

**AGREEMENT**

**between**

**STATE OF MAINE**

**and**

**MAINE STATE  
LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSOCIATION**

**LAW ENFORCEMENT  
BARGAINING UNIT**

**2023-2025**



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## **PREAMBLE**

Whereas, the Executive Branch of the State of Maine (hereinafter referred to as "State" or "employer") and the Maine State Law Enforcement Association (hereinafter referred to as "MSLEA") desire to establish a constructive, cooperative and harmonious relationship; to set forth the Agreement in relation to salaries, wages, hours of work, and other terms and conditions of employment; to promote and increase efficiency and quality of service for employees; to avoid any interruption or interference with the operations of the employer; to promote effective service towards the accomplishment of the missions of the State and the law enforcement bargaining unit and its member agencies; and to establish an equitable and peaceful procedure for the resolution of differences;

Therefore, this Agreement by and between the parties is entered into on September 29, 2023.

## **ARTICLE 1. UNION RECOGNITION**

Pursuant to the September 30, 2005 certification, the State recognizes the Maine State Law Enforcement Association (MSLEA) as the sole and exclusive representative for the purpose of representation and negotiations with respect to wages, hours of work and other conditions of employment for all employees included in the Law Enforcement Bargaining Unit.

In the event of a dispute between the parties as to future inclusions or exclusions from the unit resulting from the establishment of new or changed classifications or titles, either party to this Agreement may apply to the Maine Labor Relations Board for resolution of the dispute.

Employees who are employed on a seasonal basis, i.e., for regularly recurring seasonal periods of three (3) months or more, shall be covered by the provisions of this Agreement upon the completion of six (6) months employment, subject to any special provisions relating to their employment. In order to qualify, such six (6) months must be worked in not more than three (3) consecutive years and only time in pay status during such seasons shall count. Employment time of persons outside State service who are on acting capacity assignment to a seasonal position, and employment time of persons holding a seasonal intermittent position shall not count towards the completion of such six (6) months.

Part-time employees will be covered by the provisions of this Agreement after completion of six (6) months of service except for the provision for dismissal for just cause. The just cause provision for dismissal shall apply after completion of 1,040 compensated hours exclusive of overtime hours. All benefits provided to part-time employees shall be prorated to the extent required by State law.

Temporary, seasonal and on-call employees, excluded by law from the bargaining unit, include project employees, seasonal employees not covered by the preceding paragraphs, persons from outside State service who are on acting capacity assignment, and intermittent employees. Project employees are employees appointed to a project position which is restricted to a planned work program to be completed within a specified period of time and which is not regularly recurring. Intermittent employees are employees who are appointed for a period of time on a sporadic basis and who work not more than one thousand forty (1,040) hours in any consecutive twelve (12) month period beginning with the date of hire or anniversary of date of hire.

Any employee designated as intermittent, who works in excess of the limits set out above and who works more than 1,040 regularly scheduled hours during the period since appointment as an intermittent employee without a break in service due to resignation or dismissal shall be covered by the terms of this Agreement. The sporadic periods such an employee is not in pay status because of the sporadic nature of the position shall not be considered to be a break in service. Where a legislative position count permits, such employee shall be placed in a permanent or limited period full-time or part-time position as appropriate, provided that he or she is eligible for appointment. If necessary, the employee may reopen the appropriate register to establish eligibility.

Nothing in this Article shall be interpreted as removing any rights or benefits of temporary, intermittent, project or seasonal employees provided under Title 5,

MRSA, Sections 7068 and 7053, Public Law 667, 1978, or any other provision of law or rule.

## **ARTICLE 2. ACCESS TO EMPLOYEES**

MSLEA shall have access to employees covered by this Agreement to carry out its legal responsibilities as a bargaining agent as provided for in this Article.

MSLEA's representatives will be granted reasonable access to employees during employees' working hours for the purpose of investigating and processing grievances and for the purposes of administering this Agreement. Such access will be subject to the representative providing the appropriate State representative with advanced notice of the visit. Such access will not disrupt State operations or violate agency security procedures. If access needs to be temporarily delayed for special reasons, those reasons shall be explained to the MSLEA representative.

Any MSLEA representative may have access to employees in this unit for the purpose of explaining MSLEA programs and benefits during employees' non-working time, e.g., breaks, lunch periods and after hours, provided such access does not interfere with State operations. Such access shall be to non-work areas. In addition, each new employee, including employees who are new to an MSLEA bargaining unit, shall be allowed one (1) hour of paid work time within his or her first six months of employment to meet with a representative of MSLEA for the purpose of explaining MSLEA programs and benefits. This meeting shall be scheduled at a time approved by the employee's supervisor and shall take place in a non-work area.

## **ARTICLE 3. ACTING CAPACITY**

### **1. Temporary Assignments**

When an employee is assigned temporarily by his/her appointing authority to a job for which he/she is qualified in a higher pay grade for a period of five (5) days or his/her regular workweek, whichever is less, the employee shall be paid retroactively from the initial date of the temporary transfer for the duration of the temporary assignment. The employee shall be paid as if he/she had been promoted during such assignment. In no event may an employee acquire any status in a higher classification as a result of his/her temporary assignment. Acting capacity assignments shall not be made on an arbitrary or capricious basis. Employees shall not be rotated in acting capacity in an arbitrary or capricious manner in order to avoid payment of acting capacity pay.

This Article shall not be used in lieu of the proper processing of any request for reclassification or reallocation of a position pursuant to the Personnel Rules and the Reclassifications Article, or the filling of a vacancy pursuant to the Personnel Rules and the Seniority Article.

### **2. Seasonal Employees – Off Season Assignments**

A seasonal employee who accepts a temporary or acting capacity assignment during his or her off season shall be eligible to accrue vacation, sick leave, and



holiday benefits upon appointment to the temporary or acting capacity assignment. Vacation, sick leave, or holiday benefits accrued in an employee's regular seasonal position shall not overlap into benefits accrued in the temporary or acting capacity assignment for the same period of time. Full-time seasonal employees shall accrue no more than the hours of sick leave provided to full-time employees under the Sick Leave Article, pro-rated for part-time employees.

**ARTICLE 4. APPROVAL OF LEGISLATURE**

The parties hereto agree to jointly support any legislative action necessary for implementation of any provision of this Agreement. If the Legislature rejects any provision submitted to it, the entire Agreement shall be returned to the parties for further bargaining.

**ARTICLE 5. BEREAVEMENT LEAVE**

Each full-time employee covered by this Agreement shall be allowed up to forty (40) hours leave with pay, for absences resulting from the death of a relative of the employee or the employee's spouse or significant other, as listed in the table below in this Article. Part-time employees shall receive paid leave on a prorated basis.

“Significant other” means that a relationship exists between two people, neither of whom is married, that is intended to remain indefinitely and where there is joint responsibility for each other's common welfare, there are significant shared financial obligations, and there is a shared primary residence. This relationship must have existed for at least six (6) continuous months before benefits under this Article may be provided.

**40 hours of leave for the death of the following relatives:**

<b>Relatives of the employee</b>	<b>Relatives of the spouse or significant other</b>
Spouse	Child
Significant Other	Parent
Child	Stepparent
Stepchild	Grandchild
Parent	Sibling
Stepparent	
Grandchild	
Guardian	
Sibling	
Stepsibling	
Ward	
Grandparent	
Co-Parent of shared minor child(ren)	

## **ARTICLE 6. BULLETIN BOARDS**

The State shall continue to provide present bulletin board space for the use of MSLEA at each location where bulletin boards are presently provided for the purpose of posting bulletins, notices and other materials in conformance with this Article. The posting of any MSLEA materials shall be restricted to such bulletin board space only except that, in each location where bulletin board space is not provided for MSLEA, the State shall designate an appropriate alternative space where such materials may be posted.

In no instance may MSLEA post any material which is profane, obscene or defamatory to the State, its representatives or any individual, or which constitutes campaign material between competing employee organizations if it is determined that the posting of such material would violate any obligation of the State for neutrality. MSLEA is solely responsible for the accuracy and ethical standards of any material posted pursuant to this Article. The State retains the right to remove any materials in violation of this Article.

All posted MSLEA materials shall be signed by an authorized representative of the Association or stamped with an official MSLEA logo.

## **ARTICLE 7. CHILD CARE**

### **Child Care Reimbursement Process**

**A.** Employees employed as of March 1 who meet all of the following criteria shall be eligible for a lump sum payment payable each year. Eligible employees may apply for this payment between March 1 and April 15 of each year. Payment shall be made within thirty (30) days of receipt of the completed application. Any application received after April 15 will be considered on a case by case basis and shall not be arbitrarily rejected.

- 1.** Employed full time during the entire previous calendar year;
- 2.** Full-time State employees employed for more than six (6) months but less than twelve (12) months of the previous calendar year are eligible for this program on a prorated basis;
- 3.** Part-time and seasonal employees covered by this Agreement who have completed one thousand forty (1,040) hours of regularly scheduled work in any calendar year in which they qualify on a prorated basis; and
- 4.** Had a minimum of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) employment-related child care expenses for the previous calendar year.

**B.** Employees must submit an application for Child Care Reimbursement along with a copy of their filed Form 1040 and a copy of their receipt for child care expenses for the previous calendar year to be eligible for reimbursement.

**C.** Employees whose adjusted gross family income is less than \$60,000 for the previous calendar year shall be eligible for reimbursement not to exceed two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00).

<b>Adjusted Gross Family Income from IRS Tax Return in Previous Calendar Year</b>	<b>Maximum Reimbursement Amount</b>
Less than \$60,000	\$2,000

**D.** In families with both parents working for the State, each qualifying parent may apply for the Child Care Reimbursement provided that in no event will both parents be reimbursed for the same expense.

**ARTICLE 8. COMPENSATING TIME**

**1.** Compensating time earned by an employee may be accumulated up to two hundred forty (240) hours. Any compensating time earned after accumulation of the two hundred forty (240) hours must be used within thirty (30) days. Except where operational needs require otherwise, employees shall be entitled to use compensating time at times of their choice. If an employee is denied use of compensating time which exceeds the allowed accumulation, he/she shall, at the employer's option, be paid for the time or be entitled to carry it over until a suitable time for use is approved.

**2.** Upon mutual agreement and with approval of the Commissioner or designee, an agency may at any time pay an employee for any or all of that employee's accumulated compensating time. Such payment shall be made at the employee's hourly rate in effect at the time of payment.

**3.** The State may buy back accrued compensatory hours of employees eligible under the Call Out section of the Compensation Article of this CBA, utilizing the unused available overtime money remaining on May 1, 2024, and 2025, and allocated for overtime expenditure for FY '24 and FY '25.

The buy-back shall be automatic for all employees. Any employee not wishing to participate in the buy-back or who wishes to limit the number of hours he/she wants to buy back shall notify his/her supervisor on or before May 1st of each year. The State will notify all employees of the buy back at least 30 days in advance to allow the employee the opportunity to opt out of the buy back.

The buy-back shall be made from the maximum accumulation permitted; any additional hours accrued over the maximum shall be taken as soon as possible, and in accordance with the paragraph below. Payment shall be made to the employee on or before the end of each fiscal year, in a check separate from the employee's regular check. Retirement contributions shall not be taken from this payment. Only existing unexpended overtime funds will be used to buy back compensatory time under these provisions.

Compensatory time earned in excess of the maximum accumulation permitted shall be scheduled as soon as practicable and ordinarily will be within thirty (30) days of the day worked unless on an otherwise mutually agreed upon later day, except that the thirty (30) day period may be extended because of seasonal high workload in the agency in which the employee is employed. If such compensating time off is not granted within six (6) months of the date the employee was scheduled to work his/her day off, the employee shall be paid in lieu of compensating time off.

Paragraph 3 shall only apply to the following classifications:

Forest Ranger II  
Forest Ranger III  
Forest Ranger Specialist  
Game Warden  
Game Warden Specialist  
Game Warden Investigator  
Marine Patrol Officer  
Marine Patrol Specialist  
Attorney General Detective

## **ARTICLE 9. COMPENSATION**

### **A. Salary Increase**

The State shall implement the new Human Resources Management System (HRMS) ensuring wages, stipends, and other pay components are configured consistent with applicable state and federal laws.

**A.** Effective with the pay week commencing closest to October 1, 2023, employees shall be provided an across-the-board salary increase of six percent (6%) added to the base hourly rate, rounded to the nearest cent. Salary schedules shall be increased accordingly.

**B.** Effective with the start of the pay week commencing closest to July 1, 2024, employees shall be provided an across-the board salary increase of three percent (3%) added to the base hourly rate, rounded to the nearest cent. Salary schedules shall be increased accordingly.

**C.** Effective at the start of the pay week commencing closest to July 1, 2024, a new Step 9 shall be created on all applicable salary schedules by adding four percent (4%) to the base hourly rate of the Step 8 rate in place after the salary increased identified in this article, rounded to the nearest cent; and employees shall then be advanced to the next higher step on the appropriate salary schedule upon satisfactory completion of one year of service for Steps 1 through 9 on their next scheduled anniversary date.

### **B. Retirement Contribution**

**1.** The State shall, as permitted by 5 M.R.S.A. §17702 §§5 and 6, continue to pay its cost of the 6.5% or 7.5% retirement contribution for employees in the bargaining unit who are covered under special Law Enforcement retirement plans.

**2.** The State shall, as permitted by law, pay its cost of the 6.5% retirement contribution for the following classifications: Attorney General Detective, Sr. Attorney General Detective, and Motor Vehicle Detective.

### **C. Salary Schedule Progression**

Employees shall progress from step to step in salary grade on the basis of satisfactory job performance based upon established standards of performance.

Seasonal employee's initial anniversary date shall be established after being in pay status for 2,080 hours. Such date shall then be used for annual performance evaluation and step progression consideration.

When an employee's anniversary date falls on any day from the first day of a pay week through Wednesday of the pay week, the employee's merit increase shall be effective as of the first day of the pay week within which the anniversary date falls. Otherwise, the merit increase shall be effective on the first day of the next pay week.

Once the HRMS system has the capability and employees of an agency have been notified, merit increases earned as set forth above shall be effective on the employee's anniversary date.

Grievances arising from the denial of merit increases shall not be arbitrable under this Agreement but shall be processed pursuant to the Agency Merit Increase Appeal Procedures developed under the 1978-1980 Agreement between the parties. In agencies where such appeal procedures do not fit, the parties shall establish additional procedures in the manner established by the predecessor Agreement. A decision of an Agency Appeals Board shall be final and binding, subject to appeal to the Director of Human Resources on the following grounds only: that the decision of the Agency Appeals Board was based upon clearly erroneous findings of fact, or that the decision of the Agency Appeals Board was based upon erroneous application of performance standards.

### **D. Non-Standard Workweek**

**1.** Classifications listed in Section 3 which meet the following criteria shall be designated as non-standard:

**(a)** Positions in a classification have been determined by the Bureau of Human Resources to be exempt for overtime compensation from the Fair Labor Standards Act;

**(b)** Employees are required by working conditions to work a variable workweek in excess of forty (40) hours; and

**(c)** Employees' workweek are irregular and work hours cannot be scheduled or determined except by the employee.

**2.** Employees in a classification which is designated as non-standard shall be compensated at a rate of sixteen percent (16%) above the base rates in their salary grades, except that any position that is found by the Bureau of Human Resources not to be exempt from the Fair Labor Standards Act for overtime compensation purposes shall not be designated non-standard.

**3.** The following classes are designated as meeting the above criteria:

Game Warden Pilot  
Marine Patrol Pilot  
Ranger Pilot

## **E. Call Out**

Employees who are non-standard and are eligible for overtime under the contract, who are called out for work on a regularly scheduled day off, shall be paid one and one-half (1½) their regular hourly rate for each hour worked. In lieu of pay, upon mutual agreement, employees may be granted one and one-half (1½) hours of compensating time for each hour worked.

Unless the non-standard employees are to receive pay rather than compensating time, the compensatory time shall be scheduled as soon as practicable and ordinarily will be within thirty (30) days of the day worked unless on an otherwise mutually agreed upon later day, except that the thirty (30) day period may be extended because of seasonal high workload in the agency in which the employee is employed. If such compensating time off is not granted within six (6) months of the date the employee was scheduled to work his/her day off, the employee shall be paid in lieu of compensating time off.

When a day off is canceled because of staff and training meetings, the employee shall be given another day off in conjunction with their remaining scheduled day off. If more than one (1) day off is canceled for the above training then the employee shall be given an equal amount of consecutive days off within the same fourteen (14) day cycle. Notice shall be given to the affected employees in writing, or electronically postmarked at least fourteen (14) days in advance of such meetings. Should such meetings be canceled, reasonable notification of the rescheduled meetings will be provided where circumstances permit in consideration of operational needs.

If the employee is not initially given a fourteen (14) day advance notice, the employee is entitled to one and one-half (1½) hours for each hour spent in such training or meetings, including actual necessary travel time.

When an employee is called out to work by his/her supervisor on any scheduled day off, even if the day off falls on a holiday, the employee shall be guaranteed a minimum of four (4) hours of work for which they shall be given a minimum of four (4) hours of pay at the rate of one and one-half (1½) times their regular hourly rate or one and one-half (1½) hours of pay for each hour worked, whichever is greater. In lieu of pay, upon mutual agreement, employees may receive four (4) hours of compensating time at the rate of one and one-half (1½) hours for each hour worked or one and one-half (1½) hours of compensating time for each hour worked, whichever is greater. This does not include employees who are scheduled to work a holiday.

Employees who are called out to work by their supervisor after the end of their regular workday and up to the beginning of their next regular workday, with the exception of scheduled days off or holidays, shall be guaranteed a minimum of four (4) hours of pay at the rate of one and one-half (1½) times their regular rate or for hours actually worked at the rate of one and one-half (1½) times their regular rate, whichever is greater.

The sum of \$800,000 will be annually allocated among the Departments of Public Safety, Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, the Office of the Attorney General and Marine Resources in proportion to the number of employees who are paid by general funds in the following classes:

Forest Ranger III  
Forest Ranger Specialist  
Game Warden  
Game Warden Specialist  
Game Warden Investigator  
Marine Patrol Officer  
Marine Patrol Specialist  
Attorney General Detective

For other employees in the Department of Public Safety and employees in the Secretary of State, Bureau of Motor Vehicles, who are paid by dedicated revenue accounts, a like proportionate amount of money will be allotted for the payment of call-out under this provision for the following classes:

Fire Investigator  
Motor Vehicle Detective  
Senior Fire Investigator

Excepting non-standard employees, any employee who is called out to work by their supervisor after the end of their regular workday and up to the beginning of their next regular workday, with the exception of scheduled days off or holidays, shall be guaranteed a minimum of four (4) hours of pay at one and one-half (1 ½) times their regular rate or for hours actually worked at the rate of one and one-half (1 ½) times their regular rate, whichever is greater.

Game Wardens, Game Warden Specialists, Game Warden Investigators, Marine Patrol Officers, Marine Patrol Specialists, Forest Rangers II & III, and Forest Ranger Specialists who are called out to work by their supervisor outside of their established core hours, with the exception of days off and holidays, shall be guaranteed a minimum of four (4) hours of pay at the rate of one and one-half (1 ½) times their regular rate or for hours actually worked at the rate of one and one-half (1 ½) times their regular rate, whichever is greater. An employee who reports for call out 2.5 hours or less prior to the start of his/her core hours shall continue working until the beginning of his/her core hours, unless otherwise authorized by a supervisor. Game Wardens, Game Warden Specialists, Game Warden Investigators, Marine Patrol Officers, Marine Patrol Specialists, Forest Rangers II & III, and Forest Ranger Specialists who are engaged in work-in-progress beyond their assigned core hours shall be compensated at one and one-half (1 ½) times the base hourly rate for such hours worked beyond their core. Should this special overtime fund be depleted, employees, in lieu of pay, will be granted compensatory time at the appropriate rate.

## **F. Overtime**

1. Excepting employees designated as non-standard and compensated for overtime on a sliding scale basis, full-time employees in pay ranges 01 through 21 shall be paid one and one-half (1 ½) times the regular hourly rate of pay after actually working eight (8) hours in any day, or after their regular scheduled hours if greater, or forty (40) hours of actual work in any workweek.

The above provisions shall apply to full-time employees working alternative compressed workweeks but shall not include other alternative work schedules such as flextime schedules, etc., or part-time employees who shall be eligible for overtime after forty (40) hours of actual work in any week. In lieu of premium pay employees may, upon mutual agreement, take compensating time at the rate of one and one-half (1½) hours of compensating time for each hour of overtime worked.

**2.** Capitol Police Officers are eligible for overtime at the rate of one and one-half (1½) their regular hourly rate for each hour worked when mandated to work on an otherwise scheduled day off. In lieu of pay, upon mutual agreement, employees may be granted one and one-half (1½) hours of compensating time for each hour worked.

**3.** Motor Vehicle Detectives will be paid one and one-half (1½) times the regular hourly rate of pay after actually working forty (40) hours of actual work in any workweek.

**4.** Employees in pay ranges 22 and above who do not receive any form of overtime compensation shall receive two (2) personal leave days per year with pay, as of January 1 of each year. Employees who leave state service prior to January 30 shall not receive or be paid out any personal leave days. Employees who first become eligible for personal leave days under this Article on or after July 1 of a calendar year shall receive only one (1) day for the year, instead of two (2). Except where operational needs require otherwise, these employees shall be entitled to take these personal leave days at times of their choice. At the end of the calendar year, unused personal leave days may be carried over and applied toward the maximum vacation accrual.

**5.** Time during which an employee is excused from work with pay under the Holidays Article, shall be considered as time worked for the purpose of computing overtime.

**6.** There shall be no pyramiding or duplication of compensation by reason of overtime or holiday or other premium pay provision of this Agreement. It is understood, however, that with this limitation, the method of payment which gives the greatest amount will be followed.

**7.** Employees of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Forest Protection Division who are covered by a written cooperative agreement between the federal government and the State of Maine for forest fire and emergency mobilization shall be paid at one and one-half (1½) times their non-standard hourly rate of pay if applicable by classification for each hour worked after eight (8) hours in a day or after forty (40) hours in a given week. Employees are guaranteed a minimum of 12 hours of compensation for each day they are engaged in out-of-state forest fire or emergency mobilization. Such payment is contingent upon the federal government's ability to reimburse the State of Maine for the overtime hours and applies only for work conducted under the applicable agreement, otherwise employees shall be compensated pursuant to the applicable bargaining agreement.

**8.** This paragraph shall apply the classifications listed below:

Forest Ranger II  
Forest Ranger III



Forest Fire Prevention Specialist  
Game Warden  
Game Warden Specialist  
Game Warden Investigator  
Marine Patrol Officer  
Marine Patrol Specialist

All time worked beyond eighty (80) hours of paid time, which includes leave time, and actual time worked, shall be paid at the hourly rate until he/she has actually worked (80) hours or, by mutual agreement, compensated at the rate of one (1) hour of compensating time for actual hours worked. Any time actually worked beyond eighty (80) hours within a fourteen (14) day work cycle shall be compensated at the appropriate rate.

There shall be no pyramiding or duplication of compensation by reason of overtime or holiday or other premium pay provision of this Agreement. It is understood, however, that with this limitation, the method of payment which gives the greatest amount will be followed.

### **G. Shift Differentials**

A shift differential of forty-five cents (\$.45) shall be paid to employees regularly assigned to work 6:00 pm to 6:00 am and 10:00 pm to 6:00 am. A shift differential of thirty-five cents (\$.35) per hour shall be paid for shifts starting between 2:00 p.m. and 9:59 p.m. for employees regularly assigned to such shifts. A shift differential of forty-five cents (\$.45) per hour shall be paid for shifts starting between 10:00 p.m. and 3:00 a.m. for employees regularly assigned to such shifts.

The differential provided herein shall be part of base pay for overtime pay and other purposes.

### **H. Divers' Stipend**

Those employees who are members of SCUBA diving teams engaging in search, rescue and recovery operations shall receive an annual stipend of fifteen hundred (\$1,500.00). This stipend shall be payable at the beginning of each quarter in three hundred seventy-five-dollars (\$375.00) amounts.

All qualified employees assigned to SCUBA diving activities shall, when actually diving in the water, including training activities, be compensated at the rate of ten dollars (\$10.00) an hour in addition to their regular hourly rate of pay. Employees shall be compensated for a minimum of one (1) hour of such work regardless of the length of the diving assignment. For dives of more than one hour, employees shall be compensated for the length of the dive.

### **I. Duty Week**

Juvenile Community Correctional Officers with a juvenile caseload, Correctional Detectives, and Adult Probation Officers assigned by management to Duty Week responsibilities shall receive 16% of their base rate of pay for each hour of standby while assigned duty week responsibilities, except for the hours the duty week officer or investigator is working and being compensated for that work.

Standby pay on weather-related closings will apply during the period of the closure. Duty Officers shall not receive the 16% standby pay for any hours the duty officer is working and being compensated for that work. It is understood that duty responsibilities are assigned by management and management retains the right to manage these assignments to meet operational needs.

The Duty Week will commence at 8:00 a.m. Monday until 8:00 a.m. the following Monday. Duty week responsibilities are assigned by management, and management retains the right to manage these assignments to meet operational needs.

## **J. Longevity**

1. Effective November 1, 2023, employees with five (5) years but less than ten (10) years of continuous service shall receive longevity pay of a total of ten (\$.10) cents per hour to the base upon eligibility. Employees who become eligible after that date shall receive the longevity pay of a total of ten cents (\$.10) per hour to the base upon eligibility.

2. Employees with ten (10) years but less than fifteen (15) years of continuous State service shall receive longevity pay of a total of twenty cents (\$.20) per hour to the base upon eligibility.

3. Employees with fifteen (15) years but less than twenty (20) years of continuous State service shall receive longevity pay of thirty cents (\$.30) per hour to the base.

4. Employees with twenty (20) years but less than twenty-five (25) years of continuous State service shall receive longevity pay of a total of forty cents (\$.40) per hour to the base.

4. Employees with twenty-five (25) years but less than thirty (30) years of continuous State service shall receive longevity pay of a total of sixty cents (\$.60) per hour to the base upon eligibility.

5. Effective November 1, 2023, employees with thirty (30) years or more of continuous State service shall receive longevity pay of a total of seventy cents (\$.70) per hour to the base upon eligibility. Employees who become eligible after that date shall receive the longevity pay of a total of seventy cents (\$.70) per hour to the base upon eligibility.

6. Continuous State service is defined as continuous employment, including all authorized leaves of absences since the last date of hire into a status-granting position.

## **K. Weekend Differential**

Employees assigned to State institutions other than Maine State Prison shall be eligible for a weekend differential of sixty cents (\$.60) per hour to the base for shifts beginning between 10:00 p.m. Friday and 9:59 p.m. Sunday. Employees at the Maine State Prison shall be eligible for a weekend differential of sixty cents (\$.60) per hour to the base for shifts beginning between 8:30 p.m. Friday and 8:29 p.m. Sunday. Capitol Police officers shall be eligible for a weekend differential of sixty cents (\$.60) per hour to the base for shifts beginning between 8:00 p.m. Friday and 7:59 p.m. Sunday.

**L. K-9 Duty**

K-9 Rate. K-9 team members in the Office of the State Fire Marshal shall continue to be compensated for care of canines as already established.

All other employees on K-9 teams who spend time on the care of canines, including feeding, grooming, training and exercising them, shall be compensated at one and one-half (1½) times their current regular rate of pay for every day the employee is not working regular scheduled hours. It is expected that this care will take no longer than one hour per day. Employees working overtime on non-scheduled work days will remain eligible to receive K-9 pay for that day. No duplication or pyramiding of overtime may result from the application of this provision. K-9 team members shall receive one and one-half (1 1/2) hours of compensatory time, in lieu of pay, for this duty, after the monies budgeted for K-9 duty have been expended.

**M. Educational Stipend**

Employees with job-related degrees above any minimum qualifications shall be eligible for an educational incentive stipend. It is the responsibility of the employee to inform the department and provide documentation of the degree of higher education in order to receive this incentive stipend. The stipend will be based on the following levels of education that are above any minimum qualifications required for hire into a classification. Degrees must be job-related. The amounts below shall be added to the base as appropriate.

Associate Degree	\$.12/hour
Baccalaureate Degree	\$.24/hour
Master’s Degree or above	\$.36/hour

Stipends shall be paid only for the highest degree obtained above any minimum qualifications required for hire into the position.

**N. Academy Rate/Step Adjustments**

For all employees who are required to attend the Basic Law Enforcement Training Program (BLETP) as a condition of their employment, Step 1 of the applicable salary schedule shall be considered the “Academy Rate of Pay” for the employee.

The employee shall advance to Step 2 upon successful completion and graduation from the Basic Law Enforcement Training Program (BLETP). Thereafter, employees shall be advanced in step pursuant to the provisions of this article.

Any employee hired who is already a “blue pinner” will be hired at a minimum of Step 2, but at agency discretion may be hired at a higher step in accordance with the Maine Civil Service Rules.

## **O. Physical Fitness Stipend**

Members must successfully meet the following minimum physical achievements to qualify for any physical fitness stipend payment.

An employee will be tested in three different areas to be determined by the Department. In each separate test, an employee may be eligible for a one-time payment of up to two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.00) annually with a maximum annual total incentive for all three tests of seven hundred and fifty dollars (\$750.00) annually.

- To be eligible for the one hundred (\$100.00) stipend, an employee must meet the 60th percentile level of physical fitness testing.
- To be eligible for the one-hundred- and fifty dollar (\$150.00) stipend, employees must meet the 70th percentile level of physical fitness testing.
- To be eligible for the maximum two-hundred dollar (\$200.00) stipend, an employee must meet the 80th percentile of physical fitness testing.
- To be eligible for the maximum two-hundred- and fifty-dollar (\$250.00) stipend, an employee must meet the 90th percentile of physical fitness testing.

## **P. Forest Ranger Physical Fitness Stipend**

Forest Rangers who successfully meet a minimum of 60/70<sup>th</sup> percentile as part of the Forest Ranger Physical Fitness Program will be eligible to receive a physical fitness incentive payment once each calendar year. Maximum incentive payment an employee may receive is seven hundred fifty (\$750.00) annually, as established by agency physical fitness standard protocol, described below:

In 1998, as part of State-Wide Labor/Management Committee comprised of all State law enforcement agencies, Forest Protection Division personnel indicated support for a physical fitness program for division workers, including periodic physical fitness assessments. A high level of physical fitness was deemed to be beneficial to the division.

Based on the results of physical fitness surveys received, the Forest Ranger Physical Assessment Labor/Management Committee at that time recognized the benefits of a physical fitness program for Forest Rangers. The original program was run as a “pilot project” beginning June 1, 2001 through June 1, 2003. The pilot was evaluated at the end of 2003 and the program has continued since that time. After consideration of a number of factors including agency physical fitness surveys, job demands, national physical fitness data and agency experience, the following physical fitness program is adopted for the Forest Rangers upon the signing of this agreement.

As part of the Physical Fitness Program, a stipend system was developed whereby an employee may receive up to seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750) annually for

successful completion of the standards established. Reference to the Physical Fitness Stipend was included in the Maine State Law Enforcement Association's 2023 - 2025 bargaining agreement.

It is agreed that the Physical Fitness Program for Forest Rangers will be evaluated on an ongoing basis by a committee comprised of members of labor and management.

1. As has been the practice since 1977, the Forest Protection Division authorizes Forest Rangers to use up to thirty (30) minutes every workday or one (1) hour every other scheduled workday to participate in approved physical fitness activity. Preferably this time will be taken in the morning but will always be taken as dictated by division operational need.

2. Periodic physical fitness testing will be conducted to measure aerobic capacity, flexibility, and dynamic strength. Other measures may be added as determined by research and experience, but only after consultation of and joint consensus of labor and management.

3. The national norm charts, adjusted for age and gender and developed by the National Institute for Aerobic Research, and the U.S. Forest Service firefighter fitness standards, will be used as a measure of individual physical fitness (attached). Focus will be on utilizing those exercises that represent overall fitness and do not require specialized equipment. These exercises include:

- A. One and one half (1½) mile run or U.S. Forest Service Pack Test
- B. One (1) minute sit-ups, and
- C. One (1) minute pushups

4. The physical fitness program includes an assessment of the physical fitness of all workers. Forest Rangers are required to participate in fitness assessments (Forest Rangers are defined as all uniformed workers in the classifications of Forest Ranger II, Forest Ranger III, Forest Fire Prevention Specialist and Ranger Pilot). Non-uniformed workers will be given the option to participate on a voluntary basis for training purposes only. The fitness program is not a standard to be used as a condition of employment. The continued employment of any worker is based on job performance and not upon meeting a fitness-testing standard.

5. There will be a physical fitness assessment once per year. The assessment will be conducted, if operationally possible, in October.

6. Fitness goals are as follows:

- All employees – Optimize fitness levels for the job required and participate in a personal exercise program.

- Forest Rangers – Strive to achieve and maintain an aerobic capacity that meets the national firefighter standard. This level is the sixty percent (60%) level or better on the national aerobic norm charts (1 ½ mile run), or completion of a three (3) mile, forty-five (45) pound pack carry in forty-five (45) minutes.
- Strive to achieve and maintain a fifty percent (50%) level on all other exercises.

7. Forest Rangers who cannot participate in scheduled physical fitness assessments for chronic or long-term medical reasons will be required to provide a medical statement on an authorized form from a doctor one month prior to the testing, indicating which exercises they cannot perform. In an emergency situation, when the employee feels that they cannot perform a particular exercise or exercises, the worker will not be required to perform those portions of the test and will supply the reasons why, by the authorized form, as soon as possible. Employees excused from participation in the assessment are required to provide a medical statement annually. Employees shall make a “good faith effort” to participate in all exercises for which they have no restrictions, which are documented or attested to at the site.

Employees who cannot participate in some or all of the exercises may be asked to assist with conducting portions of these assessments.

Rangers not able to participate in an assessment would have their make-up assessment occur in April of the following spring. The ability to participate in the make-up is contingent upon being excused from the October assessment and being medically cleared to participate during the April assessment.

8. The three (3) mile pack carry or the 1 ½ mile run will be used to determine an individual’s fitness level for the purpose of issuing National Firefighter Qualification red cards. Red card qualifications are governed by the most recent fitness test and must not exceed one (1) year in duration.

9. Division will ensure that an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) is available at each site when physical assessments are conducted. When practicable, the EMT will be from an outside agency.

10. Because of the physical demands of the job, Forest Ranger participation in the assessments is required. To provide incentives for enhancing and maintaining Forest Ranger physical fitness, an annual stipend, based on performance at physical fitness assessments, is established for Forest Ranger employees. The details of the stipend incentives are attached.

11. In order to evaluate the physical condition of employees and to improve the goals of the program, records will be kept of all assessments and reports in the Division Training Office. The Division Training Office will maintain all individual and consolidated information statewide. Information regarding assessments shall be shared with supervisory personnel within individual districts, however, statewide, regional and district reports will only be shared generically across unit boundaries, without employee names attached.

12. The physical fitness program will facilitate making other assistance available that promotes employee fitness such as fitness seminars, personal exercise advice, nutrition and diet information, and assistance in monitoring other fitness indicators such as weight, blood pressure, and blood cholesterol.

- Ongoing resources for Physical Fitness Program shall be subject to need and funding.
- There will be health/wellness education programs, as funds and availability allow operationally.

13. Physical fitness incentive stipends shall be based on the following minimum achievements:

- To be eligible for stipends, at a minimum, all employees must be at the 60<sup>th</sup> percentile level.
- Employees must meet the level of achievement indicated above during each rating period to be eligible for a continued stipend, pursuant to the effective evaluation dates.
- Employees not reaching the stated achievements will not be eligible for the annual stipend.

#### **Q. Availability/Reachability Pay**

1. In recognition of the unique on-call availability requirement of law enforcement, availability pay of eighty-five (\$.85) per hour shall be added to the base hourly rate for the following classifications:

Attorney General Detective  
Capitol Police Officer  
Correctional Detective  
Fire Investigator  
Forest Fire Prevention Specialist  
Forest Ranger I  
Forest Ranger II  
Forest Ranger III  
Game Warden  
Game Warden Investigator

Game Warden Pilot  
Game Warden Specialist  
Marine Patrol Officer  
Marine Patrol Specialist  
Motor Vehicle Detective  
Forest Ranger Pilot  
Senior Attorney General Detective  
Senior Fire Investigator

2. In exchange for an agreement to be reachable for the entire 24-hour period of a scheduled work day, an adjustment of eighty-five cents (\$.85) per hour shall be added to the base hourly rate for the following classifications in the Department of Corrections:

Correctional Resource Coordinator  
Juvenile Community Corrections Officer  
Probation Officer

In exchange for this adjustment, these employees will be reachable so as to be able to return to duty as soon as possible after being called to meet operational needs, except with prior approval from the immediate supervisor to be unavailable during the twenty-four (24) hour period for a specified time. Such approval shall not be arbitrarily denied.

Work related phone calls or other work related public contact on non-work time or outside the regular scheduled day, and telephone calls or other work related public contact received outside the regular scheduled day, which does not require the officer to be called out to work, shall be compensated as follows:

- a. Officers and CRCs shall be compensated for a fifteen (15) minute minimum at the appropriate rate for such time;
- b. Additional calls received or made by Officers/CRCs or additional public contact during one fifteen (15) minute period shall not be subject to another fifteen (15) minute minimum.

3. Correctional Detectives of the Department of Corrections shall receive the eighty-five cents (\$.85) per hour reachability pay described in item 2 above. In addition, Correctional Detectives working inside correctional institutions whose primary responsibility is investigation of criminal activity on the grounds of the institution, shall receive an institutional law enforcement stipend of one dollar (\$1.00) per hour added to the base rate.

#### **R. Standby for Maine Warden Service, Maine Forest Protection and Maine Marine Patrol**

1. Effective with the beginning of the pay week closest to July 1, 2022, the following classifications of the Maine Warden Service, Maine Forest Protection and Maine Marine Patrol who are specifically directed to standby outside of their twelve hour core and are available for immediate recall duty, shall be paid two dollars (\$2.25) per hour for each hour they are required to be available outside their core hours with a limit of 12 hours maximum in one day.

2. Such standby pay will not be paid during any time the employee is



on any type of leave status and during any time the employee is not in standby status or is unavailable when called. Standby pay shall not be paid during any time the employee is being compensated for time worked, or called out and receiving callout pay:

Forest Ranger II  
Forest Ranger III  
Game Warden  
Game Warden Investigator  
Game Warden Specialist  
Marine Patrol Officer  
Marine Patrol Specialist

## **S. Standby for Adult Community Corrections**

**1.** The Associate Commissioner for Adult and Community Corrections or his/her designee may authorize standby duty for adult Probation Officers as appropriate. Any swaps within the rotation must be approved in writing. While on standby, Probation Officers must be available to respond as required to meet Departmental needs with respect to the situation for which the standby has been authorized. No standby will be paid for any period the officer assigned to standby is not available to respond.

**2.** Probation Officers on weekend standby shall be paid at the rate of sixteen percent (16%) of the base hourly rate for each hour of standby (to include the full 24 hours on observed holidays).

**3.** Probation Officers who are directed or approved by a supervisor to respond in person (tires roll), will be compensated at one and one-half (1½) times their regular hourly rate for each hour worked. An officer does not receive standby pay for any hours compensated at this higher rate.

**4.** Standby for weekend coverage for Electronic Monitoring/GPS clients (when warranted) will be rotated by seniority within the region for the time between Friday at 5:00 PM through Monday at 8:00 AM. PPOs assigned standby duty for weekends shall be responsible to find coverage should they need any leave from standby duty.

**5.** In the event ANY response is needed on an EM/GPS case, the designated Standby officer will be expected to respond, and will be compensated pursuant to Item 3 above. If for any reason a second officer is needed to respond, another Standby officer shall be called.

**6.** PO's on standby would be considered "on-duty" with regard to the DOC vehicle use policy and be entitled to the use of their assigned vehicle in accordance with all policies and rules while assigned to standby duty.

**7.** The parties agree to a one-year pilot project creating one duty officer for Adult Community Corrections on weekdays (from 5:00 pm-8:00 am), weekends, holidays, and during weather-related closures. Prior to the end of the one year, the parties will convene a Labor Management committee to discuss the pilot project and whether it should be continued or changed. During this Pilot Project, Probation Officers assigned as duty officer pursuant to this provision shall receive 16% of their base rate of pay for each hour of standby on weekdays (from 5:00 pm to 8:00 am), weekends, holidays, and weather-related closures. Probation Officers will

receive standby beginning at 5:00 pm Monday until 8:00 am the following Monday. Standby pay on holidays will commence at 8:00 am until 5:00 pm on the day of the observed holiday. Probation Officers on weekday standby shall be paid at the rate of sixteen percent (16%) of the base hourly rate for each hour of standby (to include the full 24 hours on observed holidays).

**8.** Standby pay on weather-related closings will apply during the period of the closure. Duty Officers shall not receive the 16% standby pay for any hours the duty officer is working and being compensated for that work. It is understood that duty responsibilities are assigned by management and management retains the right to manage these assignments to meet operational needs.

#### **T. Field Training Officer/Designated Certified Trainer Stipend**

Agency management shall determine the number and composition of Field Training Officers, as well as the length and content of its formal Field Training Program. Designated Field Training Officers shall be eligible for fifty cents (\$.50) added to the base hourly rate. Each agency shall determine the certifications eligible for the Designated Certified Trainer stipend, as well as the number and composition of Designated Certified Trainers eligible to receive the stipend. Designated Certified Trainers shall be eligible for fifty cents (\$.50) added to the base hourly rate.

#### **U. Certified Evidence Response Technicians**

Certified Evidence Response Technicians shall have the following stipends added to their base hourly rate for attaining the following certification levels:

- Level 1: one dollar (\$1.00)
- Level 2: one dollar and twenty-five cents (\$1.25)
- Level 3: one dollar and fifty cents (\$1.50)

The maximum number of Evidence Response Technicians eligible for this pay shall be set by management.

#### **V. Certified Crash Reconstructionists, and Boat Accident Reconstructionists**

Certified Crash Reconstructionists shall receive one dollar (\$1.00) an hour added to their base hourly rate after attaining certification from the International Association of Identification Level I or Level II and the recognized professional certification for Certified Crash Reconstructionists.

Employees trained and designated by the agency as Boat Accident Reconstructionists shall receive fifty cents (\$.50) an hour added to their base hourly rate.

#### **W. Forensic Mappers**

Forensic Mappers shall receive fifty cents (\$.50) added to their base hourly rate after successful completion and maintenance of their certification.

## **X. Firearms, Mechanics of Arrest, Restraint, and Control, and Interactive Use of Force Instructor Stipend**

Agency management shall determine the number and composition of Firearms, Mechanics of Arrest, Restraint, and Control, and Interactive Use of Force Instructors within their own agency. To be eligible for the above stipend, the employee shall hold a current certification related to the specialty from the Maine Criminal Justice Academy and be in good standing. Certified Firearms, Mechanics of Arrest, Restraint, and Control, and Interactive Use of Force Instructors shall be eligible for fifty cents (\$.50) added to the base hourly rate.

## **Y. Forest Ranger Short Haul Rescue**

All qualified rescuers assigned to perform rope rescue for the State of Maine shall be compensated at the rate of ten dollars (\$10.00) an hour in addition to their regular hourly rate of pay when actually performing rescue missions or when actually on the rope training. Agency management shall determine the number and composition of Short Haul Rescuers, as well as the length and content of its formal Field Training Program.

## **Z. Whale Disentanglement Team**

All members of Marine Patrol's whale disentanglement team shall be paid ten dollars (\$10.00) an hour, in addition to their appropriate hourly rate, for all hours on scene of a whale or sea turtle disentanglement. Agency management shall determine the size of the whale disentanglement team.

## **AA. Payment of Allowances and Stipends**

Payment of allowances, stipends, or other compensation currently paid annually, monthly, bi-monthly, or quarterly will be paid semi-annually in January and July. For employees not exempt from the FLSA, any payments required to be calculated as part of the regular wages for overtime purposes will be paid on an hourly basis.

## **ARTICLE 10. COMPLAINTS AND INVESTIGATIONS**

**1.** The department head or agency head shall be responsible to ensure that all allegations of misconduct and other violations are investigated as follows.

**2.** The department head, agency head or other designated officer, shall conduct a preliminary investigation of all such allegations. The investigator shall be allowed to interview the complainant prior to notifying the employee.

**3. Reasonable cause determination; minor discipline only.**

In the course of determining whether reasonable cause exists to conduct an investigation in cases that could result only in minor discipline (a verbal or written reprimand), the investigator or other designated management representative may conduct an informal interview with the employee(s) about whom a complaint has been made. The interview under this section shall be voluntary and can be terminated by the employee at any time. Prior to being

interviewed, the employee will be notified in writing of the nature of the allegation and the purpose of the interview and be afforded a reasonable opportunity to contact and consult privately with a union representative. The written notice requirement under this section may be satisfied by electronic mail. The union representative may participate in the interview. An interview under this section is not required in order to proceed under sections 4 or 5 of this article.

**4. No reasonable cause.** If, after preliminary investigation, no reasonable cause to investigate further is found, the investigation shall terminate and the employee shall be informed in writing that a complaint was made against him or her but was unfounded. The employee shall be allowed to submit a response with regard to the matter with his or her department or agency to be included with the other investigative materials.

**5. Notice of reasonable cause.** If, after preliminary investigation, the department head or agency head or his/her designee determines that there is reasonable cause to believe that misconduct or other violation may have been committed by a particular employee such that there is reasonable cause to investigate further, the investigator shall inform the employee under investigation, his/her supervisor, and the MSLEA, of the nature of the investigation before proceeding any further with said investigation. If diligent efforts to contact the employee fail, the investigator shall advise MSLEA. Sufficient information to apprise the employee of the allegations shall be provided in writing.

**6. Investigatory interview.** When an investigator believes that reasonable cause to investigate further has been established, and the employee under investigation is to be interviewed under this section, the employee shall be afforded three (3) working days, unless an emergency exists, to contact and consult privately with union attorney and/or other union representative before being interviewed. The union attorney and/or union representative may attend the interview. For purpose of this section, working days shall be Monday through Friday, exclusive of holidays. In the event of an emergency a reasonable amount of time will be afforded.

**a.** The interview of any employee under this section shall be conducted at a reasonable hour, and without unreasonable delay. It shall take place at a suitable location designated by the investigating officer and shall be at the appropriate agency headquarters when feasible.

**b.** The employee being interviewed shall be informed of the identity of all persons present during the interview.

**c.** If it is known that the employee being interviewed is a witness only, he/she shall be so informed.

**d.** The investigation shall be conducted with the maximum amount of confidentiality possible.

**e.** In situations where the conduct being investigated could result in a separate criminal investigation, the employee shall be advised in writing prior to his/her interview that s/he is required to answer questions in the personnel investigation or face disciplinary action up to and including discharge. The employee shall be further advised in writing that any statements made by the employee and any evidence obtained as a result of the statements made by the employee in the course of the personnel investigation may not be

used against him/her in a court of law (*Garrity* notice). The employee will be given an opportunity to sign the *Garrity* notice.

The employer shall record all such interviews, except as designated below, with the recordings made a part of the investigatory file. Neither the employee nor MSLEA will record the interview while it is being conducted. Once the investigation is closed and if the investigation results in proposed discipline, MSLEA will be given a copy of the recording of the interview with the employee under investigation along with the investigative report.

The employer will not release copies of any other recordings made in the course of the investigation to MSLEA until such time as other evidence is released to MSLEA in the grievance process.

The following interviews will not be recorded without express written permission of the interviewee(s):

- Interviews of State employees who are not in the Law Enforcement Services Bargaining Unit;
- Interviews of State employees who are in the Law Enforcement Services Bargaining Unit who are not members of MSLEA and who elect not to be represented by MSLEA in either the investigative process or the grievance process.

In situations where an investigation is conducted pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement other than the agreement between the State and MSLEA and an MSLEA member is a witness in the investigation, the MSLEA member's interview may be recorded upon request of the MSLEA member.

**7. No Reasonable Cause Finding.** If, at the conclusion of the investigation, the allegation(s) is(are) unsubstantiated or otherwise not sustained, the employee and MSLEA will be so informed. At this point in the process, the employee shall have the right to submit a response with regard to the matter with his or her department or agency to be included with the other investigative materials.

**8. Polygraph examination.** All polygraphs shall be voluntary. A refusal to submit to a polygraph shall not be held against the employee in a personnel investigation. If the employee under investigation is requested to submit to a polygraph examination, he or she will be furnished a written list of questions to be asked sufficiently prior to the examination to enable the member to confer with an MSLEA representative and/or counsel prior to the polygraph examination. An employee who submits to a polygraph examination as requested by the employer, may, at his/her own expense, obtain an independent polygraph and submit the results for consideration by the employer under the condition that this independent polygraph is performed by an individual licensed and certified by the State of Maine to conduct such examinations.

**9.** Within five (5) workdays of the completion of the investigation, the person being investigated shall be advised of the final outcome in writing. If the allegation(s) against the employee is (are) sustained, the employee or MSLEA will receive a copy of the investigative report within a reasonable time of the conclusion of the investigation.

**10.** Should an agency become aware the above procedure has not been followed, the investigation may be stopped and started over, ensuring the procedures are properly followed. A complete failure to follow the above procedures, when such failure results in substantial prejudice to the employee,

shall result in dismissal of all charges with prejudice. In the instance of dismissal of the charges, the record of the investigation shall not be retained in the employee's personnel files and material contained in such records shall not be used against the employee in the future.

**11.** All investigations under this Article shall be initiated by the department/agency within a reasonable time of when the department/agency became aware of the alleged misconduct. If the investigation is of a policy violation that does not involve citizens outside of the department/agency, a good faith effort will be made to complete the investigation within three (3) months. If the investigation involves a citizen outside of the department/agency and/or possible criminal charges may be involved, a good faith effort will be made to complete the investigation within six (6) months.

**12.** If an employee is placed on administrative leave as a result of an investigation under this Article, a good faith effort will be made to provide notice of the rationale for placement on administrative leave within seven (7) calendar days of the leave beginning.

## **ARTICLE 11. CONCLUSION OF NEGOTIATIONS**

**A.** The State and MSLEA agree that this Agreement is the entire Agreement, terminates all prior Agreements or understandings and concludes all collective negotiations during its term. Neither party will during the term of this Agreement seek to unilaterally modify its terms through legislation or other means which may be available to them.

**B.** Each party agrees that it shall not attempt to compel negotiations during the term of this Agreement on matters that could have been raised during the negotiations that preceded this Agreement, matters that were raised during the negotiations that preceded this Agreement or matters that are specifically addressed in this Agreement.

**C.** This is the entire Agreement between the parties and terminates any other agreements in place prior to the signing of this Agreement except those impacting specifically named individual(s) only.

## **ARTICLE 12. CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION**

The parties acknowledge that problems of general administration (as opposed to individual employee grievances) may arise during the administration of this Agreement which may require the State and MSLEA to meet from time to time for the purpose of reviewing the general administration of the Agreement. The parties agree to so meet within a reasonable time at the request of either party. Unless a problem is of an emergency nature, the party requesting a meeting will submit a written agenda one (1) week in advance of any such meeting.

## **ARTICLE 13. CONTRACTING OUT**

If the State contracts out work normally performed by employees within this unit, and if the contracting out results in the elimination of jobs within the unit, the State will negotiate the impact of the contracting on the affected employees.

Negotiations, if demanded, will occur no longer than a thirty (30) day period prior to implementation of the layoff. If the parties have not reached agreement within the thirty (30) day period, the obligation to bargain shall continue.

In addition, the State shall assist those employees whose jobs are eliminated by such actions to find other employment. The resources of the Bureau of Human Resources, the Department of Labor and the affected department shall be used in coordination with MSLEA to help the affected employees secure employment inside or outside of State government. When an employee receives notice that he/she is being displaced as a result of contracting out, the State and MSLEA will exchange information on vacancies which can be useful in assisting the affected employee find employment. Appropriate preference shall be given affected employees for placement in State service.

## **ARTICLE 14. COPIES OF AGREEMENT**

The parties shall jointly arrange for printing copies of this Agreement. Each party shall pay for the copies it requires for distribution.

## **ARTICLE 15. COURT SERVICE**

If an employee is required to appear in court or pursuant to a subpoena or other order of a court or body or to perform jury service, and such appearance or service results in his/her absence from work, he/she shall be granted court service leave for the period of time necessary to fulfill such requirement. Any employee who makes an appearance and whose service is not required shall return to work as soon as practicable after release.

An employee on court service leave shall receive the payment received for such court service, including any travel allowance, in addition to his/her regular pay.

The provisions of this Article shall not apply to an employee summoned to or appearing before a court or body as a party to any private legal action which is not job related.

## **ARTICLE 16. COURT TIME**

An employee who is called to appear as a witness in his/her official capacity by a court, including administrative court, outside their regular scheduled work day, on a scheduled day off, a scheduled vacation day or other approved day off shall be paid for the hours so spent, including actual, necessary travel time, at one and one-half (1½) of his/her regular hourly rate for a minimum of four (4) hours. Payment under this Article shall be the total payment for such court time from all sources other than regular pay for the scheduled day off. An employee who is assigned a State vehicle shall be entitled to use such vehicle on such occasions.

## **ARTICLE 17. DEFERRED COMPENSATION**

The State agrees to submit deductions of the employees who participate in the Deferred Compensation program by payroll deduction as soon as practicable but no later than ten (10) workdays after such deductions are made.

## **ARTICLE 18. DENTAL INSURANCE**

The State agrees to pay one hundred percent (100%) of the employee premium of a dental insurance program for full-time employees. The benefit levels of this program shall provide one hundred percent (100%) coverage for preventive care and eighty percent (80%) coverage for general service care. The State agrees to provide payroll deduction for dental insurance, provided such arrangements are agreed to by the insurance carrier. Dependent coverage will be available provided there is sufficient employee participation in the dental insurance program. Dependent coverage will be at the employees' expense.

## **ARTICLE 19. DEPENDENT CHILDREN POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION BENEFIT**

In the event an employee is killed during the performance of his/her job duties, the State shall pay the tuition of his/her dependent children who are accepted as students through the normal admissions process to attend the University of Maine System, the State Community College System, or the Maine Maritime Academy. Each dependent child shall be eligible for this benefit for five (5) years from his/her first admission date to either system or until the requirement for a degree has been met, whichever comes first.

## **ARTICLE 20. DISCIPLINE**

**1.** No employee shall be disciplined by the State without just cause. Notwithstanding the foregoing, new employees in an initial probationary period of fewer than six (6) months may be dismissed without the necessity on the part of the State of establishing just cause.

Disciplinary action shall be limited to the following: written warning, written reprimand, suspension, demotion, dismissal. The principles of progressive discipline shall be followed.

**2.** No employee covered by this Agreement shall be suspended without pay, demoted or dismissed without first having been given notice in writing of the disciplinary action to be taken. The conduct for which disciplinary action is being imposed and the action to be taken shall be specified in a written notice. Any employee receiving a notice of suspension, demotion, or dismissal will be afforded an opportunity to meet with the appointing authority or his/her representative prior to the action proposed. The employee will be entitled to have a Union representative or steward present. After the employee receives the notice of suspension, demotion or dismissal, and upon request, the State shall furnish a copy of the report of the disciplinary investigation. At that meeting the



appointing authority or his/her designee will give the employee an explanation of the employer's evidence against the employee (if that has not already been provided) and offer the employee an opportunity to respond. Employees are on notice that a finding of having committed the offense of physical abuse is excluded from progressive discipline and may result in termination on first offense.

Any employee suspended without pay, demoted or dismissed, may initiate appeal of such disciplinary action at the department or agency head step of the Grievance and Arbitration Procedure within fifteen (15) workdays after the employee becomes aware of such disciplinary action.

**3.** For the purposes of this article, one day of suspension will equal eight (8) hours.

## **ARTICLE 21. DUES DEDUCTION**

**1.** MSLEA shall have exclusive rights to payroll deduction of membership dues and premiums for current MSLEA sponsored insurance programs. Deductions for other programs may be mutually agreed to by the parties.

**2.** The State agrees to deduct MSLEA membership dues and insurance premiums from the pay of those employees who individually request in writing that such deductions be made. Employees who have already authorized such deductions shall not be required to submit new authorizations upon the execution of this Agreement. The employee's written authorization for payroll deductions shall contain the employee's name, agency in which employed, and work location. Such authorization shall be transmitted by an authorized representative of MSLEA or the employee to the State Controller through the applicable agency payroll clerk. When such authorization is transmitted directly from the employee to the agency payroll clerk, a copy of the authorization shall be sent to MSLEA.

**3.** Any change in the amounts to be deducted shall be certified to the Office of Employee Relations by the Treasurer of MSLEA at least thirty (30) days in advance of the change. The aggregate deductions of all employees shall be submitted to MSLEA together with an itemized statement as soon as practicable but no later than ten (10) workdays after such deductions are made.

**4.** MSLEA shall indemnify and hold the State harmless against any and all claims, suits, orders or judgments brought or issued against the State as the result of the action taken or not taken by the State under the provisions of this Article.

**5.** New employees eligible upon completion of six (6) months service for coverage by this Agreement may also have such payroll deduction during their initial six (6) month period.

## **ARTICLE 22. ELECTRONIC MAIL**

Electronic mail capabilities as available to unit members in the course of their work may be used for the purpose of reasonable communication on union matters consistent with applicable law and the State of Maine E-Mail Usage and Management Policy. Any use of the State's e-mail system under this Article must be of an incidental nature (e.g., meeting announcements) and must not interfere with State government functions and purposes.

## **ARTICLE 23. EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

There shall be a broad-brush comprehensive Employee Assistance Program ("EAP") to provide confidential assessment and referral services for State employees. The EAP is intended to aid State employees and their families, and retirees, in cases where personal problems of any nature are having a detrimental effect on the employee's job performance. Services provided directly by the EAP shall be at no cost.

## **ARTICLE 24. EMPLOYEE DATA**

1. So long as not prohibited by law, the State shall furnish to MSLEA quarterly, at Union expense, a computer listing of the then-available information, specified hereinafter, for each employee covered by this Agreement. The computer listing shall contain, to the extent practicable, the name, address, class code, classification, pay range and step, employing agency and initial date of hire for each employee covered by this Agreement. MSLEA shall indemnify, defend and hold the State harmless against all claims and suits which may arise as a result of the State's furnishing such listing to MSLEA.

2. Upon mutual agreement, the State and MSLEA will use technology available to each party for the purpose of receiving the aforementioned electronic data in the most efficient manner possible. By mutual agreement, such information transmitted to MSLEA in a hard copy format will be transmitted electronically after agreement between the parties on format and content.

## **ARTICLE 25. EMPLOYEE DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING**

1. The State agrees to provide advice and counseling to employees with respect to career advancement opportunities and agency developments which have an impact on their careers.

2. Regular review of its job-related and career development and training programs will be made by the State in order to provide suitable programs for employees covered by this Agreement. When undertaking any such review, the State shall notify employees of such review and take into account suggestions and proposals made by employees.

3. Employees shall be given a reasonable notice of applicable development and training programs available. Such notice shall include an explanation of the procedure for applying for the program. Notices of development and training programs shall be posted for reasonable periods in advance on bulletin boards at applicable work locations within the agencies involved. An appointing authority shall make every effort to permit employees' participation in such career development and training programs. Participation in any training inside or outside of work hours which is required by the State as a condition of fulfilling the requirements of the employee's job, or any in-service State training which is conducted or undertaken during normally scheduled work hours will be considered as time worked.

4. The State shall pay tuition, course-related fees, other approved course required costs and for necessary travel and lodging pursuant to established policies and procedures.

5. Capitol Police Officers will receive sixteen (16) hours of mandatory job training in each calendar year and shall, in addition, be given the opportunity for training in the handling of Riverview Psychiatric Center patients.

## **ARTICLE 26. EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATION LEAVE**

### **A. Leave for MSLEA Organization Activities**

The State shall provide Employee Organization Leave without loss of pay or benefits for members and officers of the MSLEA Board of Directors to attend a maximum of six (6) one-day meetings per year of the Board of Directors. For purposes of this Article, the Board of Directors shall consist of eleven (11) members, the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer of MSLEA. Up to nineteen (19) MSLEA members who have an official capacity shall be entitled to use vacation or comp time to attend the annual MSLEA meeting.

### **B. Leave for Negotiations**

Members of the MSLEA bargaining team (whose numbers shall not exceed five (5) plus the President and Vice President of MSLEA) shall suffer no loss in pay or benefits for participation in negotiations for a successor Agreement. Additionally, leave may be requested for other members necessary for participation on specific negotiations issues and such leave shall not be unreasonably denied.

MSLEA shall give reasonable notice to the Office of Employee Relations of the names of those bargaining team members who will be attending particular bargaining sessions. MSLEA recognizes that exceptional circumstances might preclude the release of an individual on a particular day. The Office of Employee Relations will notify affected agencies of those individuals designated or otherwise requested to be made available on particular dates for participation in negotiations and will inform those agencies of the day, or days, when negotiations will take place.

No additional compensation shall be paid if negotiations extend beyond the end of an employee's normal work hours. However, every effort shall be made to schedule non-standard workweek employees so that their days off shall not fall on days of negotiations.

Any designated employee who has a State vehicle assigned shall be allowed to use the vehicle while traveling to and from negotiations. Such employee shall be considered to be in duty status and shall have his/her uniform available for necessary use.

### **C. Stewards and Chief Stewards**

1. The Union may designate a reasonable number of employees to act as stewards and chief stewards on their behalf. A list of such employees designated as stewards or chief stewards shall be given to the Office of Employee Relations

and to appropriate officials at the agency levels on a quarterly basis in July, October, January and April. Such stewards or chief stewards will be allowed a reasonable amount of time away from their work without loss of pay to investigate and process grievances. Prior to leaving his/her workstation to attend such business, a steward or chief steward shall obtain consent of his/her supervisor. If operational considerations or workloads temporarily delay the release of a steward or chief steward to attend to proper duties under this Article, he/she will be released for such purposes as soon as practicable. Whenever a steward or chief steward works on union business and such work extends beyond the end of his/her normal workday, such activity shall not be considered as time worked for overtime purposes. Any travel or other expenses of stewards' or chief stewards' activities shall not be borne by the State.

**2.** Stewards and chief stewards shall be entitled to two (2) days of leave per year without loss of pay or benefits to participate in official MSLEA sponsored steward training. MSLEA shall provide the Office of Employee Relations with at least two (2) weeks' notice of names and work locations of the stewards and chief stewards participating. No additional compensation shall be paid if the training extends beyond the end of the employee's normal work hours. Such leave shall not be withheld unless operational needs so require and shall not be arbitrarily denied.

#### **D. Leave for Other Organizational Business**

Employees engaged in MSLEA business may apply for administrative leave without pay. Such applications shall not be unreasonably denied, and if denied the reasons for the denial shall be stated to the applicant in writing.

#### **E. Travel Time**

Leave provided in paragraphs A and B of this Article shall apply to and cover actual and necessary travel to and from such meetings required during normal working hours on the day of the meeting or negotiations, except that MSLEA bargaining team members traveling 100 miles or more to negotiations shall be entitled to travel time outside of days of negotiations.

### **ARTICLE 27. EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT**

#### **A. Mileage Allowance**

1. Effective on the first of the month following the effective date of this contract, the mileage allowance will be calculated as 75% of the federal rate in effect as of October 1, 2023, rounded up to the nearest cent. Thereafter, effective November 1 of every calendar year, the mileage allowance will be calculated as 80% of the federal rate in effect as of October 1 of that same year, rounded up to the nearest cent.

**2.** Employees who are disabled and use their own personal adapted vehicle on State business, shall receive the current mileage reimbursement plus an additional ten cents (\$.10) per mile.

The State retains the right to require employees to use State vehicles in lieu of mileage reimbursement.

## **B. Lodging and Meal Expenses**

1. Employees in travel status in the performance of their duties shall be entitled to expenses of necessary lodging and/or meals as provided for in Section 40 of the Manual of Financial Procedures, Travel and Expense Reimbursement Policy.

Nothing contained in this Article shall be deemed to alter the present State policy prohibiting reimbursement for noon meals unless the meal is part of an organized meeting or program or overnight travel.

2. Estimated travel expenses shall be advanced to employees when reasonable and when requested. Any reimbursement of expenses shall be made as soon as possible following the submission of expense reports.

3. Receipts shall not be required for reimbursement for meals eight dollars (\$8.00) and under.

4. Meal allowances for extended days will be paid at the rate of five dollars (\$5.00) for breakfast and fourteen dollars (\$14.00) for dinner.

5. Notwithstanding this provision, no employee shall receive less than the per diem reimbursement allowance of twenty-two dollars (\$22.00) which was authorized prior to the adoption of this provision.

## **C. Telephone Expenses**

1. When a member of the Law Enforcement bargaining unit is specifically required by the State to have a telephone in his or her residence, the State shall pay nine dollars (\$9.00) of the basic monthly charge, unless the State has provided a cell phone or other device with telephonic capability that functions to the State's satisfaction at the member's residence. These payments shall be made on a semiannual basis in January and July and shall be prorated for those employees who become eligible or terminate State service between the semiannual payments. Marine Patrol Officers/Specialists will be provided with state-issued cell phones and are required to use their issued cell phones for all business purposes. Unauthorized personal use of the state-issued cell phone shall not be permitted. Officers with poor cell phone reception are required to maintain a telephone in their residence and will be eligible for telephone allowance pursuant to above. All phone numbers, to include residential if required, will be provided and published for public access.

2. The State shall pay all employees' authorized telephone toll charges. In lieu of submitting copies of their personal telephone toll charge statements, employees may elect to submit an itemized accounting of such calls on a regular State voucher.

3. An employee away from home overnight on the business of the State shall have the right to one (1) fifteen (15) minute telephone call per night within or to the State of Maine at the State's expense. When an employee is away from home overnight for two (2) or more continuous nights, that employee may aggregate the above fifteen (15) minute period into one (1) or more telephone calls as long as the total time used does not exceed the total time allowed.

4. An employee who reports to work and then is required to work unscheduled overtime shall have the right to one (1) five (5) minute telephone call to notify a member of his/her household.

#### **D. Uniform Maintenance Allowance**

The State shall continue to supply uniforms to employees whom it requires to wear uniforms as a condition of employment. When uniform maintenance is the responsibility of the employee, such employee shall be paid a uniform maintenance allowance of two hundred dollars (\$200.00) per year unless the State makes other arrangements for uniform maintenance. The classifications of Fire Investigator; Marine Patrol Officer; Marine Patrol Specialist; Marine Patrol Pilot; Game Warden; Game Warden Specialist; Game Warden Pilot; Forest Ranger II; Forest Ranger III; Forest Fire Prevention Specialist; and Forest Ranger Pilot which currently utilize an all wool or wool blend uniform which requires dry cleaning only shall receive an additional fifty dollars (\$50.00) per year for a total of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00). As long as Capitol Police Officers are required to utilize an all wool or wool blend uniform which requires dry cleaning only, the State will pay Capitol Police Officers sixty-five dollars (\$65.00) per month as a uniform maintenance allowance. Should the State replace the dry clean only uniforms with wash and wear equivalents the additional fifty dollars will be discontinued and the employees would revert to the two hundred (\$200.00) allowance. The uniform maintenance allowance shall be paid to full-year employees on a semiannual basis in January and July and shall be prorated for those employees who become eligible or terminate State service between the semiannual payments. Seasonal employees shall be paid the uniform maintenance allowance on a monthly basis provided that such employee is in pay status as of the fifteenth (15th) of any calendar month.

Details concerning the all-purpose uniform will be mutually agreed to by the parties.

The classes currently receiving uniforms and which shall be eligible for the uniform maintenance allowance are as follows:

- Baxter Park Ranger
- Fire Investigator
- Senior Fire Investigator
- Forest Ranger II
- Forest Ranger III
- Forest Ranger Pilot
- Forest Fire Prevention Specialist
- Marine Patrol Officer
- Marine Patrol Pilot
- Marine Patrol Specialist
- Game Warden
- Game Warden Specialist
- Game Warden Pilot
- Capitol Police Officer

## **E. Reimbursement for Advanced Courses**

Employees shall be reimbursed by their appointing authority for tuition, course-related fees and other course-required and approved costs paid for advanced courses in their field which will help improve their skills and improve the services provided by the State and which are taken while in the employ of the State, provided that prior approval for taking any such course shall have been obtained from the appointing authority and provided that the employee shall have met the agency's requirements for satisfactory completion of the course. Each appointing authority shall endeavor to allocate a reasonable amount of available funds in each fiscal year to reimburse employees for such approved advanced courses.

## **F. Assignment Out-of-State**

Where it is reasonably anticipated that an Employee will be assigned to work out-of-state for more than five (5) consecutive workdays with an intervening Saturday and Sunday without a work assignment, the affected Employee may request in advance of the work assignment that his/her appointing authority approve reimbursement for expenses necessary to return the Employee to his/her Maine headquarters for the weekend. Such a request shall be approved if the travel costs incurred by returning to Maine for the weekend are equal to or less than lodging and estimated meal expenses for the weekend if the Employee remains at the out-of-state assignment location.

## **ARTICLE 28. EXTRA HAZARDOUS DUTY INJURIES**

Employees covered by this agreement who are injured on the job while performing extra-hazardous duties in accordance with established agency rules, regulations, policies and procedures, shall receive, in addition to compensation paid or payable under the Workers Compensation Act, an amount of compensation sufficient to bring them up to full salary for up to one-hundred (120) workdays from the date the injury occurred. Absence from work because of such injuries shall not be charged to accumulated sick leave during this one-hundred twenty (120) day period.

Extra-hazardous duty injuries shall be defined as follows:

- 1.** Injuries sustained while making an arrest.
- 2.** Injuries sustained from firearms discharge, unless intentionally self-inflicted.
- 3.** Injuries sustained as a result of use of force, or by a dangerous/lethal weapon. Such injuries shall only be considered when they are the direct result of the action of another party.
- 4.** Injuries sustained while actively engaged in suppressing riots, insurrections and similar civil disturbances.
- 5.** Injuries sustained while maintaining a roadblock as defined in Title 29A §2414 M.R.S.A., while directing vehicle traffic, assisting motorists, or while conducting authorized official checkpoints. Such injuries shall only be considered when they are the direct result of the action of another party.

6. Injuries sustained while engaged in pursuit chases upon agency review and approval.

7. Injuries sustained from exposure to weapons of mass destruction, incendiary or explosive devices or materials, electronic stun devices and laser beams of sufficient strength to cause injury.

8. Injuries sustained while engaged in containing active wildfires.

9. Injuries sustained by accidental exposure to fentanyl in the line of duty.

In the event that an employee covered by this agreement is injured by an extraordinary hazard not listed above, MSLEA may petition to have such injury covered by this article. Such petition may be granted at the discretion of a committee comprised of the Chiefs of the Maine Warden Service, the Maine Marine Patrol, and the Maine Forest Service, and the HR Director of the Natural Resources Service Center.

## **ARTICLE 29. GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE**

### **1. Definitions and Scope**

1.1 Employees shall have the right to present grievances in accordance with the procedures prescribed in this Article.

1.2 For purposes of this Agreement, a grievance is a dispute concerning the interpretation or application of the terms or provisions of this Agreement. It is intended that this shall not mean administrative matters under the Retirement System and the Group Health Insurance Program.

### **2. Procedure**

**2.1 Step 1:** Within twenty-one (21) calendar days after the act or omission which gives rise to the grievance or an employee becomes aware or should have reasonably become aware that he/she has a grievance, the employee and/or his/her representative shall present the grievance in writing to his/her department or agency head, stating the nature of the grievance and the remedial action requested. The department or agency head or his/her representative may meet with the employee and/or his/her representative and shall provide the employee and his/her representative with his/her decision in writing within twenty-one (21) calendar days of receipt of the grievance at this Step 1.

**2.2 Step 2:** If the grievance is not resolved at Step 1, then within fourteen (14) calendar days after receipt of the written decision of the department or agency head, the employee and/or his/her representative may appeal to the Office of Employee Relations by filing a written notice of appeal, together with copies of the written grievance and the Step 1 decision, if any. A representative of the Office of Employee Relations may meet with the employee and/or his/her representative and shall provide the employee and/or his/her representative with a written decision within twenty-one (21) calendar days of receipt of the appeal; or, if a meeting is held, within fourteen (14) calendar days after the conclusion of such meeting.



### **2.3 Step 3:**

**(a)** If the grievance has not been satisfactorily resolved at Step 2, then a request for arbitration may be brought only by MSLEA through its president or designee by submitting a request for arbitration to the Office of Employee Relations as well as a statement of the grievance specifying the Article, section or clause of the contract alleged to have been violated, along with the concise statement of facts surrounding the issue and the remedial action requested. The request for arbitration shall be served to the Office of Employee Relations through personal service, fax or email or by mailing by registered or certified mail within twenty-one calendar days of the receipt of the Step 2 decision.

**(b)** Upon receipt by the Office of Employee Relations of a request for arbitration, the parties shall attempt to mutually agree upon an arbitrator. If unable to agree upon an arbitrator within fourteen (14) calendar days of receipt of the request for arbitration, the arbitrator shall be selected through the American Arbitration Association ("AAA") or the Labor Relations Connection ("LRC") in accordance with the AAA or LRC rules then in effect.

The request for arbitration along with a request for a list of arbitrators must be received by AAA or LRC within six (6) weeks of the Office of Employee Relations' receipt of the request for arbitration, in order for the AAA or LRC administration fees to be shared equally by the parties. If such request is not received by AAA or LRC by the expiration of the six (6) weeks but is received within twelve (12) weeks, MSLEA shall pay the entire AAA or LRC administration fee. If a request has not been received by AAA or LRC within twelve (12) weeks of the Office of Employee Relations' receipt of the request for arbitration, MSLEA will be deemed to have waived its right to appeal the Step 2 decision to arbitration.

**(c)** The decision of the arbitrator shall be binding consistent with applicable law and this Agreement. The arbitrator shall have no authority to add to, subtract from or modify any provisions of this Agreement. The arbitrator shall have no authority to award interest on any award. All costs of arbitration, including fees and expenses of the arbitrator, shall be divided equally between the parties, except as provided in section 2.4(b) of this Article, except that a party canceling within seven days of arbitration for a reason other than a catastrophic event involving a primary participant in the arbitration shall bear the full cost of the arbitrator fee, and except that each party shall bear the costs of preparing and presenting its own case.

**(d)** The arbitrator shall fix the time and place of the hearing, taking into consideration the convenience of the parties. The arbitrator shall be requested to issue a written decision within thirty (30) days after completion of the proceedings. The arbitrator shall be bound by the rules of the AAA or LRC which are applicable to labor relations arbitrations and which are in effect at the time of the arbitration. In the event of a disagreement regarding the arbitrability of an issue, the arbitrator shall make a preliminary determination as to whether the issue is arbitrable. Once a determination is made that such a dispute is arbitrable, the arbitrator shall then proceed to determine the merits of the dispute.

**(e)** In grievances involving discharge of an employee and/or discipline which has led to a discharge, the arbitration hearing shall be held within six (6) months of the Step 2 decision. Subsequent hearing dates, if necessary, shall be held at the earliest date(s) offered by the assigned arbitrator and which is mutually

acceptable to the parties. The parties agree that in the event of a conflict in the scheduling of grievance arbitrations, grievances involving discharge and/or discipline which has led to a discharge shall have priority over all other pending grievance arbitration matters between the parties.

**(f)** By separate agreement of the parties, the parties may seek arbitration pursuant to a tri-partite arbitration process for employee disputes, in lieu of AAA or LRC arbitration.

**(g)** The parties may agree to mediate a grievance at any time during the grievance process; however, all timeframes for filing the grievance to the next step in the process remain in effect unless an exception detailing new filing timeframes is agreed to by the parties in writing.

### **3. General Provisions**

**3.1** The State shall not deny any employee MSLEA representation at any stage of the grievance procedure and MSLEA shall have the exclusive right to represent employees in any grievance. When an employee elects to pursue a grievance at Steps 1 or 2 without representation, MSLEA shall have the right to be present at any grievance step meeting and shall receive copies of written determinations, if any, at all stages. No resolution of a grievance shall be inconsistent with the provisions of this Agreement.

**3.2** All of the time limits contained in this Article may be extended by mutual agreement of the parties and such extensions shall, in order to be effective, be confirmed in writing. The parties may mutually agree to bypass steps of the grievance procedure.

**3.3** In no event can a grievance be taken to the next or any succeeding step of this procedure unless the employee and/or his/her representative meets the time limits or extensions thereof. Failure of the State and its representatives to adhere to the prescribed time limits or extensions thereof shall constitute a waiver of the applicable step and the employee and/or MSLEA may proceed to the next step. Upon the expiration of the prescribed time limits or extensions thereof, the employee and/or MSLEA may advance the grievance by filing it at the next step. It shall be the responsibility of the employee and/or MSLEA to advance the grievance.

**3.4** Grievances resolved at Step 1 shall not constitute a precedent unless a specific agreement to that effect is made by the Office of Employee Relations and MSLEA.

**3.5** Any grievance involving two (2) or more employees within the bargaining unit within the same department or agency may be processed jointly and shall be initiated with the most immediate common supervisor of the employees involved.

**3.6** An aggrieved employee and/or his/her representative shall have the right to inspect and to obtain copies of any records, documents and other materials relevant to the grievance and in the possession of the State. The State shall have the right to inspect and to obtain copies of any records, documents and other materials relevant to the grievance and in the possession of the Union.

**3.7** An aggrieved employee and any employee witnesses as may be reasonable shall not suffer any loss of pay and shall not be required to charge leave credits as a result of processing grievances during such employee's or witnesses'

regularly scheduled working hours, provided, however, that when such activities extend beyond such employee's or witnesses' scheduled working hours such time shall not be considered as time worked. Such release time shall not be construed to include preparation of paper work, record-keeping, conferences among Association officials or preparation for representation at a grievance hearing.

**3.8** The settlement or an award upon a grievance may or may not be retroactive as the equities of each case demand.

**3.9** Neither MSLEA nor any of its members may file a grievance on a member's non-selection for a position outside of the bargaining unit.

**3.10** For the purposes of this article, "in writing" shall include emails and any related attachments.

## **ARTICLE 30. HEALTH AND SAFETY**

**1.** The State will take appropriate action to assure compliance with all applicable laws concerning the health and safety of employees in its endeavors to provide and maintain safe working conditions. MSLEA agrees to support any programs required to meet the health and safety needs of employees.

An employee may request his/her department to provide safety related equipment, clothing, devices or tools as may be required to maintain a safe working environment. Such requests, if denied, may be appealed, upon notice to the department, to the Labor/Management Committee on Safety of State Buildings, which decision shall be final and binding on the parties. In this regard, formal votes required by the Committee shall be cast as one (1) vote by labor and one (1) vote by management.

**2.** Fire Investigators and Senior Fire Investigators shall be screened for liver-related conditions as well as other screenings consistent with State Fire Marshal policy. The Department of Public Safety will arrange and pay for the test.

**3.** The State will issue Ballistic Vests to Bureau of Motor Vehicle Detectives and to Attorney General Detectives.

## **ARTICLE 31. HEALTH INSURANCE**

The State shall provide health plan coverage for employees pursuant to Title 5 §285. The State shall pay sixty percent (60%) of the cost of dependent premium for each eligible employee who selects dependent coverage.

Part-time and seasonal employees hired into permanent full-time positions will be allowed to apply for health insurance within sixty (60) days of the permanent appointment with no evidence of insurability.

## **ARTICLE 32. HOLIDAYS**

**1.** Employees have the following paid holidays:

New Year's Day	Labor Day
Martin Luther King Day	Indigenous Peoples Day
Presidents' Day	Veterans Day

Patriot's Day  
Memorial Day  
Juneteenth  
Independence Day

Thanksgiving Day  
Friday following Thanksgiving Day  
Christmas Day

Employees released from work on these holidays shall be paid for their regularly scheduled hours of work. Time during which an employee is excused from work on holidays shall be considered as time worked for the purpose of computing overtime.

**2.** Any holiday falling on Saturday shall be observed on the preceding Friday and any holiday falling on Sunday shall be observed on the following Monday. Employees who work the calendar date and who are off on the observed date shall be paid the appropriate holiday rate for the calendar date only. Employees who are off on the calendar date and who work on the observed date shall be paid the appropriate holiday rate for the observed date only. Employees who work both the calendar date and the observed date shall be paid the appropriate holiday rate for either the calendar or the observed date but not both. An employee who works both the calendar date and the observed date shall receive the appropriate holiday rate for the calendar date only. A reasonable attempt shall be made not to schedule an employee for both the calendar date and the observed date of a holiday. Employees who are not scheduled to work either the calendar or the observed day of the holiday shall be given either another day off within the same workweek or a day's pay at the option of the agency. For the purposes of this article, being "off" shall be defined as any regular day off or any approved leave.

**3.** In addition to regular pay for holidays, those employees who are currently eligible for premium overtime pay shall be entitled to one and one-half (1½) times their hourly rate for time worked on holidays. In lieu of premium pay, eligible employees may, upon mutual agreement, take compensating time at the rate of one and one-half (1½) hours of compensating time for each hour of holiday work. Employees not eligible for premium pay shall be paid or, upon mutual agreement, be given compensating time off at an hour for hour basis. Compensating time shall be used pursuant to the provisions of the Compensating Time Article.

**4.** When a non-standard law enforcement employee is required to work on a holiday, he/she will be given one and one-half (1½) times their hourly rate of pay for each hour worked. In lieu of pay, upon mutual agreement, employees will be given one and one-half (1½) hours of compensating time for each hour worked. Such time shall be accrued and used in accordance with the Compensating Time Article.

## **5. Holiday Pay for Part-Time Employees**

Holiday pay for part-time employees will be prorated. Paid holiday hours are determined by dividing the number of authorized hours by forty (40) and multiplying by eight (8). Holiday hours to be paid are subtracted from the authorized position hours.

## **ARTICLE 33. HOURS AND WORK SCHEDULES**

**1.** The basic department, agency or other operational unit work schedules and practices, including work schedules or practices peculiar to particular classes, in effect on the effective date of this Agreement, shall not be changed without the employer informing MSLEA in advance and negotiating the impact of such changes, if requested, on the affected employees. Negotiations shall occur no longer than a thirty (30) day period prior to the implementation of the change. If the parties have not reached agreement within the thirty (30) day period, the obligation to bargain shall continue.

**2.** To the extent practicable, employees shall be scheduled in a manner that will not result in split shifts, split days off or frequent changes in work schedules. Every practical effort will be made to equitably treat employees whose jobs require that they work irregular or frequently changed hours, shifts or work-weeks.

**3.** It is recognized that involuntary work schedule changes may have an adverse impact on employees, and the employer recognizes its obligation to avoid or minimize such adverse impact to the extent practicable. An employee will be given at least fourteen (14) calendar days' notice prior to the effective date of the change in his/her individual schedule unless emergency or unforeseen developments preclude the possibility of such notice.

**4.** All time during which an employee is required to be on active duty shall be considered hours worked.

**5.** Employees who perform excessively dirty work or who work with toxic or noxious material shall be allowed five (5) minutes personal wash-up time before regularly assigned meal periods and at the end of their workday.

**6.** Job sharing by qualified employees may be permitted at the discretion of the appointing authority as permitted by statutory procedures.

**7.** Present practices with respect to travel time shall be continued.

**8.** Employees within this unit designated as non-standard shall have their scheduled days off commence at 5:00 p.m. on the day preceding the scheduled day or days off, and their time off shall end at 8:00 a.m. on the day scheduled to return to work. However, if conditions warrant, an employee occasionally may have to work beyond 5:00 p.m. on the day preceding the scheduled day/days off.

**9.** Forest Ranger Pilots will work and eight (8) or ten (10) hour work day, resulting in a minimum of eighty (80) hours per pay cycle. After regular work hours, Ranger Pilots are required to be available and prepared to return to work to meet operational needs. Temporary schedule changes may be required to accommodate short-term operational needs as determined by the Forest Protection Director. Such temporary schedule changes shall not be subject to the fourteen (14) day notice period referenced in section 3 above.

**10.** Employees of the Maine Warden Service, Forest Service, and Marine Patrol, while serving as Cadre Members at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy during Basic Law Enforcement Training Programs (BLETP), shall be subject to temporary schedule change while in their role as cadre members. Hours of work shall be determined by the MCJA cadre supervisor. Employees will be eligible for premium overtime for actual time worked beyond forty (40) hours in a week, for a

total of one hundred twenty (120) hours maximum per cadre member during their assignment to the BLEPT. Respective agencies may authorize additional overtime hours for extenuating circumstances subject to approval by the agency Colonel or designee.

While participating as cadre members, employees shall be deemed to be on special assignment in a training environment and assigned to the Maine Criminal Justice Academy. Cadre members may travel in their assigned state vehicle. While in the training environment, employees will not be required to perform in their regular law enforcement capacity. Should law enforcement duties be required, or an emergency response need exist, employees shall be compensated at the appropriate rate. Should an employee be called out in their regular day off, compensation shall be paid in accordance with contract provisions regarding compensation for Game Wardens and Marine Patrol Officers for the duration of the call out.

The temporary schedule change and compensation shall be in effect only during participation in the BLETP program. Upon completion of the BLETP, employees will immediately be returned to their regularly assigned work schedule in accordance with the appropriate Memorandum of Agreement.

**11.** Marine Patrol Officers participating and/or attending Advanced Marine patrol School, cadets and cadre, shall be subject to temporary schedule change. Employees will be eligible for premium overtime for actual time worked beyond forty (40) hours in a week. Upon completion of the Advanced Marine Patrol School, employees will immediately be returned to their regularly assigned work schedule in accordance with the Memorandum of Agreement for Marine Patrol. Employees in overnight status for training purposes will not be considered on call. Employees choosing to travel will not be compensated for travel time, with the exception of travel to and from their residence at the beginning and end of the training week. Employees attending Advanced Marine Patrol School included in coverage rotations and traveling to their residence, will be considered on call once they reach their patrol areas. Officers may request 10-7 time as minimum coverage allows. Officers called out on availability status will be compensated according to the Memorandum of Agreement for Marine Patrol Officers.

## **ARTICLE 34. LABOR/MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES**

### **A. Statewide**

The Labor/Management Committee established by the previous contracts shall continue.

Committee members may participate in the work of the Committee during working hours without loss of pay.

### **B. Department Labor/Management Committee**

Departments will establish Departmental/Agency/MSLEA Labor/Management Committees to provide a problem solving setting to deal with day-to-day problems or concerns regarding the workplace, or other matters

assigned to the committee with the approval of the Office of Employee Relations and MSLEA.

There will be a total of between four (4) and six (6) representatives appointed each by MSLEA and management. The committee will be co-chaired by labor and management (Department Head or Commissioner or designee). The chairs will agree on an agenda before each meeting.

Meetings will be held periodically, although either chair may call special meetings with the concurrence of the other chair. Generally, there should be at least four (4) meetings each year. All committee members may participate in the work of the committee during working hours without loss of pay or benefits including necessary travel time, during the employees regularly scheduled work hours/day to attend meetings and preparatory meetings. Any action taken by the committee will be by mutual agreement.

The labor/management committee has no authority to, add to, delete from, or modify this agreement or requirements established by statewide policy.

### **C. Building Safety**

There shall be established a Labor/Management Committee concerning the safety of State Buildings. The Committee shall be made up of one representative from each of the following bargaining units: Representing Labor - Administrative Services; Operations, Maintenance and Support Services; Law Enforcement; Professional and Technical Services; Supervisory Services; Institutional Services; and State Police Unit and an equal number of management representatives selected by the Governor. Committee members may participate in the work of the committee during working hours without loss of pay or benefits.

### **D. Employee Health**

There is established by law (Title 5, Chapter 13, Subchapter II, Section 285-A) the State Employee Health Commission. The State Employee Health Commission may also conduct the work of the Labor/Management Committee for Employee Assistance Program. Commission members who are covered by this agreement may participate in the work of the Commission during work hours without loss of pay and benefits.

### **E. Labor Management Committee on 15-minute phone calls and “shave time” at the Maine Warden Service**

The parties agree to meet in a Labor/Management forum at the agency to discuss the requirements around 15-minute phone calls and shave time or flex time for Warden Service employees. As a result of these discussions, the agency may make a policy change so long as the change has no impact on the bargaining agreement. Any agreements between the parties that add or modify the contract may only be entered through the Office of Employee Relations. Recommended contract changes may be presented to the parties prior to negotiations for the next contract (2025-2027).

## **F. Labor Management Committee on Special Detail Pay for employees utilizing compensatory time.**

The parties agree to meet in a Labor/Management forum involving the Bureau of Human Resources and relevant Agencies to discuss the sources of special detail funding and to explore the possibility of allowing employees to work special details while using compensatory time. Any action taken by the committee will be by mutual agreement and approval of the State Office of Employee Relations and MSLEA. The Labor/Management Committee has no authority to add to, delete from, or modify this agreement.

## **ARTICLE 35. LIFE INSURANCE**

The State shall pay the full premium of employees' basic group life insurance.

## **ARTICLE 36. MAINTENANCE OF BENEFITS**

With respect to negotiable wages, hours and working conditions not covered by this Agreement, the State agrees to make no changes without appropriate prior consultation and negotiations with the Association unless such change is made to comply with law, and existing regulations, Personnel Rules, written Policies and Procedures, General Orders, General Operating Procedure, or Standard Operating Procedure.

## **ARTICLE 37. MANAGEMENT RIGHTS**

The MSLEA agrees that the State has and will continue to retain the sole and exclusive right to manage its operations and retains all management rights, whether exercised or not, unless specifically abridged, modified or delegated by the provisions of this Agreement. Such rights include, but are not limited to, the right to determine the mission, location and size of all agencies and facilities; the right to direct its work force; to administer the merit system; to establish specifications for each class of positions and to classify or reclassify and to allocate or reallocate new or existing positions in accordance with the law; to discipline and discharge employees; to determine the size and composition of the work force; to eliminate positions; to make temporary layoffs at its discretion; to contract out for goods and services; to determine the operating budget of the agency; to install new, changed or improved methods of operations; to relieve employees because of lack of work or for other legitimate reasons; to maintain the efficiency of the government operations entrusted to them; and to take whatever actions may be necessary to carry out the mission of the agency in situations of emergency.

## **ARTICLE 38. MILITARY LEAVE**

Employees who are members of the National Guard or other authorized State military or naval forces, and those employees who are members of the Army, Air Force, Marine, Coast Guard or Naval Reserve shall be entitled to a



leave of absence from their respective duties, without loss of pay, and shall accrue sick and annual leave and seniority during periods of military training that do not exceed seventeen (17) workdays in any calendar year.

### **ARTICLE 39. MSLEA MEMBERSHIP PACKETS**

Each newly hired employee covered by this Agreement shall be provided by the State with an MSLEA-furnished membership packet along with other orientation materials which are regularly provided to new employees. MSLEA shall be solely responsible for the material contained in such packets, which shall conform to standards contained in the Bulletin Boards Article. Any questions concerning the contents of these packets or MSLEA programs shall be referred to MSLEA. MSLEA shall supply the packets to the points of distribution. The State will allow an MSLEA representative to address newly hired law enforcement bargaining unit employees at their new employee orientations.

### **ARTICLE 40. NON-DISCRIMINATION**

The State agrees to continue its established policy against all forms of illegal discrimination, including 1) discrimination with regard to race, creed, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, age, physical or mental disability, unless based upon a bona fide occupational qualification; and 2) intimidation or harassment on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, age, physical or mental disability.

MSLEA agrees to admit all members to membership and to represent all members without regard to race, creed, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, age, physical or mental disability, or sexual orientation.

MSLEA agrees to support affirmative action programs mandated by law and any other affirmative action programs affecting the State which comply with or are mandated by applicable State and federal laws.

MSLEA and the State agree that discrimination, intimidation, or harassment of employees, as defined by the State of Maine Policy Statement Against Harassment, including harassment because of sexual orientation, is unacceptable conduct and will not be condoned or tolerated by MSLEA or the State. The State agrees to annually post and/or distribute the State of Maine Policy Against Harassment.

The State and MSLEA agree that any disputes arising out of the provisions of this Article may be processed through the grievance procedure contained in the Grievance Procedure Article subject to the State's right to have any such grievance considered at the appropriate level or steps by the State's Equal Employment Opportunity Coordinator. This provision shall not preclude other legal remedies provided by law.

### **ARTICLE 41. OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT**

Employees may engage in other employment outside of their State working hours so long as the outside employment does not involve a conflict of interest with their State employment. Whenever it appears that any such outside employment

might constitute a conflict of interest, the employee is expected to consult with his/her appointing authority or other appropriate agency representative prior to engaging in such outside employment. Employees of agencies where there are established procedures concerning outside employment for the purpose of insuring compliance with specific statutory restrictions on outside employment are expected to comply with such procedures.

## **ARTICLE 42. OVERTIME ASSIGNMENTS**

1. In classifications where employees are eligible for overtime pay, overtime work shall be offered to employees within the work location involved from the appropriate work group in continuing rotation on the basis of seniority. Each employee shall be selected in turn according to his/her place on the seniority list by rotation provided, however, the employee whose turn it is to work possesses the qualifications, training and ability to perform the specific work required.

2. An employee requesting to be skipped when it becomes his/her turn to work overtime shall not be rescheduled for overtime work until his/her name is reached again in orderly sequence and an appropriate notation shall be made on the overtime roster.

3. In the event no employee accepts required overtime work, the State shall assign employees within the work location involved from the appropriate work group to perform the overtime work by continuing rotation in inverse order of seniority. Employees who are unavailable, including employees who are on vacation, sick leave or other approved leaves of absence, and employees for whom the requirement of overtime work would cause undue hardship, shall be excused from a required overtime assignment. Employees so excused shall not lose their eligibility for overtime work within the then current rotation.

4. Work in progress, when appropriate, shall be completed by the employee performing the work at the time the determination is made that overtime is required except that an employee for whom the requirement of overtime work would cause undue hardship shall be excused from the overtime assignment.

5. If an employee is skipped or denied an opportunity to work overtime in violation of this Article, he/she shall be offered overtime work the next time overtime work is available.

## **ARTICLE 43. PARENTAL LEAVE**

Paid parental leave for the birth or adoption of a child(ren) to be raised by the employee shall be granted to the employee with pay for hours regularly scheduled to work during a period of time not to exceed forty-two (42) calendar days, taken continuously beginning no later than twelve (12) weeks directly following the birth or adoption of the child(ren).

Childbirth or adoption leave shall be granted to an employee without salary for a period not to exceed one (1) year inclusive of any period of disability covered under the Sick Leave Article. Employees shall have the option of using accumulated compensating time, vacation, and/or personal leave during such period. Employees shall be allowed to retain insurance benefits during such leave. Except during any period covered by the use of compensating time, vacation,

and/or personal leave, retention of insurance benefits shall be at the employee's expense.

Employees are encouraged to consult with their agency Human Resources Office to determine if they are eligible for benefits available under the Federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), and time available under FMLA would run concurrent with both paid and unpaid childbirth and adoption leave.

## **ARTICLE 44. PERMANENT STATUS**

No employee's probationary period shall be extended without the employee being informed in writing prior to the expiration of such period. Unless notified in writing otherwise prior to expiration of his/her probationary period or extension thereof, the employee shall be granted permanent status immediately following such probationary period.

## **ARTICLE 45. PERSONAL SERVICES**

No employee shall be required to perform services of a personal nature.

## **ARTICLE 46. PERSONNEL FILES**

1. An employee, upon written request to or after prior arrangement with the State Bureau of Human Resources, or the appropriate official at his/her work location or in his/her agency, shall be permitted to review his/her personnel files. Such review shall take place during normal office hours and shall be conducted under the supervision of the appropriate records custodian or agency representative. An employee may review his/her personnel files at reasonable times during his/her regular work hours if such review does not require travel out of the normal work area. An employee shall be allowed to place in such file a response of reasonable length to anything contained therein which the employee deems to be adverse.

2. An employee's personnel file shall include, but not be limited to, all memoranda and documents relating to such employee which contain commendations, employee performance appraisals or ratings and records of training programs completed.

3. Upon request an employee shall be provided a copy of any or all materials in his/her personnel files provided that such copies shall be provided at the employee's expense. Copies of material added to the employee's personal file after the effective date of this Agreement shall be furnished at the State's expense and sent to each employee simultaneously with it being placed in his/her personnel file.

4. Upon request of an employee, records of reprimands and preventable accident reports shall be removed from personnel files after three (3) years from the date of the occurrence provided that the employee has had no further disciplinary action since that date. Upon request of an employee, records of suspensions and disciplinary demotions shall be removed from personnel files after five (5) years from the date of the occurrence provided that the employee has had no further disciplinary action since that date. However, records of disciplinary

suspensions resulting from patient/client abuse, neglect or mistreatment shall not be removed from personnel files under the provisions of this paragraph 4.

## **ARTICLE 47. PROPERTY DAMAGE**

The State shall continue to reimburse employees for personal property of reasonable value damaged, destroyed or stolen while in the performance of their duties in accordance with established procedures.

## **ARTICLE 48. RECLASSIFICATIONS**

**1.** Definitions. For the purposes of this Agreement the following terms are defined as follows:

**(a)** Classification and Reclassification. Classification and reclassification are the assignment or reassignment, respectively, of a position or group of positions to an occupational classification which is appropriate for compensation and employment purposes.

**(b)** Allocation and Reallocation. Allocation and reallocation are the assignment or reassignment, respectively, of a classification to the appropriate grade in the compensation plan.

**2.** MSLEA may appeal to binding arbitration a determination of the Director of Human Resources on the classification, reclassification, allocation or reallocation of a position or classification. Such appeal shall be made within twenty-one (21) calendar days of the Director of Human Resources' determination. Arbitration cases will be heard chronologically, by date of appeal, unless the parties mutually agree otherwise. The parties agree to utilize the services of an arbitration panel. Subsequent selection of panel members, if necessary, shall be agreed to within sixty (60) days of the termination of an arbitrator. Arbitrators shall be experienced in job evaluation disputes. If the parties cannot agree on the selection of arbitrator(s), they shall seek the assistance of the American Arbitration Association or Labor Relations Connection (LRC). The parties shall share equally the costs and expenses of the arbitrator(s) and each party shall bear the costs of preparing and presenting its own case.

**3.** The Arbitrator or Alternate shall not assign any existing classification to a new salary grade unless there has been a significant change in duties except as provided below. The Arbitrator's or decisions shall be binding on:

**(a)** The combination or merging of classifications and the allocation of the resulting new classifications to pay grades;

**(b)** reclassification or pay grade reallocation of positions the duties of which have changed since their last classification or allocation;

**(c)** assignment to classifications or the establishment and pay grade allocations of new classifications for new positions;

**(d)** the establishment of separate classifications and pay grade allocations for positions within the same classification on the basis of significant difference in duties.

**4.** Except for reclassifications and reallocations in connection with a reorganization, any reclassification or reallocation decision of the Director of Human Resources or the Arbitrator or Alternate shall be effective as of the date of

the written initiation of the reclassification or reallocation request by the employee, MSLEA or State and shall be implemented retroactively when the funds are provided pursuant to budgetary procedures.

The State shall pay the employee reclassified or reallocated interest one sixth of one percent (1/6%) per month on all monies due as a result of the reclassification or reallocation from the date of the final decision until payment.

**5.** Reclassifications and reallocations in connection with a reorganization shall be effective on the date they are approved and implemented.

**6.** No employee shall be reduced in salary as a result of reclassification or reallocation.

**7.** An employee shall be provided with a copy of his/her job description and specifications when appointed to a position and whenever the job description and/or specifications are changed.

**8.** If qualifications for a classification change, affected employees currently working in the class will be grandfathered except where licensing, registration, certification or special qualifications are required by state law, federal law or court order, or except where licensing, registration, certification or special qualifications are required to obtain or maintain federal funds.

**9.** The provisions of this Article (46) shall be effective as provided in the Term of Agreement Article; provided, however, that provisions of this Article shall be reopened for negotiation upon thirty (30) day written notice, or demand to reopen, given by either party when such notifying party has concluded that reopened negotiations are necessary relative to current compensation system bargaining being conducted pursuant to 26 M.R.S.A. §979-D(1)(E)(1)(g), (h) and (i). Such re-opened negotiations shall be conducted only as a part of compensation system bargaining and only pursuant to 26 M.R.S.A. §979-D(1)(E)(1)(h).

## **ARTICLE 49. RELOCATIONS**

When an employee is permanently reassigned or transferred to a new work location thirty-five (35) or more miles away from his/her present work location to accommodate the State's operational needs, he/she shall be reimbursed for actual reasonable and necessary moving expenses by common carrier. If the State requires an employee to live in a specified zone or district after initial assignment, the employee will be reimbursed for actual reasonable and necessary moving expenses by common carrier.

An employee will not be permanently reassigned or transferred for disciplinary or arbitrary or capricious reasons. Unless specific requirements dictate otherwise, transfers and reassignments shall be on a voluntary basis from among qualified employees. The most senior employee who is qualified to perform the duties of the position shall be entitled to the transfer or reassignment. If there are no qualified volunteers, the least senior qualified employee shall be transferred. In the event the least senior qualified employee has children of elementary or secondary school age, he/she shall be exempted from this provision in the event no schools are available in the new assignment area or if suitable educational arrangements for such children cannot be mutually agreed to.

The State shall provide ninety (90) days advance notice of such relocations whenever possible, and in the event that less than ninety (90) days notice is

provided, the State will pay reasonable temporary relocation expenses, pursuant to the Lodging and Meals Article of this Agreement, for any period of less than ninety (90) days notice.

This Article does not apply to employees relocating in connection with any reduction in force or to employees in job classes which traditionally have required performance of duties at other than a fixed location.

## **ARTICLE 50. RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS**

Marine Patrol Officers shall be allowed to reside in their patrol areas where they choose so long as response time to calls is reasonable. The standard for reasonableness shall be thirty-five (35) minutes under normal driving conditions or no more than a twenty-five (25) mile drive to the identified center of the Officer's patrol. The thirty-five (35) minute response time or twenty-five (25) mile drive may be extended by mutual agreement if extenuating circumstances exist. No employee currently living outside of the above-mentioned standards shall be required to move as a result of the implementation of this Article.

Where State housing is not provided, law enforcement personnel may be required as a condition of employment, to provide their own housing within a fixed location or area, within an assigned unit work area. The Commissioner or his/her designee may grant exceptions for unusual circumstances which will not be unreasonably denied.

## **ARTICLE 51. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES**

The State and MSLEA acknowledge the rights and responsibilities of the other party and each agrees to discharge its responsibilities under this Agreement. The MSLEA, its officers and representatives at all levels, and all employees are bound to observe the provisions of this Agreement. The State and its officers and representatives at all levels are bound to observe the provisions of this Agreement.

In addition to the responsibilities that may be provided elsewhere in this Agreement, the following shall be observed:

**(a) Exclusive Negotiations.** The State will not bargain collectively or meet with any employee organization other than MSLEA with reference to terms and conditions of employment of employees covered by this Agreement. If any such organizations request meetings they will be advised by the State to transmit their requests concerning terms and conditions of employment to MSLEA.

**(b) Employees' Rights.** There shall be no interference, intimidation, restraint, coercion or discrimination by either the State or MSLEA as a result of the exercise by any employee within the bargaining unit of his/her statutory rights related to membership in MSLEA or any other right granted under the State Employees Labor Relations Act.

**(c) Fair Representation.** MSLEA acknowledges its statutory responsibility to represent and handle grievances for all employees within the bargaining unit. The State shall not be responsible for actions taken or not taken by MSLEA with respect to its responsibility to provide fair representation.

**(d) Efficient Public Service.** The State and MSLEA acknowledge their mutual responsibility to encourage and foster efficient and economical service in

all activities of the State involving employees. The parties recognize the responsibility of employees to perform the duties assigned them in an efficient and expeditious manner. The parties further recognize the responsibility of the State to promote a working environment and a quality of work life conducive to achievement of these goals.

(e) Settlement of Grievances. The applicable procedures of this Agreement shall be followed for the settlement of all grievances. All grievances shall be considered carefully and processed promptly.

## **ARTICLE 52. REST AND LUNCH PERIODS**

1. The present practices of agencies, departments or organizational units with respect to rest periods during the regular workday shall be continued, provided that each employee shall be allowed two (2) rest periods with pay of fifteen (15) minutes during each regular workday. Employees whose duties involve continuous operations where breaks cannot be scheduled shall take personal rest periods as schedules permit.

2. Present practices of agencies, departments or organizational units with respect to lunch periods during the regular workday shall be continued, provided that each employee shall be allowed at least one-half (½) hour for lunch without pay during each regular day or have his/her lunch period considered as time worked if he/she is required to work through the lunch period and eats while performing his/her regular duties.

## **ARTICLE 53. RETIREMENT**

Employees who will be eligible for retirement within one (1) year, including employees on evening shifts, will be granted eight (8) hours leave without loss of pay or benefits in order to meet with the Maine Public Employees Retirement System (MainePERS), Employee Health & Benefits, and/or other entities for retirement planning purposes.

## **ARTICLE 54. RULES AND REGULATIONS**

In the event of a conflict between the provisions of this Agreement and the Personnel Rules or departmental rules or regulations as they now exist or may be from time to time amended, the provisions of this Agreement shall apply.

## **ARTICLE 55. SAFETY FOOTWEAR**

1. The State will provide employees in the classifications listed in Section 7 below, and employees who are currently required to wear safety footwear by Department Work Rules, an allowance of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for replacement of safety footwear.

2. New employees in these classifications shall be eligible for the one hundred dollar (\$100.00) allowance after completion of their probationary period, and every eighteen (18) months thereafter from their beginning anniversary date.

3. Employees already eligible for replacement of safety footwear as of July 1, 2001, are eligible for the one hundred dollar (\$100.00) allowance on their next eligibility date and every eighteen (18) months thereafter.

4. Safety footwear purchased must meet ANSI standards where applicable. Requirements for the wearing of safety footwear will be in accordance with work rules published by the State.

5. Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry will provide fire retardant boots to Forest Rangers and Ranger Pilots according to the departmental replacement schedule.

6. Employees of Departments with work rules that provide such safety footwear will not be eligible for the one hundred dollar (\$100.00) allowance.

7. Classifications required to wear safety footwear:

Forest Ranger II  
Forest Ranger III  
Ranger Pilot

## **ARTICLE 56. SENIORITY**

### **A. Definition and General**

1. Seniority for the purposes described herein is defined as continuous employment, since the last date of hire into a status-granting position. Employees shall attain seniority upon completion of their initial probationary period retroactive to the date of initial hire.

2. Seniority shall be broken only as provided in paragraph 4 of this Section. An employee shall continue to accrue seniority during any period while he/she is on layoff and subject to the recall provisions of this Article, during military leave, leaves occasioned by incapacity for work and during any period of an authorized leave of absence except those pursuant to the Unpaid Personal Leaves of Absence Article and voluntary cost savings.

3. Lists of employees by seniority in their current classifications within an organizational unit shall be posted on the appropriate State bulletin boards as soon as practicable after execution of this Agreement and shall be provided to MSLEA simultaneously. These lists shall be updated from time to time as necessary.

4. An employee shall lose his/her seniority if he/she:

(a) voluntarily resigns;

(b) is discharged for just cause;

(c) is laid off and not recalled for work within three (3) years from the date of layoff;

(d) fails to return to work or supply a satisfactory reason for not reporting within five (5) workdays of being recalled to work from layoff. Written notice of recall shall be sent by regular mail to the employee's last known address.

5. Layoffs and recalls to work for a period of three (3) working days or less are temporary and not subject to the provisions of this Article.



## **B. Layoffs**

When an appointing authority determines that a reduction in force is necessary, implementation of that reduction in force will proceed as follows:

**(1)** The appointing authority determines which positions, in each organizational unit and unit division, are to be abolished or funding eliminated.

**(2)** The least senior employee(s) in the affected classification and unit division will be laid off. More senior employees who occupy positions that are abolished or for which funding is eliminated will be reassigned to vacancies created by these layoffs or to other available vacancies in the class and unit division. These employees will be offered their choice of vacancies into which they may be reassigned in order of seniority, provided they are qualified to perform the duties of the position they select.

**(3)** If no option exists in (2), in lieu of layoff a displaced employee may accept, in order of seniority, reassignment to an available vacant position in his or her last previously held classification, regardless of changes to range, title, and/or bargaining unit of the classification since the employee left the classification, in the same unit division, provided the employee is qualified to perform the duties of the position.

**(4)** If no option exists in (3) above, in lieu of layoff a displaced employee may displace, in order of seniority, the least senior employee in his or her last previously held classification, regardless of changes to range, title, and/or bargaining unit of the classification, since the employee left the classification, in the same unit division, provided he or she has greater seniority than the employee being displaced and is qualified to perform the duties of the position. The employee may also accept reassignment, in order of seniority, to an available vacancy in classifications that are lower related to the employee's current classification in the same unit division, provided the employee is qualified to perform the duties of the position.

Any employee displaced pursuant to this provision shall have like reassignment and displacement rights.

No classified employee may displace any unclassified employee. No unclassified employee may displace any classified employee except to the classification in the other service that was the last previously held.

The State and MSLEA shall negotiate to establish appropriate organizational units and unit divisions. Either party may request a review of an organizational unit or unit division on a departmental basis. In the event that the parties are unable to agree to appropriate organizational units and unit divisions either party may submit the dispute at any time thereafter for a binding determination to a qualified arbitrator mutually agreed upon by the parties or selected through the American Arbitration Association in accordance with the rules and procedures of that Association.

No employee other than a permanent employee, including permanent seasonal employees, shall be used to perform work in a class in the unit division while a permanent employee who is qualified to do the work is on layoff unless the laid off employee refuses the work.

### **C. Notice of Layoff/Reassignment/Displacement**

Employees to be affected by pending layoff, reassignment, or displacement shall be given written notice as soon as practicable but at least five (5) workdays before the effective date of the layoff/reassignment, or displacement. Employees affected by layoff/reassignment/displacement shall be required to reply in writing within three (3) workdays of notice of layoff as to their decisions on layoff and displacement rights. Employees subject to actual layoff and not displacing other employees shall be entitled to notice of at least ten (10) workdays before layoff. Copies of any notices from the State to employees under this provision shall be given simultaneously to MSLEA.

### **D. Recalls**

A recall register shall be established for each class by organizational unit or unit division, as appropriate, from which any employee has been laid off, transferred or demoted in lieu of layoff. An employee who is notified of layoff will be placed on the recall register, immediately upon receipt of written notice to the Bureau of Human Resources from the employee in the manner prescribed by the Bureau, for the class from which he or she was laid off and, when applicable, his or her last previously held classification. Any vacancy occurring in that class, or the class last previously held shall be offered first to the employee on the recall register. Recalls to work shall be made as follows:

(1) To the most senior employee in the unit division who possesses the minimum qualifications to perform the duties of the position;

(2) To the most senior employee in the organizational unit who possesses the minimum qualifications to perform the duties of the position;

(3) To the most senior employee statewide who possesses the minimum qualifications to perform the duties of the position.

Employees who refuse recall to the same classification, or to the last previously held classification, for a unit division, organizational unit, or on a statewide basis, from which he or she was laid off or to which they have recall rights shall be removed from the appropriate recall register.

### **E. Other Vacancies**

An employee laid off or about to be laid off may open any employment register for which he/she is eligible for the purpose of establishing qualifications for any State position.

The placement on class registers and certification procedures for employees on layoff shall be treated as promotional in all cases, regardless of the pay grade of the class for which the employee is applying.

### **F. Filling of Vacancies**

Positions shall be filled on the basis of: first, ability and qualifications to perform the duties of the higher classification and second, where the "first" is equal among two or more employees, seniority will govern.

The following principles shall be followed in the filling of vacancies:

**(a)** Notice of all vacancies shall be posted in the applicable department, agency, organizational unit or unit division for at least ten (10) workdays.

**(b)** All employees certified to an appointing authority shall be offered the opportunity of an interview.

**(c)** Each candidate shall be notified by the appointing authority of his/her selection or non-selection.

**(d)** Agencies determine which candidates will be interviewed for direct hire positions.

The State certification procedures shall provide for concurrent certification of applicants instead of serial certification for the duration of this Agreement. Employees accepting a job offer must do so within five (5) business days from that job offer. An employee shall be entitled to refuse four (4) appointments from a register before being removed from the list of certified applicants.

Employees in a department or agency who are in the same classification or on a register for that classification who bid for transfer into a vacancy in the department or agency shall be offered the opportunity to interview for such vacancy.

Upon promotion an employee shall be entitled to return to his/her former position voluntarily within thirty (30) days of promotion; otherwise voluntary demotion rules will apply. If an employee exercises these return rights, the State at its discretion may hire, consistent with the other terms of this article, from the previous group of applicants rather than repost the position. Employees promoted under the provisions of this Agreement will be in a probationary status for a period of six (6) months from the effective date of the promotion. Such probationary period may be extended for just cause for up to an additional six (6) months. An employee at any time during the probationary period or any extension thereof failing to attain permanent status in a promotional position shall be entitled to return to his/her former position. Any employee filling a vacancy created by a promotion shall be likewise entitled to return to his/her former position when a promoted employee returns to his/her former position in accordance with the above provisions.

## **G. Promotions, Demotions and Transfers**

**(1)** An employee who promotes to a position in a higher pay grade shall have his/her rate of pay adjusted to the lowest rate in the new grade which is at least seven percent (7%) higher than the rate in the class from which promoted. The percentage will be calculated as seven percent (7%) of the base rate plus the following pay premiums, when applicable: scheduled overtime (when part of an employee's negotiated work schedule), medication premium, direct care premium, and the appropriate state-paid retirement differential. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Director of the Bureau of Human Resources may consider exceptions pursuant to Civil Service Rules.

**(2)** An employee who demotes to a lower pay grade shall have his/her rate of pay adjusted to the highest rate in the new pay grade which is lower than the rate of the class from which the employee left, considering the same pay components listed above.

**(3)** When an employee transfers (remains in the same pay grade) and remains within the same or equivalent salary schedule, his/her rate of pay will remain the same.

(4) When an employee transfers (remains in the same pay grade) but moves from one salary schedule to another dissimilar salary schedule, his/her rate of pay will be adjusted to the closest step in the new salary schedule that does not result in a loss of pay, considering the same pay components listed above.

(5) Determining the appropriate salary step upon promotion, demotion, or transfer may not result in a salary that is greater than the maximum or less than the minimum rates established in the salary schedule for the new classification.

(6) No Probation Officer or Juvenile Community Correctional Officer shall be eligible to internally transfer within the Department of Corrections while on probation/extension of probation or while on a performance improvement plan unless mutually agreed otherwise.

(7) The period of probation for Probation Officers and Juvenile Community Correctional Officers shall be six months from completion of the probation academy, not to exceed one year from date of hire, whichever comes first. For purposes of this paragraph, it shall only apply to employees hired after the ratification and implementation of the 2023-2025 MSLEA CBA.

## **H. Permanent Seasonal Employees**

The provisions of this Article shall apply to seasonal employees covered by this Agreement but in a separate seniority, layoff, reassignment, displacement and recall track, for their respective seasons. Permanent employees laid off from their permanent position shall be entitled to return to previously held permanent seasonal positions. For purposes of this Article, when a seasonal employee moves from the seasonal track to the year-round track, seniority calculations shall be converted to reflect actual time worked in the seasonal position. Seniority credits for the purpose of this conversion shall be calculated in weekly increments. Any time worked within a given week shall be recognized as a full week.

## **I. Part-Time Employees**

Separate track seniority systems for layoff, reassignment, displacement and recall purposes shall be implemented for full-time and part-time employees. Full-time employees will only be given options in full-time positions. Part-time employees will only be given options in part-time positions.

Full-time positions shall be defined as any position regularly scheduled for forty (40) or more hours per week.

If an employee is the least senior employee in his or her classification and unit division, he or she shall be given the options prescribed in section B of this Article in the other track, provided the employee has previously held that classification in the other track with the agency.

For purposes of this Article, when a part-time employee moves from the part-time track to the full-time track, seniority calculations shall be converted to reflect actual time worked in the part-time position. Seniority credits for the purpose of this conversion shall be calculated according to the employees scheduled workweek. Any time worked within a given week shall be recognized as a scheduled workweek.

Recall rights shall be limited to the track from which the employee is initially laid off, displaced, reassigned or demoted in lieu of layoff.

#### **J. Positions Outside Bargaining Unit**

An employee in the bargaining unit as of the effective date of this Agreement in a position in a class covered by this Agreement but who becomes excluded pursuant to Section 979-A(6)(C) of the State Employees Labor Relations Act and an employee who by way of a promotion through a normal career ladder is in a classified position excluded from the bargaining unit pursuant to Section 979-A(6)(B) or Section 979-A(6)(D) of the State Employees Labor Relations Act and any other employee promoted through a normal career ladder to a position outside of the bargaining unit shall have the same layoff, seniority, displacement, recall and other rights under this Article for return to a position in the bargaining unit as a covered employee would have if the exercise of those rights is occasioned by a layoff.

Employees covered by previous MSLEA Agreements in any status described above shall continue to have such rights for return to a position in the bargaining unit as described above.

Otherwise, employees excluded from bargaining units pursuant to the State Employees Labor Relations Act shall have no rights under this Article within the bargaining unit.

#### **K. Laid Off Employees in State Housing**

Full-time year-round employees who live in State housing and are laid off shall have at least sixty (60) days to vacate the State housing.

#### **L. Health Insurance Coverage for Laid off Employees**

The State agrees to provide laid off employees with group health insurance at the employee's expense for one (1) year provided that the employee is unemployed. Premiums are to be paid directly to the insurance carrier. Failure to make payments would result in cancellation of insurance with no conversion privileges.

#### **M. Short-Term Seasonal Positions**

Short-term seasonal position vacancies of fifteen (15) weeks or less duration shall not require posting as a method of filling the vacancy.

### **ARTICLE 57. SEVERABILITY**

In the event that any Article, section or portion of this Agreement is found to be invalid or unenforceable by final decision of a tribunal of competent jurisdiction, or shall have the effect of a loss to the State of funds or property or services made available through federal law, then such specific Article, section or portion specified in such decision or which is in such conflict or having such effect, shall be of no

force and effect. Upon the issuance of such decision, if either party requests, the parties shall negotiate a substitute for such specific Article, section or portion thereof, provided that the remainder of this Agreement shall continue in full force and effect. The parties agree to use their best efforts to contest any such loss of federal funds which may be threatened.

## **ARTICLE 58. SHIFT ASSIGNMENTS**

When an opening occurs in a shift assignment in an appropriate work group at a location, preference shall be given to employees within the classification who possess the training, ability and any required special qualifications to perform the work required, on the basis of seniority. In the event that no employee desires a shift assignment, employees shall be selected in order of inverse seniority.

This provision shall not apply to necessary training assignments. This provision shall not in itself alter the practice of rotating shifts where such practice presently exists. No employee who has a regular shift assignment on the effective date of the Agreement shall be involuntarily displaced from such shift assignment as a result of this Article.

## **ARTICLE 59. SICK LEAVE**

1. Sick leave credit shall be earned at the rate of 3.7 hours per completed two-week pay period of service. The current practices concerning the earning of sick leave credits shall be continued only for those employees regularly scheduled to work in excess of forty (40) hours per week and only for as long as they are so scheduled. Sick leave shall be earned from the employee's date of employment. Sick leave credit shall be earned for any pay period in which the employee has been in pay status for five (5) or more workdays or forty (40) hours. A part-time or intermittent employee shall earn sick leave as follows: a part-time or intermittent employee shall earn .04625 hours of sick leave for each hour in pay status per two-week pay period. For part-time employees, "hours in pay status" shall be an employee's regularly scheduled hours. Should the HRMS system calculate earned sick leave at a different rate, in no case shall the calculation of earned sick leave result in an amount less than that identified above. An employee may accumulate unused sick leave up to a maximum of nine hundred sixty (960) hours. However, the amount of unused sick leave accruals which can be credited towards State service for retirement purposes shall be seven hundred twenty (720) hours. For part-time or intermittent employees, the maximum accumulation of sick leave and the amount of unused sick leave which can be credited toward State service for retirement purposes shall be a percentage of nine hundred sixty (960) hours and seven hundred twenty (720) hours, respectively, equal to ten percent (10%) for each eight (8) hours in pay status per two-week pay period. When the maximum limitation has been accumulated, days that would normally thereafter be earned shall lapse but shall be recorded by the appointing authority. Any employee who has such lapsed sick leave to his/her credit may apply to the Director of Human Resources to have the sick leave restored in the event of an extended illness. The Director of Human Resources at his/her discretion may authorize restoration of all or any part of the lapsed sick leave after thorough investigation, including

complete medical reports of the illness requiring the continued absence of the employee.

**2.** Sick leave may be used for illness, necessary medical or dental care, or other disability of the employee or a member of the employee's immediate family which requires the attention or presence of the employee. Immediate family as used in this Article shall mean the spouse or significant other, the parents of the spouse or significant other, the children of the spouse or significant other, the parents, stepparents, guardian, children, stepchildren, brothers, stepbrothers, sisters, stepsisters, wards, grandparents and grandchildren of the employee. For the purposes of this Article, "significant other" means that a relationship exists between two people, neither of whom is married, that is intended to remain indefinitely and where there is joint responsibility for each other's common welfare, there are significant shared financial obligations, and they must be living together in a shared primary residence. This relationship must have existed for at least six (6) continuous months before benefits under this Article may be provided.

Employees are encouraged to consult with their agency/department Personnel Officer to determine if they are eligible for benefits available under the Federal Family and Medical Leave Act. A medical examination or doctor's certificate may be required on account of use of sick leave for five (5) or more consecutive workdays, or because of repeated absences on days preceding or days following a holiday or weekend. When a medical examination or doctor's certificate is required on account of use of sick leave in excess of five (5) consecutive workdays, the State shall pay the difference between the cost of obtaining such certificate and the amount covered by insurance.

**3.** Notifications of absence under the provisions of this Article shall be given as soon as possible on the first day of absence or as soon thereafter as circumstances permit.

**4.** Upon application of an employee, a leave of absence without pay may be granted by an appointing authority for a period of disability because of sickness or injury. If the appointing authority denies the requested leave, it shall state its reason in writing. The appointing authority may, from time to time, require that the employee submit a certificate from the attending physician or a designated physician. If a certificate from a physician other than the attending physician is required, the State shall pay the difference between the cost of obtaining such certificate and the amount covered by insurance.

**5.** An employee who is transferred to the jurisdiction of another appointing authority or who accepts employment under the jurisdiction of a new appointing authority without interruption of service to the State shall retain his/her accumulated unused sick leave credits.

**6.** A former State employee who is reappointed within four (4) years of his/her separation may have his/her previously accumulated and unused balance of sick leave revived and placed to his/her credit upon approval of the new appointing authority.

**7.** Any employee returning from layoff, including seasonal employees covered by this Agreement, shall have the unused sick leave accrued as of the time of layoff restored upon his/her reinstatement.

**8.** On or after January 1, 2020 the State may change from the calendar year method for calculating FML to the rolling backward year method.

## **ARTICLE 60. STATE VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT**

**1.** No employee shall be required to operate any State vehicle or equipment which is unsafe. An employee shall not be subject to any penalty or disciplinary action because of failure or refusal to operate or handle any equipment which he/she reasonably believes to be in an unsafe condition. In any such circumstance an employee shall call the matter to the attention of his/her supervisor for proper action.

**2.** Other than motor vehicles, and except where employees have traditionally supplied their own tools, all employees shall be provided such equipment and tools as are reasonably necessary for their jobs, such as, drafting equipment, potato rakes, flashlights and batteries, and supplies.

**3.** To the extent possible, the State will assign available State vehicles appropriate for use by Juvenile Community Corrections Officers with the goal of assigning vehicles to each Juvenile Community Corrections Officer statewide. Further, the State may assign additional available State vehicles at larger offices throughout the State.

**4.** Use of vehicles while on duty status:

**(a)** Members of the bargaining unit, while on duty, are authorized to transport members of their immediate family within their assigned area.

**(b)** Members of the bargaining unit may use their assigned motor vehicles for personal errands within their assigned area while on duty.

**(c)** Transportation, while on duty, for a member of his/her immediate family, beyond the member's assigned area or station, shall require prior permission from his/her supervisor.

**5.** Use of vehicles when not on scheduled duty status:

**(a)** No State vehicle shall be used outside a member's assigned area when the member is not on scheduled duty status without prior approval from the appropriate appointing authority or his/her designee.

**(b)** Whenever a State vehicle is used by a member during a non-duty status, the member must assume an "on duty" status for the communication and operational purposes.

**(c)** Expenses incurred for gasoline, oil and other costs as the result of using a State vehicle under this section shall be borne by the member involved.

**(d)** The use of State vehicles within the provisions of this section shall be restricted to occasions that involve necessary personal business or emergencies. Such use shall be kept at an absolute minimum.

**6.** In addition to present practice, Forest Rangers with assigned State vehicles may use such vehicles for transportation to work from their residences and return.

**7.** Marine Patrol Officers shall be provided forms for weekly reports which will permit them to retain copies of such reports for their own files.

**8.** Employees of the Warden Service in the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife shall not be subject to the provisions of this Article on the use of vehicles while on duty status or when not on scheduled duty status, but instead shall continue to be subject to the provisions of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Policy #33 - Personal Use of State Owned Vehicles and Equipment.



**9.** The Department of Corrections will continue to work with Central Fleet Management with the goal of increasing the number of vehicles available for Juvenile Community Corrections Officers' use with the goal of reducing the amount of time they are required to drive their personal vehicles. The parties agree to meet to study the issue of insurance coverage for a law enforcement officer to use their personal vehicles for state business.

**10.** The State agrees to insure or indemnify each bargaining unit member for personal liability up to a total amount of three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) per occurrence for the personal use of a State vehicle which is authorized by this Article. The State also agrees to provide comprehensive coverage, with a fifty dollar (\$50.00) deductible, and collision coverage, with a one hundred dollar (\$100.00) deductible, for the personal use of a State vehicle which is authorized by this Article.

**11.** The State will continue to assign Probation and Parole officers State vehicles for State business use. These vehicles can be housed at an officer's residence.

## **ARTICLE 61. UNION SECURITY**

All employees covered by this agreement may enroll or unenroll from MSLEA at any time.

A failure to choose membership shall constitute a choice of exclusion from membership. It shall be the sole responsibility of MSLEA to collect its dues. Employees may choose to sign a written payroll deduction authorization form authorizing deduction from his or her pay of the membership dues pursuant to Article 21 Dues Deduction.

Any employee choosing exclusion from membership shall be bound by such choice except as provided in this article and shall be entitled to representation by MSLEA under the Agreement only upon payment to MSLEA of reasonable fees, including reasonable fees for employee representative services and attorneys' fees, and costs and expenses, including arbitrators' fees and expenses, incurred by MSLEA. The current schedule of MSLEA fees is attached to this agreement.

Any such employee complying with these conditions shall be entitled to MSLEA services under the Agreement on the same basis and under the same terms as MSLEA members.

MSLEA shall indemnify, defend and hold the State harmless against all claims and suits which may arise as a result of any action taken or not taken pursuant to this article.

## **ARTICLE 62. UNPAID PERSONAL LEAVES OF ABSENCE**

**1.** Any employee may apply for an unpaid personal leave of absence for good and sufficient reason. Leave pursuant to this provision may be for a period not exceeding six (6) months in any fourteen (14) consecutive months. Such leave may be granted at the discretion of the appointing authority and shall not be unreasonably denied. Employees are encouraged to consult with their agency/department Personnel Officer to determine if they are eligible for benefits

available under the Federal Family and Medical Leave Act. All requests for such leave and responses shall be in writing. The application for leave must specifically state the reasons for such application and the length of time requested. After completion of a period of personal leave of absence, the employee shall be entitled to return to the organizational unit, status and position held immediately prior to the beginning of the leave of absence. If the employee's position is abolished during any such leave, he/she shall be notified and allowed to exercise his/her rights under the Seniority Article of this Agreement.

**2.** A leave of absence without pay and without loss of seniority not to exceed one (1) year may be granted to an employee to permit the employee to accept a position in State service that is excluded from bargaining units under 26 M.R.S.A. §979-A(6) (the State Employees Labor Relations Act). Such employee shall be entitled to return to the organizational unit, status and position held immediately prior to the beginning of the leave of absence within the one (1) year period. Any employees who have filled vacancies created by the initial movement of the returning employee shall likewise be entitled to return to their former positions.

**3.** Except as provided in the Seniority Article, if an employee is laid off from an excluded position for reasons beyond his/her control after the expiration of said one (1) year leave, he/she shall at his/her request be placed on any reemployment registers for which he/she is eligible. Upon reemployment he/she shall be credited with the seniority earned up to the start of the leave granted pursuant to this Article.

**4.** Any employee currently on leave of absence from a position in this bargaining unit under Personnel Rule, Chapter 11, Section 3C shall be continued on such leave through the end of his/her current coterminous or fixed term appointment or for one (1) year from the effective date of this Agreement if he/she is serving in a position which does not involve a fixed or coterminous term. An employee on leave for a fixed term or coterminous appointment may upon application have such leave extended for up to three (3) months pending reappointment to such excluded position.

**5.** Any leave of absence granted pursuant to this Article may be canceled by the appointing authority at any time for good reason upon prior written notice to the employee, specifying a reasonable date of termination of the leave and the reason for cancellation.

## **ARTICLE 63. USE OF STATE FACILITIES**

Where there is available appropriate meeting space in buildings owned or leased by the State, MSLEA shall be allowed reasonable use of such space at reasonable times for specific meetings, including space suitable for meetings in private between MSLEA staff representatives or stewards and employees in the investigation and processing of grievances. Advance arrangements for the use of State facilities shall be made with the department or agency concerned. MSLEA shall reimburse the State for any additional expense incurred in allowing use of such space. No other employee organization, except such as have been certified or recognized as the bargaining agent for other State employees, shall have the

right to meeting space in State facilities for purposes pertaining to terms and conditions of employment of employees.

The use of State facilities for meetings shall be in non-work areas or where work is not in progress. Other than meetings in private between MSLEA staff representatives or stewards and employees in the investigation and processing of grievances, all meetings in State facilities shall be during the off-duty time of employees attending and, in all instances, attendance shall be voluntary. Arrangements for any meetings in State facilities will be made so as to avoid interference with the department's or agency's operations or violation of the department's or agency's security.

## **ARTICLE 64. VACATION**

**1.** Each employee shall earn vacation with pay on the following basis: An employee who is in pay status for five (5) or more workdays or forty (40) hours for each completed two week pay period shall earn their biweekly accrual on the following basis:

0 through 5 years – 4.7 hours

Thereafter, provided the last three (3) years of service have been continuous:

6 through 10 years – 5.15 hours

11 through 15 years – 5.6 hours

16 through 20 years – 6.5 hours

20+ years – 7.4 hours

Part-time and intermittent employees shall earn vacation credits at the higher rates after having worked for the State for the required number of calendar years specified above, such credit to be earned as follows:

For part-time employees, "hours in pay status" shall be an employee's regularly scheduled budget authorized hours.

**a.** A part-time or intermittent employee with less than five (5) years of service shall earn .05875 hours of vacation for each hour in pay status per two-week pay period;

**b.** provided the last three (3) years of service have been continuous, a part-time or intermittent employee with at least five (5) but less than ten (10) years of service shall earn .06437 hours of vacation for each hour in pay status per two-week pay period;

**b.** provided the last three (3) years of service have been continuous, a part-time or intermittent employee with at least ten (10) but less than fifteen (15) years of service shall earn .07 hours of vacation for each hour in pay status per two-week pay period;

**c.** provided the last three (3) years of service have been continuous, a part-time or intermittent employee with at least fifteen (15) but less than twenty (20) years of service shall earn .08125 hours of vacation for each hour in pay status per two-week pay period;

**d.** provided the last three (3) years of service have been continuous a part-time or intermittent employee with at least twenty (20) years of service shall earn .0925 hours of vacation for each hour in pay status per two-week pay period. Seasonal employees shall earn vacation credits at the higher rates after having worked for the State on a seasonal basis during the required number of calendar years specified above regardless of the number of hours or days worked during those calendar years. The current practices concerning the earning of vacation leave credits shall be continued only for those employees regularly scheduled to work in excess of forty (40) hours per week and only for as long as they are so scheduled.

**2.** Except where operational needs require otherwise, employees shall be entitled to use vacation leave credits at times of their choice. Requests for use of vacation leave credits shall not be unreasonably denied. In scheduling vacations, choice of time shall be governed by seniority. All eligible employees within each appropriate work group desiring vacations for periods of a week or more during the months of June, July and August will choose such vacation periods prior to May 1. In the event of conflict among employees in scheduling such vacation leave, seniority shall govern. Later requests for vacation during June, July and August can be granted subject to operational needs.

**3.** Except in cases of extreme emergency, no employee shall be required to work during vacation.

**4.** Time during which an employee is excused from work because of holidays or other leave with pay shall be considered as time worked for the purpose of computing vacation leave credit.

**5.** Employees with less than ten (10) years of continuous State service shall be entitled to accumulate two hundred forty (240) hours of unused vacation leave and shall be compensated for accumulated vacation leave credits upon termination of State service. Employees with ten (10) years or more of continuous State service shall be entitled to accumulate three hundred twenty (320) hours of unused vacation leave, for which they shall be paid upon separation. However, a maximum of two hundred forty (240) hours pay on unused vacation shall be credited towards an employee's average final compensation upon retirement.

For part-time and intermittent employees, the maximum amount of accumulated vacation leave and the amount of vacation leave to be paid upon separation shall be:

#### **A. Maximum Vacation Accruals for Part-Time Employees**

Prorate 240/320 based on authorized position hours. For example:

- (1.)** 8-hour employee [1/5 or .2 full time] = 48/64;
- (2.)** 16-hour employee [2/5 or .4 full time] = 96/128;
- (3.)** 20-hour employee [2.5/5 or .5 full time] = 120/160;
- (4.)** 24-hour employee [3/5 or .6 full time] = 144/192;
- (5.)** 32-hour employee [4/5 or .8 full time] = 192/256.

## **B. Maximum Vacation Accruals for Intermittent Employees**

Since Intermittent employees are eligible to work up to 1040 hours per year [= ½ or .5 full time employee], prorate the maximum vacation accrual to one-half the full time rate = 120/160 hours.

6. An employee who is transferred to another appointing authority without interruption of his/her services to the State shall be entitled to transfer his/her unused vacation credits or be paid for all or part of such credits and transfer the remainder.

7. Seasonal employees shall be entitled to carry over from one season to the next accumulated vacation credits up to the amount of one season's accumulation. The maximum which may be carried over is one-half (½) the regular maximum allowable accumulation. The State retains the right to determine the length of seasons.

## **ARTICLE 65. WITHDRAWAL OF RESIGNATION**

An employee may resign in good standing by giving written notice to his/her appointing authority at least seven (7) calendar days in advance of the effective date of his/her resignation. Such an employee may, with the approval of his/her appointing authority, withdraw his/her resignation up to ten (10) calendar days after the effective date. Such approval shall not be unreasonably denied. An employee who fails to give written notice to his/her appointing authority at least seven (7) calendar days in advance of the effective date of his/her resignation may not withdraw that resignation.

## **ARTICLE 66. WORK CLOTHING**

1. The State shall continue to furnish foul weather gear and work clothing, such as aprons, smocks, shop coats, lab coats, coveralls and boots to employees furnished such clothing in the past. The State shall be responsible for continuing to provide laundering of work clothing where such service is being provided as of the effective date of this Agreement.

2. The State shall make available sufficient logging chaps for employees to use when operating chain saws. Employees are required to wear logging chaps when operating chain saws.

## **ARTICLE 67. WORK RULES**

The State may change or adopt work rules during the term of this Agreement but such changed or adopted work rules shall not be inconsistent with the terms and provisions of this Agreement. Whenever such work rules are to be changed or adopted, they shall be posted on bulletin boards in the appropriate organizational units for seven (7) days before they are to become effective. Simultaneously with such posting a copy of same shall be forwarded to MSLEA. Upon request by MSLEA the State will meet and consult with MSLEA on the proposed changed or new rules.

## **ARTICLE 68. WORK STOPPAGE AND SLOWDOWN**

Employees within the bargaining unit, MSLEA and its officers at all levels, agree that they will not instigate, promote, sponsor, condone or engage in any work stoppage, sympathy work stoppage or slowdown.

"Work stoppage" means a concerted failure by employees to report for duty, a concerted absence of employees from work, a concerted stoppage of work, or a concerted slowdown in the full and faithful performance of duties by a group of employees.

The officers of MSLEA, at all levels individually and collectively, agree that it is their continuing obligation and responsibility to maintain compliance with this Article, including the remaining at work during any interruption or slowdown of work which may take place.

## **ARTICLE 69. WORKERS' COMPENSATION**

The State shall make every possible effort to promptly pay all compensation awards in accordance with the decisions of the Workers' Compensation Commission. Upon each award of the Workers' Compensation Commission, interest shall be assessed from the date on which the petition is filed at a rate of six percent (6%) per year, provided that if the prevailing party at any time requests and obtains a continuance for a period in excess of thirty (30) days interest will be suspended for the duration of the continuance. From and after the date of the decree, interest shall be allowed at the rate of ten percent (10%) per year.

Where an employee has been unable to work for one year, the employee may be terminated from his or her position. Such termination shall not be considered disciplinary in any way. If the employee later becomes capable of performing the job duties of the position from which he/she was terminated, the employee may return to that position if it is vacant. If that position is filled, unfunded, or no longer exists, then the employee shall be entitled to be placed in a vacant position, or the next available position if no such vacancy exists in the same classification within the department or agency and for which the employee is qualified, and shall be treated as if on layoff status.

Prior to possible termination after one (1) year on compensation, an employee will receive at least a ninety (90) day notification of the termination process and, at the same time, will be requested to provide an updated, current medical report which assesses his/her ability or tolerance to return to his/her last position. Should the medical report indicate potential fitness to return to work in the position formerly held within six (6) months of the employee's one (1) year date on Workers' Compensation, the termination date will be projected ahead to the specified date in the medical report, but in no case, for a period of more than six (6) months on a "one time only basis". The termination date will then become the date established beyond the one (1) year anniversary and will become the automatic date of termination unless the employee returns to work able to perform the duties of the job. However, reasonable accommodations will be made for employees who are disabled.

If an employee who is terminated pursuant to this Article is eligible for and makes application for disability retirement, the State shall continue to provide the employee's group health insurance and shall continue to pay the cost of the employee's coverage, as well as sixty percent (60%) of the dependent coverage, until the employee receives his/her first disability retirement check or until six (6) months after the termination, whichever occurs first.

In the event that any employee who has been terminated pursuant to this Article regains a work capacity and returns to work, the employee shall not lose the benefit of any prior years of State service immediately preceding his/her termination, for purposes of seniority, vacation accrual rate, restoration of sick leave credits, and longevity pay.

## **ARTICLE 70. TERM OF AGREEMENT**

This Agreement shall be effective from September 21, 2023 through June 30, 2025, unless otherwise specifically provided herein. Either party shall give sixty (60) days' written notice of a desire to negotiate a new collective bargaining agreement or to modify this Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be signed by their respective representatives on the date written herein.

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT  
GAME WARDENS, GAME WARDEN SPECIALISTS  
AND  
GAME WARDEN INVESTIGATORS**

The undersigned parties to this Agreement agree that this Agreement pertains only to Game Wardens, Game Warden Specialists and Game Warden Investigators in the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

All issues not specifically addressed in this Agreement shall continue as provided in the current contract.

**1. Game Wardens, Game Warden Specialists and Game Warden Investigators Work Schedules Pilot Program**

This section describes a pilot schedule subject to the following conditions. During the course of the pilot program, as described, this section shall supersede section 2 of this memorandum of agreement. For the period of one year, beginning with the pay period closest to 30 days after ratification of the 2023/2025 collective bargaining agreement, the parties agree to a one-year pilot schedule for Game Wardens, Game Warden Specialists and Game Warden Investigators. Every three months during the pilot period, and prior to the end of the one year, the parties will convene a Labor Management committee to discuss the pilot project and whether it should be continued or changed. Management reserves the right to unilaterally end this pilot project prior to the passage of one year but no sooner than six months after the start of the pilot program. March 1, 2024. If management chooses to end this pilot project prior to the passage of one year the parties will convene a Labor Management committee to discuss the pilot project.

Game Wardens, Game Warden Specialists and Game Warden Investigators will schedule their hours of work within their respective districts based on operational needs and activity levels. A normal workday will consist of eight (8) or ten (10) hours which will include all official duties including business phone calls and business visits at home, report writing, etc., and shall be worked during a core hour period established over each fourteen (14) day cycle. Modification of core hours may be done by agreement with or at the direction of the supervisors of Game Wardens, Game Warden Specialists and Game Warden Investigators. Core hours may be modified to any 12-hour period in twenty-four (24) hours with fourteen (14) days' notice in advance. Employees whose core hours have been adjusted to span midnight for operational purposes may exceed twelve core hours in a twenty-four hour period. Core hours that begin at 4:00 P.M. or later and extend through 4:00 A.M. the following day shall be implemented by mutual agreement only.

Any regular hours actually worked, beyond eighty (80) in a fourteen (14) day cycle shall be paid at the rate of one and one-half (1½) times the regular hourly rate of pay. If operational need allows and with supervisory approval, a Game Warden, Game Warden Specialist, or Game Warden Investigator who has worked eighty (80) or more hours in a fourteen (14) day cycle and still has scheduled eight (8) or ten (10) hour workdays remaining in that cycle, the Game Warden, Game



Warden Specialist, or Game Warden Investigator may, with supervisor approval, be allowed to be off for any remaining scheduled work days in the current fourteen (14) day cycle.

On any scheduled workday where significant operational or emergency operational needs require, as defined by departmental policy, a Game Warden, Game Warden Specialist or Game Warden Investigators to exceed eight (8) or ten (10) hours of actual work, he/she shall notify his/her supervisor within twelve (12) hours of the additional hours worked. Any non-emergency operational need to work beyond or outside the eight (8) or ten (10) hours of actual work must be approved by the Game Warden Sergeant or Game Warden Lieutenant prior to performing the work.

For implementation of the above-mentioned eight (8) or ten (10) hour normal workday, supervisors shall work out the schedules in advance with employees.

Sergeants and Lieutenants have the right to change the schedule/work assignment of any Game Wardens, Game Warden Specialists and Game Warden Investigators when in their opinion it is necessary to do so to ensure adequate coverage and to meet operational needs. The right to alter schedules/work assignments includes, but is not limited to, the right to set specific hours or work assignments within a workday, workweek or fourteen (14) day cycle, and the right to regulate or limit the hours worked outside the normal workday. When circumstances permit, the Department shall provide at least forty-eight (48) hours advance notification affected employees of any individual temporary schedule change.

Fourteen (14) calendar days' notice need not be given for the above types of individual schedule changes, but, in the event of a permanent individual schedule change, fourteen (14) calendar days' notice shall be given, as required by the Hours and Work Schedules article, of the current contract.

For the hours in core or while on standby, a Game Warden, Game Warden Specialist or Game Warden Investigator will remain within his/her assigned patrol area and be reachable so as to be able to remain available for immediate recall, except with prior approval from his/her immediate supervisor to be unavailable or outside of his/her assigned area during the hours in core or while on standby, for a specified time. Such approval shall not be arbitrarily denied.

Employees shall have their scheduled days off commence at 5:00 P.M. on the day preceding the scheduled day or days off, and their time off shall end at 8:00 A.M. on the day scheduled to return to work. However, if conditions warrant, an employee occasionally may have to work beyond 5:00 P.M. on the day preceding the scheduled day/days off. Employees required to work beyond 5:00 PM on their last scheduled day who have worked their established core shall be paid premium overtime for hours worked beyond their core.

During any scheduled workday, Game Wardens, Game Warden Specialists and Game Warden Investigators shall be responsible for taking their own phone calls without prior approval from supervisory staff. In the event a phone call requires a response which will result in the employee receiving additional pay beyond the fifteen minutes pay for the phone call, the employee must seek and receive approval from a supervisor prior to responding to the complaint. Game Wardens, Game Warden Specialists and Game Warden Investigators are expected to answer calls from Regional Communication Centers, Warden Service Supervisors, and employees of other law enforcement agencies.

## **2. Game Wardens, Game Warden Specialists and Game Warden Investigators Work Schedules**

Game Wardens, Game Warden Specialists and Game Warden Investigators will schedule their hours of work within their respective districts based on operational needs and activity levels. A normal workday will consist of eight (8) or ten (10) hours which will include all official duties including business phone calls and business visits at home, report writing, etc., and shall be worked during a core hour period established over each fourteen (14) day cycle. Modification of core hours may be done by agreement with or at the direction of the supervisors of Game Wardens, Game Warden Specialists and Game Warden Investigators. Core hours may be modified to any 12-hour period in twenty-four (24) hours with fourteen (14) days' notice in advance.

On any scheduled workday where significant operational or emergency operational needs require, as defined by departmental policy, a Game Wardens, Game Warden Specialists and Game Warden Investigators to exceed eight (8) or ten (10) hours of actual work, he/she shall notify his/her immediate supervisor within twelve (12) hours of the additional hours worked, so that his/her work schedule may be adjusted as necessary. Any non-emergency operational need to work beyond the eight (8) or ten (10) hours of actual work must be approved by the Game Warden Sergeant or Game Warden Lieutenant prior to performing the work.

For implementation of the above-mentioned eight (8) or ten (10) hour normal workday, supervisors shall work out the schedules in advance with employees.

Sergeants and Lieutenants have the right to change the schedule/work assignment of any Game Wardens, Game Warden Specialists and Game Warden Investigators when in their opinion it is necessary to do so to ensure adequate coverage and to meet operational needs. The right to alter schedules/work assignments includes, but is not limited to, the right to set specific hours or work assignments within a workday, workweek or fourteen (14) day cycle, and the right to regulate or limit the hours worked outside the normal workday. When circumstances permit, the Department shall provide at least forty-eight (48) hours advance notification affected employees of any individual temporary schedule change.

Fourteen (14) calendar days' notice need not be given for the above types of individual schedule changes, but, in the event of a permanent individual schedule change, fourteen (14) calendar days' notice shall be given, as required by the Hours and Work Schedules article, of the current contract.

For the hours in core or while on standby, a Game Warden, Game Warden Specialist or Game Warden Investigator will remain within his/her assigned patrol area and be reachable so as to remain available for immediate recall, except with prior approval from his/her immediate supervisor to be unavailable or outside of his/her assigned area during the hours in core or while on standby, for a specified time. Such approval shall not be arbitrarily denied.

Employees shall have their scheduled days off commence at 5:00 P.M. on the day preceding the scheduled day or days off, and their time off shall end at 8:00 A.M. on the day scheduled to return to work. However, if conditions warrant, an employee occasionally may have to work beyond 5:00 P.M. on the day preceding the scheduled day/days off. Employees required to work beyond 5:00 PM on their

last scheduled day who have worked their established core shall be paid premium overtime for hours worked beyond their core. Management retains the right to relieve employees from duty because of excessive hours worked during the fourteen (14) day work cycle. When an employee is relieved for a full day by his/her supervisor, he/she shall not be required to be available until the beginning of his/her next scheduled day. When a major operational event has been declared by the Colonel or the Colonel's designee, all hours of actual time worked beyond the eight (8) or ten (10) hours within scheduled core hours shall not be shaved off during the fourteen (14) day work schedule. This provision shall apply only to Game Wardens, Game Warden Specialists, and Game Warden Investigators engaged in the major operational event.

### **3. Application of Contract Provisions**

The parties agree that the following contract provisions shall not apply to Game Wardens, Game Warden Specialists and Game Warden Investigators.

- a. Non-Standard Workweek Premium
- b. Shift Differentials
- c. Double Shift Premium
- d. Overtime Assignments
- e. Shift Assignments

### **4. In Addition, the Parties Agree to the Following:**

#### **4a. Compensation**

1. Game Wardens, Game Warden Specialists and Game Warden Investigators shall be scheduled to work eighty (80) hours in each fourteen (14) day work cycle. Employees shall be paid a base hourly rate of pay in accordance with the salary schedule attached hereto.

2. All overtime assignments outside of the limits of this agreement must be approved by the Commissioner or his/her designee.

#### **4b. Work Related Telephone Calls/Public Contact Time Warden Service Statewide**

Work related telephone calls received by officers or other work related public contact on non-work time or outside the regular scheduled day but within the core hours, and telephone calls or other related public contact received outside core hours, which do not require a warden to actually be called out to work (leave their residence or otherwise respond), shall be compensated as follows:

- Wardens shall be compensated for a fifteen (15) minute minimum at the regular rate for such time.
- Additional calls received or made by the officer or additional public contact during one fifteen (15) minute period shall not be subject to another fifteen (15) minute minimum.
- Telephone calls must be documented in the employee's timesheet; the time of the call or contact must be noted in the comment section.

- Wardens shall enter such calls and public contacts into the records management system.

## **5. Reserve Warden Pilot**

To provide necessary pilot time on an occasional basis when operational needs required additional pilot and flight needs, the following provisions shall be implemented to support that effort.

**a.** Participation will be on a voluntary basis from within the sworn ranks of the Warden Service. Reserve pilots will be selected by the Colonel, Major, and Chief Pilot of the Warden Service and must meet licensing and certification requirements set forth by the FAA and the division.

**b.** Reserve pilot responsibilities will not become a significant part of the employee's job, which might result in a request for reclassification to a higher classification.

**c.** Employees in "reserve pilot" status shall be compensated at the rate of ten dollars (\$10.00) an hour for all actual flight time, in addition to their regular hourly rate of pay. A minimum of one (1) hour actual flight time must be worked in order to be compensated. Additional hours of flight time beyond the initial one (1) hour must be made in one (1) hour increments, and one (1) additional hour shall be added in recognition of preflight duties.

## **MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**

### **MARINE PATROL OFFICERS AND MARINE PATROL SPECIALISTS**

The undersigned parties to this Agreement agree that this Agreement pertains only to Marine Patrol Officers and Marine Patrol Specialists in the Department of Marine Resources.

All issues not specifically addressed in this Agreement shall continue as provided in the current contract.

#### **1. Marine Patrol Officers and Marine Patrol Specialists Work Schedules**

Marine Patrol Officers and Specialists will schedule their hours of work within their respective patrol based on operational needs and activity levels. A normal workday will consist of eight (8) or ten (10) hours to be worked during the core hour period from 6:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. each day. Modification of core hours may be done by agreement with or at the direction of the supervisors of Marine Patrol Officers or Specialists. Core hours may be modified to any 12-hour period in twenty-four (24) hours with fourteen (14) days' notice in advance.

On any scheduled workday where emergency operational needs require, as defined by departmental policy, a Marine Patrol Officer or Marine Patrol Specialist to exceed eight (8) or ten (10) hours of actual work, he/she shall notify his/her immediate supervisor within twelve (12) hours of the additional hours worked, so that his/her work schedule may be adjusted as necessary. Any non-emergency operational need to work beyond the eight (8) or ten (10) hours of actual work must be approved by a Marine Patrol supervisor prior to performing the work.

For implementation of the above-mentioned eight (8) or ten (10) hour normal workday, supervisors shall work out the schedules in advance with employees.

Marine Patrol supervisors have the right to change the schedule/work assignment of any Marine Patrol Officer and Marine Patrol Specialist when in their opinion it is necessary to do so to ensure adequate coverage and to meet operational needs. The right to alter schedules/work assignments includes, but is not limited to, the right to set specific hours or work assignments within a workday, workweek or fourteen (14) day cycle, and the right to regulate or limit the hours worked outside the normal workday. When circumstances permit, the Department shall provide at least forty-eight (48) hours advance notification to affected employees of any individual temporary schedule change.

Fourteen (14) calendar days' notice need not be given for the above types of individual schedule changes, but, in the event of a permanent individual schedule change, fourteen (14) calendar days' notice shall be given, as required by the Hours and Work Schedules article, of the current contract.

For the hours in core or while on standby, a Marine Patrol Officer and Marine Patrol Specialist will remain within his/her assigned patrol area and be reachable so as to be available for immediate recall, except with prior approval from a supervisor to be unavailable or outside of his/her assigned area during the 24-hour period for a specified time. Such approval shall not be arbitrarily denied.

Employees shall have their scheduled days off commence at 5:00 P.M. on the day preceding the scheduled day or days off, and their time off shall end at

8:00 A.M. on the day scheduled to return to work. However, if conditions warrant, an employee occasionally may have to work beyond 5:00 P.M. on the day preceding the scheduled day/days off.

Management retains the right to relieve employees from duty because of excessive hours worked during the fourteen (14) day work cycle. When an employee is relieved for a full day by a supervisor, he/she shall not be required to be available until the beginning of his/her next scheduled day, except by mutual agreement to maintain standby status.

Officers will be required to provide coverage overnight on work-days with the exception of the last three days of their work rotation. For example, an Officer working Monday through Friday would cover Monday and Tuesday nights.

Division Lieutenants shall have the discretion to identify the minimum coverage standard based on their seasonal/operational needs and may adjust the requirement for employees to remain on standby.

## **2. Application of Contract Provisions**

The parties agree that the following contract provisions shall not apply to Marine Patrol Officers and Marine Patrol Specialists.

- a. Non-Standard Workweek Premium
- b. Shift Differentials
- c. Double Shift Premium
- d. Overtime Assignments
- e. Shift Assignments

## **3. In Addition, the Parties Agree to the Following:**

### **3a. Compensation**

1. Marine Patrol Officers and Marine Patrol Specialists shall be scheduled to work eighty (80) hours in each fourteen (14) day work cycle. Employees shall be paid a hourly rate of pay in accordance with the appropriate salary schedule.

2. All overtime assignments outside of the limits of this agreement must be approved by the Commissioner or his/her designee.

### **3b. Work Related Telephone Calls/Public Contact Time Bureau of Marine Patrol**

Work related telephone calls received, or other work related public contact outside the regular scheduled day but within the core hours, and telephone calls or other related public contact received outside core hours which do not require an officer to be called out to work (leave their residence or otherwise respond), shall be compensated as follows:

1. Officers shall be compensated for a fifteen (15) minute minimum at the regular rate for such time.

2. Additional calls received or made by the officer or additional public contact during one fifteen (15) minute period shall not be subject to another fifteen (15) minute minimum.

#### 4. **Marine Patrol Reserve Boat Specialist**

To ensure that the Bureau's large vessels (35 ft. or larger) have sufficient crew to get underway whenever possible, a program exists to provide for back-up boat captains. The following provisions shall be implemented to support that effort.

a. Officers within a one hour distance of a large patrol vessel asset will be encouraged to work with the Marine Patrol Specialist and provide them instruction on vessel operation.

b. Requests to participate in this capacity/role must be pre-approved by the Division Lieutenant.

c. At the point an officer is satisfied they have they have reached an acceptable level of instruction to operate the vessel, they will be provided with the SOP Operational test.

d. Upon completion of the test, an assessment will be made by the testing committee as to at what level, if any, that the officer can operate the vessel without supervision. For example, daylight hours only.

e. Upon successful completion of the operational test, the officer will be allowed to operate the vessel in the absence of the assigned Marine Patrol Specialist. Examples would include days off, vacations, and other absences. It is expected that the officer running the vessel will leave it in a ready status and will communicate any issues directly with the primary Specialist and his/her supervisor.

f. The officer in training will be required to obtain his/her Captains license once they are able to qualify.

g. The Bureau will pay for the cost of the license, as well as renewal, provided that the officer runs one of the large vessels a minimum of fifty (50) hours each year in the absence of the Marine Patrol Specialist.

h. The officer will be compensated an additional \$10.00 per hour when operating a large vessel in the absence of the assigned Marine Patrol Specialist.

i. The qualified officer may be directed to run the vessel in the absence of the Specialist for operational needs.

j. The assigned Marine Patrol Specialist will be primary for call out when the large vessel is needed.

#### 5. **Marine Patrol Reserve Pilot**

To provide necessary pilot time on an occasional basis when operational needs required additional pilot and flight needs, the following provisions shall be implemented to support that effort.

a. Participation will be on a voluntary basis from within the sworn ranks of the Bureau of Marine Patrol. Reserve pilot's will be selected by the Marine Patrol Colonel, Marine Patrol's Captain of Special Services in consultation with Marine Patrol's Pilot and/or Pilot Supervisor and must meet licensing and certification requirements set forth by the FAA and the division.

**b.** Reserve pilot responsibilities will not become a significant part of the employee's job, which might result in a request for reclassification to a higher classification.

**c.** Employees in "reserve pilot" status shall be compensated at the rate of ten dollars (\$10.00) an hour for all actual flight time, in addition to their regular hourly rate of pay. A minimum of one (1) hour actual flight time must be worked in order to be compensated. Additional hours of flight time beyond the initial one (1) hour must be made in one (1) hour increments, and one (1) additional hour shall be added in recognition of preflight duties.



## **MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT FIRE INVESTIGATORS AND SENIOR FIRE INVESTIGATORS**

The undersigned parties to this Agreement agree that this Agreement pertains only to Fire Investigators and Senior Fire Investigators in the Department of Public Safety. All references to Fire Investigator in this Memorandum of Agreement shall also include Senior Fire Investigator.

All issues not specifically addressed in this Agreement shall continue as provided in the current contract.

### **1. Fire Investigators and Senior Fire Investigators' Work Schedules**

Fire Investigators work fourteen (14) day cycles. A regular workday will consist of eight (8) hours which will include all official duties including business phone calls and business visits at home, report writing.

On any scheduled workday where there is a non-emergency operational need to work beyond the eight (8) hours of actual work, Fire Investigators must receive approval from a supervisor prior to performing the work. For any regular workday where there is an emergency operational need to exceed the eight (8) hours of actual work, the Fire Investigators must notify a supervisor as soon as possible. Emergencies are considered major events which require immediate emergency action.

Supervisors and Managers have the right to change the regular schedule/work assignment of any Fire Investigator when in their opinion it is necessary to do so to ensure adequate coverage and to meet operational needs and activity levels. The right to alter schedules/work assignments includes, but is not limited to, the right to set specific hours or work assignments within a workday, workweek or 14-day cycle, and the right to regulate or limit the hours worked outside the regular workday. When circumstances permit, the Department shall provide at least forty-eight (48) hours advance notification to affected Fire Investigators of any individual temporary schedule change.

Fourteen (14) calendar days' notice need not be given for the above types of individual schedule changes, but, in the event of a permanent individual schedule change, fourteen (14) calendar days' notice shall be given, as required by the Hours and Work Schedules article, of the current contract.

A Fire Investigator will remain in his/her assigned Division and be reachable for all regularly scheduled workday hours and all standby hours except with prior approval from a supervisor to be unavailable or outside of his/her Division during the regular workday and all standby hours for a specific time. Such approval shall not be arbitrarily denied.

Fire Investigators shall have their scheduled days off commence at 4:00 PM or at the end of their regularly scheduled work on the day preceding the scheduled day or days off, and their time off shall end at the beginning of their standby hours on the day they are scheduled to return to work. If conditions warrant, Fire Investigators occasionally may have to work beyond 4:00 P.M. on the day preceding the scheduled day/days off.

Management retains the right to relieve Fire Investigators from duty because

of excessive hours worked during the workday. When a Fire Investigator is relieved from work duty by his/her supervisor, he/she shall not be required to be available until the beginning of his/her next regularly scheduled day.

## **2. Application of Contract Provisions**

The parties agree that the following contract provisions shall not apply to Fire Investigators.

- a. Non-Standard Workweek Premium
- b. Double Shift Premium
- c. Overtime Assignments
- d. Shift Assignments

## **3. Modification of Contract Language**

The parties agree that the language in the following sections, 3a-3b, shall be substituted for language in the current contract with respect to Fire Investigators.

- a. Overtime - substituted by overtime language in this Agreement

### **3a. Overtime**

All time actually worked beyond eight (8) hours in a regular work day, which includes all leave time and actual time worked, shall be compensated at the rate of one and a half (1 ½) of compensation for actual hours worked or, by mutual agreement, receive compensatory time for the time worked at their hourly rate of pay.

There shall be no pyramiding or duplication of compensation by reason of overtime or holiday or other premium pay provision of this Agreement. It is understood, however, that with this limitation, the method of payment which gives the greatest amount will be followed.

### **3b. Court Time**

A Fire Investigator who is called to appear as a witness in his/her official capacity by a court, including administrative court, on a scheduled day off, a scheduled vacation day or other approved day off shall be paid for the hours so spent, including actual, necessary travel time, at one and one-half (1½) times his/her hourly rate of pay for a minimum of four (4) hours. In lieu of pay, a Fire Investigators may, upon mutual agreement, be compensated at the rate of one and one-half (1½) hours of compensating time for each hour worked.

Payment under this Article shall be the total payment for such court time from all sources other than regular pay for the scheduled day off. A Fire Investigators who is assigned a State vehicle shall be entitled to use such vehicle on such occasions.

#### **4. In Addition, the Parties Agree to the Following:**

##### **4a. Paid Leave**

All Fire Investigators shall accrue and use leave credits on the basis of an eight (8) hour day.

##### **4b. Compensation**

1. Fire Investigators shall be scheduled to work forty (40) hours in each workweek. Fire Investigators shall be paid an hourly rate of pay in accordance with the appropriate salary schedule.

2. All overtime assignments outside of the limits of this agreement must be approved by the Commissioner or his/her designee.

##### **4c. Duty Week/Weekend for Fire Investigators**

1. One Fire Investigator from each Division: North, Central and South will be assigned to the Duty Week responsibilities. Duty Week Investigators will be assigned to work from 12:00pm to 8:00pm and be on standby from 8:00pm to 04:00am.

2. When a Fire Investigator is assigned by management to duty week responsibilities, the Investigator shall be required to be available and respond when needed.

3. Duty Week Assignment will commence at 12:00 pm on Monday (or Tuesday, if Monday is a Holiday) and will terminate on the following Monday morning at 4:00 am (or Tuesday, if Monday is a Holiday).

4. Fire Investigators assigned to work the 12:00 pm to 8:00 pm shift will be eligible for .35 per hour shift differential.

5. Fire Investigators shall receive 16% of their base rate of pay for each hour they are assigned to standby, except for the hours the duty week Investigators are working and being compensated for that work.

6. Investigators not assigned to the Duty Week responsibilities will be assigned to work Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm and will be on standby from 4:00 am to 8:00 am. Investigators on standby are required to be available and respond when needed.

##### **4.d Call-out Procedure for Additional Resources**

1. Fire Investigators assigned to the Duty week shall be the first contacted for Call Out and cannot decline the Call Out.

2. When a Fire Investigator is called out during their duty week/weekend, they shall be compensated in accordance with the Call-Out Article of this Collective Bargaining Agreement.

3. When an additional Fire Investigator(s) is needed to respond to an incident, a supervisor shall determine how many Investigators are needed. The supervisor can send the duty week Fire Investigator(s) from neighboring Divisions only. If more Investigators are needed, the supervisor shall attempt to call out Fire Investigators not on call duty status within the Division by geographic proximity to the fire scene.

**4.** Fire Investigators shall be contacted via work cellular phone. The supervisor is not required to leave a message. If the Fire Investigator does not answer, the supervisor shall attempt to contact another Fire Investigator. The Fire Investigators not assigned to Duty Week responsibilities may decline a call out.

**5.** Consistent with this callout process, Supervisors shall consider first, proximity to the scene. Supervisors may also take into consideration current caseloads, other obligations or assigned duties, upcoming court appearances, vacations, scheduled trainings, or any other operational considerations. The Supervisor's decision shall not be arbitrary or capricious.

## **MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT FOREST RANGER II's, III's, and FOREST FIRE PREVENTION SPECIALISTS**

The undersigned parties to this Agreement agree that this Agreement pertains only to Forest Ranger II's, III's and Forest Fire Prevention Specialists in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.

All issues not specifically addressed in this Agreement shall continue as provided in the current contract.

### **1. Forest Ranger II's, III's, and Forest Fire Prevention Specialists Work Schedules**

Forest Ranger II's, III's, and Forest Fire Prevention Specialists will schedule their hours of work within their respective patrol based on operational needs and activity levels. A normal workday will consist of eight (8) or ten (10) hours to be worked during the core hour period from 6:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. each day, which will include all official duties including business phone calls and business visits at home, report writing, etc. Modification of core hours may be done by agreement with supervisors of Forest Ranger II's, III's, or Forest Fire Prevention Specialists.

Any regular hours actually worked beyond eighty (80) in a fourteen (14) day cycle shall be paid at the rate of one and one-half (1½) times the regular hourly rate of pay. If operational need allows and with supervisory approval, a Forest Ranger II's and III's who has worked eighty (80) or more hours in a fourteen (14) day cycle and still has scheduled eight (8) or ten (10) hour workdays remaining in that cycle, the Forest Ranger II, III, Forest Fire Prevention Specialist may, with supervisor approval, be allowed to be off for any remaining scheduled work day(s) in the current fourteen (14) day cycle.

On any scheduled workday, where significant operational or emergency operational needs require, as defined by departmental policy, Forest Ranger II's and III's, and Forest Fire Prevention Specialists may exceed eight (8) or ten (10) hours of actual work. He/she shall notify his/her supervisor within twelve (12) hours of the additional hours worked. Any non-emergency operational need to work beyond or outside the eight (8) or ten (10) hours of actual work must be approved by the District Ranger or Regional Ranger prior to performing the work.

For implementation of the above-mentioned eight (8) or ten (10) hour normal workday, supervisors shall work out the schedules in advance with employees.

District Rangers and Regional Rangers have the right to change the schedule/work assignment of any Forest Ranger when in their opinion it is necessary to do so to ensure adequate coverage and to meet operational needs. The right to alter schedules/work assignments includes, but is not limited to, the right to set specific hours or work assignments within a workday, workweek or fourteen (14) day cycle, and the right to regulate or limit the hours worked outside the normal workday. When circumstances permit, the Department shall provide at least forty-eight (48) hours advance notification to affected employees of any individual temporary schedule change.

Fourteen (14) calendar days' notice need not be given for the above types of individual schedule changes, but, in the event of a permanent individual schedule change, fourteen (14) calendar days' notice shall be given, as required by the Hours and Work Schedules article, of the current contract.

For the hours in core or while on standby, a Forest Ranger will remain reachable so as to be available for immediate recall, except with prior approval from his/her immediate supervisor to be unavailable or outside of his/her assigned district during the hours in core or while on standby for a specified time. The Division shall provide Forest Rangers II and above cell phones or other mutually agreed-upon communication devices as appropriate to maintain reachability. Such approval shall not be arbitrarily denied. Forest Rangers who are specifically directed to standby outside of their twelve-hour core shall receive standby pay in accordance with the Compensation Article of this Agreement.

After completing the shift on the last day preceding a Forest Ranger's regularly scheduled day off and before the start of the shift on the day that he/she is scheduled to return to work, he/she will not be required to be available. However, if conditions warrant, an employee occasionally may have to work beyond the end of the shift on the day preceding the scheduled day/days off.

Management retains the right to relieve employees from duty because of excessive hours worked consecutively during one workday beyond 18 hours, to protect employees safety. When an employee is relieved for a full day by his/her supervisor, he/she shall not be required to be available he or she shall be not be required to be available for at least 6 hours before returning to work.

## **2. Application of Contract Provisions**

The parties agree that the following contract provisions shall not apply to Forest Ranger II, III, and Forest Fire Prevention Specialists.

- a.** Non-Standard Workweek Premium
- b.** Shift Differentials
- c.** Double Shift Premium
- d.** Overtime Assignments
- e.** Shift Assignments

## **3. In Addition, the Parties Agree to the Following:**

### **3a. Compensation**

**a.** Forest Ranger II's, III's, and Forest Fire Prevention Specialists shall be scheduled to work eighty (80) hours in each fourteen (14) day work cycle. Employees shall be paid a base hourly rate of pay in accordance with the appropriate salary schedule.

**b.** All overtime assignments outside of the limits of this agreement must be approved by the Commissioner or his/her designee.

#### **4. Reserve Ranger Pilot**

To provide necessary pilot time on an occasional basis when operational needs required additional pilot and flight needs, the following provisions shall be implemented to support that effort.

**a.** Participation will be on a voluntary basis from within the sworn ranks of the Forest Protection Division. Reserve pilot's will be selected by the Chief Forest Ranger and the Chief Ranger Pilot and must meet licensing and certification requirements set forth by the FAA and the division.

**b.** Reserve pilot responsibilities will not become a significant part of the employee's job, which might result in a request for reclassification to a higher classification.

**c.** Employees in "reserve pilot" status shall be compensated at the rate of ten dollars (\$10.00) an hour for all actual flight time, in addition to their regular hourly rate of pay. A minimum of one (1) hour actual flight time must be worked in order to be compensated. Additional hours of flight time beyond the initial one (1) hour must be made in one (1) hour increments, and one (1) additional hour shall be added in recognition of preflight duties.

#### **3. Health Screening Program**

Employees in the Forest Ranger II, Forest Ranger III, Forest Ranger Specialist, and Forest Ranger Pilot classifications will undergo a health screening provided by a state-contracted physician. The employee may choose to opt out of any particular test(s) during the health screening. This screening will take place annually at no charge to the employee. Nothing in this paragraph shall preclude an employee from asserting an exemption to this requirement under state or federal law.

## **MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT MOTOR VEHICLE DETECTIVES**

The undersigned parties of this Agreement agree that this Agreement pertains only to Motor Vehicle Detectives in the Bureau of Motor Vehicles.

The parties to this Agreement mutually agree to the following modifications of practice and amendments and exceptions to certain provisions of the Law Enforcement contract which expires June 30, 2025.

All issues not specifically addressed in this Agreement shall continue as provided in the current contract.

### **1. Motor Vehicle Detectives' Work Schedules**

Motor Vehicle Detectives will schedule their eight (8) hours of work per day based on operational needs and activity levels by mutual agreement with their supervisor. The normal workday shall include all official duties, including but not limited to, business phone calls, business visits, report writing, and actual necessary travel time between a) residence and work assignment, or b) headquarters and work assignment, whichever is nearer.

On any workday where an emergency requires an investigation to exceed eight (8) hours of actual work, he/she will notify his/her immediate supervisor within a reasonable amount of time prior to the time worked to make any adjustments necessary to accommodate the overtime or make arrangements for other alternatives.

For implementation of the above-mentioned eight (8) hour normal workday, supervisors shall work out the schedules in advance with employees.

The Director or his/her designee has the right to alter the scheduled hours of any Investigator when in his/her opinion it is necessary to do so to ensure adequate coverage and to meet operational needs. The right to alter scheduled hours includes, but is not limited to, the right to set specific hours within a workday or workweek, and the right to regulate or limit the hours worked outside the normal workday. When circumstances permit, the Department shall provide reasonable advance notice to affected employees of any individual temporary schedule changes which are necessary.

Fourteen (14) calendar days' notice need not be given for the above types of individual schedule changes, but, in the event of a permanent individual schedule change, fourteen (14) calendar days' notice shall be given, as required by the Hours and Work Schedules article, of the contract.

A Motor Vehicle Detective shall remain available within each 24-hour period until his/her required eight (8) hours of work requirements have been met, unless relieved from duty all or part of said eight (8) hour period.

After 5:00 P.M. on the day preceding a Detective's scheduled day off and before 8:00 A.M. on the day the he/she is scheduled to return to work, he/she will not be required to be available. However, when operational needs warrant, an employee occasionally may be required to work beyond 5:00 P.M. on the day preceding the scheduled day/days off.



Management retains the right to relieve employees from duty because of excessive hours worked during the fourteen (14) day work cycle. When an employee is relieved for a full day by his/her supervisor, he/she shall not be required to be available until the beginning of his/her next scheduled day.

Emergency cause for other than normal hours will be referred to Senior Motor Vehicle Detectives or the Assistant Director of Enforcement who will then determine if overtime should be granted or they will respond themselves. If these employees cannot be reached then the Director of Investigations will be contacted.

## **2. Application of Contract Provisions**

- a. Non-Standard Workweek Premium
- b. Shift Differentials
- c. Double Shift Premium
- d. Overtime Assignments
- e. Shift Assignments

## **3. Modification of Contract Language**

The parties agree that the language in the following sections, 3a-3d, shall be substituted for language in the current contract with respect to Motor Vehicle Detectives.

- a. Overtime - substituted by overtime language in this Agreement.

### **3a. Overtime**

All time worked beyond forty (40) hours of paid time in a workweek, which includes leave time and actual time worked, shall be compensated at the rate of one (1) hour of compensating time for actual hours worked or, by mutual agreement, be paid at the hourly rate until he/she has actually worked forty (40) hours.

Employees who actually work beyond forty (40) hours in a workweek shall be compensated at the rate of one and one-half (1½) hours of pay for each hour worked beyond forty (40) hours or, by mutual agreement, receive compensating time at one and one-half (1½) hours of compensating time for each hour worked beyond forty (40) hours.

There shall be no pyramiding or duplication of compensation by reason of overtime or holiday or other premium pay provision of this Agreement. It is understood, however, that with this limitation, the method of payment which gives the greatest amount will be followed.

## **4. In Addition, The Parties Agree to the Following:**

### **4a. Compensation**

1. Motor Vehicle Detectives shall be scheduled to work eighty (80) hours in each fourteen (14) day work cycle. Employees shall be paid an hourly rate of pay in accordance with the appropriate salary schedule.

**2.** All overtime assignments outside of the limits of this agreement must be approved by the Commissioner or his/her designee.

**4b. Weekend Duties for Motor Vehicle Detectives**

When a Motor Vehicle Detective is required to perform weekend duties, he/she shall be compensated at the rate of one and one-half (1½) hours of compensating time for each hour worked. In lieu of compensating time, an employee may, upon mutual agreement, receive pay at the rate of one and one-half (1½) times the base hourly rate of pay for each hour worked.

**1.** Motor Vehicle Detectives will provide immediate response for the following "bona fide emergencies":

**a.** A situation that in any way would endanger the public if we failed to act.

**b.** Any life threatening situation requiring immediate investigation by a Motor Vehicle Detective.

**2.** Motor Vehicle Detectives may respond to other requests for their services from other Law Enforcement Officials when approval is secured from the Deputy Secretary of State or the Director of Enforcement.

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT  
ATTORNEY GENERAL DETECTIVES AND SENIOR ATTORNEY  
GENERAL DETECTIVES**

The undersigned parties agree that this Agreement pertains only to employees in the Office of the Attorney General who hold the classification of Attorney General Detective and Senior Attorney General Detective.

The parties to this Agreement mutually agree to the following modifications of practice and amendments and exceptions to certain provisions of the Law Enforcement contract which expires June 30, 2025.

All issues not specifically addressed in this Agreement shall continue as provided in the current contract.

**1. Work Schedules**

Attorney General Detectives and Senior Attorney General Detectives work a forty (40) hour work week. Each fourteen (14) day pay cycle shall encompass two work weeks. Employees will schedule their hours of work based on operational needs and activity levels by mutual agreement with their supervisor. The normal workday shall include all official duties, including, but not limited to, business phone calls, business visits, report writing, and actual necessary travel time between a) residence and work assignment, or b) headquarters and work assignment, whichever is nearer.

In any work cycle when operational needs and activity may require an employee to exceed forty (40) hours of actual work, the employee must notify his or her immediate supervisor within a reasonable amount of time so that any adjustments necessary to accommodate the overtime may be made.

A supervisor has the right to temporarily alter the scheduled hours of any employee when in his or her opinion it is necessary to do so to meet operational needs. The right to alter scheduled hours includes, but is not limited to, the right to set specific hours within a work cycle, and the right to regulate or limit the hours worked outside the normal work cycle. When circumstances permit, the supervisor shall provide reasonable advance notice to affected employees of any necessary individual temporary schedule.

In the event of a permanent individual schedule change, a notice of 14 calendar days shall be given to the employee. No such notice, however, is required for any necessary individual temporary schedule.

Management retains the right to relieve employees from duty because of excessive hours worked during the work week.

**2. Application of Contract Provisions**

The parties agree that the following contract provisions shall not apply to employees in the Office of the Attorney General covered by this agreement.

- a. Non-Standard Workweek Premium
- b. Shift Differentials

- c. Double Shift Premium
- d. Overtime Assignments
- e. Shift Assignments

### **3. Modification of Contract Language**

The parties agree that the language in the following sections shall be substituted for language in the current contract with respect to employees covered by this agreement.

- a. Overtime – substituted by the language in this agreement.
- b. Call-out, Holiday & Weekend Work – substituted by the language in this agreement.
- c. Telephone Expenses – substituted by the language in this agreement.

#### **3a. Overtime**

All time worked beyond forty (40) hours of paid time in the work week, which shall include leave time and actual time worked, shall be compensated at the rate of one hour compensating time for actual hours worked, or, by mutual agreement, be paid at the base hourly rate until s/he has actually worked forty (40) hours.

Employees who actually work beyond forty (40) hours within a work week shall be compensated at the rate of one and one-half (1½) hours of compensating time for each hour worked or, by mutual agreement, be paid at one and one-half (1½) times the base hourly rate.

There shall be no pyramiding or duplication of compensation by reason of overtime or holiday or other premium pay provision of this agreement. It is understood, however, that with this limitation, the method of payment which gives the greatest amount will be followed.

#### **3b. Call Out**

So long as money is available from the Attorney General's portion of the allotment from the \$800,000 identified below, the employee shall be paid one and one-half (1½) their hourly rate for each hour worked. Once no money from the allotment remains, or the employee requests to earn compensating time in lieu of pay and management agrees, the employee shall earn one and one-half (1½) hours of compensating time for each hour worked.

The employee shall be compensated at one and one-half (1½) their hourly rate, either as pay or compensation time, as stated and agreed to above, any time they are called into work during non-business hours. For purposes of this section, non-business hours shall begin at 5 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and continue until 8 a.m. the following weekday; and shall begin at 5:00 p.m. on Friday and continue until 8 a.m. on the following Monday.

When an employee is called out to work by his/her supervisor outside of their regularly scheduled workday, including regularly scheduled days off and holidays, the employee shall be guaranteed a minimum of four (4) hours of premium pay or premium pay for hours actually worked, whichever is greater. In

lieu of premium pay, upon mutual agreement, employees may receive compensating time one and one half (1½) their hourly rate for each hour worked.

The sum of \$800,000 will be annually allocated among the Departments of Public Safety, Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, the Office of the Attorney General and Marine Resources in proportion to the number of employees who are paid by general funds in the following classes:

- Attorney General Detective
- Forest Ranger III
- Game Warden
- Game Warden Specialist
- Game Warden Investigator
- Marine Patrol Officer
- Marine Patrol Specialist
- Senior Attorney General Detective

For other employees in the Department of Public Safety and employees in the Secretary of State, Bureau of Motor Vehicles, who are paid by dedicated revenue accounts, a like proportionate amount of money will be allotted for the payment of call-out under this provision for the following classes:

- Fire Investigator
- Motor Vehicle Detective
- Senior Fire Investigator

All employees may buy back accrued compensatory hours from the unused available overtime money remaining on May 1, 2024, and 2025, and allocated for overtime expenditure for FY '24 and FY '25 pursuant to this Section for the aforementioned classifications.

The buy-back shall be automatic for all employees. Any employee not wishing to participate in the buy-back or who wishes to limit the number of hours he/she wants to buy back shall notify his/her supervisor on or before May 1st of each year.

The buy-back shall be made from the maximum accumulation permitted; any additional hours accrued over the maximum shall be taken as soon as possible, pursuant to the Compensating Time provision of this Agreement. Payment shall be made to the employee on or before the end of each fiscal year, in a check separate from the employee's regular check. Retirement contributions shall not be taken from this payment. Only existing unexpended overtime funds will be used to buy back compensatory time under these provisions.

### **3c. Telephone Expenses**

Attorney General Detectives and Senior Attorney General Detectives are required to provide cell phone availability and may be reached by home and/or cell phone for work purposes and call out. A cell phone allowance of fifty dollars (\$50.00) per month shall be paid on a semi-annual basis in January and July. This allowance shall be prorated for those employees who become eligible or terminate employment between the semi-annual payments.

## **MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT CAPITOL POLICE OFFICERS**

The undersigned parties agree that this Agreement pertains only to employees of the Capitol Police who hold the classification of Capitol Police Officers

The parties to this Agreement mutually agree to the following modifications of practice and amendments and exceptions to certain provisions of the Law Enforcement contract which expires June 30, 2025.

All issues not specifically addressed in this Agreement shall continue as provided in the current contract.

### **1. Seniority Preference**

Preferences on overtime, schedules, shifts, and vacation will be granted based on length of service with the Bureau of Capitol Police, following successful completion of probation.

### **2. Shift Differential**

A shift differential of forty-five cents (\$.45) per hour shall be paid for shifts starting between 2:00 p.m. and 9:59 p.m. for employees regularly assigned to such shifts.

Employees of Capitol Police shall be eligible for the second shift differential of fifty-five cents (\$.55) for employees regularly assigned to work 6:00 pm to 6:00 am and 10:00 pm to 6:00 am. This language shall supersede the language of the Shift Differential Article of the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

### **3. Certified Crisis Negotiators**

Capitol Police Officers who are Certified Crisis Negotiators and are assigned to perform duties of a Crisis Negotiator for the Capitol Police, and are subject to emergency call out, shall receive a \$500 annual payment paid on an hourly basis of twenty-four cents (\$0.24) per hour.

## **LAW ENFORCEMENT**

Attorney General Detective  
Baxter Park Ranger I  
Capitol Police Officer  
Correctional Detective  
Corrections Resource Coordinator  
Deputy Game Warden  
Deputy Marine Patrol Officer  
Fire Investigator  
Forest Fire Prevention Spec  
Forest Ranger I  
Forest Ranger II  
Forest Ranger III  
Game Warden  
Game Warden Investigator  
Game Warden Pilot  
Game Warden Specialist  
Juvenile Comm Corrections Officer  
Marine Patrol Officer  
Marine Patrol Specialist  
Military Security Police Officer  
Motor Vehicle Detective  
Probation Officer  
Ranger Pilot  
Research Assistant (MSLEA-F)  
Senior Attorney General Detective  
Senior Fire Investigator  
Transitional Duty (MSLEA-F)

## **STATE OF MAINE**

By:

Janet T. Mills, Governor

Kirsten Figueroa, Commissioner Department of Administrative and Financial Services

Scott Helmke, Chief Negotiator, Office of Employee Relations

Amanda Beckwith, Bargaining Team Member

Lisa McGrotty, Bargaining Team Member

Major Rob Beal, Marine Patrol, Bargaining Team Member

Major Chris Cloutier, Warden Service, Bargaining Team Member

Lt. Troy Gardner, Fire Marshall's Office, Bargaining Team Member

Chief Robby Gross, Forest Protection, Bargaining Team Member

Col. Dan Scott, Warden Service, Bargaining Team Member

John Coyne, Department of Corrections RCA, Bargaining Team Member

Anna Love, Director of Investigations, OAG, Bargaining Team Member

Chief Matthew Clancy, Capitol Police, Bargaining Team Member

## **MAINE STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSOCIATION**

By:

Kevin Anderson MSLEA Executive Director, Chief Negotiator

Jason Leavitt

Lisa Byers

David Ross

Danielle Craig

Larry Morrill

Kelly Rackler



## **MAINE STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSOCIATION**

Attorney Fees:	\$150.00 per hour
Field Representative Fees:	\$75.00 per hour
Research Fees:	\$75.00 per hour

All fees are charged on the basis of minimum 15 minute periods.