences among Association officials or preparation for representation at a grievance hearing.

**3.8** The settlement or an award upon a grievance may or may not be retroactive as the equities of each case demand.

### **ARTICLE 30. HEALTH AND SAFETY**

**1.** The State will take appropriate action to assure compliance with all applicable laws concerning the health and safety of employees in its endeavors to provide and maintain safe working conditions. MSEA-SEIU agrees to support any programs required to meet the health and safety needs of employees.

An employee may request his/her department to provide safety related equipment, clothing, devices or tools as may be required to maintain a safe working environment. Such requests, if denied, may be appealed, upon notice to the department, to the Labor/Management Committee on Safety of State Buildings, which decision shall be final and binding on the parties. In this regard, formal votes required by the Committee shall be cast as one (1) vote by labor and one (1) vote by management.

**2.** Ferry Service employees shall not be required to drive vehicles onto vessels unless they hold appropriate licenses.

**3.** Department of Transportation and Department of Conservation employees opting to provide and use their own protective eyewear pursuant to DOT Policy Memorandum 410 and Department of Conservation Policy IPLS #01-102, shall receive the sum of up to seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) per year toward the cost of any prescription eyewear needed by the employee. Additionally, this allowance may be extended to other employees through departmental work rules, subject to mutual agreement of the parties.

### **ARTICLE 31. HEALTH INSURANCE**

The State shall provide health plan coverage for employees pursuant to Title 5 §285. The State shall pay sixty percent (60%) of the cost of dependent premium for each eligible employee who selects dependent coverage.

Part-time and seasonal employees hired into permanent full-time positions will be allowed to apply for health insurance within 60 days of the permanent appointment with no evidence of insurability.

### **ARTICLE 32. HOLIDAYS**

**1.** Employees have the following paid holidays:

New Year's Day	Columbus Day
Martin Luther King Day	Veterans' Day
Presidents' Day	Thanksgiving Day
Patriot's Day	Friday following Thanksgiving Day
Memorial Day	Christmas Day
Independence Day	
Labor Day	

Employees released from work on these holidays shall be paid for their regularly scheduled hours of work. Time during which an employee is excused from work on holidays shall be considered as time worked for the purpose of computing overtime.

**2.** Any holiday falling on Saturday shall be observed on the preceding Friday and any holiday falling on Sunday shall be observed on the following Monday. Employees who work the calendar date and who are off on the observed date shall be paid the appropriate holiday rate for the calendar date only. Employees who are off on the calendar date and who work on the observed date shall be paid the appropriate holiday rate for the observed date only. Employees who work both the calendar date and the observed date shall be paid the appropriate holiday rate for the observed date only. A reasonable attempt shall be made not to schedule an employee for both the calendar date and the observed date of a holiday. Employees who are not scheduled to work either the calendar or the observed day of the holiday shall be given either another day off within the same workweek or a day's pay at the option of the agency.

**3.** In addition to regular pay for holidays, those employees who are currently eligible for premium overtime pay shall be entitled to one and one-half (1½) times their hourly rate for time worked on holidays. In lieu of premium pay, eligible employees may, upon mutual agreement, take compensating time at the rate of one and one-half (1½) hours of compensating time for each hour of holiday work. Employees not eligible for premium pay shall be paid or, upon mutual agreement, be given compensating time off at an hour for hour basis. Compensating time shall be used pursuant to the provisions of the Compensating Time Article.

### **ARTICLE 33. HOURS AND WORK SCHEDULES**

**1.** The basic department, agency or other operational unit work schedules and practices, including work schedules or practices peculiar to particular classes, in effect on the effective date of this Agreement, shall not be changed without the employer informing MSEA in advance and negotiating the impact of such changes, if requested, on the affected employees. Negotiations

shall occur no longer than a thirty (30) day period prior to the implementation of the change. If the parties have not reached agreement within the thirty (30) day period, the obligation to bargain shall continue.

**2.** To the extent practicable, employees shall be scheduled in a manner that will not result in split shifts, split days off or frequent changes in work schedules. Every practical effort will be made to equitably treat employees whose jobs require that they work irregular or frequently changed hours, shifts or workweeks.

**3.** It is recognized that involuntary work schedule changes may have an adverse impact on employees, and the employer recognizes its obligation to avoid or minimize such adverse impact to the extent practicable. An employee will be given at least fourteen (14) calendar days' notice prior to the effective date of the change in his/her individual schedule unless emergency or unforeseen developments preclude the possibility of such notice.

**4.** All time during which an employee is required to be on active duty shall be considered hours worked.

**5.** Employees who perform excessively dirty work or who work with toxic or noxious material shall be allowed five (5) minutes personal wash-up time before regularly assigned meal periods and at the end of their workday.

**6.** Job sharing by qualified employees may be permitted at the discretion of the appointing authority as permitted by statutory procedures.

**7.** Whenever ferry runs are canceled because of weather, breakdown or other such circumstances, Ferry Service employees scheduled to work on those runs shall be credited with and paid for their scheduled hours as hours worked as long as the employee is available for work.

**8.** Present practices concerning rest breaks for highway crews on snow removal operations shall not be diminished during the term of this Agreement.

**9.** The foreman's time book for highway crews shall be available on a current basis at their respective garages.

**10.** The work schedules of Ferry Service employees will be provided to the employees at least forty-five (45) days in advance.

**11.** Forest Watchperson shall be placed on the standard six (6) days on, two (2) days off schedule.

**12.** Present practices with respect to travel time shall be continued.

**13.** Maintenance employees in the Department of Transportation, institutions and the Department of Defense and Veterans Services shall be entitled to eight (8) hours rest including travel time after fifteen (15) consecutive hours of work.

**14.** Ferry Service employees are to be credited with four (4) hours work during the layover of the summer Sunday runs on the North Haven Ferry.

**15.** Effective October 29 ~~13~~, 2004 ~~3~~, employees in the following job classifications who are regularly scheduled to work forty-three and one-half (43½) hours will have their regularly scheduled workweek reduced to forty (40) hours at an hourly rate computed by multiplying forty-three and one-half (43 ½) times the

base hourly rate and dividing the product by forty (40). Vacation and sick leave accruals shall thereafter be computed on the basis of a forty (40) hour workweek.

Motor Transport Technician Assistant

Yard Supervisor

Sign Shop Technician

Sign Painter

Traffic Control Electrician

## **ARTICLE 34. LABOR/MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES**

### **A. Statewide**

The Labor/Management Committee established by the previous contracts shall continue.

Committee members may participate in the work of the Committee during working hours without loss of pay.

### **B. Department Labor/Management Committee**

Departments will establish Departmental/Agency Labor/Management Committees to provide a problem solving setting to deal with day-to-day problems or concerns regarding the workplace, or other matters assigned to the committee with the approval of the State Bureau of Employee Relations and MSEA-SEIU.

Generally there will be a total of between four (4) and six (6) representatives appointed each by MSEA-SEIU and management including at least one labor representative from each affected bargaining unit. However, a proportional number of members will be allowed for smaller agencies. The committee will be co-chaired by labor and management (Department Head or Commissioner or designee). The chairs will agree on an agenda before each meeting.

Meetings will be held periodically, although either chair may call special meetings with the concurrence of the other chair. Generally, there should be at least four (4) meetings each year. All committee members may participate in the work of the committee during working hours without loss of pay or benefits including necessary travel time, during the employees regularly scheduled work hours/day to attend meetings and preparatory meetings. Any action taken by the committee will be by mutual agreement.

The labor/management committee has no authority to, add to, delete from, or modify this agreement or requirements established by statewide policy.

### **C. Building Safety**

There shall be a Labor/Management Committee concerning the safety of State Buildings. The Committee shall be made up of one representative from

each of the following bargaining units: Representing Labor - Administrative Services; Operations, Maintenance and Support Services; Law Enforcement; Professional and Technical Services; Supervisory Services; Institutional Services; and State Police Unit and an equal number of management representatives selected by the Governor. Committee members may participate in the work of the committee during working hours without loss of pay or benefits.

#### **D. Employee Health**

There is established by law (Title 5, Chapter 13, Subchapter II, Section 285-A) the State Employee Health Commission. Commission members who are covered by this agreement may participate in the work of the Commission during work hours without loss of pay and benefits.

#### **E. Department of Transportation 43.5 Hour Work Schedule**

There shall be a Labor/Management Committee created to study the feasibility of reducing the remaining employees' work schedule from 43.5 to 40 hours. There will be an equal number of labor and management representatives. Committee members may participate in the work of the committee during work hours without loss of pay or benefits. The committee shall complete its work by January 1, 2005.

### **ARTICLE 35. LIFE INSURANCE**

The State shall pay the full premium of employees' basic group life insurance.

### **ARTICLE 36. MAINTENANCE OF BENEFITS**

With respect to negotiable wages, hours and working conditions not covered by this Agreement, the State agrees to make no changes without appropriate prior consultation and negotiations with the Association unless such change is made to comply with law, and existing regulations, Personnel Rules, written Policies and Procedures, General Orders, General Operating Procedure, or Standard Operating Procedure.

### **ARTICLE 37. MANAGEMENT RIGHTS**

The MSEA-SEIU agrees that the State has and will continue to retain the sole and exclusive right to manage its operations and retains all management rights, whether exercised or not, unless specifically abridged, modified or

delegated by the provisions of this Agreement. Such rights include, but are not limited to, the right to determine the mission, location and size of all agencies and facilities; the right to direct its work force; to administer the merit system; to establish specifications for each class of positions and to classify or reclassify and to allocate or reallocate new or existing positions in accordance with the law; to discipline and discharge employees; to determine the size and composition of the work force; to eliminate positions; to make temporary layoffs at its discretion; to contract out for goods and services; to determine the operating budget of the agency; to install new, changed or improved methods of operations; to relieve employees because of lack of work or for other legitimate reasons; to maintain the efficiency of the government operations entrusted to them; and to take whatever actions may be necessary to carry out the mission of the agency in situations of emergency.

### **ARTICLE 38. MILITARY LEAVE**

Employees who are members of the National Guard or other authorized State military or naval forces, and those employees who are members of the Army, Air Force, Marine, Coast Guard or Naval Reserve shall be entitled to a leave of absence from their respective duties, without loss of pay, and shall accrue sick and annual leave and seniority during periods of military training that do not exceed seventeen (17) workdays in any calendar year.

### **ARTICLE 39. MSEA-SEIU MEMBERSHIP PACKETS**

Each newly hired employee eligible upon completion of six (6) months service for coverage by this Agreement shall be provided by the State with an MSEA-SEIU-furnished membership packet along with other orientation materials which are regularly provided to new employees. MSEA-SEIU shall be solely responsible for the material contained in such packets, which shall conform to standards contained in the Bulletin Boards Article. Any questions concerning the contents of these packets or MSEA-SEIU programs shall be referred to MSEA-SEIU. MSEA-SEIU shall supply the packets to the points of distribution. In addition, the State shall supply MSEA-SEIU with the following information in computer format on the first of each month: Social Security Number, Date Hired, Name, Address, Class Title, Department, Class Code and Work Location for each newly hired employee. The State will identify those employees who are seasonal. The State shall also notify MSEA-SEIU of the same information as to each employee coming under coverage of this Agreement due to promotion, demotion, reclassification, transfer or other change of status and those employees who have terminated their State service within thirty (30) days of determination of such change.

MSEA-SEIU shall indemnify and hold the State harmless against any and all claims, suits, orders or judgments brought or issued against the State as the result of negligence in actions taken or not taken by the State under the provisions of this Article.

#### **ARTICLE 40. MSEA-SEIU RETIREMENT HANDBOOK**

The State shall provide MSEA-SEIU with a monthly listing of employees who make application for retirement so that MSEA-SEIU may forward a copy of their retirement handbook to such employees for informational purposes.

#### **ARTICLE 41. NON-DISCRIMINATION**

The State agrees to continue its established policy against all forms of illegal discrimination, including 1) discrimination with regard to race, creed, color, national origin, sex, marital status, age, physical or mental disability, unless based upon a bona fide occupational qualification; and 2) intimidation or harassment on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, sex, marital status, age, physical or mental disability.

MSEA-SEIU agrees to continue its policy to admit all members to membership and to represent all members without regard to race, creed, color, national origin, sex, marital status, age, physical or mental disability.

MSEA-SEIU agrees to support affirmative action programs mandated by law and any other affirmative action programs affecting the State which comply with or are mandated by applicable State and federal laws.

MSEA-SEIU and the State agree that discrimination, intimidation, or harassment of employees, including sexual harassment in all its various forms, is unacceptable conduct and will not be condoned or tolerated by MSEA-SEIU or the State. The State agrees to re-post Personnel Bulletin 13.4 with the addendum concerning sexual harassment within sixty (60) days of the signing of this Agreement.

The State and MSEA-SEIU agree that any disputes arising out of the provisions of this Article may be processed through the grievance procedure contained in the Grievance Procedure Article subject to the State's right to have any such grievance considered at the appropriate level or steps by the State's Affirmative Action Officer. This provision shall not preclude other legal remedies provided by law.

#### **ARTICLE 42. OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT**

Employees may engage in other employment outside of their State working hours so long as the outside employment does not involve a conflict of interest with their State employment. Whenever it appears that any such outside employment might constitute a conflict of interest, the employee is expected to consult with his/her appointing authority or other appropriate agency representative prior to engaging in such outside employment. Employees of agencies where there are established procedures concerning outside employment for the purpose of insuring compliance with specific statutory restrictions on outside employment are expected to comply with such procedures.

#### **ARTICLE 43. OVERTIME ASSIGNMENTS**

Within a work group or at a work location as appropriate, overtime work shall be equalized to the extent possible among employees within a classification who normally perform the duties involved.

When the required overtime duties normally overlap from one classification to another, every attempt shall be made to equalize such work among members of those classes.

#### **ARTICLE 44. PASSES AND TELEPHONES - FERRY SERVICE**

1. Ferry Service employees will be issued passes authorizing free passage on Ferry Service vessels for the employees, their spouses, their dependent children and their vehicles for runs to or from the island or residency of the employees. Free passage for a vehicle shall be on the same priority as that afforded paying passengers.

2. Ferry Service employees shall be permitted reasonable use of terminal telephones for necessary calls to home.

#### **ARTICLE 45. PERMANENT STATUS**

No employee's probationary period shall be extended without the employee being informed in writing prior to the expiration of such period. Unless notified in writing otherwise prior to expiration of his/her probationary period or extension thereof, the employee shall be granted permanent status immediately following such probationary period.

#### **ARTICLE 46. PERSONAL SERVICES**

No employee shall be required to perform services of a personal nature.

#### **ARTICLE 47. PERSONNEL FILES**

**1.** An employee, upon written request to or after prior arrangement with the State Bureau of Human Resources, or the appropriate official at his/her work location or in his/her agency, shall be permitted to review his/her personnel files. Such review shall take place during normal office hours and shall be conducted under the supervision of the appropriate records custodian or agency representative. An employee may review his/her personnel files at reasonable times during his/her regular work hours if such review does not require travel out of the normal work area. An employee shall be allowed to place in such file a response of reasonable length to anything contained therein which the employee deems to be adverse.

**2.** An employee's personnel file shall include, but not be limited to, all memoranda and documents relating to such employee which contain commendations, employee performance appraisals or ratings and records of training programs completed.

**3.** Upon request an employee shall be provided a copy of any or all materials in his/her personnel files provided that such copies shall be provided at the employee's expense. Copies of material added to the employee's personal file after the effective date of this Agreement shall be furnished at the State's expense and sent to each employee simultaneously with it being placed in his/her personnel file.

**4.** Upon request of an employee, records of reprimands and preventable accident reports shall be removed from personnel files after three (3) years from the date of the occurrence provided that the employee has had no further disciplinary action since that date. Upon request of an employee, records of suspensions and disciplinary demotions shall be removed from personnel files after five (5) years from the date of the occurrence provided that the employee has had no further disciplinary action since that date. However, records of disciplinary suspensions resulting from patient/client abuse, neglect or mistreatment shall not be removed from personnel files under the provisions of this paragraph 4.

#### **ARTICLE 48. PROPERTY DAMAGE**

The State shall continue to reimburse employees for personal property of reasonable value damaged, destroyed or stolen while in the performance of their duties in accordance with established procedures.

#### **ARTICLE 49. RECLASSIFICATIONS**

**Definitions.** For the purposes of this Agreement the following terms are defined as follows:

**(a)** Classification and Reclassification. Classification and reclassification are the assignment or reassignment, respectively, of a position or group of positions to an occupational classification which is appropriate for compensation and employment purposes.

**(b)** Allocation and Reallocation. Allocation and reallocation are the assignment or reassignment, respectively, of a classification to the appropriate grade in the compensation plan.

**1.** MSEA-SEIU may appeal to final and binding arbitration a determination of the Director of Human Resources on the classification, reclassification, allocation or reallocation of a position or classification. Such appeal shall be made within fifteen (15) workdays of the Director of Human Resources' determination. Arbitration cases will be heard chronologically, by date of appeal, unless the parties mutually agree otherwise. The parties agree to utilize the services of an arbitration panel. Subsequent selection of panel members, if necessary, shall be agreed to within sixty (60) days of the termination of an arbitrator. Arbitrators shall be experienced in job evaluation disputes. If the parties cannot agree on the selection of arbitrator(s), they shall seek the assistance of the American Arbitration Association. The parties shall share equally the costs and expenses of the arbitrator(s) and each party shall bear the costs of preparing and presenting its own case.

**2.** The Arbitrator or Alternate shall not assign any existing classification to a new salary grade unless there has been a change in duties except as provided below. The Arbitrator's or Alternate's decisions shall be final and binding on:

**(a)** The combination or merging of classifications and the allocation of the resulting new classifications to pay grades;

**(b)** reclassification or pay grade reallocation of positions the duties of which have changed since their last classification or allocation;

**(c)** assignment to classifications or the establishment and pay grade allocations of new classifications for new positions;

**(d)** the establishment of separate classifications and pay grade allocations for positions within the same classification on the basis of significant difference in duties.

**3.** Except for reclassifications and reallocations in connection with a reorganization, any reclassification or reallocation decision of the Director of Human Resources or the Arbitrator or Alternate shall be effective as of the date of the written initiation of the reclassification or reallocation request by the employee, MSEA-SEIU or State and shall be implemented retroactively when the funds are provided pursuant to budgetary procedures.

The State shall pay the employee reclassified or reallocated interest of two thirds of one percent (2/3%) per month on all monies due as a result of the reclassification or reallocation from the date of the final decision until payment.

**4.** Reclassifications and reallocations in connections with a reorganization shall be effective on the date they are approved and implemented.

5. No employee shall be reduced in salary as a result of reclassification or reallocation.

6. An employee shall be provided with a copy of his/her job description and specifications when appointed to a position and whenever the job description and/or specifications are changed.

7. If qualifications for a classification change, affected employees currently working in the class will be grandfathered except where licensing, registration, certification or special qualifications are required by state law, federal law or court order, or except where licensing, registration, certification or special qualifications are required to obtain or maintain federal funds.

8. The provisions of this Article (49) shall be effective as provided in Article 71 (Term of Agreement); provided, however, that provisions of this Article shall be re-opened for negotiation upon thirty (30) day written notice, or demand to reopen, given by either party when such notifying party has concluded that reopened negotiations are necessary relative to current compensation system bargaining being conducted pursuant to 26 M.R.S.A. §979-D(1)(E)(1)(g), (h) and (i). Such re-opened negotiations shall be conducted only as a part of compensation system bargaining and only pursuant to 25 M.R.S.A. §979-D(1)(E)(1)(h).

## **ARTICLE 50. RELOCATIONS**

When an employee is permanently reassigned or transferred to a new work location thirty-five (35) or more miles away from his/her present work location to accommodate the State's operational needs, he/she shall be reimbursed for actual reasonable and necessary moving expenses by common carrier. If the State requires an employee to live in a specified zone or district after initial assignment, the employee will be reimbursed for actual reasonable and necessary moving expenses by common carrier.

An employee will not be permanently reassigned or transferred for disciplinary or arbitrary or capricious reasons. Unless specific requirements dictate otherwise, transfers and reassignments shall be on a voluntary basis from among qualified employees. The most senior employee who is qualified to perform the duties of the position shall be entitled to the transfer or reassignment. If there are no qualified volunteers, the least senior qualified employee shall be transferred. In the event the least senior qualified employee has children of elementary or secondary school age, he/she shall be exempted from this provision in the event no schools are available in the new assignment area or if suitable educational arrangements for such children cannot be mutually agreed to.

The State shall provide ninety (90) days advance notice of such relocations whenever possible, and in the event that less than ninety (90) days notice is provided, the State will pay reasonable temporary relocation expenses, pursuant

to the Lodging and Meals Article of this Agreement, for any period of less than ninety (90) days notice.

This Article does not apply to employees relocating in connection with any reduction in force or to employees in job classes which traditionally have required performance of duties at other than a fixed location.

## **ARTICLE 51. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES**

The State and MSEA-SEIU acknowledge the rights and responsibilities of the other party and each agrees to discharge its responsibilities under this Agreement. The MSEA-SEIU, its officers and representatives at all levels, and all employees are bound to observe the provisions of this Agreement. The State and its officers and representatives at all levels are bound to observe the provisions of this Agreement.

In addition to the responsibilities that may be provided elsewhere in this Agreement, the following shall be observed:

**(a) Exclusive Negotiations.** The State will not bargain collectively or meet with any employee organization other than MSEA-SEIU with reference to terms and conditions of employment of employees covered by this Agreement. If any such organizations request meetings they will be advised by the State to transmit their requests concerning terms and conditions of employment to MSEA-SEIU.

**(b) Employees' Rights.** There shall be no interference, intimidation, restraint, coercion or discrimination by either the State or MSEA-SEIU as a result of the exercise by any employee within the bargaining unit of his/her statutory rights related to membership in MSEA-SEIU or any other right granted under the State Employees Labor Relations Act.

**(c) Fair Representation.** MSEA-SEIU acknowledges its statutory responsibility to represent and handle grievances for all employees within the bargaining unit. The State shall not be responsible for actions taken or not taken by MSEA-SEIU with respect to its responsibility to provide fair representation.

**(d) Efficient Public Service.** The State and MSEA-SEIU acknowledge their mutual responsibility to encourage and foster efficient and economical service in all activities of the State involving employees. The parties recognize the responsibility of employees to perform the duties assigned them in an efficient and expeditious manner. The parties further recognize the responsibility of the State to promote a working environment and a quality of work life conducive to achievement of these goals.

**(e) Settlement of Grievances.** The applicable procedures of this Agreement shall be followed for the settlement of all grievances. All grievances shall be considered carefully and processed promptly.

## **ARTICLE 52. REST AND LUNCH PERIODS**

1. The present practices of agencies, departments or organizational units with respect to rest periods during the regular workday shall be continued, provided that each employee shall be allowed two (2) rest periods with pay of fifteen (15) minutes during each regular workday. Employees whose duties involve continuous operations where breaks cannot be scheduled shall take personal rest periods as schedules permit.

2. Present practices of agencies, departments or organizational units with respect to lunch periods during the regular workday shall be continued, provided that each employee shall be allowed at least one-half (½) hour for lunch without pay during each regular day or have his/her lunch period considered as time worked if he/she eats while performing his/her regular duties.

3. Ferry Service employees shall be entitled to have their one-half (½) hour lunch periods scheduled between 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. When Ferry Service employees are required to remain on duty during that period, they shall be permitted to eat lunch on the job and the time shall be considered time worked for pay and other purposes.

4. When it is reasonably anticipated that overtime will extend for at least one (1) hour, an employee shall be allowed a rest period with pay of fifteen (15) minutes between the end of a regular work schedule and the beginning of the overtime work. If overtime is to continue beyond two (2) hours, an employee shall be allowed a meal period with pay of at least one-half (½) hour after two (2) hours of overtime and an additional meal period with pay of at least one-half (½) hour after each additional four (4) hours of overtime providing the employee will be continuing to work thereafter. After completing four (4) hours of overtime, the employee shall be allowed a rest period with pay of fifteen (15) minutes during each additional four (4) hours of overtime. It is not the intent of this paragraph to combine the rest and meal periods provided.

## **ARTICLE 53. RETIREMENT CONTRIBUTION REFUNDS**

Refund of an employee's accumulated contributions to the Member's Contribution Fund of the Maine State Retirement System shall be made within the time frame provided by law. Currently, refunds shall be made within sixty (60) days after receipt by the System of an application for refund.

## **ARTICLE 54. RULES AND REGULATIONS**

In the event of a conflict between the provisions of this Agreement and the Personnel Rules or departmental rules or regulations as they now exist or may be from time to time amended, the provisions of this Agreement shall apply.

**ARTICLE 55. SAFETY FOOTWEAR**

1. The State will provide employees in the classifications listed in Section 5 below, and employees who are currently required to wear safety footwear by Department Work Rules, an allowance of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) at their next eligibility date and one hundred twenty dollars (\$120.00) every eighteen months thereafter for replacement of safety footwear.

2. New employees in these classifications shall be eligible for the one hundred dollar (\$100.00) allowance after completion of their probationary period, and one hundred twenty dollars (\$120.00) every eighteen (18) months thereafter from their beginning anniversary date.

3. Safety footwear purchased must meet ANSI standards where applicable. Requirements for the wearing of safety footwear will be in accordance with work rules published by the State.

4. Employees of Departments with work rules that provide such safety footwear will not be eligible for the allowance.

5. Classifications required to wear safety footwear:

- Highway Laborer
- Highway Worker I
- Highway Worker II
- Highway Worker III
- Highway Worker IV
- Bridge Maintenance Worker I
- Bridge Maintenance Worker II
- Bridge Maintenance Worker III
- Automotive Mechanic I
- Automotive Mechanic II
- Ferry Service Able Seaman
- Ferry Service Ord. Seaman
- Aircraft Mechanic
- Marine Mechanic Specialist
- Heavy Vehicle & Equipment Technician
- Field Heavy Vehicle & Equipment Technician

**ARTICLE 56. SENIORITY**

**A. Definition and General**

1. Seniority for the purposes described herein is defined as continuous employment, since the last date of hire into a status-granting position.

Employees shall attain seniority upon completion of their initial probationary period retroactive to the date of initial hire.

**2.** Seniority shall be broken only as provided in paragraph 4 of this Section. An employee shall continue to accrue seniority during any period while he/she is on layoff and subject to the recall provisions of this Article, during military leave, leaves occasioned by incapacity for work and during any period of an authorized leave of absence except those pursuant to the Unpaid Personal Leaves of Absence Article and voluntary cost savings.

**3.** Lists of employees by seniority in their current classifications within an organizational unit shall be posted on the appropriate State bulletin boards as soon as practicable after execution of this Agreement and shall be provided to MSEA-SEIU simultaneously. These lists shall be updated from time to time as necessary.

**4.** An employee shall lose his/her seniority if he/she:

- (a)** voluntarily resigns;
- (b)** is discharged for just cause;
- (c)** is laid off and not recalled for work within three (3) years from the date of layoff;

**(d)** fails to return to work or supply a satisfactory reason for not reporting within five (5) workdays of being recalled to work from layoff. Written notice of recall shall be sent by regular mail to the employee's last known address.

**5.** Layoffs and recalls to work for a period of three (3) working days or less are temporary and not subject to the provisions of this Article.

## **B. Layoffs**

When an appointing authority determines that a reduction in force is necessary, implementation of that reduction in force will proceed as follows:

**(1)** The appointing authority determines which positions, in each organizational unit and unit division, are to be abolished or funding eliminated.

**(2)** The least senior employee(s) in the affected classification and unit division will be laid off. More senior employees who occupy positions that are abolished or for which funding is eliminated will be reassigned to vacancies created by these layoffs or to other available vacancies in the class and unit division. These employees will be offered their choice of vacancies into which they may be reassigned in order of seniority, provided they are qualified to perform the duties of the position they select.

**(3)** If no option exists in (2), in lieu of layoff a displaced employee may accept, in order of seniority, reassignment to an available vacant position in his or her last previously held classification, regardless of changes to range, title, and/or bargaining unit of the classification since the employee left the classification, in the same unit division, provided the employee is qualified to perform the duties of the position.

**(4)** If no option exists in (3) above, in lieu of layoff a displaced employee may displace, in order of seniority, the least senior employee in his or her last previously held classification, regardless of changes to range, title, and/or bargaining unit of the classification, since the employee left the classification, in the same unit division, provided he or she has greater seniority than the employee being displaced and is qualified to perform the duties of the position. The employee may also accept reassignment, in order of seniority, to an available vacancy in classifications that are lower related to the employee's current classification in the same unit division, provided the employee is qualified to perform the duties of the position.

Any employee displaced pursuant to this provision shall have like reassignment and displacement rights.

No classified employee may displace any unclassified employee. No unclassified employee may displace any classified employee except to the classification in the other service that was the last previously held.

The State and MSEA-SEIU shall negotiate to establish appropriate organizational units and unit divisions. Either party may request a review of an organizational unit or unit division on a departmental basis. In the event that the parties are unable to agree to appropriate organizational units and unit divisions either party may submit the dispute at any time thereafter for a binding determination to a qualified arbitrator mutually agreed upon by the parties or selected through the American Arbitration Association in accordance with the rules and procedures of that Association.

No employee other than a permanent employee, including permanent seasonal employees, shall be used to perform work in a class in the unit division while a permanent employee who is qualified to do the work is on layoff unless the laid off employee refuses the work.

### **C. Notice of Layoff/Reassignment/Displacement**

Employees to be affected by pending layoff, reassignment, or displacement shall be given written notice as soon as practicable but at least five (5) workdays before the effective date of the layoff/reassignment, or displacement. Employees affected by layoff/reassignment/displacement shall be required to reply in writing within three (3) workdays of notice of layoff as to their decisions on layoff and displacement rights. Employees subject to actual layoff and not displacing other employees shall be entitled to notice of at least ten (10) workdays before layoff. Copies of any notices from the State to employees under this provision shall be given simultaneously to MSEA-SEIU.

### **D. Recalls**

A recall register shall be established for each class by organizational unit or unit division, as appropriate, from which any employee has been laid off,

transferred or demoted in lieu of layoff. An employee who is notified of layoff will be placed on the recall register, immediately upon receipt of written notice to the Bureau of Human Resources from the employee in the manner prescribed by the Bureau, for the class from which he or she was laid off and, when applicable, his or her last previously held classification. Any vacancy occurring in that class, or the class last previously held shall be offered first to the employee on the recall register. Recalls to work shall be made as follows:

(1) To the most senior employee in the unit division who possesses the minimum qualifications to perform the duties of the position;

(2) To the most senior employee in the organizational unit who possesses the minimum qualifications to perform the duties of the position;

(3) To the most senior employee statewide who possesses the minimum qualifications to perform the duties of the position.

Employees who refuse recall to the same classification, or to the last previously held classification, for a unit division, organizational unit, or on a statewide basis, from which he or she was laid off or to which they have recall rights shall be removed from the appropriate recall register.

#### **E. Other Vacancies**

An employee laid off or about to be laid off may open any employment register for which he/she is eligible for the purpose of establishing qualifications for any State position.

The placement on class registers and certification procedures for employees on layoff shall be treated as promotional in all cases, regardless of the pay grade of the class for which the employee is applying.

#### **F. Filling of Non-Competitive Vacancies**

In the event of a vacancy in a non-competitive position after application of the recall provisions in this Article, such vacancy shall be filled from among eligible employees on the basis of ability and qualifications to perform the duties of the position. Where qualifications and ability are substantially equal, seniority will be the governing factor in final selection.

Vacancies shall be filled as follows:

1. from employees within the agency who bid for transfer or voluntary demotion;

2. from employees within the agency who bid for promotion;

3. from employees within State service who bid for transfer or voluntary demotion;

4. from employees within State service who bid for promotion; and

5. from applicants outside State government.

Where such selection involves a bona fide need for special skills and/or special qualifications for a particular position and those special skills and/or

special qualifications do not exist among the applicants from within the agency or State service, the above preference for selection shall not preclude the agency from outside selection.

Notwithstanding the above, it is understood there should be no conflict with affirmative action principles, and where there is an affirmative action plan in place, such plan shall be controlling.

All job vacancies shall be posted in the applicable department, agency, organizational unit or unit division for ten (10) workdays. Notice of vacancies shall include the full particulars of the positions, including a job description, job location, pay rate, required qualifications and requirements for applying. Any employee wishing to be considered for an applicable promotion shall file a written, dated application with his/her appointing authority or designee within the posting period. Job posting notices shall indicate the name and title of the person to whom applications should be submitted. Seasonal and part-time employees shall have the right to apply for full-time vacancies and shall be given consideration in accordance with their abilities, qualifications, and seniority.

Employees promoted under the provisions of this Article will be in a probationary status for a period of six (6) months from the effective date of the promotion. Such probationary period may be extended for just cause for an additional six (6) months. During such period the employee may be removed from the position promoted to for failure to fulfill the duties of the position. In such case he/she shall be returned to his/her former position if the employee so desires. An employee filling positions created by the promotion shall be likewise entitled to return to his/her former position.

#### **G. Filling of Competitive Vacancies**

Current procedures for filling of vacancies in the competitive service shall be continued during the term of this Agreement.

The following principles, however, shall be followed in the filling of competitive vacancies:

**(a)** Notice of all vacancies in competitive jobs shall be posted in the applicable department, agency, organizational unit or unit division for at least ten (10) workdays.

**(b)** All employees certified to an appointing authority shall be offered the opportunity of an interview.

**(c)** Each certified employee shall be notified by the appointing authority of his/her selection or non-selection.

**(d)** Length of service representing satisfactory service to the State is important for any position and will be given appropriate consideration by the appointing authority along with the qualifications for the position.

The State certification procedures shall provide for concurrent certification of eligible employees instead of serial certification for the duration of this Agreement. Employees accepting a job offer must do so within five (5) business

days from that job offer. An employee shall be entitled to refuse four (4) appointments from a register before being removed from the register.

Employees in a department or agency who are in the same classification or on a register for that classification who bid for transfer into a vacancy in the department or agency shall be offered the opportunity to interview for such vacancy.

Upon promotion an employee shall be entitled to return to his/her former position voluntarily within thirty (30) days of promotion; otherwise voluntary demotion rules will apply. An employee at any time during the probationary period or any extension thereof failing to attain permanent status in a promotional position shall be entitled to return to his/her former position. Any employee filling a vacancy created by a promotion shall be likewise entitled to return to his/her former position when a promoted employee returns to his/her former position in accordance with the above provisions.

## **H. Promotions and Appointments**

Unclassified employees who promote to an unclassified position in a higher pay range shall have their rate of pay adjusted to the lowest rate in the new range which is at least five percent (5%) higher than the rate in the class from which promoted.

Classified employees who promote to a classified position in a higher pay range shall have their rate of pay adjusted to the lowest rate in the new range which is at least five percent (5%) higher than the rate in the class from which promoted.

Unclassified employees who accept an initial appointment in a higher pay range in the classification service shall have their rate of pay adjusted to the lowest rate in the new range which is at least five percent (5%) higher than the rate in the position that the employee left.

Classified employees who accept a position in the unclassified service in a higher pay range shall have their rate of pay adjusted to the lowest rate in the new pay range which is at least five percent (5%) higher than the rate of the class from which the employee left.

## **I. Permanent Seasonal Employees**

The provisions of this Article shall apply to seasonal employees covered by this Agreement but in a separate seniority, layoff, reassignment, displacement and recall track, for their respective seasons. Permanent employees laid off from their permanent position shall be entitled to return to previously held permanent seasonal positions. For purposes of this Article, when a seasonal employee moves from the seasonal track to the year-round track, seniority calculations shall be converted to reflect actual time worked in the seasonal position. Seniority credits for the purpose of this conversion shall be calculated in weekly

increments. Any time worked within a given week shall be recognized as a full week.

### **J. Part-Time Employees**

Separate track seniority systems for layoff, reassignment, displacement and recall purposes shall be implemented for full-time and part-time employees. Full-time employees will only be given options in full-time positions. Part-time employees will only be given options in part-time positions.

Full-time positions shall be defined as any position regularly scheduled for forty (40) or more hours per week.

If an employee is the least senior employee in his or her classification and unit division, he or she shall be given the options prescribed in section B of this Article in the other track, provided the employee has previously held that classification in the other track with the agency.

For purposes of this Article, when a part-time employee moves from the part-time track to the full-time track, seniority calculations shall be converted to reflect actual time worked in the part-time position. Seniority credits for the purpose of this conversion shall be calculated according to the employees scheduled workweek. Any time worked within a given week shall be recognized as a scheduled workweek.

Recall rights shall be limited to the track from which the employee is initially laid off, displaced, reassigned or demoted in lieu of layoff.

### **K. Positions Outside Bargaining Unit**

An employee in the bargaining unit as of the effective date of this Agreement in a position in a class covered by this Agreement but who becomes excluded pursuant to Section 979-A(6)(C) of the State Employees Labor Relations Act and an employee who by way of a promotion through a normal career ladder is in a classified position excluded from the bargaining unit pursuant to Section 979-A(6)(B) or Section 979-A(6)(D) of the State Employees Labor Relations Act and any other employee promoted through a normal career ladder to a position outside of the bargaining unit shall have the same layoff, seniority, displacement, recall and other rights under this Article for return to a position in the bargaining unit as a covered employee would have if the exercise of those rights is occasioned by a layoff.

Employees covered by previous MSEA-SEIU Agreements in any status described above shall continue to have such rights for return to a position in the bargaining unit as described above.

Otherwise, employees excluded from bargaining units pursuant to the State Employees Labor Relations Act shall have no rights under this Article within the bargaining unit.

#### **L. Laid Off Employees in State Housing**

Full-time year-round employees who live in State housing and are laid off shall have at least sixty (60) days to vacate the State housing.

#### **M. Health Insurance Coverage for Laid off Employees**

The State agrees to provide laid off employees with group health insurance at the employee's expense for one (1) year provided that the employee is unemployed. Premiums are to be paid directly to the insurance carrier. Failure to make payments would result in cancellation of insurance with no conversion privileges.

#### **N. Short-Term Seasonal Positions**

Short-term seasonal position vacancies of fifteen (15) weeks or less duration shall not require posting as a method of filling the vacancy.

### **ARTICLE 57. SEVERABILITY**

In the event that any Article, section or portion of this Agreement is found to be invalid or unenforceable by final decision of a tribunal of competent jurisdiction, or shall have the effect of a loss to the State of funds or property or services made available through federal law, then such specific Article, section or portion specified in such decision or which is in such conflict or having such effect, shall be of no force and effect. Upon the issuance of such decision, if either party requests, the parties shall negotiate a substitute for such specific Article, section or portion thereof, provided that the remainder of this Agreement shall continue in full force and effect. The parties agree to use their best efforts to contest any such loss of federal funds which may be threatened.

### **ARTICLE 58. SHIFT ASSIGNMENTS**

When an opening occurs in a shift assignment in an appropriate work group at a location, preference shall be given to employees within the classification who possess the training, ability and any required special qualifications to perform the work required, on the basis of seniority. In the event that no employee desires a shift assignment, employees shall be selected in order of inverse seniority.

This provision shall not apply to necessary training assignments. This provision shall not in itself alter the practice of rotating shifts where such practice presently exists. No employee who has a regular shift assignment on the effective

date of the Agreement shall be involuntarily displaced from such shift assignment as a result of this Article.

## **ARTICLE 59. SICK LEAVE**

**1.** Sick leave credit shall be earned at the rate of one (1) day per calendar month of service. The current practices concerning the earning of sick leave credits shall be continued. Sick leave shall be earned from the employee's date of employment. Sick leave credit shall be earned for any month in which the employee has been in pay status for ten (10) or more workdays or eighty (80) hours. A part-time employee shall earn sick leave in the same proportion as his/her part-time service bears to full-time service. An employee may accumulate unused sick leave up to a maximum of one hundred and twenty (120) days. Employees currently with lapsed sick leave credits shall have such lapsed sick leave added to their accumulated sick leave up to the maximum allowable accumulation of one hundred and twenty (120) days. However, the amount of unused sick leave accruals which can be credited towards State service for retirement purposes shall be ninety (90) days. When the maximum limitation has been accumulated, days that would normally thereafter be earned shall lapse but shall be recorded by the appointing authority. Any employee who has such lapsed sick leave to his/her credit may apply to the Director of Human Resources to have the sick leave restored in the event of an extended illness. The Director of Human Resources at his/her discretion may authorize restoration of all or any part of the lapsed sick leave after thorough investigation, including complete medical reports of the illness requiring the continued absence of the employee.

**2.** Sick leave may be used for illness, necessary medical or dental care, or other disability of the employee or a member of the employee's immediate family which requires the attention or presence of the employee. Immediate family as used in this Article shall mean the spouse or significant other, the parents of the spouse or significant other, the children of the spouse or significant other, the parents, stepparents, guardian, children, stepchildren, brothers, stepbrothers, sisters, stepsisters, wards, grandparents and grandchildren of the employee. For the purposes of this Article, "significant other" means that a relationship exists between two people, neither of whom is married, that is intended to remain indefinitely and where there is joint responsibility for each other's common welfare, there are significant shared financial obligations, and they must be living together in a shared primary residence. This relationship must have existed for at least two (2) continuous years before benefits under this Article may be provided.

Employees are encouraged to consult with their agency/department Personnel Officer to determine if they are eligible for benefits available under the Federal Family and Medical Leave Act. A medical examination or doctor's certificate may be required on account of use of sick leave for five (5) or more

consecutive workdays, or because of repeated absences on days preceding or days following a holiday or weekend. When a medical examination or doctor's certificate is required on account of use of sick leave in excess of five (5) consecutive workdays, the State shall pay the difference between the cost of obtaining such certificate and the amount covered by insurance.

**3.** Notifications of absence under the provisions of this Article shall be given as soon as possible on the first day of absence or as soon thereafter as circumstances permit.

**4.** Upon application of an employee, a leave of absence without pay may be granted by an appointing authority for a period of disability because of sickness or injury. If the appointing authority denies the requested leave, it shall state its reason in writing. The appointing authority may, from time to time, require that the employee submit a certificate from the attending physician or a designated physician. If a certificate from a physician other than the attending physician is required, the State shall pay the difference between the cost of obtaining such certificate and the amount covered by insurance.

**5.** An employee who is transferred to the jurisdiction of another appointing authority or who accepts employment under the jurisdiction of a new appointing authority without interruption of service to the State shall retain his/her accumulated unused sick leave credits.

**6.** A former State employee who is reappointed within four (4) years of his/her separation may have his/her previously accumulated and unused balance of sick leave revived and placed to his/her credit upon approval of the new appointing authority.

**7.** Any employee returning from layoff, including seasonal employees covered by this Agreement, shall have the unused sick leave accrued as of the time of layoff restored upon his/her reinstatement.

**[Effective upon implementation of the MFASIS Project's Leave Accrual Module]**

**ARTICLE 59. SICK LEAVE**

**1.** Sick leave credit shall be earned at the rate of 3.7 hours per completed two-week pay period of service. The current practices concerning the earning of sick leave credits shall be continued only for those employees regularly scheduled to work in excess of forty (40) hours per week and only for as long as they are so scheduled. Sick leave shall be earned from the employee's date of employment. Sick leave credit shall be earned for any pay period in which the employee has been in pay status for five (5) or more workdays or forty (40) hours. A part-time or intermittent employee shall earn sick leave as follows: a part-time or intermittent employee shall earn **.369** hours of sick leave for each eight (8) hours in pay status per two-week pay period. For part-time employees, "hours in

pay status" shall be an employee's regularly scheduled hours. An employee may accumulate unused sick leave up to a maximum of nine hundred sixty (960) hours. However, the amount of unused sick leave accruals which can be credited towards State service for retirement purposes shall be seven hundred twenty (720) hours. For part-time or intermittent employees, the maximum accumulation of sick leave and the amount of unused sick leave which can be credited toward State service for retirement purposes shall be a percentage of nine hundred sixty (960) hours and seven hundred twenty (720) hours, respectively, equal to ten percent (10%) for each eight (8) hours in pay status per two-week pay period. When the maximum limitation has been accumulated, days that would normally thereafter be earned shall lapse but shall be recorded by the appointing authority. Any employee who has such lapsed sick leave to his/her credit may apply to the Director of Human Resources to have the sick leave restored in the event of an extended illness. The Director of Human Resources at his/her discretion may authorize restoration of all or any part of the lapsed sick leave after thorough investigation, including complete medical reports of the illness requiring the continued absence of the employee.

**2.** Sick leave may be used for illness, necessary medical or dental care, or other disability of the employee or a member of the employee's immediate family which requires the attention or presence of the employee. Immediate family as used in this Article shall mean the spouse or significant other, the parents of the spouse or significant other, the children of the spouse or significant other, the parents, stepparents, guardian, children, stepchildren, brothers, stepbrothers, sisters, stepsisters, wards, grandparents and grandchildren of the employee. For the purposes of this Article, "significant other" means that a relationship exists between two people, neither of whom is married, that is intended to remain indefinitely and where there is joint responsibility for each other's common welfare, there are significant shared financial obligations, and they must be living together in a shared primary residence. This relationship must have existed for at least two (2) continuous years before benefits under this Article may be provided.

Employees are encouraged to consult with their agency/department Personnel Officer to determine if they are eligible for benefits available under the Federal Family and Medical Leave Act. A medical examination or doctor's certificate may be required on account of use of sick leave for five (5) or more consecutive workdays, or because of repeated absences on days preceding or days following a holiday or weekend. When a medical examination or doctor's certificate is required on account of use of sick leave in excess of five (5) consecutive workdays, the State shall pay the difference between the cost of obtaining such certificate and the amount covered by insurance.

**3.** Notifications of absence under the provisions of this Article shall be given as soon as possible on the first day of absence or as soon thereafter as circumstances permit.

4. Upon application of an employee, a leave of absence without pay may be granted by an appointing authority for a period of disability because of sickness or injury. If the appointing authority denies the requested leave, it shall state its reason in writing. The appointing authority may, from time to time, require that the employee submit a certificate from the attending physician or a designated physician. If a certificate from a physician other than the attending physician is required, the State shall pay the difference between the cost of obtaining such certificate and the amount covered by insurance.

5. An employee who is transferred to the jurisdiction of another appointing authority or who accepts employment under the jurisdiction of a new appointing authority without interruption of service to the State shall retain his/her accumulated unused sick leave credits.

6. A former State employee who is reappointed within four (4) years of his/her separation may have his/her previously accumulated and unused balance of sick leave revived and placed to his/her credit upon approval of the new appointing authority.

7. Any employee returning from layoff, including seasonal employees covered by this Agreement, shall have the unused sick leave accrued as of the time of layoff restored upon his/her reinstatement.

## **ARTICLE 60. STATE VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT**

1. No employee shall be required to operate any State vehicle or equipment which is unsafe. An employee shall not be subject to any penalty or disciplinary action because of failure or refusal to operate or handle any equipment which he/she reasonably believes to be in an unsafe condition. In any such circumstance an employee shall call the matter to the attention of his/her supervisor for proper action.

2. Other than motor vehicles, and except where employees have traditionally supplied their own tools, all employees shall be provided such equipment and tools as are reasonably necessary for their jobs, such as, drafting equipment, potato rakes, flashlights and batteries, and supplies.

3. Each ferry service vessel shall be provided with a full complement of necessary tools.

4. Tools of Automotive Mechanics, Heavy Vehicle and Equipment Technicians and Field Heavy Vehicle and Equipment Technicians which are regularly used in the performance of work on behalf of the State and are broken, damaged, destroyed, lost or stolen while provided for such use shall, on presentation of appropriate proof to the immediate supervisor, be replaced with tools of like quality, provided that when not in use they are stored in space provided by the State. In the event that the tools of an Automotive Mechanics, Heavy Vehicle and Equipment Technicians or Field Heavy Vehicle and Equipment

Technicians are covered by warranty, the warranty shall be used in lieu of State payment to the extent of the warranty coverage.

Any tools which can be said to be unusual, and not regularly used by the employee, but nevertheless required to perform work on certain kinds of vehicles, upon submission of request and approval by the appropriate supervisor, shall be provided to the particular Automotive Mechanic, Heavy Vehicle and Equipment Technician and Field Heavy Vehicle and Equipment Technician. Such tools shall be and remain the property of the State.

The State shall provide Automotive Mechanic I's, Heavy Vehicle and Equipment Technicians and Field Heavy Vehicle and Equipment Technicians who are required to provide their own tools an annual allowance of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) payable during the month of September in each year.

**5.** The State shall provide one (1) serviceable snowblower for each Ferry Service Vessel.

## **ARTICLE 61. UNION SECURITY**

### **1. Employees Hired On or After October 13, 2003**

This subsection of this Article applies only to individuals who are covered by this Agreement and who begin their employment with the State of Maine on or after October 13, 2003.

#### **A. Selection of Fee**

Any employee who begins employment with the State on or after October 13, 2003 and is covered by this Agreement and is not a member of MSEA-SEIU shall, as a condition of employment, within thirty (30) days after such conditions are met, be required to choose from the options of membership in MSEA-SEIU or payment to MSEA-SEIU of a service fee equal to their pro-rata share of the costs to MSEA-SEIU that are germane to collective bargaining and contract administration as defined by law. Any employee choosing either the option of membership in MSEA-SEIU or the option of payment of the service fee shall be required to (a) sign a written payroll deduction authorization form authorizing deduction from their pay of the membership dues or service fee, or (b) tender the full amount of the service fee to the union, or (c) indicate in writing their religious objection to such fee and make contributions at least equal in amount to the service fee to a non-religious charitable organization mutually agreed upon by the employee so objecting and the Union, within thirty (30) days after the first six (6) months of the beginning of their employment. Employees choosing (b) or (c) shall make payments within ten (10) days after each payday.

## **B. Payments and Deductions**

It shall be the sole responsibility of MSEA-SEIU to collect its dues or service fees and to verify contributions made in lieu of service fees. No payroll deduction of service fees shall be made from workers' compensation benefits or for any payroll period in which earnings received are insufficient to cover the amount of the deduction, nor shall such deductions be made from subsequent payrolls to retroactively cover the period in question. Employees shall not be penalized for failing to pay service fees for any such pay period(s).

## **C. Calculation of Service Fee**

MSEA-SEIU shall determine the amount of the service fee to be charged to non-members, consistent with both applicable law and this Article and shall certify to the State the amount of the service fee. The service fee paid by part-time employees shall bear the same ratio to part-time dues as the fee paid by full time employees bears to the dues amount paid by full time employees.

## **D. Notice and Audit**

MSEA-SEIU shall calculate the amount of the fee after the close of its annual audit, based on the expenditures incurred during the most recent fiscal year. That calculation shall also be audited to verify that the union's records have actually been audited; have been correctly reproduced from the audit report, and that the union has performed any mathematical adjustments correctly. The fee will be effective on the first payday after the audit is complete and notices are provided to employees. MSEA-SEIU shall prepare a notice, consistent with applicable law, to all employees covered by this Agreement. Such notice shall be updated annually and shall explain the choices and indicate that the sums determined to be the service fee were audited by an independent auditor based on the union's financial records for its most recent fiscal year. The notices shall, at a minimum, identify the major categories of expenses, as reflected in the audit, and identify whether each expense will be included in the service fee, identify the auditor(s), and include the opinion of each audit, including the opinion included in any adjusted audit(s). The State agrees to distribute this notice and dues deduction forms, provided by MSEA-SEIU, to new employees at the time they are hired. MSEA-SEIU shall provide notices required by law to all current bargaining unit employees.

## **E. Religious Objectors**

In the event that any employee covered hereby is a member of and adheres to a bona fide religion, body or sect, which has historically held conscientious objections to financially support public employee organizations

or labor organizations, that employee shall have the right to refuse to make service fee payments; provided, however, that said right to refuse shall continue only so long as the employee makes contributions at least equal in amount to the service fee to a non-religious charitable organization mutually agreed upon by the employee so refusing and the Union. Part-time employees' contributions to non-religious charitable organizations shall coincide in amount with the payments of those part-time employees paying the service fee. MSEA-SEIU shall not unreasonably deny the choice of such non-religious charitable organization suggested by the employee.

#### **F. Disputes**

The amount of the service fee shall be subject to review pursuant to the American Arbitration Association's Rules for Impartial Determination of Union Fees. Pending resolution of any such dispute, the disputed amount of fees shall be placed in an interest-bearing escrow account. MSEA-SEIU shall pay for any maintenance fees associated with such escrow accounts. The State shall not be liable for any fees, costs, damages, expenses, or any other form of liability involved with regard to such escrow accounts.

Fees, costs, damages, expenses, or other form of liability involved with regard to arbitration shall be borne only by MSEA-SEIU or the objecting employee in accordance with the American Arbitration Association's Rules for Impartial Determination of Union Fees.

In the event a dispute under this Article is submitted to arbitration, the arbitrator shall have no power or authority to order the State to pay such service fee on behalf of any employee. If the arbitrator decides that an employee has failed to pay or authorize the payment of the service fee in accordance with this Article, the only remedy shall be the termination of the employment of such employee if the employee refused to pay or authorize payment of the required service fee and the State complied with the adverse employment action procedure described below.

## **G. Failure to Pay Fee**

It shall be the sole obligation of MSEA-SEIU to certify to the State the name of each employee who has not paid his or her service fee or who has not made a contribution in lieu of a service fee and who, in the case of employees who are actively challenging the amount of the fee or the procedures implemented pursuant to this article, are not paying the disputed amount into the interest-bearing escrow account established by the union. MSEA-SEIU agrees to cooperate in any State investigation performed due to or in reliance upon each statement.

The Discipline article does not apply to employees who have not complied with this Article. The following procedure shall apply. On the first occasion the State determines, after an opportunity to investigate, that an employee failed to comply with this Article, the State shall provide the employee with notice of a finding of a violation of this Article and afford that employee a 30-day period to comply fully with this Article, paying all arrears due. Should the employee fail to timely correct this deficiency or should the employee be subsequently found by the State as failing to comply with this Article, the employee shall be provided with a notice of proposed dismissal. The employee will be afforded an opportunity to meet with the appointing authority or his/her representative prior to the action proposed. The employee will be entitled to have a Union representative or steward present. At that meeting, the appointing authority or his/her designee will give the employee an explanation of the employer's evidence against the employee (if that has not already been provided) and offer the employee an opportunity to respond. Any employee who has not timely complied with the obligations of this Article must be dismissed. A dismissal in compliance with this Article may not be challenged through the Grievance Procedure article of this agreement.

## **2. Employees Hired Prior to October 13, 2003**

This subsection of this Article applies to individuals who are covered by this Agreement and who began their employment with the State of Maine prior to October 13, 2003.

### **A. Selection of Fee and Reversion to Subsection 1 of this Article**

Employees who have chosen to be excluded both from MSEA-SEIU membership and from the payment of a service fee may continue to choose to be excluded from membership, payment of a service fee, or charitable payment in lieu of a service fee, so long as this choice continues without interruption as of October 13, 2003.

At such time as an employee who is covered by this Agreement and who began employment with the State prior to October 13, 2003 is either a full

member of MSEA-SEIU or pays a service fee to MSEA-SEIU on or after October 13, 2003, subsection 1 shall be applicable to that employee.

### **B. MSEA-SEIU Representation**

MSEA-SEIU shall be entitled to charge any employee who has chosen this exclusion of reasonable fees, including reasonable fees for employee representative services and attorneys' fees, and costs and expenses, including arbitrators' fees and expenses, incurred by MSEA-SEIU in enforcing this contract on behalf of that employee. The current schedule of MSEA-SEIU fees is attached to this Agreement for informational purposes.

### **3. Change of Status**

Any employee may change his/her status with respect to these options during the twenty (20) day period immediately prior to the expiration of this Agreement by giving written notice to the State and to MSEA-SEIU during that period.

Additionally, MSEA-SEIU may, at its discretion and with at least thirty (30) days' notice to the State, provide a change of status period for employees. During said change of status period any employee may, as with the 20-day period heretofore provided, change their status with respect to the options set out above. Said change of status period shall occur no more than once per calendar year and shall extend for a period of up to thirty (30) days.

### **4. Indemnification**

MSEA-SEIU agrees that it shall indemnify, defend, reimburse, and hold the State harmless against any claim, demand, suit, cost, expense, damages, or any other form of liability, including attorneys' fees, costs, or other liability arising from or incurred as a result of any act taken or not taken by the State, its members, officers, agents, employees, or representatives in complying with or carrying out the provisions of this Article, including, but not limited to, as a result of being ordered to reinstate an employee terminated at the request of MSEA-SEIU for not paying the service fee; in reliance on any notice, letter, or authorization forwarded to the State by the union pursuant to this Article; and including but not limited to any charge that the State failed to discharge any duty owed to its employees arising out of the service fee deduction. MSEA-SEIU will intervene in and defend any administrative or court litigation concerning the propriety of any act taken or not taken by the State, including, but not limited to, termination for failure to pay the service fee. In such litigation the State shall have no obligation to defend its act taken or not taken.

### **5. Severability**

Should the United States Supreme Court, the First Circuit Court of Appeals or any Court in Maine hold indemnity clauses relating to union security void or unenforceable on Constitutional or public policy reasons, this Article shall be stricken in its entirety upon written notification to MSEA-SEIU by the State. Should any Court find the indemnity clause in this Article to be void or unenforceable for any reason, this Article shall be stricken in its entirety upon written notification to MSEA-SEIU by the State. Should the State provide such written notification, this Article shall be replaced by the Union Security Article in this bargaining's unit contract dated "2001-2003".

## **ARTICLE 62. UNIT WORK**

If the State contracts out work normally performed by employees within this unit, and if the contracting out results in the elimination of jobs within the unit, the State will negotiate the impact of the contracting on the affected employees. Negotiations, if demanded, will occur no longer than a thirty (30) day period prior to implementation of the layoff. If the parties have not reached agreement within the thirty (30) day period, the obligation to bargain shall continue.

In addition, the State shall assist those employees whose jobs are eliminated by such actions to find other employment. The resources of the Bureau of Human Resources, the Department of Labor and the affected department shall be used in coordination with MSEA-SEIU to help the affected employees secure employment inside or outside of State government. When an employee receives notice that he/she is being displaced as a result of contracting out, the State and MSEA-SEIU will exchange information on vacancies which can be useful in assisting the affected employee find employment. Appropriate preference shall be given affected employees for placement in State service.

## **ARTICLE 63. UNPAID PERSONAL LEAVES OF ABSENCE**

1. Any employee may apply for an unpaid personal leave of absence for good and sufficient reason. Leave pursuant to this provision may be for a period not exceeding twelve (12) months in any fourteen (14) consecutive months. Such leave may be granted at the discretion of the appointing authority and shall not be unreasonably denied. Employees are encouraged to consult with their agency/department Personnel Officer to determine if they are eligible for benefits available under the Federal Family and Medical Leave Act. All requests for such leave and responses shall be in writing. The application for leave must specifically state the reasons for such application and the length of time requested. After completion of a period of personal leave of absence, the employee shall be entitled to return to the organizational unit, status and

position held immediately prior to the beginning of the leave of absence. If the employee's position is abolished during any such leave, he/she shall be notified and allowed to exercise his/her rights under the Seniority Article of this Agreement.

**2.** A leave of absence without pay and without loss of seniority not to exceed one (1) year may be granted to an employee to permit the employee to accept a position in State service that is excluded from bargaining units under 26 M.R.S.A. §979-A(6) (the State Employees Labor Relations Act). Such employee shall be entitled to return to the organizational unit, status and position held immediately prior to the beginning of the leave of absence within the one (1) year period. Any employees who have filled vacancies created by the initial movement of the returning employee shall likewise be entitled to return to their former positions.

**3.** Except as provided in the Seniority Article, if an employee is laid off from an excluded position for reasons beyond his/her control after the expiration of said one (1) year leave, he/she shall at his/her request be placed on any reemployment registers for which he/she is eligible. Upon reemployment he/she shall be credited with the seniority earned up to the start of the leave granted pursuant to this Article.

**4.** Any employee currently on leave of absence from a position in this bargaining unit under Personnel Rule, Chapter 11, Section 3C shall be continued on such leave through the end of his/her current coterminous or fixed term appointment or for one (1) year from the effective date of this Agreement if he/she is serving in a position which does not involve a fixed or coterminous term. An employee on leave for a fixed term or coterminous appointment may upon application have such leave extended for up to three (3) months pending reappointment to such excluded position.

**5.** Any leave of absence granted pursuant to this Article may be canceled by the appointing authority at any time for good reason upon prior written notice to the employee, specifying a reasonable date of termination of the leave and the reason for cancellation.

#### **ARTICLE 64. USE OF STATE FACILITIES**

Where there is available appropriate meeting space in buildings owned or leased by the State, MSEA-SEIU shall be allowed reasonable use of such space at reasonable times for specific meetings, including space suitable for meetings in private between MSEA-SEIU staff representatives or stewards and employees in the investigation and processing of grievances. Advance arrangements for the use of State facilities shall be made with the department or agency concerned. MSEA-SEIU shall reimburse the State for any additional expense incurred in allowing use of such space. No other employee organization, except such as have been certified or recognized as the bargaining agent for other State employees, shall

have the right to meeting space in State facilities for purposes pertaining to terms and conditions of employment of employees.

The use of State facilities for meetings shall be in non-work areas or where work is not in progress. Other than meetings in private between MSEA-SEIU staff representatives or stewards and employees in the investigation and processing of grievances, all meetings in State facilities shall be during the off-duty time of employees attending and, in all instances, attendance shall be voluntary. Arrangements for any meetings in State facilities will be made so as to avoid interference with the department's or agency's operations or violation of the department's or agency's security.

## **ARTICLE 65. VACATION**

**1.** Each employee shall earn vacation with pay on the following basis. One (1) workday shall be earned for each completed full month of service during the first five (5) years of service with the State. Thereafter, provided the last three (3) years of service have been continuous, vacation shall be earned on the following basis: for each completed full month of service with the State, one and one-fourth ( $1\frac{1}{4}$ ) days shall be earned until ten (10) years have been completed; and one and one-half ( $1\frac{1}{2}$ ) days shall be earned until fifteen (15) years have been completed; one and three fourths ( $1\frac{3}{4}$ ) days shall be earned until twenty (20) years have been completed; thereafter, two (2) days shall be earned. Part-time employees shall earn vacation credits at the higher rates after having worked for the State for the required number of calendar years specified above, such credit to be earned in the same proportion as their part-time service bears to full-time service. Seasonal employees shall earn vacation credits at the higher rates after having worked for the State on a seasonal basis during the required number of calendar years specified above regardless of the number of hours or days worked during those calendar years. Other practices concerning the earning of vacation credits shall be continued.

**2.** Except where operational needs require otherwise, employees shall be entitled to use vacation leave credits at times of their choice. Requests for use of vacation leave credits shall not be unreasonably denied. In scheduling vacations, choice of time shall be governed by seniority. All eligible employees within each appropriate work group desiring vacations for periods of a week or more during the months of June, July and August will choose such vacation periods prior to May 1. In the event of conflict among employees in scheduling such vacation leave, seniority shall govern. Later requests for vacation during June, July and August can be granted subject to operational needs.

**3.** Except in cases of extreme emergency, no employee shall be required to work during vacation.

**4.** Employees shall be paid a vacation advance for scheduled periods of vacation of one (1) week or more provided they submit written requests for such

advance three (3) weeks prior to the pay day on which they want to receive payment.

**5.** Time during which an employee is excused from work because of holidays or other leave with pay shall be considered as time worked for the purpose of computing vacation leave credit.

**6.** Employees with less than fifteen (15) years of continuous State service shall be entitled to accumulate thirty (30) days of unused vacation leave and shall be compensated for accumulated vacation leave credits upon termination of State service. Employees with fifteen (15) years or more of continuous State service shall be entitled to accumulate forty (40) days of unused vacation leave, for which they shall be paid upon separation. However, a maximum of thirty (30) days pay on unused vacation shall be credited towards an employee's average final compensation upon retirement.

**7.** Every reasonable effort within the constraints of operational needs shall be made to provide Ferry Service employees two (2) consecutive weeks vacation during the summer months.

**8.** An employee who is transferred to another appointing authority without interruption of his/her services to the State shall be entitled to transfer his/her unused vacation credits or be paid for all or part of such credits and transfer the remainder.

**9.** Seasonal employees shall be entitled to carry over from one season to the next accumulated vacation credits up to the amount of one season's accumulation. The maximum which may be carried over is one-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) the regular maximum allowable accumulation. The State retains the right to determine the length of seasons.

**[Effective upon implementation of the MFASIS Project's Leave Accrual Module]**

**ARTICLE 65. VACATION**

**1.** Each employee shall earn vacation with pay on the following basis; 3.7 hours shall be earned for each completed full two-week pay period of service during the first five (5) years of service with the State. Thereafter, provided the last three (3) years of service have been continuous, vacation shall be earned on the following basis: for each completed two-week pay period of service with the State, **4.616** hours shall be earned until ten (10) years have been completed; and **5.539** hours shall be earned until fifteen (15) years have been completed; **6.462** hours shall be earned until twenty (20) years have been completed; thereafter, **7.385** hours shall be earned. Part-time and intermittent employees shall earn vacation credits at the higher rates after having worked for the State for the required number of calendar years specified above, such credit to be earned as follows:

**a.** a part-time or intermittent employee with less than five (5) years of service shall earn **.369** hours of vacation for each eight (8) hours in pay status per two-week pay period;

**b.** provided the last three (3) years of service have been continuous, a part-time or intermittent employee with at least five (5) years but less than ten (10) years of service shall earn **.461** hours of vacation for each eight (8) hours in pay status per two-week pay period;

**c.** provided the last three (3) years of service have been continuous, a part-time or intermittent employee with at least ten (10) but less than fifteen (15) years of service shall earn **.553** hours of vacation for each eight (8) hours in pay status per two-week pay period;

**d.** provided the last three (3) years of service have been continuous, a part-time or intermittent employee with at least fifteen (15) but less than twenty (20) years of service shall earn **.645** hours of vacation for each eight (8) hours in pay status per two-week pay period;

**e.** provided the last three (3) years of service have been continuous a part-time or intermittent employee with at least twenty (20) years of service shall earn **.737** hours of vacation for each eight (8) hours in pay status per two-week pay period. For part-time employees, "hours in pay status" shall be an employee's regularly scheduled hours. Seasonal employees shall earn vacation credits at the higher rates after having worked for the State on a seasonal basis during the required number of calendar years specified above regardless of the number of hours or days worked during those calendar years. The current practices concerning the earning of vacation leave credits shall be continued only for those employees regularly scheduled to work in excess of forty (40) hours per week and only for as long as they are so scheduled.

**2.** Except where operational needs require otherwise, employees shall be entitled to use vacation leave credits at times of their choice. Requests for use of vacation leave credits shall not be unreasonably denied. In scheduling vacations, choice of time shall be governed by seniority. All eligible employees within each appropriate work group desiring vacations for periods of a week or more during the months of June, July and August will choose such vacation periods prior to May 1. In the event of conflict among employees in scheduling such vacation leave, seniority shall govern. Later requests for vacation during June, July and August can be granted subject to operational needs.

**3.** Except in cases of extreme emergency, no employee shall be required to work during vacation.

**4.** Employees shall be paid a vacation advance for scheduled periods of vacation of one (1) week or more provided they submit written requests for such advance three (3) weeks prior to the pay day on which they want to receive payment.

**5.** Time during which an employee is excused from work because of holidays or other leave with pay shall be considered as time worked for the purpose of computing vacation leave credit.

**6.** Employees with less than fifteen (15) years of continuous State service shall be entitled to accumulate two hundred forty (240) hours of unused vacation leave and shall be compensated for accumulated vacation leave credits upon termination of State service. Employees with fifteen (15) years or more of continuous State service shall be entitled to accumulate three hundred twenty (320) hours of unused vacation leave, for which they shall be paid upon separation. However, a maximum of two hundred forty (240) hours pay on unused vacation shall be credited towards an employee's average final compensation upon retirement.

For part-time and intermittent employees, the maximum amount of accumulated vacation leave and the amount of vacation leave to be paid upon separation shall be:

**A. Maximum Vacation Accruals for Part-Time Employees**

Prorate 240/320 based on authorized position hours. For example:

- (1.)** 8-hour employee [1/5 or .2 full time] = 48/64;
- (2.)** 16-hour employee [2/5 or .4 full time] = 96/128;
- (3.)** 20-hour employee [2.5/5 or .5 full time] = 120/160;
- (4.)** 24-hour employee [3/5 or .6 full time] = 144/192;
- (5.)** 32-hour employee [4/5 or .8 full time] = 192/256.

**B. Maximum Vacation Accruals for Intermittent Employees**

Since Intermittent employees are eligible to work up to 1040 hours per year [= ½ or .5 full time employee], prorate the maximum vacation accrual to one-half the full time rate = 120/160 hours.

**7.** Every reasonable effort within the constraints of operational needs shall be made to provide Ferry Service employees two (2) consecutive weeks vacation during the summer months.

**8.** An employee who is transferred to another appointing authority without interruption of his/her services to the State shall be entitled to transfer his/her unused vacation credits or be paid for all or part of such credits and transfer the remainder.

**9.** Seasonal employees shall be entitled to carry over from one season to the next accumulated vacation credits up to the amount of one season's accumulation. The maximum which may be carried over is one-half (½) the regular maximum allowable accumulation. The State retains the right to determine the length of seasons.

**ARTICLE 66. VIDEO DISPLAY TERMINAL OPERATORS**

1. No employee shall be required to work more than two (2) continuous hours on a video display terminal. Employees whose job assignment requires them to work on VDT's should be assigned other work or activities for thirty (30) minutes for each two (2) hours of continuous work on the terminals. Rest and meal periods shall be counted toward the thirty (30) minutes.

2. Any employee who is newly assigned to a position, which by actual work consists of at least eighty percent (80%) VDT operation, including alternate work time under paragraph 1 of this Article, shall be required to submit to an examination by an eye doctor at the State's expense within sixty (60) days of the employee's assignment to the position.

3. All employees who spend at least eighty percent (80%) of their time operating VDT's, including alternate work time under paragraph 1 of this Article, shall be entitled to be examined by an eye doctor annually at the State's expense. All employees receiving eye examinations pursuant to this Article must provide the State with medical releases. Employees shall be given a report form to be completed by the eye doctor and returned to the agency Personnel Officer.

4. Employees receiving such annual eye examinations shall receive up to seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) toward the cost of regular corrective lenses or glasses needed by the employee as indicated on the report form of the doctor. Employees who require bifocal, trifocal or progressive lenses shall receive up to one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125.00) for the cost of such corrective lenses or glasses needed by the employee as indicated on the report form of the doctor.

#### **ARTICLE 67. WITHDRAWAL OF RESIGNATION**

An employee may resign in good standing by giving written notice to his/her appointing authority at least seven (7) calendar days in advance of the effective date of his/her resignation. Such an employee may, with the approval of his/her appointing authority, withdraw his/her resignation up to ten (10) calendar days after the effective date. Such approval shall not be unreasonably denied. An employee who fails to give written notice to his/her appointing authority at least seven (7) calendar days in advance of the effective date of his/her resignation may not withdraw that resignation.

#### **ARTICLE 68. WORK CLOTHING**

1. The State shall continue to furnish foul weather gear and work clothing, such as aprons, smocks, shop coats, lab coats, coveralls and boots to employees furnished such clothing in the past. The State shall be responsible for continuing to provide laundering of work clothing where such service is being provided as of the effective date of this Agreement.

**2.** Multilith operators and other employees who operate printing presses, shall be provided smocks or other similar clothing of a kind to adequately protect their clothing.

**3.** Ferry Service employees shall be provided with one-piece hooded slickers. Foul weather gear shall be made available to Ferry Service Able Seamen and Ferry Service Seaman.

**4.** The State shall provide one (1) pair of insulated winter gloves each year to each employee in the Department of Transportation who is assigned to outside survey work and to each employee in that department in the following classifications.

Highway Laborer  
Highway Worker I  
Highway Worker II  
Highway Worker III  
Highway Worker IV

The State shall also provide one (1) pair of insulated winter gloves to Laborer I's, Laborer II's Groundskeepers and Masons in the ground crew in the Bureau of Public Improvements.

The State shall also provide one (1) pair of insulated winter gloves to employees in the following classifications:

Light Equipment Operator  
Auto Mechanic I  
Auto Mechanic II  
Heavy Equipment Operator  
Bridge Maintenance Worker

**5.** The State shall provide parkas to Forest Watchpersons and permanent year-round Allagash Park Rangers as part of their regular uniform.

**6.** The State shall provide custodial workers rubber pullovers for floor stripping.

**7.** The State shall provide two (2) pairs of hip boots, sizes 10 and 12, for each culvert steamer and each Bridge Maintenance crew in the Department of Transportation, Bureau of Operations and Maintenance, Additional hip boots may be provided at the discretion of the foreman.

**8.** The State shall provide one (1) poncho for each Gatehouse Attendant; one (1) rainsuit for each Ranger, Park Ranger, Ferry Service Able Seaman, Ferry Service Ordinary Seaman; and two (2) ponchos for Maintenance Mechanics working at Baxter State Park.

**9.** The State shall make available sufficient logging chaps for employees to use when operating chain saws. Employees are required to wear logging chaps when operating chain saws.

**10.** Employees in the following classifications shall, on July 1st of each year, be provided with a work clothing allowance of seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) per year.

Bridge Maintenance Worker I  
Bridge Maintenance Worker II  
Bridge Maintenance Worker III

## **ARTICLE 69. WORK RULES**

The State may change or adopt work rules during the term of this Agreement but such changed or adopted work rules shall not be inconsistent with the terms and provisions of this Agreement. Whenever such work rules are to be changed or adopted, they shall be posted on bulletin boards in the appropriate organizational units for seven (7) days before they are to become effective. Simultaneously with such posting a copy of same shall be forwarded to MSEA-SEIU. Upon request by MSEA-SEIU the State will meet and consult with MSEA-SEIU on the proposed changed or new rules.

## **ARTICLE 70. WORK STOPPAGE AND SLOWDOWN**

Employees within the bargaining unit, MSEA-SEIU and its officers at all levels, agree that they will not instigate, promote, sponsor, condone or engage in any work stoppage, sympathy work stoppage or slowdown.

"Work stoppage" means a concerted failure by employees to report for duty, a concerted absence of employees from work, a concerted stoppage of work, or a concerted slowdown in the full and faithful performance of duties by a group of employees.

The officers of MSEA-SEIU, at all levels individually and collectively, agree that it is their continuing obligation and responsibility to maintain compliance with this Article, including the remaining at work during any interruption or slowdown of work which may take place.

## **ARTICLE 71. WORKERS' COMPENSATION**

The State shall make every possible effort to promptly pay all compensation awards in accordance with the decisions of the Workers' Compensation Commission. Upon each award of the Workers' Compensation Commission, interest shall be assessed from the date on which the petition is filed at a rate of six percent (6%) per year, provided that if the prevailing party at any time requests and obtains a continuance for a period in excess of thirty (30) days interest

will be suspended for the duration of the continuance. From and after the date of the decree, interest shall be allowed at the rate of ten percent (10%) per year.

Where an employee has been unable to work for one year, the employee may be terminated from his or her position. Such termination shall not be considered disciplinary in any way. If the employee later becomes capable of performing the job duties of the position from which he/she was terminated, the employee may return to that position if it is vacant. If that position is filled, unfunded, or no longer exists, then the employee shall be entitled to be placed in a vacant position, or the next available position if no such vacancy exists in the same classification within the department or agency and for which the employee is qualified, and shall be treated as if on layoff status.

Prior to possible termination after one (1) year on compensation, an employee will receive at least a ninety (90) day notification of the termination process and, at the same time, will be requested to provide an updated, current medical report which assesses his/her ability or tolerance to return to his/her last position. Should the medical report indicate potential fitness to return to work in the position formerly held within six (6) months of the employee's one (1) year date on workers' compensation, the termination date will be projected ahead to the specified date in the medical report, but in no case, for a period of more than six (6) months on a "one time only basis". The termination date will then become the date established beyond the one (1) year anniversary and will become the automatic date of termination unless the employee returns to work able to perform the duties of the job. However, reasonable accommodations will be made for employees who are disabled.

If an employee who is terminated pursuant to this Article is eligible for and makes application for disability retirement, the State shall continue to provide the employee's group health insurance and shall continue to pay the cost of the employee's coverage, as well as sixty percent (60%) of the dependent coverage, until the employee receives his/her first disability retirement check or until six (6) months after the termination, whichever occurs first.

In the event that any employee who has been terminated pursuant to this Article regains a work capacity and returns to work, the employee shall not lose the benefit of any prior years of State service immediately preceding his/her termination, for purposes of seniority, vacation accrual rate and restoration of sick leave credits.

## **ARTICLE 72. TERM OF AGREEMENT**

This Agreement shall be effective from October 13, 2003 through June 30, 2005, unless otherwise specifically provided herein. Either party shall give sixty (60) days' written notice of a desire to negotiate a new collective bargaining agreement or to modify this Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be signed by their respective representatives on October 13, 2003.

## **OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE & SUPPORT**

Agricultural Worker I  
Agricultural Worker II  
Aircraft Mechanic  
Allagash Park Ranger  
Asst Park Ranger  
Auto Mechanic I  
Auto Mechanic II  
Baxter Park Alpine Ranger  
Baxter Park Campground Attendant  
Baxter Park Campground Ranger  
Baxter Park Gatehouse Attendant  
Baxter Park Trail Supervisor  
Boiler Engineer  
Boiler Operator  
Bridge Maintenance Assistant  
Bridge Maintenance Worker I  
Bridge Maintenance Worker II  
Bridge Maintenance Worker III  
Bridge Operator I  
Bridge Operator II  
Building Control Tech  
Building Custodian  
Carpenter  
Chemist Assistant  
Conservation Aide  
Correctional Boiler Engineer  
Correctional Boiler Operator  
Correctional Electrician I  
Correctional Electrician II  
Correctional Maint Mechanic  
Correctional Plumber I  
Correctional Plumber II  
Custodial Worker I  
Custodial Worker II  
Custodial Worker III  
Driver Trainer  
Electrician I  
Electrician II  
Engineering Aide I  
Engineering Aide II  
Entomology Technician  
Ferry Able Seaman  
Ferry Ordinary Seaman  
Ferry Svs Terminal Agent  
Field Heavy Vehicle/Equip Tech  
Furniture Repairer  
Gamekeeper  
Groundskeeper I  
Groundskeeper II  
Heavy Equipment Operator  
Heavy Equipment Operator II  
Heavy Vehicle & Equipment Tech  
Highway Laborer  
Highway Worker  
Highway Worker II  
Highway Worker III  
Highway Worker IV  
Housekeeper II  
Institutional Custodial Worker  
Janitor/Bus Driver  
Lab Assistant  
Laborer I  
Laborer II  
Lifeguard  
Lifeguard Supervisor  
Light Equipment Operator  
Locksmith  
Machinist  
Maintenance Mechanic  
Marine Mechanic Specialist  
Mason  
Master Carpenter  
Master Locksmith  
Metal Fabricator  
Military Firefighter  
Navigational Aides Assistant  
Paddock Assistant  
Painter  
Park Ranger  
Plumber I  
Plumber II  
Radio Mechanic  
Security Guard

Senior Entomology Technician  
Sign Painter  
Sign Shop Technician  
St Pk/Historic Site Maint Coord  
Tire Technician  
Traffic Control Electrician

Transportation Aide  
Treatment Plant Oper  
Watchperson  
Window Maintenance Mechanic  
Yard Supervisor

**APPENDIX A**  
**OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE AND SUPPORT SERVICES BARGAINING**  
**UNIT**

Correctional Boiler Operator  
Correctional Boiler Engineer  
Correctional Electrician I  
Correctional Electrician II  
Correctional Maintenance Mechanic  
Correctional Plumber I  
Correctional Plumber II  
Treatment Plant Operator

**STATE OF MAINE**

By:

John E. Baldacci, Governor  
Rebecca Wyke, Commissioner  
Department of Administrative  
and Financial Services  
Kenneth A. Walo, Chief Negotiator  
Director, Bureau of Employee Relations  
Scott Johnson, Bargaining Team Member  
Debra Phillips, Bargaining Team Member  
Jan LaPointe, Bargaining Team Member  
Linda Casoria, Bargaining Team Member  
Judy Williams, Bargaining Team Member  
Ann Twombly, Bargaining Team Member  
Breena Whitcomb, Bargaining Team Member  
Kathy Weymouth, Bargaining Team Member

**MAINE STATE EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION, SEIU, LOCAL 1989**

By:

Brenda Kaler, President  
Dana Graham, Vice President  
Carl Leinonen, Executive Director  
John P. Graham Jr., Director, Field Services, Chief Negotiator  
Steven J. Butterfield, Director, Information Services, Bargaining Team Member  
Brenda Welch, Bargaining Team Member  
Steve Davis, Bargaining Team Member  
Jo Hunt, Bargaining Team Member  
Dave Libby, Bargaining Team Member

**MAINE STATE EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION, SEIU, LOCAL 1989**

Attorney Fees:	\$100.00 per hour
Field Representatives Fees:	\$75.00 per hour
Research Fees:	\$75.00 per hour

All fees are charged on the basis of minimum 15 minute periods.



JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND  
FINANCIAL SERVICES  
BUREAU OF EMPLOYEE RELATIONS  
79 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0079

REBECCA M. WYKE  
COMMISSIONER

KENNETH A. WALO  
DIRECTOR

September 17, 2003

John Graham, Director of Field Services  
Maine State Employees Association  
65 State Street  
P.O. Box 1072  
Augusta, Maine 04332-1072

RE: Temporary Layoffs – October 13, 2003 to June 29, 2005

Dear John,

Let this letter serve to confirm our commitment to you that, notwithstanding the Seniority and Management Rights Articles of the Operations, Maintenance & Support Services collective bargaining agreement between the State and MSEA, the State agrees that it shall not exercise its right to make temporary layoffs during the period of October 13, 2003 to June 29, 2005.

Sincerely,

*Kenneth A. Walo*

Kenneth A. Walo, Director  
Bureau of Employee Relations

OFFICES LOCATED AT 45 MEMORIAL CIRCLE, 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR,  
PHONE: (207) 287-4447      [www.Maine.gov](http://www.Maine.gov)      FAX: (207) 287-4452

## MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

The State of Maine, Bureau of Employee Relations and the Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the Maine State Employees Association (MSEA-SEIU), the parties, having established a Labor Management Committee agree as follows:

This agreement pertains to employees within the Bureau of Maintenance and Operations who are assigned to the Operations, Maintenance, and Support Services Bargaining Unit and who operate and maintain vehicles and equipment used for snow/ice plowing and removal operations during the MDOT designated winter season.

Such employees who work overtime in excess of eight (8) hours on either Saturday or Sunday during the MDOT 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 winter seasons and who choose to utilize vacation or compensating time for regular scheduled hours on the following Monday, (subject to operational need), will have such time, up to a maximum of eight (8) hours, counted as time worked for the purpose of computing overtime pay for that week. However, this provision shall not preclude the department from utilizing any existing policies, or establishing new polices or work rules pursuant to Article 69 of the Operations, Maintenance and Support Services agreement, regarding the safety and health of employees during winter operations. Also, the parties may establish a labor/management committee to specifically address issues concerning overtime hours worked by maintenance employees during the winter season.

The parties agree to review the impact of this agreement, including, but not limited to, information regarding the 2002-2003 winter season and the 2003-2004 and the 2004-2005 winter seasons for comparative overtime hours worked and related costs. Meetings for this purpose will begin no later than April 1, 2005 and be completed by April 15, 2005. Recommendations, if any, for extending this agreement beyond the 2004-2005 MDOT winter season shall be given to the parties by May 1, 2005.

Seen and agreed to this 13<sup>th</sup> day of October 2003.

Kenneth A. Walo  
For the State of Maine  
Kenneth A. Walo, Director  
Bureau of Employee Relations  
Chief Negotiator

John P. Graham, Jr.  
For MSEA-SEIU, Local 1989  
John P. Graham, Jr., Dir. of  
Field Services  
Chief Negotiator

John Alfano  
John Alfano  
Mediator