

reasonable effort to conclude negotiations prior to the budget submission date of the MNCPPC, in order that the appropriate legislative body may act on the operating budget of the MNCPPC.]

(I) 1. COLLECTIVE BARGAINING SHALL BEGIN NOT LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 1 BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF AN ENTIRE FISCAL YEAR FOR WHICH AN AGREEMENT HAS NOT BEEN REACHED BETWEEN THE MNCPPC AND THE CERTIFIED EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATION.

2. COLLECTIVE BARGAINING SHALL CONCLUDE ON OR BEFORE THE FOLLOWING FEBRUARY 4, OR ANY LATER DATE DETERMINED BY MUTUAL AGREEMENT OF THE PARTIES.

(II) DURING THE PERIOD SET IN SUBPARAGRAPH (I)1 OF THIS PARAGRAPH, THE PARTIES SHALL NEGOTIATE IN GOOD FAITH.

(3) (I) IF A PARTY CONSIDERS A BARGAINING PROPOSAL TO CONTRAVENE THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MNCPPC UNDER SUBSECTION (G) OF THIS SECTION, OR THE RIGHTS OF EMPLOYEES OF THE MNCPPC UNDER SUBSECTION (H) OF THIS SECTION, OR OTHERWISE TO VIOLATE THIS SECTION, THE PARTY SHALL PETITION THE LABOR RELATIONS ADMINISTRATOR TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE BARGAINING PROPOSAL CONSTITUTES A NEGOTIABILITY DISPUTE THAT CONTRAVENES THIS SECTION.

(II) THE PROCEDURE FOR RESOLVING A NEGOTIABILITY DISPUTE SHALL FOLLOW THE PROCESS FOR REVIEWING UNFAIR LABOR PRACTICE CHARGES, EXCEPT THAT THE LABOR RELATIONS ADMINISTRATOR MAY SHORTEN THE TIME PERIODS OR ORDER ANY EXPEDITED PROCEDURE APPROPRIATE UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

(III) THE LABOR RELATIONS ADMINISTRATOR MAY ORDER A PARTY TO WITHDRAW ALL OR PART OF A BARGAINING PROPOSAL THAT CONTRAVENES THIS SECTION.

(IV) UNLESS APPEALED ON THE BASIS OF BEING ARBITRARY, CAPRICIOUS, OR EXCEEDING THE AUTHORITY OF A PARTY, ANY DECISION AND ORDER REACHED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION IS FINAL.

[(3)] (4) (i) A mediator may be utilized by the parties in collective bargaining whenever the parties mutually agree or if an impasse exists whenever one party requests mediation.

(ii) The mediator shall be selected by the parties from a list supplied by either the American Arbitration Association or the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service.

[(4)] (i) The parties by mutual agreement may engage in fact-finding. If there is not mutual agreement, either party at impasse, may request the appointment of a fact finder to initiate fact-finding. The fact finder shall be selected as provided in subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph.