

Rulemaking Fact Sheet

(5 MRSA §8057-A)

AGENCY: Department of Labor, Maine Labor Relations Board

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CHAPTER NUMBER AND RULE TITLE: Chapter 10, General Rules

TYPE OF RULE (*check one*): ☒ Routine Technical ☐ Major Substantive

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 26 M.R.S. §968(3)

DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF PUBLIC HEARING: May 7, 2025, 2:00 p.m., remote via Zoom videoconference (information on remote participation is available at <https://www.maine.gov/mlrb>, and the public may also access the meeting by visiting the MLRB office at 19 Elkins Lane, Augusta).

COMMENT DEADLINE: May 17, 2025

PRINCIPAL REASON(S) OR PURPOSE FOR PROPOSING THIS RULE: [*see* §8057-A(1)(A)&(C)]

This proposed rulemaking is intended to streamline the process for petitioning the Board to certify new, or make changes to existing, bargaining units and bargaining agents. Although petitions are filed with the Board electronically, current rules require the filing of physical signed Showing of Interest and Employee Authorization forms from affected bargaining unit employees. The proposed changes would allow for the filing of digital scans of the signed forms in lieu of the physical originals, significantly easing the administrative burden for parties. No changes are made to the existing processes by which the legitimacy of the forms may be challenged or otherwise called into question.

IS MATERIAL INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE IN THE RULE? ___YES XNO [§8056(1)(B)]

ANALYSIS AND EXPECTED OPERATION OF THE RULE: [*see* §8057-A(1)(B)&(D)]

This proposed rulemaking will facilitate the filing with the Board of petitions that currently require the physical filing of Showing of Interest and Employee Authorization forms by reducing the administrative burden for filing parties and thereby increasing the speed and efficiency of the process.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF RELEVANT INFORMATION CONSIDERED DURING DEVELOPMENT OF THE RULE (including up to 3 primary sources relied upon) [*see* §§8057-A(1)(E) & 8063-B]

Staff relied on feedback from practitioners and internal review of existing rules. Staff also consulted with the Office of the Attorney General during the development of these amendments to ensure consistency with State requirements.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT OF THE RULE: [*see* §8057-A(1)(C)]

This proposal will not have a significant fiscal impact on the agency or members of the regulated community.

FOR EXISTING RULES WITH FISCAL IMPACT OF \$1 MILLION OR MORE, ALSO INCLUDE:

ECONOMIC IMPACT, WHETHER OR NOT QUANTIFIABLE IN MONETARY TERMS:

[see §8057-A(2)(A)]

INDIVIDUALS, MAJOR INTEREST GROUPS AND TYPES OF BUSINESSES AFFECTED
AND HOW THEY WILL BE AFFECTED: [see §8057-A(2)(B)]

BENEFITS OF THE RULE: [see §8057-A(2)(C)]

Note: If necessary, additional pages may be used.