

To: Key and Elected Municipal Officials
Legislative Policy Committee

From: Kate Dufour, Director, State and Federal Relations

Date: Wednesday, June 9, 2021

Re: Binding Arbitration in Senate

[LD 677](#), *An Act To Improve Public Sector Labor Relations by Amending the Laws Governing Arbitration under Certain Public Employees Labor Relations Laws*, is on deck to be debated by the Senate today.

As proposed, the bill amends the labor relations laws impacting municipalities, schools and counties, by making arbitrator decisions regarding salaries, pensions and insurance benefits binding on all parties. Currently, the final decision on these matters rests with the duly appointed and elected representatives of the impacted public entities.

One of the more surprising elements of the bill provides that if a public employer fails to implement the binding determinations, employees represented by the bargaining unit, except those responsible for protecting public safety, are authorized to strike.

Considering the potential adverse impacts on local budgets, we are asking municipal officials to reach out to members of the Senate and House and urge them to oppose the bill.

Members of the Senate can be reached at 1-800-423-6900. To look up your Senator and their contact information check this [site](#). Members of the House can be reached 1-800-423-2900. To search for your House member and their contact information check the site available [here](#).

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 207-592-4038.