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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
149th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE BILL NO. 96

AN ACT TO AMEND TITLES 19 AND 29 OF THE DELAWARE CODE AND CHAPTER 298, VOLUME 80 OF THE LAWS OF DELAWARE RELATING TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING FOR STATE EMPLOYEES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE:

1 Section 1. Amend § 1302(d), Title 19 of the Delaware Code by making deletions as shown by strike through and
2 insertions as shown by underline as follows:

3 (d) "Certification" means official recognition by the Board, following a secret-ballot election ~~or demonstration of~~
4 ~~majority representation in accordance with § 1311A(e) of this title,~~ that an employee organization is the exclusive
5 representative for all employees in an appropriate bargaining unit.

6 Section 2. Amend § 1311A, Title 19 of the Delaware Code by making deletions as shown by strike through and
7 insertions as shown by underline as follows:

8 § 1311A ~~Collective bargaining in the state service.~~

9 (a) ~~Notwithstanding any other provision in this Code, exclusive representatives of state merit employees, who are~~
10 ~~in the classified service and not working in higher education, shall collectively bargain in the units provided pursuant to~~
11 ~~subsection (b) of this section. The scope of bargaining shall include:~~

12 ~~(1) Compensation, which shall be defined as the payment of money in the form of hourly or annual salary,~~
13 ~~and any cash allowance or items in lieu of a cash allowance to a public employee by reason of said employee's~~
14 ~~employment by a public employer, as defined in this chapter, whether the amount is fixed or determined by time, task~~
15 ~~or other basis of calculations. Position classification, health care and other benefit programs established pursuant to~~
16 ~~Chapters 52 and 96 of Title 29, workers compensation, disability programs and pension programs shall not be deemed~~
17 ~~to be compensation for purposes of this section; and~~

18 ~~(2) Any items negotiable for state merit employees pursuant to § 5938 of Title 29.~~

19 ~~To the extent or where any of these items are covered by existing collective bargaining agreements, the provisions~~
20 ~~negotiated pursuant to subsection (c) of this section shall supersede those agreements.~~

21 (b) ~~For purposes of bargaining pursuant to this section, employees shall be classified in the following bargaining~~
22 ~~units, each of which shall independently bargain compensation:~~

23 ~~(1) Labor, maintenance, trade and service workers which is composed of generally recognized blue collar and~~
24 ~~service classes including mechanics, highway, building and natural resource maintenance, skilled craft, equipment~~
25 ~~operators, toll collectors, food service, custodial, laundry, laborers, security officers and similar classes;~~

26 ~~(2) Nonprofessional patient care workers which is composed of institutional care classes including licensed~~
27 ~~practical nurses, nursing assistants, active treatment assistants, technicians, therapy aides and similar classes;~~

28 ~~(3) Social services, human services, and counseling which is composed of social workers, social service~~
29 ~~specialists, family therapists, youth counselors, teacher aides, activity aides, job service personnel, income maintenance~~
30 ~~personnel, eligibility specialists, vocational counselors, correctional counselors, child support enforcement personnel~~
31 ~~and similar classes;~~

32 ~~(4) Administrative support, technical and clerical which is composed of administrative specialists, clerks,~~
33 ~~account technicians, computer operators, office service personnel, officer workers, paralegals and similar~~
34 ~~nonprofessional classes;~~

35 ~~(5) Engineers, and administrative professionals which is composed of civil, environmental and other~~
36 ~~engineers, accountants, management analysts, fiscal officers, program managers, business professionals, auditors and~~
37 ~~similar professionals classes exempt from the Fair Labor Standards Act [29 U.S.C. § 201 et seq.];~~

38 ~~(6) Professional patient care which is composed of registered nurses, public health nurses, psychiatric nurses,~~
39 ~~therapists, dietitians and similar professional classes;~~

40 ~~(7) Professional education and library science which is composed of state agency teachers, counselors and~~
41 ~~librarians;~~

42 ~~(8) Regulatory licensing and inspectors which is composed of employees empowered to review certain public~~
43 ~~and business activities including regulatory inspectors, field auditors, motor vehicle inspectors and similar classes;~~

44 ~~(9) Law enforcement and investigative agents which is composed of agency police officers, natural resource~~
45 ~~and environmental control officers, parole and probation officers of the Department of Correction, alcoholic beverage~~
46 ~~control officers, deputy fire marshals I through V, investigators and similar occupations;~~

47 ~~(10) Correctional officers and similar correctional occupations;~~

48 ~~(11) Correctional supervisors which is composed of correctional lieutenants, staff lieutenants, correctional~~
49 ~~captains and similar occupations;~~

50 ~~(12) Scientists and medical professionals which is composed of biologists, chemists, agricultural specialists,~~
51 ~~pharmacists, psychologists, psychiatrists, physicians, pathologists and similar occupations.~~

52 The Board shall determine the proper assignment of job classifications to bargaining units and the bargaining
53 unit status of individual employees and shall provide for certified bargaining representatives to combine bargaining
54 units or portions of bargaining units of employees they represent within the bargaining units defined in this section
55 based upon the job classifications of the employees represented.

56 ~~(c) The exclusive bargaining representatives of all of the employees in each individual bargaining unit identified~~
57 ~~above shall join together in a bargaining coalition to bargain collectively for that unit. Employee organizations that are part~~
58 ~~of the coalition shall exercise authority over decisions of the coalition proportional to the number of employees exclusively~~
59 ~~represented in the coalition by the employee organization. To the extent a finalized agreement on compensation items~~
60 ~~requires legislative approval or the appropriation of funds, the Governor shall recommend the same to the General~~
61 ~~Assembly for the ensuing fiscal years and the agreement provision requiring such appropriation shall be contingent on the~~
62 ~~specific appropriation of funds by the General Assembly. In the event the General Assembly fails to appropriate the funds~~
63 ~~necessary to implement the provision of an agreement, that provision shall be returned to the parties for negotiation or the~~
64 ~~provision may be implemented to the extent consistent with or limited by appropriations from the General Assembly, at the~~
65 ~~discretion of the General Assembly. Contracts shall be timed to become effective in accordance with the State's fiscal year.~~

66 ~~(d) Coalition compensation agreements shall not constitute a bar to an election in accordance with § 1311(b) of~~
67 ~~this title. Such bar shall be established by the noncompensation agreement covering employees in an appropriate unit.~~

68 ~~(e) Notwithstanding any other provision in this Code to the contrary, where no employee organization is certified~~
69 ~~to represent some or all of the employees in a bargaining unit defined in subsection (b) of this section, an employee~~
70 ~~organization desiring to be certified as the exclusive representative of the unrepresented employees in such unit shall file a~~
71 ~~petition with the Board, accompanied by a combination of the uncoerced signatures of at least 30% of the unrepresented~~
72 ~~state employees in a unit described in said subsection (b) of this section. Alternatively, an employee organization may file a~~
73 ~~petition with the Board, accompanied by the uncoerced signatures of at least 30% of the combined total of unrepresented~~
74 ~~state employees and state employees currently represented by the petitioning employee organization in a unit described in~~
75 ~~said subsection (b) of this section. The Board or its designee shall act on such petition in accordance with §§ 1310 and 1311~~
76 ~~of this title. Nothing contained herein shall be deemed to prevent a public employer from voluntarily recognizing an~~
77 ~~employee organization as the exclusive bargaining representative for a specified bargaining unit without an election so long~~
78 ~~as the following conditions have been met:~~

79 ~~(1) A petition shall have been filed with the Board by an employee or group of employees or employee~~
80 ~~organization acting in their behalf alleging that a majority of employees in a unit identified in subsection (b) of this~~
81 ~~section above wish to be represented by an employee organization for such purposes; and~~

82 ~~(2) The Board verifies that a majority of the employees in such unit have, within 12 months of the submission~~
83 ~~of the petition to the Board, signed authorizations designating the employee organization specified in the petition as~~
84 ~~their exclusive bargaining representative and that no other employee organization is currently certified or recognized as~~
85 ~~the exclusive bargaining representative of any of the employees in the unit; and~~

86 ~~(3) The Board determines that notices have been posted, where notices to affected employees are normally~~
87 ~~posted, for a period of at least 10 calendar days, advising that exclusive recognition will be granted without an election~~
88 ~~to a named employee organization for such unit.~~

89 ~~(f) Notwithstanding any provision in this Code to the contrary, collective bargaining pursuant to this section shall~~
90 ~~commence at least 150 days prior to the expiration date of any current collective bargaining agreement or in the case of a~~
91 ~~newly certified representative within a reasonable time after certification.~~

92 ~~(g) Notwithstanding anything in this section to the contrary, a bargaining unit created pursuant to the provisions of~~
93 ~~subsection (b) of this section, shall not bargain for compensation as defined herein until all of the eligible employees in~~
94 ~~such unit are represented by an exclusive bargaining representative. Nothing contained in this subsection shall be~~
95 ~~interpreted to deny bargaining for any items negotiable for state merit employees pursuant to § 5938 of Title 29.~~

96 Section 3. Amend § 1315(h), Title 19 of the Delaware Code by making deletions as shown by strike through and
97 insertions as shown by underline as follows:

98 (h) Notwithstanding any language to the contrary, any arbitration results rendered pursuant to this section
99 involving collective bargaining agreements, negotiations or mediations with the State ~~involving § 1311A of this title~~, shall
100 be contingent upon appropriation by the General Assembly.

101 Section 4. Amend § 5938, Title 29 of the Delaware Code by making deletions as shown by strike through and
102 insertions as shown by underline as follows:

103 § 5938 Collective bargaining.

104 (a) Except as expressly provided in subsection (c) of this section, nothing contained in this chapter or in the rules
105 shall deny, limit or infringe upon the right of any employee in the classified service or any exclusive bargaining
106 representative under Chapter 13 of Title 19.

107 (b) Except as expressly provided in subsection (c) of this section, nothing contained in this chapter or in the rules
108 shall deny, limit or infringe upon any collective bargaining agreement or the authority and duty of this State or any agency
109 thereof to engage in collective bargaining with the exclusive bargaining representative under Chapter 13 of Title 19.

110 (c) The rules adopted or amended by the Board under the following sections shall apply to any employee in the
111 classified service represented by an exclusive bargaining representative or covered by a collective bargaining agreement

under Chapter 13 of Title 19, ~~except in the case of collective bargaining agreements reached pursuant to § 1311A of Title 19: §§ 5915, 5917 through 5921, 5933, 5935 and 5937 of this title.~~

(d) The rules adopted or amended by the Board under the following sections shall not apply to any employee in the classified service represented by an exclusive bargaining representative to the extent the subject thereof is covered in whole or in part by a collective bargaining agreement under Chapter 13 of Title 19: §§ 5916, 5922 through 5925 of this title, except where transfer is between agencies or where change is made in classification or pay grade, §§ 5926 through 5928 of this title, except where an employee laid off by 1 agency is reemployed by another, §§ 5929 through 5932, 5934 and 5936 of this title.

(e) The Director and the Board shall meet with the exclusive bargaining representative at reasonable times to negotiate in good faith with respect to any rule to be adopted or amended under §§ 5915, 5917 through 5921, 5933, 5935 and 5937 of this title and, to the extent the subject thereof is not covered in whole or in part by a collective bargaining agreement under Chapter 13 of Title 19, §§ 5916, 5922 through 5932, 5934 and 5936 of this title.

Section 5. Amend Section 8(a), Chapter 298, Volume 80 of the Laws of Delaware by making deletions as shown by strike through and insertions as shown by underline as follows:

Section 8. MERIT SYSTEM AND MERIT COMPARABLE SALARY SCHEDULES.

~~(a) All provisions of subsections (a)(1), (b), (c) and (i) through (l) of this section shall not apply to those Merit System employees who are covered by a final collective bargaining agreement under 19 Del. C. § 1311A. The effective dates of agreements pursuant to 19 Del. C. § 1311A shall occur simultaneously with the fiscal year following final agreement between the State of Delaware and ratification of that agreement by the respective certified bargaining unit, provided funds are appropriated in Section 1 of this Act for said agreements. Section 1 of this Act makes no appropriation, and no subsequent appropriation shall be made during the fiscal year, for any compensation items as defined in 19 Del. C. § 1311A reached as a result of negotiations, mediation or interest arbitration. Should a bargaining agreement not be finalized by December 1 of each fiscal year, employees represented by the bargaining unit negotiating said agreement shall receive compensation pursuant to the provisions of this section until such time as an agreement takes effect. A final bargaining agreement shall be defined as an agreement between the State of Delaware and a certified bargaining unit, which is not retroactive and in which the agreement's completion is achieved through ratification by the respective bargaining unit, mediation or binding interest arbitration.~~

SYNOPSIS

This bill makes compensation a mandatory subject of bargaining for any group of employees who have joined together for purposes of collective bargaining and certified a labor organization to serve as their exclusive collective bargaining representative. The bill also eliminates any deadline for reaching an agreement pertaining to compensation.