

2024 -- H 7794

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LC004408
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

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A N A C T

RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- ARBITRATION OF LABOR
CONTROVERSIES

Introduced By: Representatives Bennett, McNamara, Baginski, Perez, Noret, Donovan,
Carson, Craven, Slater, and Corvese

Date Introduced: February 29, 2024

Referred To: House Labor

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 28-9 of the General Laws entitled "Arbitration of Labor
2 Controversies" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **28-9-29. Public safety contract continuity.**

4 The terms and conditions contained in a municipal police and municipal firefighters'
5 collective bargaining agreement shall remain in effect while subject to binding arbitration and
6 during negotiations and/or utilization of the dispute resolution process as required by this chapter
7 or chapters 9.1 and 9.2 of title 28. Following the conclusion of any dispute resolution, including
8 but not limited to, an arbitration award, should any issue relating to wages, benefits or the layoff
9 process remain unresolved, then the provisions set forth in the expired collective bargaining
10 agreement shall remain valid and in full force and effect until such time as a successor agreement
11 has been reached between the parties or a final arbitration award has been rendered.

12 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on January 1, 2025.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- ARBITRATION OF LABOR
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1 This act would reduce disruptive labor disputes with municipal police and firefighter
2 unions during the transition to a new collective bargaining agreement by extending the provisions
3 of an existing collective bargaining agreement until a new agreement is reached by arbitration.

4 This act would take effect on January 1, 2025.

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