



An Act to ensure fair public higher education workplaces

MTA Legislative Agenda, 2021-2022

Lead Sponsors: Sen. Pat Jehlen (D-Somerville) | Rep. Paul Mark (D-Peru)

Legislation to ensure greater rights to employees of public higher education institutions.

This bill would ensure fair and just workplaces for public higher education employees by:

- Eliminating the waiting period for newly hired employees to begin receiving health insurance coverage. Currently, new state employees, including higher education employees, must wait 60 days to begin receiving health insurance through the GIC. This is an outdated and unjust policy, particularly in the midst of a pandemic.
- Streamlining the process through which public higher education collective bargaining agreements are validated and funded by having completed contracts go directly to the Legislature for approval. Currently, the governor must first file legislation to request the funding and validation of the economic provisions of ratified contracts. This is an unnecessary and time-consuming step that unfairly punishes workers by delaying the implementation of contracts already agreed upon by bargaining unit members and their employers.
- Making full-time and part-time faculty and staff at public institutions of higher education, their spouses, and their dependents eligible for a tuition and fee credit that covers 100 percent of the mandatory costs for undergraduate, graduate and certificate programs or courses at public colleges and universities. This provision will restore the value of employee tuition benefits that have been dramatically reduced over time due to a variety of factors.

Passing An Act to ensure fair public higher education workplaces means:

- Greater workplace protections and benefits for the workers who are helping to educate students in the Commonwealth's public colleges and universities.
- Making degree and certificate programs at our public higher education institutions more affordable for those who are eligible for the employee tuition and fee credit.

For more information please contact the MTA Government Relations Division
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