

NBI #12

2024 FORM FOR NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

Changing the Funding Process for Public Sector Union Contracts

04.22.2024 11:18 a.m.

NBI Name		Date and Time	
Susan McNeil		Association of Professional Administrators (APA)	
Delegate Making the Motion	Cell	Email	Association Represented or Retired
Claudine Barnes			Massachusetts Community College Council
Delegate Seconding the Motion	Cell	Email	Association Represented or Retired

According to the MTA Standing/Special Rules:
With the exception of items on the agenda, all substantive motions shall be submitted in writing to the Presiding Officer.

MOTION

MOVED:

MTA shall work in coalition to change the way state public sector union contracts are funded, so that negotiated contracts ratified by public sector unions shall be funded expeditiously, and shall continue working on this until a solution is found and implemented.

SUBMITTER'S RATIONALE:

The current manner of contract funding as mandated by MGL 150e is unnecessarily burdensome and causes systemic delays in the funding of negotiated contracts. Under the current system, once a contract is ratified it has to be approved by the Office of Administration and Finance and then sent to the Governor to approve to be sent to the Legislature for funding.

This process is unnecessary because the Governor sets the financial parameters and all public sector unions are required to accept the same terms. Once the parameters are set the money is set aside in the budget in a fund controlled by A&F. Once a contract is negotiated and duly ratified, the appropriation request should go directly to the Legislature for a vote.

Under the current system, a regular 75-day delay in funding a ratified contract is built into the process. As a result, one MTA higher ed local unit recently had to wait nearly 11 months from ratification until payment, and the vast majority of all public higher education union contracts have been delayed longer than 90 days before they were funded.

DUES IMPACT: \$0

SUBMITTER'S COST & STAFF TIME ESTIMATE:

It is hard to estimate the cost of this endeavor, but we hope that MTAs continued work with AFL-CIO Public Sector Taskforce would bring together all stakeholders affected to work towards this valuable and important change and that they will be willing and able to share in costs as well as work hours until a solution is found and implemented.

MTA COST & STAFF TIME ESTIMATE **(For MTA use only):**

MTA Cost Estimate: \$0

MTA Staff Time Estimate: ongoing work