

204-

(A) - (1) -- IF -- AFTER -- A -- REASONABLE PERIOD OF BARGAINING, THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF A COUNTY GOVERNMENT AND A LABOR ORGANIZATION THAT HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AN EXCLUSIVE BARGAINING REPRESENTATIVE FOR A UNIT OF FIRE FIGHTERS HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO AGREE ON A NEW LABOR AGREEMENT, OR IF NO LABOR AGREEMENT IS REACHED BY FEBRUARY 28 OF THE YEAR IN WHICH AN EXISTING LABOR AGREEMENT IS TO EXPIRE, THEN EITHER PARTY, BEFORE THE CLOSE OF THE NEXT BUSINESS DAY, MAY REQUEST BINDING ARBITRATION OF THE ISSUES THAT ARE IN DISPUTE IN THAT UNIT.

(2) -- A -- REQUEST FOR ARBITRATION MAY BE MADE IN WRITING IN A LETTER -- DELIVERED -- TO -- THE -- BUSINESS -- OFFICE -- OF -- THE -- CHIEF EXECUTIVE OR OF THE LABOR ORGANIZATION.

(B) - (1) -- IF -- AGREEMENT -- HAS NOT BEEN REACHED BY FEBRUARY 28, INSTEAD OF PROCEEDING TO ARBITRATION, AN EXCLUSIVE BARGAINING REPRESENTATIVE MAY, BY A LETTER DELIVERED TO THE BUSINESS OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE BEFORE THE CLOSE OF THE NEXT BUSINESS DAY, ACCEPT THE LAST OFFER OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE AS IT STOOD AT 11:59 P. M. ON FEBRUARY 28.

(2) -- IF AN EXCLUSIVE BARGAINING REPRESENTATIVE ACCEPTS THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S LAST OFFER, THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT IS OBLIGATED TO HONOR ALL TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE OFFER IN THE MANNER PROVIDED IN SECTION 203 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

205-

(A) -- IF EITHER A CHIEF EXECUTIVE OR AN EXCLUSIVE BARGAINING REPRESENTATIVE REQUESTS ARBITRATION UNDER SECTION 204 (A) OF THIS SUBTITLE, THE PARTIES SHALL SELECT 11 ARBITRATOR TO HEAR AND DETERMINE THEIR DISPUTE.

(B) -- WITHIN 3 BUSINESS DAYS AFTER A REQUEST TO ARBITRATE IS MADE, THE PARTIES SHALL REQUEST THE FEDERAL MEDIATION AND CONCILIATION SERVICE TO FURNISH THEM WITH A LIST OF 13 PERSONS WHO ARE PROFESSIONAL LABOR ARBITRATORS AND WHO HAVE HAD PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE IN INTEREST ARBITRATION IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR.

(C) -- WITHIN 3 BUSINESS DAYS AFTER A LIST OF ARBITRATORS IS RECEIVED FROM THE FEDERAL MEDIATION AND CONCILIATION SERVICE, THE PARTIES SHALL SELECT AN ARBITRATOR TO HEAR THE DISPUTE BY THE FOLLOWING METHOD:

(1) -- THE PARTIES SHALL ALTERNATELY STRIKE NAMES FROM THE LIST UNTIL 1 NAME REMAINS.

(2) -- THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT SHALL STRIKE FIRST FROM THE LIST.

(3) -- THE LAST NAME REMAINING SHALL BE THE ARBITRATOR FOR THE DISPUTE.