

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT

between the

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

and the

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

UNIT 6

July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2023

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PREAMBLE

This Collective Bargaining Agreement entered into this 20th day of July 2021 by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts acting through the Commissioner of Administration and Finance and his/her Human Resources Division, hereinafter referred to as the "Employer", or the "Commonwealth"; and by the National Association of Government Employees, hereinafter referred to as the "Union"(of which **Locals R1-207 and R1-282** the Massachusetts Association of Professionals is an affiliate); and has as its purpose the promotion of harmonious relations between the Union and the Employer. To this end, the parties recognize the importance of dealing with one another with mutual respect and dignity.

ARTICLE 1 RECOGNITION

Section 1.1

The Commonwealth recognizes the Union as the exclusive collective bargaining representative of employees of the Commonwealth in job titles in Unit 6, as certified by the Labor Relations Commission in its Certification of Representation dated December 7, 1984 (Case No. SCR-2177) with subsequent amendments.

In order to establish and maintain clear and concise employee/labor relations policy, the parties agree that the Human Resources Division, on behalf of the Secretary for Administration and Finance, is solely responsible for the development and implementation of all employee relations policies. Only the Human Resources Division has the authority to make commitments or agreements with respect to wages, hours, standards of productivity, performance and any other terms and conditions of employment, with NAGE as the exclusive union representative for Bargaining Unit 6.

Section 1.2

A. As used in this contract the term "employee" or "employees" shall include:

full-time and regular part-time persons employed by the Commonwealth in job titles in the bargaining unit included in Section I above, and seasonal employees whose employment is for a period of ninety (90) consecutive days or more.

B. Exclusion:

1. all managerial and confidential employees;
2. all employees employed in short term jobs established by special federal or state programs such as summer jobs for underprivileged youths; and
3. all intermittent employees (except as defined by HRD Regulations); and
4. all "03" or "07" consultants in accordance with past practice and the understanding of the parties.

C. A full-time employee is defined as an employee who normally works a full workweek and whose employment is expected to continue for twelve (12) months or more, or an employee who normally works a full workweek and has been employed for twelve (12) consecutive months or more.

A regular part-time employee is defined as an employee who is expected to work fifty percent (50%) or more of the hours in a workweek of a regular full-time employee in the same title.

An intermittent employee is defined as an employee who is neither a full-time nor a regular part-time employee and whose position has been designated as an intermittent position by his/her Appointing Authority.

ARTICLE 2
MANAGERIAL RIGHTS/PRODUCTIVITY

Section 2.1

Except as otherwise limited by an express provision of this Agreement, the Employer shall have the right to exercise complete control and discretion over its organization and technology including but not limited to the determination of the standards of services to be provided and standards of productivity and performance of its employees; establish and/or revise personnel evaluation programs; the determination of the methods, means and personnel by which its operations are to be conducted; the determination of the content of job classifications; the appointment, promotion, assignment, direction and transfer of personnel; the suspension, demotion, discharge or any other appropriate action against its employees; the relief from duty of its employees because of lack of work or for other legitimate reasons; the establishment of reasonable work rules; and the taking of all necessary actions to carry out its mission in emergencies.

Section 2.2

Delivery of services to the public in the most efficient, effective, and productive manner is of paramount importance to the Employer and the Union. Such achievement is recognized to be a goal of both parties as they perform their respective roles and meet their responsibilities.

Section 2.3

It is acknowledged that during the negotiations, which resulted in this Agreement, the Union had the unlimited right and opportunity to make demands and proposals with respect to all proper subjects of collective bargaining. Therefore, for the life of this Agreement, this Agreement shall constitute the total agreement between the parties, and the Union agrees that the Employer shall not be obligated to any additional collective bargaining.

Section 2.4

All supplemental or side letter agreements in effect when this agreement was ratified, and not superseded by the terms of this agreement or do not otherwise contain expiration dates, will continue in effect during the term of this collective bargaining agreement.

ARTICLE 2A
RULES AND REGULATIONS

The Rules and Regulations governing Vacation Leave, Sick Leave, Travel, Overtime, Military Leave, Court Leave, Other Leave, Charges and State Personnel, Accident Prevention, as authorized by Section 28 of Chapter 7 of the General Laws (Red Book) and those Rules and Regulations governing Classifications, Salaries, Allocations, Individual Reallocations, Salary Increments as authorized by Section 45(5) and Section 53 of Chapter 30 of the General Laws (Gray Book) shall not apply to employees covered by this Agreement.

ARTICLE 3 UNION SECURITY

Section 3.1

The Union shall have the exclusive right to the check-off and transmittal of Union dues on behalf of each employee.

Section 3.2

An employee may consent in writing to the authorization of the deduction of union dues from their wages and to the designation of the union as the recipient thereof and may withdraw such consent in accordance with the terms of the membership and dues deduction agreement between the employee and the Union and with the laws of the Commonwealth. Such consent shall be in a form acceptable to the Office of Employee Relations and shall bear the signature of the employee. Said form may be completed on-line as an electronic form or completed, printed, and sent to the appropriate agency human resources officer. An employee may withdraw his/her union dues check-off authorization by providing notice in writing to the Office of Employee Relations, and the Union will be notified immediately of such request to withdraw union dues authorization.

Section 3.3

An employee may consent in writing to the authorization of the deduction of an agency fee from his/her wages and to the designation of the union as the recipient thereof. Such consent shall be in a form acceptable to the Office of Employee Relations and shall bear the signature of the employee. Said form may be completed on-line as an electronic form or completed, printed, and sent to the appropriate agency human resources officer. An employee may withdraw his/her agency fee authorization by giving at least sixty (60) days' notice or in accordance with applicable law at said time of withdrawal request, whichever is greater, in writing to the Office of Employee Relations; the Union will be immediately notified of such request to withdraw agency fee authorization.

Section 3.4

The Employer shall deduct dues or an agency fee from the pay of employees who request such deduction in accordance with this Article and transmit such funds in accordance with departmental policy as of July 1, 1976 to the comptroller of the Union together with a list of employees whose dues or agency fees are transmitted provided that the State Treasurer is satisfied by such evidence that he may require that the comptroller of the Union has given to the Union a bond, in a form approved by the Commissioner of the Department of Revenue, for the faithful performance of his/her duties, in a sum and with such surety or securities as are satisfactory to the State Treasurer.

Section 3.5

When a Unit 6 employee is promoted or changes job titles within Unit 6 or is recalled from layoff, or returns from an authorized leave of absence without pay, the employee shall continue with his/her dues deduction and no new dues deduction authorization card will be requested, if at the time of his/her change of status there is in effect a current dues deduction card authorizing dues to be deducted and paid to the Union. Notification of any cancellation of dues deduction will be sent to the Union in accordance with Article 5.7.E. In any event, there shall be no liability on the part of the Employer under this Section.

Section 3.6

The parties agree that it is the sole responsibility of an employee who promotes to a management position title, or out of the bargaining unit, to notify the Department/Agency payroll office to

cease any/all union dues deductions.

Section 3.7 Political Education Fund

Deductions for the purposes of a political education fund shall be made in accordance with section 17 J of Chapter 180 of the Massachusetts General Laws.

Any employee who objects to said political education fund fee may terminate his/her deduction by notifying his/her payroll clerk and the Union on a form provided by the Union.

ARTICLE 4 AGENCY FEE

Section 4.1

Each employee who elects not to join or maintain membership in the Union may voluntarily pay a service fee to the Union in any amount that is proportionally commensurate with the cost of collective bargaining and contract administration, but not to exceed the amount of periodic dues paid by employees who are members of the Union.

Any agency service fee shall be calculated in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 150E and regulations adopted thereunder and shall not include costs for the following activities:

- 1) contributions to political candidates or political committees formed for a candidate or political party;
- 2) publicizing of an organizational preference for a candidate for political office;
- 3) efforts to enact, defeat, repeal or amend legislation unrelated to the wages, hours, standards of productivity and performance, and other terms and conditions of employment, and the welfare or the working environment of employees represented by the exclusive bargaining agent or its affiliates;
- 4) contributions to charitable, religious or ideological causes not germane to its duties as the exclusive bargaining agent;
- 5) benefits, which are not germane to the governance or duties as bargaining agent, of the exclusive bargaining agent or its affiliates and available only to the members of the employee organization.

Section 4.2

All members of the bargaining unit shall be entitled to representation and to all the rights and benefits provided under this agreement without regard to their membership, non-membership, or agency fee status within the Union or its affiliates.

ARTICLE 5 UNION BUSINESS

Section 5.1 Union Representations

Union staff representatives shall be permitted to have access to the premises of the Employer for the performance of official Union business, provided that there is no disruption of operations. Requests for such access will be made in advance and will not be unreasonably denied. The Union will furnish the Employer with a list of staff representatives and their areas of jurisdiction.

Section 5.2 Grievance Processing

Union stewards or Union officials shall be permitted to have time off without loss of pay for the investigation and processing of grievances and arbitrations. Requests for such time off shall be made in advance and shall not be unreasonably denied. The Union will furnish the Employer with a list of Union stewards and their jurisdictions. The Union shall delineate the jurisdiction of Union stewards so that no steward need travel between work locations or sub-divisions thereof while investigating grievances.

Grievants shall be permitted to have time off without loss of pay for processing their grievances through the contractual grievance procedure, except that for class action grievances no more than three (3) grievants shall be granted such leave.

Section 5.3 Paid Leaves of Absence For Union Business

Leave of absence without loss of wages, benefits or other privileges may be granted to elected delegates of the Union to attend NAGE conventions and conventions of the State, AFL-CIO and parent organizations. Such paid leave shall not exceed a total of one hundred seventy-five (175) days per year.

Time off without loss of wages, benefits, or other privileges shall be granted to Union negotiating committee members for attendance at negotiating sessions.

Time off without loss of wages, benefits, or other privileges shall be granted to representatives and officers of the Union to attend joint labor/management meetings.

Time off without loss of wages, benefits, or other privileges shall be granted for not more than thirty-five (35) hours per week to a combined total of six (6) Union Official equivalents from bargaining units 1, 3 and 6 to assist the Union President in conducting union business.

The Union will not request paid release time for Executive Board meetings more frequently than ten (10) work days per calendar year. The Union shall submit any request for paid union business leave for Executive Board Meetings not later than seven (7) calendar days in advance of the meeting date(s) and the Employer will respond not less than two (2) business days preceding the date of the Executive board meeting.

The Employer, upon being provided sufficient advance notice by the Union, shall grant Union Stewards paid release time for the purposes of receiving training. This paid release time for training shall not exceed one (1) day in duration. The Parties further agree that the Union will make this request of the Employer no more than once in any twelve (12) month period. No pyramiding of release time will be permitted.

All leave granted under this section shall require prior approval of the Human Resources Division. Requests for all paid release time must be made at least seven (7) calendar days in advance unless agreed to by the parties.

Section 5.4 Unpaid Union Leaves of Absence

Upon request by the Union, an employee shall be granted a leave of absence without pay to perform full-time official duties on behalf of the Union. Such leave of absence shall be for a period of up to one (1) year and may be extended for one (1) or more additional periods of one (1) year or less at the request of the Union. Approved requests will be granted by the Department/Agency head not to exceed one per each 1,000 employees in the bargaining unit provided no adverse effect on the operations of the Department/Agency results.

Representatives and officers of the Union shall be granted leaves of absence without loss of benefits or other privileges (not including wages) to attend hearings before the Legislature and State agencies concerning matters of importance to the Union.

All leaves granted under this Section shall require prior approval of the Human Resources Division. Requests for all unpaid release time must be made at least seven (7) calendar days in advance unless agreed to by the parties.

Section 5.5 Union Uses of Premises

The Union shall be permitted to use facilities of the Employer for the transaction of Union business during working hours and to have reasonable use of the Employer's facilities during off duty hours for Union meetings subject to appropriate compensation if required by law. Where practicable, Union officials shall provide the Employer with at least one (1) day advanced notice of such use. This section shall not be interpreted to grant an employee the right to carry on Union business during his/her own working hours, not granted elsewhere in the contract.

The Union shall be permitted one (1) hour per year to address its members regarding various union issues.

Section 5.6 Bulletin Boards

The Union may post notices on bulletin boards or on an adequate part thereof in places and locations where notices usually are posted by the Employer for employees to read. All notices shall be on Union stationery, signed by an official of the Union, and shall only be used to notify employees of matters pertaining to Union affairs. The notices may remain posted for a reasonable period of time. No material shall be posted which is inflammatory, profane or obscene, or defamatory of the Commonwealth or its representatives, or which constitutes election campaign material for or against any person, organization or faction thereof.

Section 5.7 Employer Provision of Information

The Employer shall be required to provide the Union with the following information:

- A. The Union and/or the employee shall furnish to the Department/Agency, a signed copy of the Union dues/agency fees deduction card that contains a waiver authorizing the use of his/her Social Security Number for the purposes of conducting business between the Union and the Commonwealth. The Union and the Commonwealth agree that employee Social Security Numbers will not be released to any third party outside of the business relationship existing between the Union and the Commonwealth, unless directed in writing, by the employee.

NAGE further agrees that should it improperly disclose, release or distribute the social security numbers of employees in bargaining units 1, 3 and 6, it will indemnify the Commonwealth for any and all damages resulting from such improper disclosure by the NAGE.

- B. Concurrent with the issuance of bi-weekly wages to workers in the bargaining units represented by NAGE, the Employer will electronically forward a data file (MVEN005) to the Union for all employees for whom dues or agency fees have been deducted.
- C. Upon the issuance of bi-weekly wages to workers in the bargaining units represented by NAGE Employer will electronically forward a data file (MVEN002) to the Union for all employees whose job title is represented by NAGE and for whom the Employer is providing contributions to the Health and Welfare Fund. This file shall contain:

- Agency/Departmental Code
- Social Security Number
- Employee ID
- Last Name
- First Name
- Middle Initial
- Home Address
- Date of Birth
- Marital Status
- Full/Part-time Code
- Gender
- State Service Date
- Date Employee Started in Bargaining Unit
- Bargaining Unit
- Pay Title Code
- Authorized Hours
- Information Date
- Action Date
- Employee Status
- Status Description
- Confidential Code
- Termination Date
- Action Code
- Action Reason Code
- Account Number
- Location Code
- Division Number/Mail Drop
- Calculated FTE
- Grade
- Step
- Biweekly Salary-Comp rate
- Civil Service Seniority Date
- Owned Job Code
- Dept Entry date

- Effective date
 - Step Entry date
 - MA Dept Service Date
 - Hire date
 - Rehire Date
 - MA State Service Date
 - Employee Job Record #
- D. Upon the request of the Union, the Employer may electronically forward employee data file(s)/extracts, using tools (such as MS Access and the Commonwealth's Information Warehouse) that are commonly used by the Employer. These files may contain data which describes the employee, their job or personnel actions performed. The request for this data will not be unreasonably denied.
- E. The Employer shall provide to the Union an updated listing of codes on a semi-annual basis.
- F. The Union and the Employer shall establish a Labor-Management Committee consisting of an equal number of Union and Employer representatives to discuss issues related to the implementation of changes in deductions relating to employee dues/agency fees. This Committee shall meet prior to the submission of any request by the Union for a change in deductions for dues/agency fees.

Section 5.8 Orientation

The Department/Agency shall provide an orientation program for new employees; one (1) hour shall, upon written request of the Union, be allotted to the Union and to the new employee(s) during which time a Union representative shall discuss the Union with the employee.

ARTICLE 6
ANTI-DISCRIMINATION AND AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

Section 6.1

The Employer and the Union agree not to discriminate in any way against employees covered by this Agreement on account of race, religion, creed, color, national origin, gender, sex, sexual orientation, age, ethnicity, mental or physical disability, union activity, gender identity, gender expression, military or veteran status.

Section 6.2

The Union and the Employer agree that when the effects of employment practices, regardless of their intent, discriminate against any group of people on the basis of race, religion, creed, color, age, sex, national origin, or mental or physical disability, or being a Vietnam Era Veteran, specific positive and aggressive measures must be taken to redress the effects of past discrimination, to eliminate present and future discrimination, and to ensure equal opportunity in the areas of hiring, upgrading, demotion or transfer, recruitment, layoff or termination, rate of compensation and in-service or apprenticeship training programs. Therefore the parties acknowledge the need for positive and aggressive affirmative action.

Section 6.3

The Statewide Labor/Management Committee established pursuant to Article 26 shall give priority to the area of affirmative action. The Committee shall review affirmative action programs and shall devote its best efforts to alleviating any obstacles that are found to exist to the implementation of the policy and commitments contained in the Governor's Executive Order No. 116 dated May 1, 1975 or as subsequently amended or in Governor's Executive Order #253 (1988) or as subsequently amended.

Section 6.4

The provisions contained in Article 14 and Article 18 shall not be construed to impede the implementation of affirmative action programs developed by department/agencies in accordance with goals set forth in this Article.

Section 6.5

The Employer and the Union acknowledge that sexual harassment is a form of unlawful sex discrimination, and the parties mutually agree that no employee should be subjected to such harassment. The term sexual harassment as used herein is conduct such as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature which constitutes sexual harassment when:

- A. Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment;
- B. Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting such individual; or
- C. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive working environment.

Section 6.6

A grievance alleging a violation of Section 5 of this Article shall be filed initially at Step

II of the grievance procedure. Such action must be brought within twenty-one (21) days from the alleged act or occurrence. However, an employee who has filed a complaint alleging sexual harassment under the Commonwealth's Statewide Sexual Harassment Policy may not file a grievance regarding those same allegations under this Section.

ARTICLE 6A MUTUAL RESPECT

The Commonwealth and the Union agree that mutual respect between and among managers, employees, co-workers and supervisors is integral to the efficient conduct of the Commonwealth's business. Behaviors that contribute to a hostile, humiliating and/or intimidating work environment, including abusive language or behavior, are unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Employees who believe they are subject to such behavior shall raise their concerns with an appropriate manager or supervisor as soon as possible, but no later than ninety (90) days from the most recent occurrence(s). Employees who want to formally pursue the matter must file a written complaint which identifies the behaviors including specific examples believed to cause the hostile, humiliating and/or intimidating work environment.

The written complaint shall be investigated by someone not involved in the matter, who shall make recommendations to the Appointing Authority for correcting any unacceptable and/or unprofessional behaviors identified by the investigation. The Complainant and the Union shall be notified in writing of the steps taken to address the Complainants concerns.

In the event the employee(s) written complaint is not addressed within a reasonable period of time, the employee and/or the Union may file a grievance at step III of the grievance procedure as set forth in Article 23, with concurrent notice to the Appointing Authority or his/her designee. If the employee (or the Union) requests a hearing at Step III, such hearing shall be granted. Grievances filed under this section shall not be subject to the arbitration provisions set forth in Article 23. No employee shall be subject to retaliation for filing a complaint, giving a statement, or otherwise participating in the administration of this process.

ARTICLE 7
WORKWEEK AND WORK SCHEDULES

Section 7.1 Scheduled Hours, Workweek, Workday

- A. Except as otherwise specified in this Agreement, the regular hours of work for full-time employees shall be thirty-seven and one-half (37.5) hours per week excluding duty-free meal periods or forty (40) hours per week excluding duty-free meal periods, as has been established for that job title at the particular job location. Any employee whose regular workweek has averaged more than forty (40) hours excluding meal periods in the past shall have a forty (40) hour workweek.
- B. The work schedule, both starting times and quitting times, of employees shall be posted on a bulletin board at each work location or otherwise made available to employees and Union stewards.
- C. When the Employer desires to change the shift or day off of an employee, the Employer shall, whenever practicable, give the affected employee ten (10) days written notice.
- D. To the extent practicable, the normal work week shall consist of five (5) consecutive days, Monday through Friday, with the regular hours of work each day to be consecutive except for duty-free meal periods. Similarly, to the extent practicable, employees in continuous operations shall receive two (2) consecutive days off in each seven (7) day period. This subsection shall not apply to employees in authorized flexible hours programs.

Section 7.2 Overtime

- A. An employee shall be compensated at the rate of time and one-half his/her regular rate of pay for authorized overtime work performed in excess of forty (40) hours per week.
- B. An employee whose regularly scheduled workweek is less than forty (40) hours shall be compensated at his/her regular rate for authorized overtime work performed up to forty (40) hours per week that is in excess of his/her regular workweek.
- C. Compensatory time off in lieu of pay for overtime shall not be granted to employees except as provided in Section 7.2.G. The Employer shall not, for the purpose of avoiding the payment of overtime, curtail the scheduled hours of an employee during the remainder of a workweek in which the employee has previously worked hours beyond his/her normally scheduled workday. This Paragraph shall not apply to employees who, because of the nature of the duties of their positions, work an irregular workday, nor shall it apply to employees who have been permitted by the Employer to participate in an approved voluntary flexible hours program that has been duly authorized by the Appointing Authority and by the Chief Human Resources Officer.
- D. 1. With the exception of paid sick leave, all time for which an employee is on full paid leave status shall be considered time worked for the purpose of calculating overtime compensation.
2. However, an employee who uses sick leave during the same work week in which he/she works mandatory overtime shall have the opportunity to replace up to three (3) shifts per fiscal year of sick leave with his/her available personal leave, vacation leave, accrued compensatory time or holiday compensatory time. Furthermore, up to two (2) days of sick leave may be counted toward such overtime calculation if the employee submits medical evidence pursuant to Article 8, Section 1 of the Agreement.

E. There shall be no duplication or pyramiding of the premium pay for overtime work provided for in this Agreement.

F. Employees who are engaged in special kinds of activities where scheduling of such work during regularly scheduled hours is not feasible, shall not be paid overtime on a weekly basis but may be given compensatory time off for such overtime work.

G. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph C of this Section 7.2, upon the request of an employee, an Appointing Authority shall grant compensatory time in lieu of payment for overtime at a rate of not less than one and a half (1 1/2) hours for each hour of employment for which overtime compensation would be required under this Article. This shall be designated on the overtime form supplied by the Employer.

Such compensatory time shall not be accumulated in excess of one hundred twenty (120) hours and may be utilized in half (1/2) hour increments.

An Appointing Authority shall permit the use of compensatory time at the employee's request, provided the use of compensatory time does not unduly disrupt the operation of a department or agency. Upon termination an employee shall be paid for all unused compensatory time at the final regular rate of pay.

H. The Employer shall make every effort to send out checks for overtime no later than the second payroll period following the payroll period of the overtime worked.

I. Overtime shall be distributed as equitably and impartially as practicable among persons in each work location who ordinarily perform such related work in the normal course of their workweek. Department heads and union representatives at each location shall work out procedures for implementing this policy of distributing overtime work.

J. The provisions of this Section shall not apply to employees on full travel status.

K. For the purpose of this article, regular overtime rate shall be defined as: straight time for all hours compensated up to and including 40 hours. Premium rate for all hours compensated over 40 hours.

Section 7.3 Regular Meal Periods

A meal period shall be scheduled as close to the middle of the shift as possible considering the needs of the Department/Agency and the needs of the employee.

Section 7.4 Rest Periods

Employees may be granted a rest period of up to fifteen (15) minutes per work day. However, employees shall continue to enjoy the same rest period benefits, which existed for them as of the effective date of this agreement.

Section 7.5 Call Back Pay

A. An employee who has left his/her work place of employment after having completed work on his/her regular shift, and who is called back to his/her work place prior to the commencement of his/her scheduled shift shall receive a minimum of four (4) hours pay at his/her regular hourly overtime rate. This Section shall not apply to an employee who is called in to start his/her shift early and who continues to work that shift.

B. An employee who is called back to work as outlined above but is not called back to a work place shall receive a minimum of two (2) hours pay at his/her regular overtime rate. This shall include situations where an employee fulfills his/her call back assignment through the use of an electronic communication device such as a telephone or “networked” computer.

Section 7.6 Stand-by Duties

A. An employee who is required by the department head to be available on a stand by basis to report to duty when necessary shall be reimbursed at a rate not to exceed seventeen dollars and fifty cents (\$17.50) for such stand-by period.

B. The stand-by period shall be fifteen (15) hours in duration for any night stand-by duty, and shall be nine (9) hours in duration for any day stand-by duty.

C. Stand-by duty shall mean that a department head has ordered any employee to be immediately available for duty upon receipt of a message to report to work. If any employee assigned to stand-by duty is not available to report to duty when contacted, no stand-by pay shall be paid to the employee for the period.

D. An employee who is required by the Department head as a condition of employment to be available by electronic pager to report to duty immediately upon being paged shall be reimbursed at a rate not to exceed seventeen dollars and fifty cents (\$17.50) for such stand-by period.

Section 7.7 Shift Differentials

A. Full-time Unit 6 employees whose regularly workday is on the second or third shift as hereinafter defined will receive a shift differential of one dollar and twenty-five cents (\$1.25) per hour.

B. For the purpose of this Section only, a second shift shall be one that commences at 1:00 p.m. or after and ends not later than 2:00 a.m. and a third shift shall be one that commences at 9:00 p.m. or after and ends not later than 9:00 a.m.

C. The overtime rate for employees whose regularly scheduled workday is on the second or third shift shall be computed based on the following method: the regular hourly salary rate plus the hourly shift differential times one and one-half equals the overtime rate.

D. For the purposes of this Section, employees who are regularly scheduled to work second or third shift shall receive the shift differential for all shifts that are on paid leave status, including holidays.

Section 7.8 Weekend Differentials

A. Effective July 9, 2006, in addition to any other compensation to which they may be entitled, a premium of one dollar and twenty-five cents (\$1.25) per hour shall be paid to all Unit 6 employees who are regularly scheduled to work on either a Saturday or a Sunday, provided that no employee shall receive said differential for more than one (1) day worked per weekend not to exceed 7.5 or 8 hours per shift.

B. Employees otherwise entitled to a weekend differential under this Section shall receive the differential for days they are on paid leave status, including holidays, up to the maximum of one (1) full day per week not to exceed 7.5 or 8 hours per shift.

**ARTICLE 8
LEAVE**

Section 8.1 Sick Leave

A. A full-time employee shall accumulate sick leave with pay credits at the following rate for each bi-weekly pay period of employment:

<u>Scheduled Hours</u>	<u>Sick Leave Accrued</u>
75 hours bi-weekly	4.326975 hours
80 hours bi-weekly	4.61544 hours

An employee on any leave with pay or industrial accident leave shall accumulate sick leave credits. There shall be no limit to the number of unused sick leave credits, which an employee may accumulate.

B. A regular part-time employee shall accumulate sick leave credits in the same proportion that his/her part-time service bears to full-time service.

C. Sick leave shall be granted, at the discretion of the Appointing Authority, to an employee only under the following conditions:

1. When an employee cannot perform his/her duties because he/she is incapacitated by personal illness or injury;
2. An employee may use up to a maximum of sixty (60) days per calendar year for the purpose of:
 - a. caring for the spouse, child, foster child, step-child, parent, step- parent, brother, sister, grandparent, grandchild, parent or child of spouse, person for whom the employee is legal guardian, or a relative living in the household who is seriously ill; or
 - b. parental leave due to the birth or adoption of a child, to be concluded within twelve (12) months of the date of the birth or adoption. Eligible employees utilizing sick leave under this Section shall not be required to submit a medical certification, unless the appointing authority has reason to believe that the birth or adoption claim was not genuine. This leave benefit shall be in addition to the ten (10) days of paid leave set forth in Section 8.7.1 below.
3. An employee may use up to a maximum of ten (10) days of accrued sick leave in a calendar year in order to attend to necessary preparations and legal requirements related to the employee's adoption of a child, except that in no event may an employee charge more than a total of sixty (60) days of accrued sick leave in a calendar year for adoption related purposes.
4. When through exposure to contagious disease, the presence of the employee at his/her work location would jeopardize the health of others.
5. When appointments with licensed medical or dental professionals cannot reasonably be scheduled outside of normal working hours for purposes of medical treatment or diagnosis of an existing medical or dental condition.

6. When an employee is absent due to the excessive use of alcohol or narcotics, becomes and continues to be an active participant in an approved counseling service program.
7. An employee shall be entitled to use up to ten (10) days of accrued sick leave per calendar year for necessary preparations and/or legal proceedings related to foster care of DCF children, such as foster care reviews, court hearings and MAPS training for pre-adoptive parents. HRD may approve a waiver of the ten (10) day limit if needed for difficult placements. In addition, an employee may use the one day per month of paid leave available to employees for volunteer work under the SERV volunteer programs for the above cited foster care activities.
 - D. A full-time employee shall not accrue full sick leave credit for any bi-weekly pay period in which he/she was on leave without pay or absent without pay. Instead the employee shall earn sick leave credits based on the hours paid within the bi-weekly pay period.
 - E. Upon return to work following a sick leave in excess of five (5) consecutive work days, or when the appointing authority has reason to suspect that an employee is unfit for duty, an employee may be required to undergo a medical examination by an Employer appointed physician to determine his/her fitness for work. If the examination by the Physician reveals that the employee is fit for duty, the employee will immediately return to duty without loss of wages or leave. If the examination by the Physician reveals that the employee is unfit for duty, the employee's own leave time will run from the time the employee left the work location. The employee, if found unfit for duty and if he/she desires, may then receive an examination by a physician of his/her own choice. The employer will bear the costs of the employee's initial examinations under this paragraph E.
 - F. Sick leave must be charged against unused sick leave credits in units of fifteen minutes, but in no event may the sick leave credits used be less than the actual time off.
 - G. An employee having no sick leave credits, who is absent due to illness may, at the employee's discretion, be placed on available vacation leave under Article 9. Additionally, the Appointing Authority may grant such employee a leave of absence without pay or an extension of a leave of absence without pay only upon the written request of the employee.

Such written request shall include a detailed statement of the reason for the requested leave and shall be accompanied by substantiating proof of such an illness. No leave of absence granted pursuant to this paragraph shall be for a period longer than three (3) months.
 - H. An employee who is reinstated or reemployed after an absence of less than three (3) years shall be credited with his/her sick leave credits at the termination of his/her prior employment. An employee who is reinstated or reemployed after a period of three (3) years or more shall receive prior sick leave credits, if approved by the Chief Human Resources Officer, where such absence was caused by:
 1. Illness of said employee;
 2. Dismissal through no fault or delinquency attributable solely to said employee; or
 3. Injury while in the employment of the Commonwealth in the line of duty, and for which said employee would be entitled to receive Workers' Compensation

benefits.

I. A regular part-time employee shall not accrue full sick leave credit for any bi-weekly pay period in which he/she was on leave without pay or absent without pay. Instead the employee shall earn sick leave credits based on the hours paid within the bi-weekly pay period.

J. Employees requesting sick leave under this Article must notify the designated representative of the Appointing Authority at least one (1) hour before the start of his/her work shift on each day of absence. In single-shift agencies, employees requesting sick leave under this Article must notify the designated representative not later than fifteen (15) minutes after the start of the work day on each day of absence. Repeated violations of these notification procedures may result in the denial of sick leave. Such notice must include the general nature of the illness or injury and the estimated period of time for which the employee will be absent. Where circumstances warrant, the Appointing Authority or designee shall reasonably excuse the employee from such daily notification.

K. 1. Where the Appointing Authority has reason to believe that sick leave is being abused, the Appointing Authority may require satisfactory medical evidence from the employee (see Appendices D-1 and D-2). This request shall be reduced to writing and shall cite specific reasons for the request. When medical evidence is requested, such request shall be made as promptly as possible. To the extent practicable, the employee shall receive prior notice that the Appointing Authority believes he/she is abusing sick leave and that he/she may be required to produce medical evidence for future use of sick leave.

Any requirement that an employee provide medical evidence shall not extend beyond a period of one year unless the employee has engaged in conduct which gives the employer reason to further suspect abuse. In instances where the reason to suspect abuse is based on a specific incident rather than a pattern of absences, the requirement to submit medical evidence shall not extend beyond the one incident if the employee provides acceptable evidence for that incident.

2. Satisfactory medical evidence (see Appendices D-1 and D-2) shall consist of a signed statement by a licensed Physician, Physician's Assistant, Nurse Practitioner, Chiropractor or Dentist that he/she has personally examined the employee and shall contain the nature of the illness or injury, a statement that the employee was unable to perform his or her duties due to the specific illness or injury (diagnosis not required) on the days in question; and the prognosis for employee's return to work. In cases where the employee is absent due to a family or household illness or injury, as defined in Section 1.C.2 of this Article, satisfactory medical evidence shall consist of a signed statement by medical personnel mentioned above indicating that the person in question has been determined to be seriously ill and needing care on the days in question.

A medical statement provided pursuant to this Article shall be on the letterhead of the attending physician or medical provider as mentioned above, and shall list an address and telephone number. Failure to produce such evidence within seven (7) days of its request may result, at the discretion of the Appointing Authority, in denial of sick leave for the period of absence.

3. Any inappropriate use of sick leave shall be recorded as unauthorized leave without pay and (may) result in discipline.

L. In extraordinary circumstances, where the Appointing Authority, or the designated person in charge if the Appointing Authority is unavailable, has sufficient reason to believe that an employee has a mental or physical incapacity rendering him/her unfit to perform his/her job or which jeopardizes workplace safety or stability, the Appointing Authority or the designated person in charge may authorize the removal of such employee from the workplace. It is understood that the employee might not recognize or acknowledge such unfitness. Notification shall be made to the NAGE Attorney-of-the-Day as soon as possible, by the Appointing Authority or his/her designee when an employee is removed from the workplace in accordance with this paragraph.

The employee shall be required to undergo a medical examination to determine his/her fitness for work. The employee, if he/she so desires, may be represented by a physician of his or her own choice, in which case such verification and cost shall be the responsibility of the employee. However, the Appointing Authority shall reserve the right to obtain a second opinion from a Commonwealth designated physician to determine fitness for work. Such cost shall be borne by the Appointing Authority.

M. When an employee requests FMLA leave, or when the Employer acquires knowledge that an employee's leave may be for an FMLA qualifying reason, the Employer must notify the employee of the employee's eligibility to take FMLA leave within five business days absent extenuating circumstances. Employees who are believed, by the employer, to have a serious medical condition qualifying for FMLA leave will obtain from their Healthcare Provider a completed "Certification of Healthcare Provider for Employee's Serious Health Condition" form (D-1). The employee will return this form within 15 days of receipt. In the event of an unanticipated illness, an employee who returns to work within 8 working days of the beginning of their absence will not be required to return D-1 form to his/her employer.

N. No employee shall be entitled to a leave under the provisions of this Article in excess of the accumulated sick leave credits due such employee.

O. Employees whose service with the Commonwealth is terminated shall not be entitled to any compensation in lieu of accumulated sick leave credits. Employees who retire shall be paid twenty percent (20%) of the value of their unused accrued sick leave at the time of their retirement. Upon the death of an employee who dies while in the employ of the Commonwealth, twenty percent (20%) of the value of the unused sick leave which the employee had personally earned and accrued as of the time of death shall be paid in the following order of precedence, as authorized by the Chief Human Resources Officer upon request of the Appointing Authority of the deceased employee:

- First: to the surviving beneficiary or beneficiaries, if any, lawfully designated by the employee under the state employees' retirement system; and
- Second: if there be no such designated beneficiary, to the estate of the deceased. It is understood that any such payment will not change the employee's pension benefit.

P. Sick leave credits earned by an employee following a return to duty after a leave without pay or absence without pay shall not be applied to such period of time.

Q. An employee who while in the performance of his/her duty receives bodily injuries resulting from acts of violence of patients or prisoners in his/her custody, and who as a result of such injury would be entitled to benefits under Chapter 152 of the General Laws, shall, if entitled under Chapter 30, Section 58 of the General Laws, be paid the difference between the weekly cash benefits to which he/she would be entitled under said Chapter 152 and his/her regular salary without such absence being charged against available sick leave credits, even if such absence may be for less than six (6) calendar days duration.

R. Employees shall be entitled to transfer sick leave credits from a prior governmental employer in the same manner as is currently provided for collective bargaining employees under the HRD's Guidelines for Transfer of Benefits.

Section 8.2 Paid Personal Leave

A. During the first full pay period in each January, full-time employees on the payroll as of September 1, 2011 will be credited annually with paid personal leave credits at the following rate:

<u>Scheduled Hours per Week</u>	<u>Personal Leave Credits</u>
37.5 hours per week	37.500 hours
40.0 hours per week	40.000 hours

Such personal leave may be taken during the following twelve (12) months at a time or times requested by the employee and approved by his/her Appointing Authority. Full-time employees hired or promoted into the bargaining unit after the first full pay period in January of each year will be credited with personal leave days in accordance with the following schedule:

<u>Date of Hire or Promotion</u>	<u>Scheduled Hours per Week</u>	<u>Personal Leave Credited</u>
January 1 – March 31	37.5	22.500 hours
	40.0	24.000 hours
April 1 – June 30	37.5	15.000 hours
	40.0	16.000 hours
July 1 – September 30	37.5	7.500 hours
	40.0	8.000 hours
October 1 – December 31	37.5	0 hours
	40.0	0 hours

B. During the first full pay period in each January, full-time employees hired after September 1, 2011 of this Agreement will be credited annually with paid personal leave credits at the following rate:

<u>Scheduled Hours per Week</u>	<u>Personal Leave Credits</u>
37.5 hours per week	22.500 hours
40.0 hours per week	24.000 hours

Except as provided for herein, any personal leave not taken by the last Saturday prior to the first full pay period in January will be forfeited by the employee. Personal leave days for regular

part-time employees will be granted on a pro-rata basis. Employees' personal leave balances shall be charged for time used on an hour-for-hour basis, e.g. one hour charged for one hour used and may be used in conjunction with vacation leave. Charges to personal leave may be allowed in units of not less than one-half hour. An employee who cannot utilize his/her personal leave in the months of November and December, due to the operational needs of the Department/Agency shall be permitted to carry-over one day of personal leave credit not utilized, to the next calendar year.

C. Nothing in this Section shall be construed as giving more than three (3) personal days (to employees hired after September 1, 2011 of this Agreement) in a given year, or more than five (5) personal days (to employees on the payroll as of September 1, 2011) in a given year.

Section 8.3 Bereavement Leave

A. Upon evidence satisfactory to the Appointing Authority of the death of
Spouse
Child
Foster child
Step child living in household

An employee shall be entitled to a maximum of seven (7) days of leave without loss of pay to be used at the option of the employee within thirty (30) calendar days from the date of the death of a child and within ninety (90) calendar days from the date of the death of the employee's spouse.

B. Upon evidence satisfactory to the Appointing Authority of the death
of: Parent
Step parent
Brother
Sister
Grandparent
Grandchild
Person for whom the employee is legal guardian
Parent of spouse
Child of spouse
Person living in household

An employee shall be entitled to a maximum of four (4) days of leave without loss of pay to be used at the option of the employee within thirty (30) calendar days from the date of said death.

C. Upon evidence satisfactory to the Appointing Authority of the death
of: Grandparent in-law
Grandchild in-law
Brother in-law
Sister in-law

An employee shall be granted one (1) day of leave without loss of pay to attend the funeral.

Section 8.4 Voting Leave

An employee whose hours of work preclude him/her from voting in a town, city, state, or national election shall upon application be granted a voting leave with pay, not to exceed two (2) hours, for the sole purpose of voting in the election.

Section 8.5 Civic Duty Leave

A. Employees summoned for jury duty will be granted a leave of absence with pay for time lost from their regular work schedule while on said jury duty upon presentation of the appropriate summons to the department head by the employee.

B. An employee who receives jury fees for jury service upon presentation of the appropriate court certificate of service, shall either:

1. Retain such jury fees in lieu of pay for the period of jury service if the jury fees exceed his/her regular rate of compensation for the period involved;
o
r
2. Remit to the Appointing Authority the jury fees if less than his/her regular rate of compensation for the period involved.

C. Jury fees for the purpose of this Article shall be the per diem rate paid for jury duty by the court not including the expenses reimbursed for travel, meals, rooms or incidentals.

D. An employee summoned as a witness in court on behalf of the Commonwealth or any town, city or county of the Commonwealth or on behalf of the Federal Government shall be granted court leave with pay upon filing of the appropriate notice of service with his/her department head except that this Section shall not apply to an employee who is also in the employ of any town, city or county of the Commonwealth or in the employ of the Federal Government or any private employer and who is summoned on a matter arising from that employment.

E. All fees for court service except jury fees paid for service rendered during office hours must be paid to the Commonwealth. Any fees paid to an employee for court service performed during a vacation period may be retained by the employee. The employee shall retain expenses for travel, meals, rooms, etc.

F. An employee on court leave who has been excused by the proper court authority shall report to his/her official duty station if such interruption in court service will permit four or more consecutive hours of employment. Court leave shall not affect any employment rights of the individual.

G. No court leave shall be granted when the employee is the defendant or is engaged in personal litigation.

Section 8.6 Military Leave

A. An employee shall be entitled during the time of his/her service in the armed forces of the Commonwealth, under Sections 38, 40, 41, 42, or 60 of Chapter 33 of the General Laws, to receive pay therefor, without loss of his/her ordinary remuneration as an employee.

B. An employee shall be entitled, during his/her annual tour of duty of not exceeding seventeen (17) days as a member of a reserve component of the armed forces of the United States, to receive pay therefor, without loss of his/her ordinary remuneration as an employee under Section 59 of Chapter 33 of the General Laws as amended.

C. An employee who is a member of a reserve component of the armed forces of the United States and who is called for duty other than the annual tour of duty of not exceeding seventeen (17) days shall be subject to the provisions of Chapter 708 of the Acts of 1941 as amended, or of Chapter 805 of the Acts of 1950 as amended, or Chapter 671 of the Acts of 1966, and amendments thereto.

D. In accordance with Chapter 708 of the Acts of 1941, as amended, an employee who, on or after January 1, 1940, shall have tendered his/her resignation or otherwise terminated his/her service for the purpose of serving in the military or naval forces of the United States who does serve or was or shall be rejected for such service shall, except as otherwise provided by Chapter 708 of the Acts of 1941, as amended, be deemed to be or to have been on military leave, and no such person shall be deemed to have resigned from the service of the Commonwealth or to have terminated such service until the expiration of two (2) years from the termination of said military or naval service by him/her.

Section 8.7.1 Family Leave

During family leave taken in conjunction with the birth, adoption or placement of a child, an employee shall receive his/her salary for ten (10) days of said leave, at a time requested by the employee. The ten (10) days of paid family leave granted under this Section may be used on an intermittent basis over the twelve (12) months following the birth of adoption, except that this leave may not be charged in increments of less than one (1) day. For cases of foster placement, if the placement is less than 10 days, the number of paid days shall equal the number of work days that fall within the placement time period. In addition, if the employee has accrued sick leave, vacation leave or personal leave credits available, the employee may use such credits for which he/she may otherwise be eligible under the sick leave, personal leave, or vacation leave provisions of this Agreement. The ten (10) days of paid leave granted under this Section shall be prorated for regular part-time employees.

Section 8.7.2 Family and Medical Leave

A. Family Leave

1. An Appointing Authority shall grant to a full time or part time employee who has completed his/her probationary period, or if there is no such probationary period, has been employed for at least three consecutive months, an unpaid leave of absence for up to twenty-six (26) weeks in conjunction with the birth, adoption or placement of a child as long as the leave concludes within twelve (12) months following the birth or placement. The ability to take leave ceases when responsibility for a foster placement ceases.
2. New employees who have completed six full months of employment but remain within their probationary period may request the appointing authority to waive their remaining wait time for FMLA. Such request shall include submission of satisfactory medical evidence that demonstrates either a.) an existing catastrophic illness; or b.) a problematic pregnancy that prevents the employee from being able to perform the functions of her position. Any leave granted under this waiver will be charged against the employee's FMLA leave as described in this section. The remaining rights and obligations under Section 8 shall apply.
3. At least thirty (30) days in advance, the employee shall submit to the Appointing Authority a written notice of his/her intent to take such leave and the dates and expected duration of such leave. If thirty (30) days notice is not possible, the employee shall give notice as soon as practicable. The employee

shall provide upon request by the Appointing Authority proof of the birth or placement or adoption of a child.

4. If an employee has accrued sick leave, personal leave, compensatory leave, or vacation credits at the commencement of his/her family leave, the employee may use such leave credits for which s/he may be eligible under the sick leave, personal leave or vacation provisions of this Agreement. The Appointing Authority may, in his/her discretion, assign an employee to temporarily backfill for an employee who is on family leave. Such assignment may not be subject to the grievance procedure.
5. At the expiration of the family leave, the employee shall be returned to the same or equivalent position with the same status, pay and length of service credit as of the date of his/her leave. If during the period of the leave, employees in an equivalent position have been laid off through no fault of their own, the employee
will be extended the same rights or benefits, if any, extended to employees of equal length of service in the equivalent position in the department.
6. Employees taking an unpaid leave of absence under this provision will accrue sick and vacation leave benefits only for the first eight (8) weeks of such unpaid leave. Notwithstanding any other provision of the Agreement to the contrary, the family leave granted under this Article shall not affect the employee's right to receive any contractual benefits for which s/he was eligible at the time of his/her leave.
7. During the time an employee is on family leave, the employee shall be entitled to group health insurance coverage benefits on the same terms and conditions in effect at the time the leave began, provided the employee continues to pay the required employee share of premium while on leave. If the employee fails to return from leave, the Commonwealth may recover, as provided under FMLA, the cost it incurred in maintaining insurance coverage under its group health plan for the duration of the employee's leave.

B. Medical Leave

1. An Appointing Authority shall grant to any employee who has completed his/her probationary period or, if there is no probationary period, who has been employed at least three (3) consecutive months, an unpaid leave of absence for up to twenty-six (26) weeks to care for a spouse, child or parent who has a serious health condition or for a serious health condition which prevents the employee from being able to perform the functions of his/her position. For this leave under, under the Family and Medical Leave Act, 29 U.S.C. 26111 et seq., and accompanying regulations, 29 C.F.R. Part 825, the Employer will request medical certification at the time the employee gives notice of the need for the leave or within five business days thereafter, or in the case of the unforeseen leave, within five business days after the leave commences Said certification shall be in accordance with Section 1 (I) of this Article. Upon the submission of satisfactory medical evidence that demonstrates an existing catastrophic illness the Appointing Authority shall grant the employee, on a one-time basis, up to an additional twenty-six (26) weeks of non-intermittent FMLA leave.
2. New employees who have completed six full months of employment but remain

within their probationary period may request the appointing authority to waive their remaining wait time for FMLA. Such request shall include submission of satisfactory medical evidence that demonstrates either a.) an existing catastrophic illness; or b.) a problematic pregnancy that prevents the employee from being able to perform the functions of her position. Any leave granted under this waiver will be charged against the employee's FMLA leave as described in this section. The remaining rights and obligations under Section B shall apply.

3. At least thirty (30) days in advance, the employee shall submit a written notice of his/her intent to take such leave and the dates and expected duration of such leave. If thirty (30) days notice is not possible, the employee shall give notice as soon as practicable. The employee shall provide, upon request by the Appointing Authority, satisfactory medical evidence. Satisfactory medical evidence is defined under Section 1.K.2 of this Article. Under FMLA law, the Appointing Authority may obtain a second opinion at its own expense.

In the event there is a conflict between the second opinion and the original medical opinion, the Appointing Authority and the employee may resolve the conflict by obtaining the opinion of a third medical provider, who is approved jointly by the Appointing Authority and the employee, at the Appointing Authority's expense.

4. Intermittent leave usage and modified work schedules may be granted where a spouse, child or parent has a serious health condition and is dependent upon the employee for care, or for a serious health condition which prevents the employee from being able to perform the functions of his/her position.
 - a. Effective October 1, 2014 for new requests of intermittent FMLA and effective January 1, 2015 for employees currently on FMLA, Employees who provide satisfactory medical documentation to support an intermittent FMLA may utilize up to 60 days of their FMLA allotment provided for in Section 8 (B) (1) for intermittent absences.
 - b. Where intermittent or a modified work schedule is medically necessary, the employee and Appointing Authority shall attempt to work out a schedule which meets the employee's needs without unduly disrupting the operations of the workplace.
 - c. Such modified work schedules may include full time continuous leave, a change in job responsibilities, an alternative work option or a continuation of the intermittent leave beyond the sixty (60) days if operations allow provided the employee has not exhausted the 26 weeks of FMLA leave allowed within the previous 52 week period.
 - d. At the expiration of the intermittent medical leave, modified work schedule, or job assignment that was agreed upon, the employee shall be returned to the same or equivalent position with the same status, pay and length of service credit as of the date of his/her leave.
 - e. In the event that no alternative is agreed upon and if the employer

believes that operations are being unduly disrupted, the employer will give written notice to the Union and employee of the intent to terminate the intermittent leave.

- f. In such an event, no employee who then requests full time continuous leave and who is otherwise eligible shall be denied such leave as long as they provide medical documentation supporting an FMLA qualifying illness. Such leaves will be limited to the remainder of the 26 weeks of available FMLA leave and based upon their intermittent determination shall not be eligible for the Catastrophic leave extension.
 - g. The Appointing Authority shall maintain the ability to transfer an employee to an alternative position with no reduction of pay or benefits in order to avoid disruption of operations so as long as the transfer is reasonable and not meant to discourage the use of intermittent leave. Wherever practicable an employee who transfers pursuant to this paragraph shall be given 10 days' notice of such transfer.
 - h. In the event that the employer gives notice of its intent to terminate the intermittent leave, and the affected employee does not wish to access any remaining full-time leave benefits as described above, the Union may request expedited impartial review by an arbitrator to determine whether the Agency has made a reasonable attempt to accommodate the need of the employee's intermittent leave beyond the sixty (60) days and whether or not the leave unduly disrupts operations. Said review must be requested within 10 calendar days of the notification that the leave will be terminated. The status quo ante shall be preserved pending the decision of the arbitrator, unless the proceedings are unreasonably delayed due to the part of the Union or the Employee.
 - i. The parties shall meet upon execution of the agreement to establish the review/arbitration process noted above. Such proceedings shall be informal in accordance with the rules to be agreed upon by the parties. The parties shall develop a form to be used as notice to the Union and employee of the intent to terminate intermittent leave.
5. If the employee has accrued sick leave, personal leave, compensatory leave, or vacation leave credits at the commencement of his/her medical leave, that employee may use such leave credits for which s/he may be eligible under the sick leave, personal leave or vacation leave provisions of this Agreement.
6. At the expiration of the medical leave, the employee shall be returned to the same or equivalent position with the same status, pay and length of service credit as of the date of his/her leave. If during the period of the leave, employees in an equivalent position have been laid off through no fault of their own, the Employer will extend the same rights or benefits, if any, extended to employees of equal length of service in the equivalent position in the department.
7. Between periods of unpaid medical leave, where an employee returns to

the payroll for a period of less than two (2) weeks, when a holiday falls during that time, no holiday pay or compensatory time shall be granted for such holiday.

8. During the time an employee is on medical leave, the employee shall be entitled to group health insurance coverage benefits on the same terms and conditions in effect at the time the leave began, provided the employee continues to pay the required employee share of premium while on leave. If the employee fails to return from leave, the Commonwealth may recover the cost it incurred in maintaining insurance coverage under its group health plan for the duration of the employee's leave, in compliance with the requirements set forth under the FMLA and regulations thereunder.

Section 8.8 Non-FMLA Family Leave

A. Upon written application to the Appointing Authority, including a statement of any reasons, any employee who has completed his/her probationary period, or if there is no probationary period who has been employed at least three (3) consecutive months who has given at least two (2) weeks prior notice of his/her anticipated date of departure and who has given notice of his/her intention to return, may be granted non-FMLA family leave for a period not exceeding ten (10) weeks. Such leave shall be without pay or benefits for such period. The Appointing Authority may, in his/her discretion, assign an employee to back fill for an employee who is on non-FMLA family leave. Such assignment may not be subject to the grievance procedure.

The purpose for which an employee may submit his/her application for such unpaid leave shall be limited to the need to care for, or to make arrangements for care of grandparent, grandchild, sister or brother living in the same household, or child - whether or not the child (or children) is the natural, adoptive, foster, stepchild or child under legal guardianship of the employee.

B. Ten (10) days of non-FMLA family leave may be taken in not less than one (1) day increments. However, such leave requires the prior approval of the Appointing Authority or his/her designee.

C. If an employee has accrued sick leave, personal leave, compensatory leave, or vacation leave credits at the commencement of his/her non-FMLA family leave that employee may use such leave credits for which he/she may be eligible under the sick leave, personal leave, or vacation leave provisions of this Agreement.

D. Between periods of non-FMLA family leave, where an employee returns to the payroll for a period of less than two (2) weeks, when a holiday falls during that time, no holiday pay or compensatory time shall be granted for such holiday.

Section 8.9

For the purposes of ARTICLE 8-LEAVE, ARTICLE 9-VACATIONS, and ARTICLE 10-HOLIDAYS, the term "day" with respect to employees who work an irregular workday or whose regular workday is longer than the normal seven and one-half (7.5) or eight (8.0) hour workday shall mean seven and one-half (7.5) or eight (8.0) hours, whichever is appropriate, and for the purpose of ARTICLE 9-VACATIONS, the term "week" with respect to such employees shall mean thirty-seven and one-half (37.5) or forty (40) hours, whichever is appropriate.

For the purposes of ARTICLE 8-LEAVE, ARTICLE 9-VACATIONS, and ARTICLE 10-HOLIDAYS, all paid leave time shall be prorated for regular part-time employees.

Section 8.10 Educational Leave

Employees may be granted a paid leave of absence in accordance with the policies of the Employer for educational purposes to attend conferences, seminars, briefing sessions or other functions of a similar nature that are intended to improve or upgrade the individual's skill or professional ability. The employee shall not suffer any loss of seniority or benefits as a result of such leave.

Based on the operational needs of the department, Employees enrolled in a degree program may be granted an unpaid leave of absence(s) up to (12) twelve months for course work required by the program. The decision to approve or deny any request for a leave of absence shall not be subject to the grievance procedure as outlined in Article 23, and shall not be arbitrable.

Section 8.11 Authorized Leave of Absence Without Pay

The Department/Agency head, or his designee, may grant an employee a leave of absence or an extension of a leave of absence upon written request filed by the employee. The written request shall include a detailed statement of the reason for the requested leave and if the absence is caused by illness, shall be accompanied by substantiating proof of such illness. A copy of the approved written request shall be placed into the employee's personnel file.

No leave of absence for a period longer than three (3) months, except one granted because of illness as evidenced by the certificate of a physician and approved by the appointing authority, shall be granted pursuant to this section without the prior approval of the Appointing Authority.

If an employee shall fail to return to his/her position upon completion of the period for which a leave of absence has been granted, the appointing authority shall, within fourteen (14) days after the completion of such period, give notice that his/her employment is considered to be terminated.

Section 8.12 Domestic Violence/ Sexual Assault or Stalking Leave

An employee may use up to a maximum of fifteen (15) paid days per calendar year for the purpose of arranging for the care of him/herself, his/her spouse or his/her child(ren) or for attending to necessary legal proceedings or activities in instances where the employee, his/her spouse or his/her child(ren) is a victim of domestic abuse, domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking and where the employee is not the perpetrator. Said fifteen (15) paid days are in addition to any other paid leave, which the employee may accrue under the provisions of this Agreement.

If the employee has accrued sick leave, personal leave, compensatory leave or vacation leave credits at the completion of his/her domestic violence leave, that employee may use such leave credits for which he/she may be eligible under the sick leave, personal leave or vacation leave provisions of this Agreement.

Section 8.13 Paid Family Medical Leave (PFML)

Leave granted under the Paid Family Medical Leave Act, M.G.L. c. 175M, which does not otherwise qualify for leave under the FMLA or this Article, shall be used concurrently with the leave granted by this section, to the extent that such leave exceeds the twelve (12) weeks of leave granted by the Federal Law/FMLA.

**ARTICLE 9
VACATIONS**

Section 9.1

The vacation year shall be the first full pay period in January through the last full pay period inclusive of December 31st of the same calendar year.

Section 9.2

A. Vacation leave with pay shall be credited to full-time employees employed by the Commonwealth at the end of each pay period as follows:

<u>Total Years of Service</u>	<u>Scheduled Hours Bi-Weekly</u>	<u>Accrued Credit Bi-Weekly</u>
Less than 4.5 years	75.0	2.88465 hours
	80.0	3.07696 hours
4.5 years but less than 9.5 years	75.0	4.326975 hours
	80.0	4.61544 hours
9.5 years but less than 19.5 years	75.0	5.7693 hours
	80.0	6.15392 hours
19.5 years or more	75.0	7.21155 hours
	80.0	7.69232 hours

B. For determining vacation status under this Article, total years of service shall be used.

All service beginning on the first working day in the state agency where rendered, and all service thereafter is considered towards “total years of service” provided there has not been any break of three years or more in such service as referred to in Section 12 of this Article. Employees whose service commences during the middle of a bi-weekly pay period shall have vacation leave credits prorated accordingly.

C. Employees hired on or after January 1, 2019 with at least 4.5 years of relevant work experience at the time of hire, shall begin to accrue vacation credits at the rate of 4.326975 hours (75/biweekly) or 4.61544 hours (80/biweekly). An employee’s relevant work experience will be determined by the Appointing Authority’s analysis of said employee’s prior work history. Said employees will remain at this rate until they reach 9.5 years of creditable service with the Commonwealth.

The Appointing Authority shall notify new employees in writing at the time of hire that they may request credit for prior relevant work experience. Employees shall have six months from the date of notification to file a request for such credit. If the employee fails to file a request within the allotted six months, he/she shall be eligible to receive enhanced vacation accrual on a prospective basis.

- See attached Vacation MOU Regarding Current Employees

Section 9.3

A full-time employee on leave without pay and/or absent without pay during the pay period shall earn vacation leave credits based on the hours paid within the bi-weekly pay period.

Section 9.4

Employees will be credited with the next higher level accrual status during the pay period that includes July 1 of the fiscal year that the employee reaches the higher accrual status.

Section 9.5

A regular part-time employee shall accumulate vacation leave in the same proportion that his/her part-time service bears to full-time service.

Section 9.6

A regular part-time employee on leave without pay and/or absent without pay during the pay period shall earn vacation leave credits based on the hours paid within the bi-weekly pay period.

Section 9.7

An employee who is reinstated or re-employed after less than three (3) years shall have his/her prior service included in determining his/her continuous service for vacation purposes.

Section 9.8

The Appointing Authority shall grant vacation leave in the vacation year in which it becomes available, unless in his/her opinion it is impossible or impracticable to do so because of work schedules or emergencies. In cases where the vacation requests by employees in the same title conflict, preference, subject to the operational needs of the Department/Agency, shall be given to employees on the basis of years of employment with the Commonwealth.

Unused vacation leave earned during the previous two (2) vacation years can be carried over to the new calendar year beginning with the first full pay period in January for use during the following vacation year. Annual earned vacation leave credit not used by the last full pay period inclusive of December 31 of the second year it was earned will be forfeited.

The department head is charged with the responsibility of seeing that vacation is taken in order that the employee does not lose vacation credits. Each employee shall receive annually, on or before October 1, as of September 1, a preliminary statement of the available vacation credits from the local office. A central office statement shall be forthcoming to each work location by October 31 for dissemination to each employee.

The parties recognize the need to ensure the granting of personal leave, vacation, holiday and compensatory time when it is requested and as it becomes available. Towards this end the department heads and union representatives at each work location shall work out procedures for implementing this policy of granting time off.

Section 9.9

Absences on account of sickness in excess of the authorized sick leave provided in the Agreement (or for personal reasons not provided for under said sick leave provisions), may be charged to vacation leave upon request of the employee and subsequent approval by the Appointing Authority.

Section 9.10

Employee's vacation leave balances shall be charged on an hour-for-hour basis; e.g., one hour charged for one hour used. Charges to vacation leave may be allowed in units of not less than fifteen minute increments.

Section 9.11

Employees who are eligible for vacation under this Article whose services are terminated shall be paid an amount equal to the vacation leave which has been credited but not used by the

employee up to the time of separation, provided that no monetary or other allowance has already been made therefor.

Upon the death of an employee who is eligible for vacation credit under this Agreement, the Chief Human Resources Officer may, upon request of the Appointing Authority of the deceased person, authorize the payment of such compensation in the following order of precedence:

First: To the surviving beneficiary or beneficiaries, if any, lawfully designated by the employee under the state employees' retirement system, and

Second: If there be no such designated beneficiary, to the estate of the deceased.

Section 9.12

Employees who are reinstated or who are re-employed shall be entitled to their vacation status at the termination of their previous service and allowed such proportion of their vacation under Section 2 of this Article. No credit for previous service may be allowed where reinstatement occurs after an absence of three years unless approval of the Chief Human Resources Officer is secured for any of the following reasons:

1. Illness of the employee;
2. Dismissal through no fault or delinquency attributable solely to the employee; or
3. Injury while in the service of the Commonwealth in line of his/her duties and for which the employee would be entitled to receive Workers' Compensation benefits.

Section 9.13

Vacation credits shall accrue to an employee while on a leave with pay status or on industrial accident leave.

Section 9.14

Vacation leave earned following a return to duty after leave without pay or absence without pay shall not be applied against such leave or absence.

Section 9.15

If an employee is on industrial accident leave and has available vacation credits which have not been used, and who, because of the provision of Section 8 of this Article would lose such vacation credits, the Appointing Authority of such employee shall convert such vacation credits to sick leave credits in the new calendar year beginning with the first full pay period in January.

Section 9.16

For the purposes of ARTICLE 8-LEAVE, ARTICLE 9-VACATIONS, and ARTICLE 10-HOLIDAYS, the term "day" with respect to employees who work an irregular workday or whose regular workday is longer than the normal seven and one-half (7.5) or eight (8.0) hour workday shall mean seven and one-half (7.5) or eight (8.0) hours, whichever is appropriate, and for the purpose of ARTICLE 9-VACATIONS, the term "week" with respect to such employees shall mean thirty-seven and one-half (37.5) or forty (40) hours, whichever is appropriate.

For the purposes of ARTICLE 8-LEAVE, ARTICLE 9-VACATIONS, and ARTICLE 10-

HOLIDAYS, all paid leave time shall be prorated for regular part-time employees.

Section 9.17

Employees shall be entitled to vacation status and credits from prior governmental employer in the same manner as is currently provided for bargaining unit employees under the HRD's Guidelines for Transfer of Benefits.

ARTICLE 10 HOLIDAYS

Section 10.1

The following days shall be holidays for employees:

New Year's Day
Martin Luther King Day
Washington's Birthday
Patriot's Day
Memorial Day
Juneteenth National Independence Day
Independence Day
Labor Day
Columbus Day
Veteran's Day
Thanksgiving Day
Christmas Day

Section 10.2

All holidays shall be observed on the Commonwealth's legal holiday unless an alternative day is designated by the Employer.

Section 10.3

When a holiday occurs on the regular scheduled workday of a full-time employee, he/she, if not required to work that day, shall be entitled to receive his/her regular day's pay for such holiday.

An employee required to work on a holiday shall receive compensatory day off with pay within sixty (60) days following the holiday to be taken at a time approved by the agency head or if a compensatory day cannot be granted by the Agency/Department because of a shortage of personnel or other reason, then he/she shall be entitled to pay for one day at his/her regular rate of pay in addition to pay for the holiday worked.

Section 10.4

When a holiday occurs on a day that is not an employee's regular workday, he/she, at the option of the Employer shall receive pay for one day at his/her regular rate or one compensatory day off with pay within sixty (60) days following the holiday to be taken at a time approved by the agency head.

Section 10.5

Effective January 1, 2008, notwithstanding any other contract provisions, an employee who is required to work his/her regular shift on a holiday (and the employee was otherwise not scheduled to work said holiday), shall be entitled to elect, for the first five times per calendar year that such occurs, to receive either: (a) one day's pay in addition to regular pay for compensation for working on the holiday; or (b) a compensatory day off with pay within sixty days following the holiday to be taken at a time requested by the employee and approved by the agency head or if a compensatory day cannot be granted by the agency/department because of a shortage of personnel or other reasons then he/she shall be entitled to pay for one day at his/her regular rate of pay in addition to pay for the holiday worked. Once five such occasions per calendar year have passed the employee shall then receive a compensatory day off with pay within sixty days following the holiday to be taken at a time requested by the employee and approved by the agency head or if a compensatory day cannot be granted by the

agency/department because of a shortage of personnel or other reasons then he/she shall be entitled to pay for one day at his/her regular rate of pay in addition to pay for the holiday worked.

Section 10.6

A. A part-time employee shall earn pay for a holiday or compensatory time in the same proportion that his/her part-time service bears to full-time service.

B. A part-time employee who is scheduled but not required to work on a holiday, who receives less holiday credit than the number of hours he/she is regularly scheduled to work, may use other available leave time, or upon the request of the employee and approval by the Appointing Authority, subject to operational needs, may make up the difference in hours that same workweek. The scheduling of these hours will be at a time requested by the employee and approved by the Appointing Authority, subject to operational needs.

Section 10.7

A. An employee who is on leave without pay or absent without pay for that part of his/her scheduled workday immediately preceding or immediately following a holiday that occurs on a regularly scheduled workday for which the employee is not required to work shall not receive holiday pay for that holiday.

B. The above procedure may be waived by the Employer if an employee is tardy due to severe weather conditions or if an employee is tardy for not more than two (2) hours due to events beyond the control of the employee. Denial of said waiver by the employee may be appealed up to Step III of the grievance procedure if the Union feels that said denial was arbitrary or capricious.

Section 10.8

An employee who is granted sick leave for a holiday or part of a holiday on which she/he is scheduled to work shall not receive holiday pay or a compensatory day off for that portion of the holiday not worked.

Section 10.9

For the purposes of ARTICLE 8-LEAVE, ARTICLE 9-VACATIONS, and ARTICLE 10-HOLIDAYS, the term "day" with respect to employees who work an irregular workday or whose regular workday is longer than the normal seven and one-half (7.5) or eight (8.0) hour workday shall mean seven and one-half (7.5) or eight (8.0) hours, whichever is appropriate, and for the purpose of ARTICLE 9-VACATIONS, the term "week" with respect to such employees shall mean thirty-seven and one-half (37.5) or forty (40) hours, whichever is appropriate.

For the purposes of ARTICLE 8-LEAVE, ARTICLE 9-VACATIONS, and ARTICLE 10-HOLIDAYS, all paid leave time shall be prorated for regular part-time employees.

ARTICLE 11
EMPLOYEE EXPENSES

Section 11.1

A. When an employee is authorized to use his/her personal automobile for travel related to his/her employment he/she shall be reimbursed at the rate of forty (.40) cents per mile.

Mileage shall be determined by the odometer reading of the motor vehicle, but may be subject to review for reasonableness by the Appointing Authority who shall use a Web-based service as a guide.

Effective July 10, 2005, employees shall be reimbursed for reasonable associated costs for parking and tolls for authorized travel.

B. An employee who travels from his/her home to a temporary assignment rather than to his/her regularly assigned office, shall be allowed transportation expenses for the distance between his/her home and his/her temporary assignment or between his/her regularly assigned office and his/her temporary assignment, whichever is less.

C. Employees shall not be reimbursed for commuting between their home and office or other regular work location. With the approval of the Chief Human Resources Officer, an employee's home may be designated as his/her regular office by his/her Appointing Authority, for the purposes of allowed transportation expenses in cases where the employee has no regular office or other regular work location.

Section 11.2

A. An employee who is assigned to duty that requires him/her to be absent from his/her home for more than twenty-four hours shall be reimbursed for reasonable charges for lodging including reasonable tips and for meal expenses, including tips, not to exceed the following amounts:

<u>Meals</u>	<u>Maximum Allowance</u>	<u>Applicable Period</u>
Breakfast	\$3.75	3:01 to 9:00 A.M.
Lunch	\$6.50	9:01 to 3:00 P.M.
Supper	\$9.50	3:01 to 9:00 P.M.

B. On the first day of assignment to duty in excess of twenty-four (24) hours, employees shall not be reimbursed for breakfast if such assignment commences after six (6:00) a.m., for lunch if such assignment ends before noon or for supper if such assignment ends before ten (10:00) p.m.

C. On the last day of assignment to duty in excess of twenty-four (24) hours, employees shall not be reimbursed for breakfast if such assignment ends before six (6:00) a.m., for lunch if such an assignment ends before noon or for supper if such assignment ends before six (6:00) p.m.

D. For travel of less than twenty-four (24) hours commencing two (2) hours or more before compensated time, employees shall be entitled to the above breakfast allowance. For travel of less than twenty-four (24) hours ending two (2) hours or more after compensated time, employees shall be entitled to the above supper allowance. Employees are not entitled to the above lunch allowance for travel of less than twenty-four (24) hours.

E. Employees who are required to travel out of state for assignments of more than twenty-four (24) hours in duration shall, in lieu of the meals reimbursement provided in paragraphs A through D of this Section, receive a payment of twenty-four dollars and fifty cents (\$24.50) for each whole day during which they are on such assignment. Said payment shall be prorated for each partial day during which said employees are on such assignment. For the purposes of this paragraph:

1. A whole day shall be a twenty-four (24) hour period commencing at midnight;

and
2. The duration of an out of state travel assignment shall begin upon the employee's departure from his/her home or work location directly to the destination of the travel assignment, and shall conclude with the employee's arrival at his/her home or work location directly from said travel assignment.

Section 11.3

Employees who work three (3) or more hours of authorized overtime, exclusive of meal times, in addition to their regular hours of employment, or employees who work three (3) or more hours, exclusive of meal times, on a day other than their regular work day, shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred for authorized meals, including tips, not to exceed the following amounts and in accordance with the following time periods:

Breakfast	3:01 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.	\$2.75
Lunch	9:01 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.	\$3.75
Dinner	3:01 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.	\$5.75
Midnight Snack	9:01 p.m. to 3:00 a.m.	\$2.75

Section 11.4

Every effort will be made to reimburse employees as soon as administratively possible provided that all requests for reimbursements are submitted to the employees' Appointing Authority within sixty (60) days from which the employee incurred such expense (follow agency policy for reimbursement at the end of the fiscal year). The parties understand that late submissions of expenses of more than 60 days can cause delays in reimbursement and have a negative impact on the agency budget; therefore the parties agree to encourage employees to submit the reimbursements within 60 days.

Section 11.5

A. Effective January 2016, any employee who is authorized to use his/her personal automobile for travel related to his/her employment shall be eligible for a car allowance. The allowance shall be paid quarterly to such employees for mileage incurred while operating their private vehicle in the course of official Commonwealth business according to the following formula:

1. Employees who drive 2,000 or more miles in any quarter shall be eligible for a quarterly reimbursement of one hundred and twenty-eight dollars (\$128.00).
2. Employees who drive at least 1,000 but fewer than 2,000 miles in any quarter shall be eligible for a quarterly reimbursement of eighty-five dollars (\$85.00).

3. Employees who drive at least 700 but fewer than 1,000 miles in any quarter shall be eligible for a quarterly reimbursement of forty-three dollars (\$43.00).
4. Employees who drive 500 but fewer than 700 miles in any quarter shall be eligible for a quarterly reimbursement of thirty-one dollars (\$31.00).
5. Employees who drive at least 300 but fewer than 500 miles in any quarter shall be eligible for a quarterly reimbursement of twenty-four dollars (\$24.00).

B. Effective January 2017, the quarterly reimbursement will be increased to the amounts noted below, any employee who is authorized to use his/her personal automobile for travel related to his/her employment shall be eligible for a car allowance. The allowance shall be paid quarterly to such employees for mileage incurred while operating their private vehicle in the course of official Commonwealth business according to the following formula:

1. Employees who drive 2,000 or more miles in any quarter shall be eligible for a quarterly reimbursement of two hundred and fifty-six dollars (\$256.00).
2. Employees who drive at least 1,000 but fewer than 2,000 miles in any quarter shall be eligible for a quarterly reimbursement of one hundred and seventy-one dollars (\$171.00).
3. Employees who drive at least 700 but fewer than 1,000 miles in any quarter shall be eligible for a quarterly reimbursement of eighty-six dollars (\$86.00).
4. Employees who drive 500 but fewer than 700 miles in any quarter shall be eligible for a quarterly reimbursement of sixty-two dollars (\$62.00).
5. Employees who drive at least 300 but fewer than 500 miles in any quarter shall be eligible for a quarterly reimbursement of forty-nine dollars (\$49.00).

ARTICLE 12 SALARY RATES

Section 12.1

The following shall apply to full-time employees including so called TPL A and B:

- A. Effective the first full pay period in July 2020, employees who meet the eligibility criteria provided in Section 2 of this Article shall receive a two and one-half percent (2.5%) increase in salary rate.
- B. Effective the first full pay period in July, 2021, employees who meet the eligibility criteria provided in Section 2 of this Article shall receive a two percent (2%) increase in salary rate.
- C. Effective the first pay period in July, 2022, employees who meet the eligibility criteria in Section 2 of this Article shall receive a two percent (2%) increase in salary rate.
- D. All employees who are currently active upon the date of signing of this MOU, will receive a one-time COVID Recognition Payment of one and one-half percent (1.5%) of their base salary. (A minimum amount of \$1,000 shall be set for the one-time payment.)

Section 12.2

Employees who receive a "Below" rating on their annual EPRS evaluation shall not be eligible to receive the salary increases provided in Section 1 of this Article, nor any step increases. Employees who receive a "Below" rating will have their performance reviewed on a monthly basis in accordance with Article 24A of this Agreement and will become eligible for the salary and step rate increase previously denied effective upon the date of receiving a "Meets" or "Exceeds" rating.

Section 12.3

The salary rate for new employees hired, reinstated or re-employed on or after July 1, 1990 shall be Step 1 for the job group of his/her position except in cases where a new employee is hired by a Department/Agency at a salary rate, approved by the Chief Human Resources Officer, above Step 1.

Section 12.4

A. Under the terms of this Agreement, an employee shall advance to the next higher salary step in his/her job group until the maximum salary rate is reached, unless he/she is denied such step rate by his/her Appointing Authority. An employee shall progress from one step to the next higher step after each fifty-two (52) weeks of creditable service in a step commencing from the first day of the payroll period immediately following his/her anniversary date.

B. In the event an employee is denied a step rate increase by his/her Appointing Authority, he/she shall be given a written statement of reasons therefore not later than five (5) days preceding the date when the increase would otherwise have taken effect. Time off the payroll is not creditable service for the purpose of step rate increases, except in circumstances when an employee qualifies for Family and Medical Leave (FMLA), Paid Family Medical Leave (PFML), or any other unpaid leave taken pursuant to Article 8.

Section 12.5

Whenever an employee paid in accordance with the salary schedules provided in Appendix A of this Agreement receives a promotion to a higher job group, the employee's new salary rate shall be calculated as follows:

1. For employees who are below the maximum step within their current job:
 - a. Determine the employee's current salary rate and step within his/her current job group; then
 - b. Find the salary rate of the next higher step within the employee's current job group; and
 - c. Multiply the employee's current salary rate by one and three one-hundredths (1.03); then
 - d. Compare the higher of the resultant amounts from b) or c) above to the salary rates for the higher job group into which the employee is being promoted.
 - e. The employee's salary rate shall be the first rate in the higher job group that at least equals the higher of the resultant amounts from d) above.
 - f. In the event the application of the above formula results in a salary that is less than the amount the employee would receive had he/she been promoted to the next lower grade, the employee's salary upon promotion shall be increased to the next higher step in the grade the employee is being promoted into.
2. For employees who are at the maximum step within their current job:
 - a. Determine the employee's current salary rate and step within his/her current job group; then,
 - b. Multiply the employee's current salary rate by one and three one-hundredths (1.03); then,
 - c. Compare the resultant amount from b) above to the salary rates for the higher job group into which the employee is being promoted.
 - d. The employee's salary rate shall be the first rate in the higher job group that at least equals the resultant amount from c) above.

Section 12.6

A. Salary rates of full time employees are set forth in Appendix A of this Agreement, which is attached hereto and is hereby made a part of this Agreement.

B. The salary rates set forth in Appendix A shall remain in effect during the term of this agreement. Salary rates shall not be increased or decreased except in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement.

C. Employees shall be compensated on the basis of the salary rate for their official job

classification.

Section 12.7

A regular part-time employee shall be entitled to the provisions of this Article in the proportion that his/her service bears to full-time service.

Section 12.8

A. An employee entering a position within a bargaining unit covered by this Agreement from a position in an equivalent salary grade in a bargaining unit not covered by this Agreement shall be placed at the first step-in-grade up to the maximum of the grade, which at least equals the rate of compensation received immediately prior to his/her entry into the bargaining unit.

B Employees entering a position covered by this agreement from a position in a higher salary grade shall be placed at a step in grade within his/her new job grade based upon the employee's creditable years of service in the new job grade or higher job grade, provided that in no event shall the employee receive a salary higher than that received in the position held prior to being lowered in job group.

C. An employee who, as a result of a reduction in force, is demoted in grade shall have his/her salary calculated as step to step, unless the employee's years of creditable service in the job grade to which he or she is demoted or higher job grade equates to a higher step. For employees that were recruited into the higher job grade, professional recruitment/comparable service credit shall be counted as creditable service. No employee subject to this provision shall receive a salary in his/her lower grade or title that exceeds his/her salary prior to the demotion.

Section 12.9

Effective July 1, 1999, or on such a later date as may be determined by the Employer, all employees covered by the terms and conditions of this Collective Bargaining Agreement shall be paid on a bi-weekly basis.

Effective July 1, 1999, salary payments shall be electronically forwarded by the Employer directly to a bank account or accounts selected by the employee for receipt.

ARTICLE 13
GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE CONTRIBUTIONS

The Commonwealth and each covered employee shall pay the monthly premium rate for the Group Health Insurance Plan in a percentage amount determined by the General Court for the type of coverage that is provided for him/her and his/her dependents under the Plan.

ARTICLE 13A HEALTH AND WELFARE

Section 13A.1 Creation of Trust Agreement

The parties have agreed to establish a Health and Welfare Fund under an Agreement and Declaration of Trust drafted by the Employer and executed by the Union and the Employer. Such Agreement and Declaration of Trust (hereinafter referred to as the "trust agreement") provides for a Board of Trustees composed of an equal number of representatives of the Employer and the Union.

The Board of Trustees of the Health and Welfare Fund shall determine in their discretion and within the terms of this Agreement and the Agreement and Declaration of Trust such health and welfare, and educational assistance benefits to be extended by the Health and Welfare Fund to employees and/or their dependents.

Section 13A.2 Funding

A. Effective the first pay period in January 2017, the Employer agrees to contribute on behalf of each full-time employee equivalent the sum of \$17.00 per calendar week. The Board of Trustees shall continue to maintain the Day Care Assistance Program for the duration of this agreement.

B. The above contributions made by the Employer to the Health and Welfare Fund shall not be used for any purpose other than to (1) provide health and welfare benefits; (2) maintain a Dependent Care Assistance Pilot Program; and (3) to pay the operating and administrative expenses of the Fund. The contributions shall be made by the Employer in an aggregate sum within forty-five (45) days following the end of the calendar month during which contributions were collected.

C. Educational Assistance Benefit

Effective July 2017, the Employer agrees to combine the annual \$250,000 and annual \$500,000 contribution to the Educational Assistance benefit to a \$750,000 annual contribution effective July of each year.

Section 13A.3 Non-Grievable

No dispute over a claim for any benefits extended by this Health and Welfare Fund shall be subject to the grievance procedure established in any collective bargaining Agreement between the Employer and the Union.

Section 13A.4 Employer's Liability

It is expressly agreed and understood that the Employer does not accept, nor is the Employer to be charged hereby with, any responsibility in any manner connected with the determination of liability to any employee claiming under any of the benefits extended by the Health and Welfare Fund. The Employer's liability shall be limited to the contributions indicated under Section 2 above.

ARTICLE 13B
TUITION REMISSION

Full-time employees shall be eligible for tuition remission as follows: (For the UMass system, “tuition remission” is defined as the “student tuition credit”).

- A. For enrollment in any state-supported course or program at the undergraduate or graduate level at any Community College, State College or State University excluding the M. D. Program at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, full tuition remission shall apply;
- B. For enrollment in any non-state supported course or program offered through continuing education at any Community College, State College or State University, excluding the M. D. Program at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, fifty percent (50%) tuition remission shall apply;
- C. Remission benefit is subject to space available and usual and ordinary admission policies. It is also subject to the approval of the Board of Higher Education and the policies and procedures of same.
- D. A committee shall be established to evaluate the experience of this program and to consider possible extension of the program and to make recommendations concerning both.
- E. Spouses of full-time employees shall be eligible for the remission benefits contained in this Article and subject to the other provisions of this Article. It is understood that any program of spousal eligibility developed by the Board of Higher Education in conjunction with the Employer (HRD) will require the subordination of spousal eligibility rights to those remission benefit rights extended to full-time state employees in different bargaining units as well as full-time employees covered by the provisions of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 13C
DEPENDENT CARE

The Employer shall continue the voluntary Dependent Care Assistance Plan (DCAP), which complies with the requirement for federal tax deductibility.

ARTICLE 14 PROMOTIONS

Section 14.1

A promotion shall mean an advancement to a higher salary grade within the jurisdiction of the employee's Department/Agency except where there is more than one appointing authority in the Department/Agency a promotion shall mean an advancement to a higher salary grade within the jurisdiction of the employee's appointing authority. This Article is applicable to all promotions except those reasonably anticipated to be for less than one year and its application in all cases is restricted to employees who possess the educational, training, and/or experience requirements established by the Chief Human Resources Officer for appointment to the relevant position.

This Article shall apply when promoting full-time employees to positions other than positions to be filled by appointment from a civil service eligible list.

In the event that a Civil Service examination for a position has been administered but scores have not been announced, the Appointing Authority shall initially restrict eligibility for application for promotion to such position to those employees who have taken the examination. In the event that Civil Service has published an eligible list of those who passed a Civil Service examination for a position but has not certified said list, the Appointing Authority shall initially restrict eligibility for application for promotion to such position to those who passed said examination.

All vacancies, excluding those reasonably anticipated to be for less than one (1) year, shall be posted but will not limit the Employer from hiring from outside the Department/Agency after all applicants within the Appointing Authority have been considered. The Department/Agency may receive applications from persons outside the Department/Agency or bargaining unit. In the event a person is hired from outside the Department/Agency, or bargaining unit such action shall be subject to the grievance procedure through Step III as provided by Article 23 of the Agreement if the Union alleges such employee does not meet the minimum requirements for the vacancy as determined by the Chief Human Resources Officer.

When the Union files a grievance over the non-selection of an employee(s), the Union shall be limited to advancing to arbitration the grievance of one (1) non-selected employee per vacancy or file as a Class Action grievance. The Union shall identify such grievant in writing at the time of filing its demand for arbitration.

A. The following factors in priority order shall be used by the Appointing Authority or his designee in selecting the employee for a promotion:

1. Ability to do the job as determined by, but not limited to:
 - a. Experience and competence (job performance) in the same or related work
 - b. Education and training related to the vacant position
2. Seniority, as measured by length of service within the Appointing Authority
3. Work history

B. For promotions made pursuant to this article, the Appointing Authority shall consider applicants and post promotional opportunities, within the Appointing Authority's jurisdiction. Beginning in July 2015, as part of the promotion process, attempts will be made for interview panels to include one representative from outside the division when available and reasonable. The Employer shall notify all applicants in writing on the non-selection form provided herein and shall post the name of the person selected to fill the position.

C. The provisions of Section B and Section 2 of this Article shall apply to all Bargaining Unit 6 positions except approved managerial and confidential exclusions, disputed managerial and confidential exclusions and positions covered by the provisions of Chapter 14, Section 4 of the General Laws.

Section 14.2

A. Positions to be filled under the provisions of this Article shall be posted throughout the appropriate work unit(s) for ten (10) calendar days. In like manner the Employer shall post the name of the person selected to fill the position. The Union shall be furnished copies of all such positions. The Appointing Authority may reasonably determine the positions in which employees must be employed and/or the requisite experience the employees must possess in order to be eligible to apply for a given promotion. Employees on sick leave, vacation leave or authorized leave of absence for periods in excess of ten (10) calendar days, shall be mailed copies of those postings for which they are determined eligible to apply, provided the employee has requested in writing, for each period of absence in excess of ten (10) calendar days, that the Appointing Authority so furnish these postings.

Employees normally assigned to the field for periods in excess of ten (10) calendar days, who would therefore not have an opportunity to otherwise view a posting, shall also be mailed copies of those postings for which they are determined eligible to apply for provided the employee has requested in writing that the Appointing Authority so furnish those postings. The job postings shall include the job title, salary grade, eligibility requirements and other pertinent information.

B. An employee promoted in accordance with this Article whose performance is unsatisfactory may be returned to his/her previous job title under the jurisdiction of the Appointing Authority. If an employee's performance is determined to be unsatisfactory at any time during a probationary period of nine (9) months such determination shall not be subject to the grievance procedure.

C. If the employee so requests within two (2) weeks prior to the mid-point of the above designated probationary periods, his/her supervisor shall meet with the employee and a union representative to discuss the employee's performance in the position.

D. At any time prior to the mid-point of the above designated probationary periods, an employee may request to return to his/her former job title under the jurisdiction of the Appointing Authority and such request will be granted.

E. In the event an employee is returned to his/her former job title, the employee displaced by such return shall be returned to his/her former job title. Where more than one position in the back filled job title was filled pursuant to this Article, the employee last selected shall be the one displaced.

F. If an employee is returned to his/her former job title pursuant to the provision of Paragraph B of this Section, said employee will not be eligible for promotion pursuant to this Article for a period of one (1) year.

G. Notwithstanding the above paragraphs, employees may return to their former job titles under these provisions provided there is a position available under the jurisdiction of the Appointing Authority. In the event a position is not available under the jurisdiction of the Appointing Authority said employee shall be covered by the layoff and recall Articles of the Agreement.

H. All promotions made pursuant to this Article shall be temporary or provisional appointments at least until the completion of the probationary period. All vacancies resulting from an employee's promotion pursuant to this Article shall be filled temporarily or provisionally at least until the promoted employee has completed his/her probationary period.

I. It is not the intent of the Employer that the new salary plan specified in Article 12 discourage promotions from within the bargaining unit.

J. For the purposes of this article, NAGE employees promoted within the same agency into a NAGE Unit 1, 3, or 6 position will be subject to the promotional probationary period and rights associated, with such probationary period as defined in Article 14.

K. The Arbitrator shall not have the ability to select the successful candidate for the position. The limit on the remedial jurisdiction of the arbitrator shall not apply if the Appointing Authority re-selects the original successful candidate following an order to repost the position and the arbitrator finds a new violation of Article 14. If a redetermination of the selection process is ordered, it shall be limited to the original pool of applicants.

Section 14.3

An employee seeking a transfer to another work location with a change in duties shall submit a request for transfer to his/her Appointing Authority or his/her designee. Requests for a transfer shall be kept on file for a period of twelve (12) consecutive months from the date of submission by the employee seeking the transfer. Transfer requests not approved within this period must be resubmitted by the employee in order to remain active for consideration. Transfers shall be considered through an interview process, and where appropriate, implemented at the discretion of the Appointing Authority from those applicants who can adequately perform the duties of the position.

Selection between employees seeking a transfer without change in classification or a change in duties shall be made on the basis of seniority from among those employees considered by the Appointing Authority to be able to adequately perform the duties of the position.

ARTICLE 15 CONTRACTING OUT

Section 15.1

There shall be a Special Labor Management Committee to advise the Secretary of A & F on contracting out of personnel services. The Committee shall consist of two persons designated by the National President of the NAGE and two persons designated by the Chief Human Resources Officer. Said Committee shall develop and recommend to the Secretary of A & F procedures and criteria governing the purchase of contracted services by the Commonwealth where such services are of a type traditionally performed by bargaining unit employees.

Section 15.2

In the event that the NAGE desires to discuss the purchase of services which are the type currently being provided by employees within a department/agency covered by this agreement, the National President of the NAGE shall request in writing a meeting of the Special Labor Management Committee established in Section 1.

The Committee shall examine both the cost effectiveness of such contracts and their impact on the career development of NAGE members. In the event that the parties fail to reach an agreement in the Committee, the parties agree to submit the matter to an expedited fact-finding process.

Section 15.3

When a Department/Agency contracts out work which will result in the layoff of an employee who performs the function that is contracted out, the Union shall be notified and the Employer and the Union shall discuss the availability of similar positions within the Department/Agency for which the laid-off employee is determined to be qualified and the availability of any training programs which may be applicable to the employee. In reviewing these placement possibilities, every effort will be made to seek matches of worker skills and qualifications with available, comparable positions.

Section 15.4

In the case of 03 contracts with individuals, the Committee shall review them to determine whether the work to be performed is long term in nature, and whether it should more appropriately be performed by regular employees provided nothing in this Article shall limit the authority of the Secretary of A & F to promulgate rules and regulations covering contracting out of services pursuant to Chapter 29, Section 29A.

Section 15.5

The Employer shall notify employees in writing at their time of hire that they may request credit for prior service as a personal service contractor (03) or vendor employee (07). Employees shall have one (1) year from the date of notification to file a request for such credit. If the employee fails to file a request within the allotted one (1) year, they shall only be eligible to receive creditable service on a prospective basis.

ARTICLE 16
OUT OF TITLE WORK

Section 16.1 Work in a Lower Classification

While an employee is performing the duties of a position classified in a grade lower than that in which the employee performs his/her regular duties, he/she will be compensated at his/her regular rate of pay as if performing his/her regular duties. Such employee will be returned to his/her regular duties at the earliest possible date.

Section 16.2 Work in a Higher Classification

Any employee who is assigned by his/her supervisor to a vacant position in a higher grade for a period of more than thirty (30) days shall receive the salary rate for the higher position from the first day of the appointment, provided such assignment has the prior approval in writing of the Appointing Authority or his/her designee. The approval of the Appointing Authority or his/her designee shall take effect as of the first day of the assignment. Any assignment to a vacant position in a higher grade must be in writing to be valid.

Section 16.3 Overtime Compensation

A. An employee who performs work in a higher classification shall have overtime compensation computed at the first step rate of the higher classification, unless the employee's regular rate of compensation is higher, in which case the overtime compensation shall be computed at the employee's regular rate of compensation.

B. An employee who performs overtime work in a lower classification shall have overtime compensation computed at the employee's regular rate of compensation unless it is higher than the maximum of the grade in which overtime is rendered, in which case he/she shall be paid at the maximum rate for the grade in which service is rendered.

ARTICLE 17
CLASSIFICATION AND RE-CLASSIFICATION

Section 17.1 Class Specifications

The Human Resources Division shall determine:

- A. job titles;
- B. relationship of one classification to the others; and
- C. job specifications.

The Employer shall provide the Union with a copy of the class specification of each title covered by the Agreement for which such a specification exists.

Section 17.2 Employee Access

Each employee in the bargaining unit shall be provided with a copy of his/her class specification.

Section 17.3 Individual Appeal of Classification

Individual employees shall continue to have the same right to appeal the propriety of the classification of his/her position through the Chief Human Resources Officer or the Civil Service System which the individual employee enjoyed on June 30, 1976, and such appeal may not be the subject of a grievance or arbitration under Article 23 herein.

Section 17.4 Class Reallocations

Class reallocations may be requested by the Union and whenever they believe a reallocation is justified by the existence of an inequitable relationship between the positions covered by the reallocation request and other positions covered by this agreement. If the Employer agrees that such an inequity exists, the Employer and the Union agree to jointly petition the General Court to provide the necessary funding for such class reallocation. If, however, the parties are unable to reach agreement the matter shall not be subject to the grievance procedure.

Section 17.5

The Employer and the Union agree that the procedure provided in Section 17.4 shall be the sole procedure for class reallocations for all classes covered by this Agreement. No other class reallocations shall be granted under any other provisions of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 17A TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE

Section 17A.1 Introduction

A. The Commonwealth and the Union recognize that automation and technological change are fast becoming an integral part of work in many of the departments/agencies in the state. Both parties are aware of the enormous impact these changes will have and are having on employees and the way in which they perform work. The Employer and the Union are committed to making this transition to automation in as responsive a way as possible to both the human issues and the provision of services to the public.

The Commonwealth and the Union are committed to the concepts that technology was not intended to replace state employees: that the transition be orderly and comfortable to agencies and employees; that the Union provide input in developing implementation, health and safety guidelines; and that adequate and appropriate training be available to employees to provide for job protection and advancement or retraining.

B. The Employer will notify the Union at least ten (10) working days in advance of any proposed technological change, including the introduction of VDT's in the work place.

C. The Commonwealth and the Union further recognize that automation and technological change are integral components of the way all departments and agencies better meet the challenges of effectuating business practices which ensure that they more effectively and efficiently attain their missions.

The Commonwealth and the Union recognize that the Commonwealth's Human Resources/Compensation Management System (HR/CMS) is the most comprehensive review of business processes regarding payroll, personnel and other processes ever undertaken by the Commonwealth, replacing such current systems such as PMIS and CAPS.

Therefore, the Commonwealth and the Union agree that HR/CMS shall become the cornerstone of the Commonwealth's payroll and personnel system.

To ensure that any of the changes required by HR/CMS are introduced and implemented in the most effective manner, the Union agrees to support the Commonwealth's implementation and accepts such changes to business practices, procedures and functions as are necessary to achieve such implementation (e.g. the change from a weekly to bi-weekly payroll system). The Commonwealth and the Union will establish a Special Labor-Management Committee made up of an equal number of Union representatives and Management representatives. This committee shall be the sole forum for the parties to discuss any issues of impact to the bargaining unit arising from the implementation of HR/CMS.

Section 17A.2 Joint Committee on Technological Change and Automation

To ensure that the introduction and implementation of technological changes in the workplace occur in the most effective manner, a Joint Committee with equal representation from HRD and the Union be established. The purpose of the Joint Committee will include:

1. To review the impact of technological changes as soon as possible after the development of the implementation plan,
2. To meet and discuss the impact of the implementation plan on such issues as

wage and classification changes; career ladder realignment; methods of introduction of new equipment and operating procedures; ergonomic specification; health and safety issues; training and job redesign.

3. To develop and recommend specific training programs and/or procedures regarding use and operation of computer equipment.
4. To review specific problems as they arise.

Section 17A.3 Ergonomic Guidelines

A. The State guidelines on visual display terminals, CRT's and printers, originally issued in 1984 and periodically amended, shall be used as a reference for this Agreement, to be applied where practicable.

B. The Union will be notified in advance of any proposed changes in these guidelines.

Grievances alleging a violation of this section may be grieved through step III of the grievance procedures of Article 23, Section 2.

Section 17A.4 Classification

The parties agree that where jobs are significantly impacted by the introduction of technology/automation, these jobs will be subject to the appropriate review through the class reallocation appeals process designated in Article 17.4 of this Agreement. Where possible, new job classifications will be included in the bargaining unit.

Section 17A.5 Health and Safety

A subcommittee of the Joint Committee will be established to review and discuss health and safety guidelines.

A. Pregnant employees who work on VDT systems may request temporary reassignment within their job description or a comparable position, and be reassigned within two (2) weeks of notification, for the duration of the pregnancy. Such work assignment shall be determined by the Appointing Authority or his/her designee. This request must be made in writing to the Appointing Authority with verification from the employee's physician. While in such alternative assignments, the employee shall be paid at her regular rate of pay.

B. VDT operators shall not be required to perform continuous duties at the work screen for periods in excess of two (2) hours at a time. For each consecutive two (2) hour period worked at his/her station, the employee shall be entitled to be away from the screen for a continuous period of fifteen (15) minutes. Such period may consist of an alternative job assignment or any break or lunch period otherwise authorized by this Agreement.

C. Agencies will provide safety training on all equipment for all operators. Wherever, possible, VDT's will be fitted with proper equipment to prevent possible radiation hazards.

D. Agencies will make every effort to ensure safe equipment through regular monitoring and maintenance of equipment and will provide necessary materials for routine maintenance by operators.

Section 17A.6 Training

The Commonwealth and the Union recognize that the introduction of technological changes will require the need for employees to develop many different or new skills. To ensure that employees are adequately prepared to retain their current positions or to move into newly automated positions, the state is committed to providing training programs in the use of computer equipment as well as generic training for specific programs.

Section 17A.7 Technology Resources

The parties specifically agree that all hardware, software, databases, communication networks, peripherals, and all other electronic technology, whether networked or free-standing, is the property of the Commonwealth and is expected to be used only as it has in the past for official Commonwealth business. Use by employees of the Commonwealth's technological resources constitutes express consent for the Commonwealth and its Departments/Agencies to monitor and/or inspect any data, any electronic mail messages, and any web sites that they may access. The Commonwealth retains, and through its Departments/Agencies, may exercise the right to inspect any user's computer, any data contained in it, and any data sent or received by that computer.

Notwithstanding the above, under no circumstances will the following be considered valid business uses of the Commonwealth's technology:

- In furtherance of any illegal act, including violation of any criminal or civil laws or regulations, whether state or federal;
- For any political purpose;
- For any commercial purpose;
- To send threatening or harassing messages, whether sexual or otherwise;
- To access or share sexually explicit, obscene, or otherwise inappropriate materials;
- To infringe any intellectual property rights;
- To gain, or attempt to gain unauthorized access to any computer or network;
- For any use that causes interference with or disruption of network users and resources, including propagation of computer viruses or other harmful programs;
- To intercept communications intended for other persons;
- To distribute chain letters; or
- To access online gambling sites.

The parties agree that the foregoing list and policy is not all-inclusive and will meet as needed to make appropriate modifications thereto.

The Department/Agency will disseminate this Section to its employees on an annual basis as part of the employee's performance evaluation and afford said employees the opportunity to request clarification should it be necessary. The employee shall then sign an acknowledgment that he/she has received, read and understands this Section within ten (10) working days of receipt.

ARTICLE 18

LAYOFF - RECALL PROCEDURE

Section 18.1 Applicability

The provisions of this Article shall apply only to non-civil service employees and shall not apply to the separation from a position by reason of the certification of a civil service list by the Chief Human Resources Officer, provided, however, that the employee displaced by the use of the civil service list shall be the least senior person in the title in the work unit to which the civil service appointment or promotion is being made; and further provided that the person displaced shall have bumping rights if any as set forth in this Article.

Section 18.2 Definitions

As used in this Article seniority shall mean service rendered in the Department/Agency.

Section 18.3 Layoff/Notice to Union/Notice to Employee

In the event that Management becomes aware of an impending reduction in workforce it will make every effort to notify the Union at least ten (10) calendar days prior to the layoff.

Management will notify the affected employees in writing not less than five (5) working days in advance of the layoff date. Whenever practicable, affected employees will have four (4) working days to exercise their bumping rights.

Section 18.4 Displacement-Bumping Procedure

A. In the event there is a reduction in work force within a department/agency which will result in bumping and layoff, the Human Resources Division will encourage the department/agency to develop a Voluntary Layoff Incentive program for affected employees.

B. An employee whose position is being eliminated shall have the right to exercise his/her seniority by accepting a reassignment within the Department/Agency, to the position of the least senior employee in his/her job title for which the employee is qualified, in the same region or to any other region statewide, provided that the affected employee is less senior than the employee whose position is eliminated.

C. Alternatively, an employee whose position is being eliminated may elect to bump to a lower title in his/her job series, or to a title outside of the employee's job series in the next lower salary grade to the employee's current salary grade, for which the employee is qualified, within his/her region, provided that there are persons with less seniority in the lower title(s). This option is limited to the least senior employee in the affected title.

D. An employee electing to reassign/bump as set forth above, must upon request provide to the Appointing Authority an updated resume at the time of his/her notification of his/her intention to reassign/bump.

E. For the purpose of this Article the geographic regions shall be defined and agreed to by HRD, the Union President of the Local affected and the appropriate representative of the Department/Agency.

F. Employees who physically work in a particular region will be included in that region for bumping, layoff and recall regardless of the office to which their position is posted.

G. A full-time employee whose position has been eliminated has a right to be reassigned to the position of the least senior employee in the appropriate departmental unit, region, appointing authority or statewide.

H. If the position of the least senior employee is a part-time position, the full-time employee whose position has to be eliminated may elect to:

1. Accept the part-time hours;
2. Accept reassignment to the position of the least senior full-time employee; or
3. Be laid off.

I. The least senior full-time employee who is displaced as a result of the operation of Section G.2 above may: 1) Accept reassignment to the position of the least senior part-time employee in the same title provided the part-time employee is less senior, 2) be laid off, or 3) exercise bumping rights.

J. A part-time employee whose position is eliminated may accept reassignment to the position of the least senior employee in the appropriate departmental unit, region, Appointing Authority or statewide. The part-time employee unwilling or unable to accept the hours of the position of the least senior employee shall be laid off.

K. In all of the aforementioned personnel transactions in this Article, any employee who has been notified that he/she will actually be laid off shall file with his/her Appointing Authority, within four (4) working days of receipt of such notice, a written request to reassign in title, or bump down to displace other positions occupied by employees based upon their seniority and qualifications. As used in this Article, qualifications shall mean objectively demonstrable knowledge, skills, and/or abilities. Appeals of employees denied the opportunity to reassign/bump due to qualifications as defined herein shall be processed in accordance with provisions outlined in the parties' memorandum of understanding regarding expedited arbitration as set forth in Appendix D.

For purposes of this article, an employee shall be considered "qualified" if he/she has the education and experience to permit him/her to satisfactorily perform the essential functions of the job with 90 days or less of training, to be provided by the employer.

L. It is agreed that the provisions of this Article do not preclude an employee from requesting and the Appointing Authority from granting, a voluntary layoff regardless of the employee's seniority in the Department. It is understood that this option of voluntary layoff shall include, but is not limited to recall rights, and payment for all accrued vacation time.

Section 18.5 Transfers

A. Within the Department/Agency- the employee who is to be laid off shall have the opportunity to transfer laterally to a fillable, vacant bargaining unit title, within the jurisdiction of his/her present Appointing Authority, for which he/she is qualified.

B. Between Agencies - the employee who is to be laid off may file a request for transfer to any agency in state service. Upon approval of that agency, such employee may be appointed to any vacancy in the bargaining unit in the same grade and title or any similar title for which he/she might meet the necessary qualifications in the same or lower salary range as the position

from which he/she was laid-off. Seniority shall be the determining factor in the event one or more such employees are seeking the same position in another state agency.

Section 18.6

A. The Department/Agency shall maintain a regional recall roster from which laid-off employees will be recalled, to positions to be filled, in accordance with their seniority and in accordance with their qualifications to perform the work.

The parties agree that individual employees who are on the recall list shall be given the opportunity to indicate the work location(s)/Areas to which they would be willing to accept to recall. It is understood that such employee would only be offered recall positions to be filled within the work locations they have indicated a willingness to accept. Failure to return a geographic preference sheet will result in consideration to recall to any location in the Department. An employee may change their geographic preference by notifying the employer in writing prior to notification of an available position in that work location/area.

B. If the title of the employee is abolished as a result of the transfer of the functions to another department/agency, such employee may elect to have his/her name placed on the recall roster or to be transferred, subject to the approval of the Appointing Authority, to a similar position in such department/agency without loss of seniority, retirement, or other rights and in accordance with paragraph "A" above.

C. The Department/Agency shall appoint employees on the recall roster, prior to the appointment of any other applicant, to fillable vacant Bargaining Unit 6 positions for which the laid off employee is determined qualified by the Employer.

D. A laid off employee will remain on the recall roster for three (3) years except an employee who is offered recall to a position in the same job grade as the position from which he/she was laid off, and refuses such offer shall be removed from the recall list and his/her rights shall terminated at that time.

Employees recalled to employment shall not be subject to a new probationary period.

E. Notwithstanding the above, a laid off employee who fails to respond in writing to a notice of recall within seven (7) calendar days of the receipt of such offer or who upon acceptance of the recall offer fails to report to work on the appointed date, shall forfeit any further recall rights.

F. Notices of the recall sent by the Appointing Authority to a laid off employee and the employee's notice of acceptance, or rejection of said recall shall be sent by certified mail, return receipt requested.

G. Whereas the parties wish to ensure that the least senior employee is terminated first under the procedure for lay off and recall of non-civil service employees specified in Article 18, it is agreed as follows: the Employer shall appoint to a permanent non-civil service vacancy the temporary employee with the most seniority within the job title within the work unit.

H. The Commonwealth shall maintain the statewide recall roster.

Section 18.7

Employees who are separated from employment as the result of the implementation of the layoff /bumping procedures and who are subsequently recalled to employment shall for purposes of

determining their salary upon recall under Article 12, be credited with their prior service and shall not upon recall be considered to be "hired, reinstated or re-employed" notwithstanding the provisions of Article 12 to the contrary.

Section 18.8

In computing seniority as defined in this Article any break in service or any time off in excess of thirty (30) days shall be excluded from the total seniority except approved military, maternity, educational and industrial accident leave.

Section 18.9

The parties may, by agreement in writing, alter the implementation of this Article to meet the varying needs of the particular department/agencies.

ARTICLE 19 SAFETY AND HEALTH

Section 19.1

- A. The Employer agrees to provide a safe, clean wholesome surrounding in all places of employment.
- B. Each Department head shall issue instructions to all supervisory personnel to carry out the provisions of this Article.
- C. When an employee reports any condition which he/she believes to be injurious to his/her health to the administrative head of a work location, the administrative head shall correct the situation if within his/her authority, or shall report said complaint to his/her supervisor.
- D. A copy of the provisions of this Article shall be conspicuously posted in each work location.
- E. In all new places of employment, where the Union alleges that the air quality is inferior, the person in charge of the location will make reasonable efforts to have air quality checked. If the air quality is found to be sub-standard, the person in charge of the location shall make reasonable efforts to improve it.
- F. Whenever temperature inside any work location is unusually hot or cold, the person in charge of such work location shall immediately contact the person responsible for the building to determine the cause and probable length of time necessary to correct the problem.
- G. The Employer will make every reasonable effort to abate asbestos containing materials as recommended by the Division of Occupational Hygiene. Where such cleanup is not possible, the Employer will make every effort to avoid making work assignments, which will unduly expose employees to known hazardous materials.
- H. Pregnant employees who work in conditions/situations deemed hazardous or dangerous to the pregnancy by the attending physician may request a temporary reassignment within their job description or a comparable position, and may be reassigned within two (2) weeks of notification for the duration of the pregnancy. Upon request by management, the employee will provide medical evidence. Such work assignments shall be determined by the appointing authority or his/her designee. This request must be made in writing to the Appointing Authority.
- I. Grievances involving the interpretation or application of the provisions of this Article may be processed through Step III of the grievance procedure set forth in Article 23, but may not be the subject of arbitration.

Section 19.2

The Parties agree to establish a program to monitor air quality at new and existing worksites. The parties agree to negotiate over the specific provisions of such a protocol within 60 days.

Section 19.3

The parties agree to establish a safety and security committee to study all state buildings and leased property where state employees work. The mission of the study will be to establish more consistent safety and security policies to ensure the safety and security of all state employees at their work site and citizens of the Commonwealth that visit state agencies. In addition, the parties agree to establish a training program to promote the safety and security of all state employees that

may include, but shall not be limited to active shooter training, front line security, and reception practices and protocol for 911 emergencies.

ARTICLE 19A
MANAGEMENT DIRECTIVES

It is understood and agreed that Directives affecting working conditions of employees in the bargaining unit, will be forwarded to the Union in order for the Union to have the opportunity to meet and confer with management upon the impact of the directive.

ARTICLE 19B
TRAINING AND CAREER LADDERS

Section 19B.1 General

The Employer and the Union recognize the importance of training programs, the development of career ladders and of equitable employment opportunity structures and seek here to establish a process for generating such program recommendations and their implementation.

Section 19B.2 Committee

Toward these ends, the Employer and the Union agree to establish a Statewide Training and Career Ladders Committee consisting of four (4) persons appointed by the Union and four (4) persons appointed by the Chief Human Resources Officer. Such committee shall function continuously throughout the life of this Agreement.

Section 19B.3 Employee Training and Development Account

A. Effective January 15, 2015, \$300,000 annualized amount to be dedicated to the establishment and operation of an Employee Training and Development Account, to be administered by the Human Resources Division. The appropriation to this account is intended to be permanent in nature, and shall recur annually on January 1st of each contract year. The Commonwealth and the Union will work cooperatively in developing a governance structure to guide the manner and methodology through which these funds are disbursed. It is recognized that the parties share an interest in defraying the costs of professional and/or trades licenses and certifications borne by employees when such licenses or certifications are required for employment by the Commonwealth.

ARTICLE 20 REASSIGNMENTS

Section 20.1

Management may implement geographical reassignments in accordance with departmental needs.

Section 20.2

Prior to making an involuntary geographical reassignment (s), the Department/Agency shall solicit volunteer(s) from among eligible employees who perform the same or similar function(s). In the event that there are more volunteers than needed, employee(s) shall be selected on the basis of seniority. In the event that there are insufficient volunteers, the Employer will strive to provide fifteen (15) working days prior written notice of an involuntary reassignment but will provide no fewer than ten (10) working days prior notice, except in cases of emergencies. Involuntary reassignments shall be based on inverse seniority from among eligible employees. An employee reassigned involuntarily under this Section shall have the right to request to return to their previous position in the event of a vacancy occurring at their previous geographical location within 12 months of reassignment. To return to their previous position the employee shall make a request in writing at the time of reassignment. Such request shall be considered prior to transfer requests made pursuant to Article 14 Sec. 3.

Section 20.3

Reassignments shall not be implemented for disciplinary reasons that are arbitrary and/or capricious.

ARTICLE 21
CREDIT UNION DEDUCTION

The Commonwealth agrees to deduct from the regular salary payments (not a draw) of employees an amount of money, upon receipt of the employee's written authorization for the deduction for the purchase of shares in, making deposits to, or repaying a loan to a credit union organized under appropriate provisions of the Massachusetts General Laws. Any written authorization may be withdrawn by the employee by submitting a written notice of withdrawal to the Commonwealth and the treasurer of the credit union thirty (30) days in advance of the desired cessation of payroll deduction.

ARTICLE 22
ARBITRATION OF DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Section 22.1

No employee who has been employed in the bargaining unit described in Article 1 of this Agreement for nine (9) consecutive months or more shall be discharged, suspended, or demoted for disciplinary reasons without just cause. An employee who severs his/her employment with an Agency must serve an additional probationary period upon re-employment whether in the same or a different job title or the same or different agency. Upon issuance of discipline, including demotion, suspension, or termination, the Employer will carbon copy written notification sent to the employee to the Union.

Section 22.2

In the event that an employee is not given a departmental hearing prior to the imposition of discipline or discharge, then a grievance alleging a violation of Section 1 of this Article shall be submitted in writing by the aggrieved employee to his/her agency head within ten (10) working days of the date such action was taken.

Section 22.3

A. In the event that an employee is given a departmental hearing prior to the imposition of discipline or discharge, a grievance alleging a violation of Section 1 of this Article shall be submitted in writing by the aggrieved employee to his/her agency head within ten (10) working days of the date such action was taken. Upon receipt of the grievance at Step II, the Appointing Authority shall review the actions taken at the lower level and shall either:

1. Hold a full conference at Step II and the provisions of "Article 23 – Grievance Procedure" shall apply, or,
2. Issue a written decision to waive the grievance to Step III and the provisions of "Article 23 - Grievance Procedure" shall apply.

B. In those agencies where the Step I and Step II authorities are the same and where a grievance has initially been filed at either Step I or Step II, pursuant to this Article, grievances filed under this Section shall be submitted to Step III.

Section 22.4

If an employee files a charge of discrimination covered by Article 6 with a state or federal agency or state or federal court arising from termination of employment, the Commonwealth and the Union agree that the union waives its right to arbitrate any grievance based on a claim of a violation of Article 6 relating to the same claim of discrimination. If the employee withdraws his or her charge with prejudice, other than in the case of a mutually agreeable settlement, the grievance shall be arbitrable if otherwise timely and appropriate. This waiver provision shall not apply to claims filed pursuant to MGL c. 150E or claims relating to the FMLA.

As a condition precedent to submitting a grievance alleging a violation of Section 1 of Article 22, the Union and the employee involved shall sign and give to the Employer, on a form agreed and incorporated as Appendix B, a waiver of any and all rights to appeal the disciplinary action to the Civil Service Commission. The waiver shall include a declaration that no disciplinary review has been commenced at the Civil Service Commission.

Section 22.5

A. Should the Union submit a grievance alleging a violation of Section 1 to arbitration pursuant to Article 23 the arbitration shall be conducted on an expedited basis.

B. An employee and/or the Union shall not have the right to grieve, pursuant to Articles 22 or 23, disciplinary action taken as a result of the employee engaging in a strike, work stoppage, slowdown or withholding of services unless the Union alleges that the employee did not engage in such conduct.

ARTICLE 23
GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

Section 23.1

The term "grievance" shall mean any dispute concerning the application or interpretation of the terms of this Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Section 23.2

The grievance procedure shall be as follows:

Step I

An employee and/or the Union shall submit a grievance in writing, on the grievance form prepared by the Employer (Appendix C) to the person designated by the agency head for such purpose not later than twenty-one (21) calendar days after the date on which the alleged act or omission giving rise to the grievance occurred or after the date on which there was a reasonable basis for knowledge of the occurrence. Such grievance shall identify the Article(s) believed to have been violated, state how and when the Article(s) was violated and state the remedy sought. The person so designated by the agency head shall reply in writing by the end of ten (10) calendar days following the date of submission, or if a meeting is held to review the grievance by the end of twenty-one (21) calendar days following the date of the submission. A meeting will be held upon request by either party or the matter will be waived to step II.

Step II

In the event the employee or the Union wishes to appeal an unsatisfactory decision at Step I, the appeal shall be presented in writing, on the grievance form prepared by the Employer to the person designated by the agency head for such purpose within ten (10) calendar days following the receipt of the Step I decision. Such grievance shall identify the Article(s) believed to have been violated, state how and when the Article(s) was violated and state the remedy sought.

The agency head or his/her designee shall issue a written reply by the end of the thirty (30) calendar days following the day on which the appeal was filed or if a conference is held by the end of the twenty-one (21) calendar days following the close of conference. A conference will be held upon request by either party. The Agency Head's designee at Step II shall have the authority to sustain, vacate or modify a decision or action taken at the lower level.

Disciplinary grievances filed at Step II or Step III of the grievance procedure, must also contain the "Waiver of Right to Appeal Disciplinary Action" form (as outlined in Article 22). Grievances not containing the signed waiver by the date of the scheduled conference or the rendering of a decision shall be considered denied.

In disciplinary matters for which the agency head or his/her designee issues a decision to waive the grievance to Step III as described in Article 22, Section 3, such written decision shall be issued within ten (10) calendar days following the day on which the appeal is filed at Step II. In such instances, the agency head or his/her designee shall forward a copy of the decision to waive the grievance to Step III, along with a copy of the disciplinary notice and the documentation presented by both parties at the pre-disciplinary hearing, to the Human Resources Division.

Step III In the event the employee or the Union wishes to appeal an unsatisfactory decision at Step II, the appeal must be presented, on the grievance form included in Appendix E of this Agreement, to HRD within ten (10) calendar days of the receipt of the unsatisfactory decision at Step II and notice shall be given to the agency involved. Such grievance shall identify the Article(s) believed to have been violated, state how and when the Article(s) was violated and state the remedy sought. HRD shall issue a written reply by the end of the thirty (30) calendar days following the day on which the appeal was filed or if a conference is held by the end of the twenty-one (21) calendar days following the close of the conference. HRD, at Step III, shall have the authority to sustain, vacate or modify a decision or action taken at the lower level.

Step IV Grievances unresolved at Step III may be brought to arbitration solely by the Union by filing a completed Request for Arbitration form with the Human Resources Division. Such form must be filed within thirty (30) calendar days of the receipt of an unsatisfactory Step III response. Simultaneous notice shall be given to the agency involved.

Section 23.3

The parties agree to explore Alternative Dispute Resolution options throughout the grievance procedure to the extent outlined in Section 15 of this Article.

Section 23.4

Once arbitration has been requested by the Union a hearing shall be held no later than twelve (12) months from such request. If a hearing is not held within the twelve (12) months period due to inaction of the Union, the grievance is thereby withdrawn with prejudice but without precedence.

Section 23.5

The parties will attempt to agree on an Arbitrator on a case-by-case basis. Failing such agreement within thirty (30) days of HRD's receipt of the Request for Arbitration, if HRD has not proposed to the Union a list of arbitrators acceptable to HRD or if there has been no agreement on an arbitrator the Employer or the Union may file said Request for Arbitration with the American Arbitration Association under its Voluntary Labor Arbitration Rules.

Section 23.6

The arbitrator shall have no power to add to, subtract from or modify any provision of this Agreement or to issue any decision or award inconsistent with applicable law. The decision or award of the arbitrator shall be final and binding in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 150C. Arbitrators will issue a decision within 30 days of receipt of the parties post-hearing brief or oral argument.

Section 23.7

All fees and expenses of the arbitrator, if any, which may be involved in the arbitration proceeding shall be divided equally between the Union and HRD. Each party shall bear the cost of preparing and presenting its own case except in the case of an untimely cancellation by either of the parties; then such expense shall be borne solely by the party at fault.

Section 23.8

If a decision satisfactory to the Union at any level of the grievance procedure other than Step IV is not implemented within a reasonable time, the Union may re-institute the original grievance at the next step of the grievance procedure. A resolution of a grievance at either Step I or II shall not constitute a precedent.

Section 23.9

If the Employer exceeds any time limit prescribed at any step in the grievance procedure, the grievant and/or the Union may assume that the grievance is denied and invoke the next step of the procedure, except, however, that only the Union may request impartial arbitration under Step IV. However, no deadline shall be binding on the grievant and/or the Union until a required response is given.

Section 23.10

In any disciplinary matter, once a conference has been held at either Steps II or III, or in any non-disciplinary matter, once a conference has been held at Steps I, II or III, neither party shall substantively change, modify or expand the charges, arguments, witness list or written documentation presented at that previous conference at the next step of the grievance procedure without endeavoring to give notification to the other party prior to the next scheduled conference or arbitration.

Section 23.11

Any step or steps in the grievance procedure, as well as time limits prescribed at each step of this grievance procedure, may be waived by mutual agreement of the parties in writing.

Section 23.12

Each Department/Agency head shall designate a person(s) to whom grievances may be submitted at Step I and/or Step II.

Section 23.13

The union steward at Step I and the Union Representative at Step II, whichever is appropriate, shall be notified of grievances filed by an employee on his/her own behalf and shall have the opportunity to be present at grievance meetings between the employee and the Employer held in accordance with the grievance procedure.

Section 23.14

It is agreed that grievances may be filed by the Union electronically, either by facsimile or by email as a scanned document.

Section 23.15

A. A sub-committee of the Commonwealth's Joint Labor-Management Committee, consisting of four (4) people designated by the NAGE and four (4) people designated by the Commonwealth, shall meet and develop mutually agreed upon policies and implementation procedures for an Alternative Dispute Resolution Program which may include an option for mediation or a binding tri-partite panel at the Step III grievance level.

B. Furthermore, the committee shall meet bi-monthly to review the Commonwealth's grievance procedure, review training needs related to the grievance procedure and to review individual labor-management proposals jointly submitted by the agency and union representatives regarding alternative dispute resolution pilot programs, training needs and possible improvements to the efficiency of the grievance procedure.

C. At, or following, the Step III stage of the grievance procedure and in certain designated agencies, Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) pilot programs shall be developed with a goal for initial implementation within six (6) months from the signing of the agreement. ADR programs may include, but shall not be limited to, mediation, an oral Step I grievance and review conferences.

Section 23.16 Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Funding

The Commonwealth shall pay for all costs incurred in compensating neutrals under the alternative dispute resolution obligations of this Article and the side-letter between the parties dated September 25, 2001. The parties agree that this obligation shall extend to an average of one day per month for the life of this agreement.

ARTICLE 24 PERSONNEL RECORDS

Section 24.1

Each employee shall have the right, upon request, to examine and copy any and all material, including any and all evaluations, contained in any personnel records concerning such employee. The Union shall have access to an employee's records upon written authorization by the employee involved.

Section 24.2

Whenever any material, including evaluations, is to be inserted into the official personnel file or record of an employee, the employee shall be given a copy of such material upon its insertion. Whenever any material, including evaluations, is inserted into the personnel file or record of an employee, such material shall be date stamped before its insertion.

Section 24.3

A. The Union or any employee may challenge the accuracy or propriety of any material and/or evaluations in their personnel file or record by filing a written statement of the challenge in the official personnel file or record.

B. The Union or any employee may file a grievance based on a performance evaluation or on any material either of which results in a negative action. Upon a determination at any step of the grievance procedure that such performance evaluation, any other material or portion thereof, is either inaccurate or improperly placed in such employee's personnel record such inaccurate evaluation, material, or portion thereof, shall be removed from the file together with any of the employee's statement or statements thereto.

C. Notwithstanding the provisions of Paragraph B above, an employee may file a grievance challenging any written memorandum which reprimands the employee for prior conduct or omissions and which warns the employee that further transgressions may result in suspension, demotion or discharge. Said memorandum will be found to violate this Agreement only if it is arbitrary, discriminatory or if it contains allegations which are erroneous. Said grievances shall be grievable to Step II.

D. The parties agree that reprimands that have been placed into the personnel record of an employee which are more than two and one-half (2 ½) years old from the date of the issuance of the reprimand, provided there has been no subsequent discipline imposed, shall be removed from the personnel record.

E. There shall be only one (1) official personnel file or record maintained by the Employer. Information not included in the official personnel file or record shall not be considered valid information and shall be purged.

ARTICLE 24A
PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

Section 24A.1

The Employee Performance Review System (EPRS) shall permit variations in format between various departments and agencies. There shall be no variation in format within the same Department/Agency for the same job titles. Any format must meet the following criteria (subject to formal promulgation under M.G.L. c. 31, sections 4 and 6A):

- A. All employee evaluations shall be in writing and shall be included in the employee's official personnel file. The Union shall be notified should the employee lack English proficiency to understand the evaluation and its process. All EPRS evaluations shall be based on a "Meets" expectations, "Exceeds" expectations, or "Below" expectations standard.
- B. Evaluations shall be completed by the employee's immediate state supervisor and be approved by a state supervisor of a higher grade designated by the Appointing Authority (except in cases of potential conflict of interest or other legitimate reasons).
- C. A Final Formal EPRS evaluation shall be completed once per year for each member of the Bargaining Unit. Probationary employees shall be evaluated by the mid-point of their probationary period. However, the standard EPRS program shall commence no later than the first July 1st of their employment.
- D. Prior to each evaluation period the supervisor shall meet with the employee and shall inform the employee of the general performance dimensions and procedures to be utilized in evaluating the employee's performance.
- E. The performance dimensions shall be objective and job-related.
- F. At least once during the evaluation period, at or near its mid-point, the supervisor shall meet with the employee to review the employee's progress. The employee shall have two (2) work days to review the evaluation prior to signing it. A remedial development plan shall be formulated jointly if the mid-term review results in a rating of "Below".
- G. At or near the end of the evaluation period, the supervisor shall meet with the employee and inform the employee of the results of the evaluation. Following the employee's review, the form shall be submitted to the higher level supervisor for final determination of ratings. The employee shall have two (2) work days to review the evaluation prior to signing and shall be given a copy of the completed form. The employee shall sign the evaluation and indicate whether he/she agrees or disagrees with the content thereof.

Section 24A.2

There shall be established within each agency a Labor/Management Committee, consisting of not more than four (4) representatives of each party, which shall meet at reasonable times to discuss any problems or issues surrounding the Performance Evaluation System.

Section 24A.3

A. Any employee who has received a rating of "Below" will have his/her evaluation reviewed monthly by the appointing authority or his/her designee, who shall review all the circumstances of the rating. The appointing authority or his/her designee may redetermine the rating after reviewing the circumstances of the initial evaluation. If the appointing authority or his/her designee redetermines the rating the employee will receive the increase retroactive to the date of original step increase due, or Article 12 increase, whichever is appropriate. If the appointing authority or his/her designee does not redetermine the rating the employee may file, through the NAGE within fourteen (14) days with the Human Resources Division, a request for a review of the appointing authority's or his/her designee's determination by a tripartite panel consisting of one person designated by the NAGE, one person designated by the Chief Human Resources Officer and one person designated by the Chairperson of the Board of Conciliation and Arbitration who shall be assigned on a rotating basis. The standard of review to be applied by the panel shall be solely limited to whether or not the final performance rating of "Below" was justified. The decision of the tripartite shall be final and binding and any employee having a "Below" rating overturned shall be made whole in as prompt a manner as possible. Any costs associated with this process will be borne equally by the parties.

B. The Department/Agency shall develop a remedial plan for an employee receiving any "Below" rating. Employees that may be nearing a "Below" rating shall be counseled by his/her supervisor as soon as possible, in advance of their final stage of the evaluation as to the specific areas that must be improved and what they must do to attain a "Meets" rating.

C. All performance merit ratings shall be based upon the EPRS system as found in this Article of the NAGE Agreement and all payment of salary and/or step increases shall be based upon current language found in Article 12 related to pay for performance.

D. All financial considerations (i.e. merit increases, step rate increases) shall be based on the employee's most recent, final annual evaluation.

Section 24A.4

Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as limiting in any way any other appeal rights provided by law, except that the appeal procedures provided in this Agreement shall not be available to any employee who elects to appeal his/her evaluation rating under the provisions of G.L. c. 31, section 6C.

Section 24A.5

The Parties agree to establish a Labor/Management Committee consisting of four (4) representatives selected by the NAGE and four (4) representatives selected by HRD. The Committee shall meet bi-monthly and shall review and make recommendations concerning the Commonwealth's policies and practices regarding the review and maintenance of Personnel Records. The Committee shall also discuss problems involving the Performance Evaluation System which are unrelated to the Department/Agency Labor Management Committees established above.

Section 24A.6

The Parties agree to establish a Labor/Management Committee to review and make recommendations to revise the Performance Evaluation Guidelines/Form. Said Committee shall consist of three (3) representatives selected by the Union and three (3) representatives selected by HRD. The Committee shall convene and shall continue to meet upon request by either party.

ARTICLE 25
LABOR/MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Section 25.1

In order to provide a means for continuing communications between the parties and for promoting a climate of constructive employee relations, a Labor/Management Committee shall be established which shall consist of up to four (4) representatives designated by the Employer and up to four (4) representatives designated by the Union.

Section 25.2

The Committee shall meet at least twice each year. Such meeting shall not for the purpose of discussing pending grievances or for the purpose of conducting negotiations on any subject. The topics discussed shall relate to the general application of the Agreement and to other matters of mutual concern including improvement of the Employer/ employee relations and improvement of productivity.

Section 25.3

There shall be a Labor/Management Sub-Committee established within each Department/ Agency consisting of six (6) members, three (3) representing the Union and three (3) representing Management. It shall be the responsibility of these Sub-Committees to promote ways and means of improving the "Quality of Work Life" within the work place. Any procedures or changes in conditions promulgated by the Sub-Committee shall be approved by the State-wide Labor/Management Committee before they become operative.

It is agreed that a priority of the State-wide Labor/Management Committee shall be to discuss the means of implementing a statewide recall under Article 18, for the bargaining unit.

Section 25.4

The parties agree that an incentive for sick leave utilization reduction shall be studied by the State-wide Labor/Management Committee.

Section 25.5

It is agreed that a priority of the Statewide Labor/Management Committee shall be to discuss opportunities the parties may have to work cooperatively in efforts to minimize the impact of proposed or actual reductions in force. The Committee shall jointly develop procedures for an employment referral mechanism and further, shall develop job re-training initiatives to meet the purposes of this Article.

ARTICLE 26
NO STRIKES

Section 26.1

Neither the Union nor any employee shall engage in, induce, support, encourage or condone a strike, work stoppage, slowdown or withholding of services by employees.

Section 26.2

The Union shall exert its best efforts to prevent any violation of Section 1 of this Article, and if such action does occur, to exert its best efforts to terminate it.

ARTICLE 27
SAVING CLAUSE

In the event that any Article, Section or portion of this Agreement is found to be invalid or shall have the effect of loss to the Commonwealth of funds made available through federal law, rule or regulation, then such specific Article, Section or portion shall be amended to the extent necessary to conform with such law, rule or regulation, but the remainder of this Agreement shall continue in full force and effect. Disputes arising under this Article shall be discussed with the Human Resources Division and may be submitted by the Union to expedited arbitration.

ARTICLE 28
EFFICIENCY WORKING GROUP

The parties acknowledge the shared value associated with enhanced service delivery and improved operational efficiency. Continued public confidence in government, and public support for governmental programs, requires an ongoing focus on continuous improvement, and corresponding results. The parties also acknowledge that more efficient service delivery can provide opportunities to reinvest savings to the benefit of those employees that contribute to such favorable outcomes.

In this light, the parties agree, in the course of this contract, to establish a working group that will be charged with identifying no fewer than four pilot programs focused on developing more efficient methods of service delivery in at least three selected service areas. The parties further agree that these pilot programs will complete their work six months prior to the end of this agreement, and will produce report(s) detailing each initiative; the iterative steps taken to accomplish its purpose(s); and the service impacts resulting from the initiative. Finally, the parties agree that a portion of any cost savings that result from these initiatives will be returned to employees in the affected bargaining unit, in accordance with a formula determined in advance by mutual agreement of the parties.

The Commonwealth and the Union each agree to designate seven persons to be named to this working group no later than 30 days from the date of execution of this agreement.

ARTICLE 29
APPROPRIATION BY THE GENERAL COURT

The cost items contained in this Agreement shall not become effective unless appropriations necessary to fully fund such cost items have been enacted by the General Court in accordance with M.G.L. c.150E, section 7, in which case, the cost items shall be effective on the date provided in the Agreement. The Employer shall make such request of the General Court. If the General Court rejects the request to fund the Agreement, the cost items shall be returned to the parties for further bargaining.

ARTICLE 30
WAGE REOPENER (New)

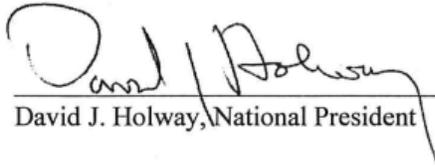
In the event that during the term of this Agreement a Collective Bargaining Agreement is submitted by either the Governor, or the Secretary for Administration & Finance and said Agreement is funded by the Legislature and in the event such Agreement contains provisions for across-the-board salary increases or other economic terms that in the aggregate are in excess of those contained in this Agreement, the parties agree to re-open those provisions of this Agreement to further bargaining.

ARTICLE 31
DURATION

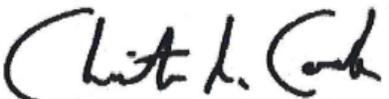
This Agreement shall be for the three-year period from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2023 and terms contained herein shall become effective upon execution unless otherwise specified. It is expressly understood and agreed that subject to ratification by the NAGE Membership, the predecessor collective bargaining agreement shall be voided and superseded by all aspects of this collective bargaining agreement. Should a successor Agreement not be executed by June 30, 2023, this Agreement shall remain in full force and effect until a successor Agreement is executed or an impasse in negotiations is reached. At the written request of either party, negotiations for a subsequent Agreement will be commenced on or after January 1, 2023.

Agreement signed this 20th day of July 2021:

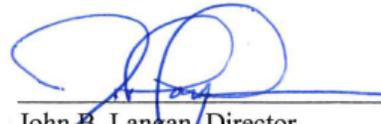
For the Union:


David J. Holway, National President


Theresa McGoldrick, President, Local R1-207


Christopher Cook, President, Local R1-282

For the Commonwealth:


John B. Langan, Director
HRD/Office of Employee Relations

**Appendix A-1
Unit 6**

Biweekly Salary Schedule

Increase of 2.50% effective 7/5/2020

BU 06 Salary Plan (06A/B)

Plan	Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
06A	01	\$1,430.57	\$1,463.03	\$1,496.25	\$1,530.52	\$1,565.57	\$1,601.55	\$1,638.44	\$1,676.42	\$1,715.28	\$1,755.28	\$1,786.39	\$1,818.21	\$1,851.32	\$1,885.43
06A	02	\$1,480.28	\$1,514.58	\$1,549.83	\$1,586.05	\$1,623.20	\$1,661.36	\$1,700.53	\$1,740.79	\$1,782.00	\$1,824.45	\$1,857.86	\$1,892.12	\$1,926.99	\$1,962.60
06A	03	\$1,526.68	\$1,563.75	\$1,601.83	\$1,640.96	\$1,681.25	\$1,722.56	\$1,765.05	\$1,808.81	\$1,854.48	\$1,901.97	\$1,937.14	\$1,972.90	\$2,009.42	\$2,046.66
06A	04	\$1,587.51	\$1,626.27	\$1,666.16	\$1,707.13	\$1,749.24	\$1,792.54	\$1,837.29	\$1,884.41	\$1,932.78	\$1,982.66	\$2,019.37	\$2,056.80	\$2,095.01	\$2,133.97
06A	05	\$1,667.84	\$1,708.72	\$1,750.74	\$1,794.01	\$1,838.67	\$1,885.72	\$1,934.06	\$1,983.74	\$2,034.72	\$2,087.25	\$2,126.03	\$2,165.60	\$2,205.94	\$2,247.13
06A	06	\$1,731.12	\$1,778.14	\$1,826.64	\$1,878.05	\$1,931.10	\$1,985.79	\$2,042.15	\$2,100.25	\$2,160.12	\$2,221.85	\$2,263.35	\$2,305.74	\$2,348.93	\$2,393.00
06A	07	\$1,807.87	\$1,859.83	\$1,914.03	\$1,970.01	\$2,027.78	\$2,087.38	\$2,148.83	\$2,212.24	\$2,277.66	\$2,345.15	\$2,389.10	\$2,433.98	\$2,479.71	\$2,526.74
06A	08	\$1,896.87	\$1,954.02	\$2,013.01	\$2,074.00	\$2,136.92	\$2,201.82	\$2,268.98	\$2,338.23	\$2,409.85	\$2,483.71	\$2,530.91	\$2,580.06	\$2,631.31	\$2,683.94
06A	09	\$2,002.46	\$2,062.10	\$2,123.66	\$2,187.20	\$2,252.81	\$2,320.45	\$2,390.32	\$2,462.39	\$2,537.47	\$2,617.33	\$2,669.77	\$2,723.09	\$2,777.52	\$2,833.09
06A	10	\$2,091.62	\$2,155.02	\$2,220.46	\$2,288.13	\$2,357.99	\$2,430.14	\$2,504.58	\$2,583.44	\$2,667.50	\$2,754.43	\$2,809.62	\$2,865.76	\$2,923.06	\$2,981.53
06A	11	\$2,219.90	\$2,284.97	\$2,352.07	\$2,421.29	\$2,492.57	\$2,567.79	\$2,647.64	\$2,730.69	\$2,816.35	\$2,904.71	\$2,962.81	\$3,022.07	\$3,082.48	\$3,144.13
06A	12	\$2,301.93	\$2,371.62	\$2,443.52	\$2,517.84	\$2,596.88	\$2,680.84	\$2,767.41	\$2,856.88	\$2,949.19	\$3,044.51	\$3,105.38	\$3,167.47	\$3,230.83	\$3,295.44
06A	13	\$2,402.05	\$2,475.97	\$2,553.44	\$2,635.97	\$2,722.41	\$2,811.60	\$2,903.83	\$2,999.02	\$3,097.29	\$3,198.81	\$3,262.84	\$3,328.04	\$3,394.63	\$3,462.52
06A	14	\$2,514.44	\$2,594.97	\$2,680.62	\$2,769.13	\$2,860.46	\$2,954.85	\$3,052.42	\$3,153.17	\$3,257.14	\$3,364.59	\$3,431.95	\$3,500.57	\$3,570.57	\$3,641.98
06A	15	\$2,640.57	\$2,725.99	\$2,814.28	\$2,905.37	\$2,999.32	\$3,096.40	\$3,196.60	\$3,299.99	\$3,406.81	\$3,516.97	\$3,587.32	\$3,659.18	\$3,732.35	\$3,807.01
06A	16	\$2,759.99	\$2,849.53	\$2,941.86	\$3,037.26	\$3,135.74	\$3,237.36	\$3,342.27	\$3,450.68	\$3,562.51	\$3,677.98	\$3,751.59	\$3,826.61	\$3,903.14	\$3,981.19
06A	17	\$2,879.35	\$2,973.25	\$3,070.26	\$3,170.42	\$3,273.82	\$3,380.68	\$3,490.89	\$3,604.78	\$3,722.38	\$3,843.83	\$3,920.69	\$3,999.13	\$4,079.13	\$4,160.70
06A	18	\$2,985.85	\$3,083.70	\$3,184.65	\$3,289.01	\$3,396.84	\$3,508.10	\$3,623.04	\$3,741.78	\$3,864.34	\$3,990.98	\$4,070.81	\$4,152.17	\$4,235.24	\$4,319.94
06A	19	\$3,114.34	\$3,215.32	\$3,319.59	\$3,427.19	\$3,538.35	\$3,653.03	\$3,771.51	\$3,893.66	\$4,019.95	\$4,150.31	\$4,233.31	\$4,318.00	\$4,404.35	\$4,492.44
06A	20	\$3,234.22	\$3,339.39	\$3,448.07	\$3,560.21	\$3,676.04	\$3,795.65	\$3,919.14	\$4,046.61	\$4,178.25	\$4,314.15	\$4,400.45	\$4,488.46	\$4,578.24	\$4,669.81
06A	21	\$3,365.02	\$3,474.60	\$3,587.78	\$3,704.64	\$3,825.21	\$3,949.85	\$4,078.46	\$4,211.27	\$4,348.43	\$4,490.09	\$4,579.86	\$4,671.48	\$4,764.92	\$4,860.22
06A	22	\$3,509.27	\$3,623.26	\$3,740.97	\$3,862.51	\$3,987.99	\$4,117.52	\$4,251.30	\$4,389.42	\$4,532.03	\$4,679.23	\$4,772.80	\$4,868.27	\$4,965.64	\$5,064.96

**Appendix A-2
Unit 6
Biweekly Salary Rates**

Increase of 2.00% effective 7/1/2021

BU 06 Salary Plan (06 A/B)

Plan	Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
06A	01	\$1,459.18	\$1,492.29	\$1,526.18	\$1,561.13	\$1,596.88	\$1,633.58	\$1,671.21	\$1,709.95	\$1,749.59	\$1,790.39	\$1,822.12	\$1,854.57	\$1,888.35	\$1,923.14
06A	02	\$1,509.89	\$1,544.87	\$1,580.83	\$1,617.77	\$1,655.66	\$1,694.59	\$1,734.54	\$1,775.61	\$1,817.64	\$1,860.94	\$1,895.02	\$1,929.96	\$1,965.53	\$2,001.85
06A	03	\$1,557.21	\$1,595.03	\$1,633.87	\$1,673.78	\$1,714.88	\$1,757.01	\$1,800.35	\$1,844.99	\$1,891.57	\$1,940.01	\$1,975.88	\$2,012.36	\$2,049.61	\$2,087.59
06A	04	\$1,619.26	\$1,658.80	\$1,699.48	\$1,741.27	\$1,784.22	\$1,828.39	\$1,874.04	\$1,922.10	\$1,971.44	\$2,022.31	\$2,059.76	\$2,097.94	\$2,136.91	\$2,176.65
06A	05	\$1,701.20	\$1,742.89	\$1,785.75	\$1,829.89	\$1,875.44	\$1,923.43	\$1,972.74	\$2,023.41	\$2,075.41	\$2,129.00	\$2,168.55	\$2,208.91	\$2,250.06	\$2,292.07
06A	06	\$1,765.74	\$1,813.70	\$1,863.17	\$1,915.61	\$1,969.72	\$2,025.51	\$2,082.99	\$2,142.26	\$2,203.32	\$2,266.29	\$2,308.62	\$2,351.85	\$2,395.91	\$2,440.86
06A	07	\$1,844.03	\$1,897.03	\$1,952.31	\$2,009.41	\$2,068.34	\$2,129.13	\$2,191.81	\$2,256.48	\$2,323.21	\$2,392.05	\$2,436.88	\$2,482.66	\$2,529.30	\$2,577.27
06A	08	\$1,934.81	\$1,993.10	\$2,053.27	\$2,115.48	\$2,179.66	\$2,245.86	\$2,314.36	\$2,384.99	\$2,458.05	\$2,533.38	\$2,581.53	\$2,631.66	\$2,683.94	\$2,737.62
06A	09	\$2,042.51	\$2,103.34	\$2,166.13	\$2,230.94	\$2,297.87	\$2,366.86	\$2,438.13	\$2,511.64	\$2,588.22	\$2,669.68	\$2,723.17	\$2,777.55	\$2,833.07	\$2,889.75
06A	10	\$2,133.45	\$2,198.12	\$2,264.87	\$2,333.89	\$2,405.15	\$2,478.74	\$2,554.67	\$2,635.11	\$2,720.85	\$2,809.52	\$2,865.81	\$2,923.08	\$2,981.52	\$3,041.16
06A	11	\$2,264.30	\$2,330.67	\$2,399.11	\$2,469.72	\$2,542.42	\$2,619.15	\$2,700.59	\$2,785.30	\$2,872.68	\$2,962.80	\$3,022.07	\$3,082.51	\$3,144.13	\$3,207.01
06A	12	\$2,347.97	\$2,419.05	\$2,492.39	\$2,568.20	\$2,648.82	\$2,734.46	\$2,822.76	\$2,914.02	\$3,008.17	\$3,105.40	\$3,167.49	\$3,230.82	\$3,295.45	\$3,361.35
06A	13	\$2,450.09	\$2,525.49	\$2,604.51	\$2,688.69	\$2,776.86	\$2,867.83	\$2,961.91	\$3,059.00	\$3,159.24	\$3,262.79	\$3,328.10	\$3,394.60	\$3,462.52	\$3,531.77
06A	14	\$2,564.73	\$2,646.87	\$2,734.23	\$2,824.51	\$2,917.67	\$3,013.95	\$3,113.47	\$3,216.23	\$3,322.28	\$3,431.88	\$3,500.59	\$3,570.58	\$3,641.98	\$3,714.82
06A	15	\$2,693.38	\$2,780.51	\$2,870.57	\$2,963.48	\$3,059.31	\$3,158.33	\$3,260.53	\$3,365.99	\$3,474.95	\$3,587.31	\$3,659.07	\$3,732.36	\$3,807.00	\$3,883.15
06A	16	\$2,815.19	\$2,906.52	\$3,000.70	\$3,098.01	\$3,198.45	\$3,302.11	\$3,409.12	\$3,519.69	\$3,633.76	\$3,751.54	\$3,826.62	\$3,903.14	\$3,981.20	\$4,060.81
06A	17	\$2,936.94	\$3,032.72	\$3,131.67	\$3,233.83	\$3,339.30	\$3,448.29	\$3,560.71	\$3,676.88	\$3,796.83	\$3,920.71	\$3,999.10	\$4,079.11	\$4,160.71	\$4,243.91
06A	18	\$3,045.57	\$3,145.37	\$3,248.34	\$3,354.79	\$3,464.78	\$3,578.26	\$3,695.50	\$3,816.62	\$3,941.63	\$4,070.80	\$4,152.23	\$4,235.21	\$4,319.94	\$4,406.34
06A	19	\$3,176.63	\$3,279.63	\$3,385.98	\$3,495.73	\$3,609.12	\$3,726.09	\$3,846.94	\$3,971.53	\$4,100.35	\$4,233.32	\$4,317.98	\$4,404.36	\$4,492.44	\$4,582.29
06A	20	\$3,298.90	\$3,406.18	\$3,517.03	\$3,631.41	\$3,749.56	\$3,871.56	\$3,997.52	\$4,127.54	\$4,261.82	\$4,400.43	\$4,488.46	\$4,578.23	\$4,669.80	\$4,763.21
06A	21	\$3,432.32	\$3,544.09	\$3,659.54	\$3,778.73	\$3,901.71	\$4,028.85	\$4,160.03	\$4,295.50	\$4,435.40	\$4,579.89	\$4,671.46	\$4,764.91	\$4,860.22	\$4,957.42
06A	22	\$3,579.46	\$3,695.73	\$3,815.79	\$3,939.76	\$4,067.75	\$4,199.87	\$4,336.33	\$4,477.21	\$4,622.67	\$4,772.81	\$4,868.26	\$4,965.64	\$5,064.95	\$5,166.26

**Appendix A-3
Unit 6
Biweekly Salary Schedule**

Increase of 2.00% effective 7/3/2022

BU 06 Salary Plan (06 A/B)

Plan	Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
06A	01	\$1,488.36	\$1,522.14	\$1,556.70	\$1,592.35	\$1,628.82	\$1,666.25	\$1,704.63	\$1,744.15	\$1,784.58	\$1,826.20	\$1,858.56	\$1,891.66	\$1,926.12	\$1,961.60
06A	02	\$1,540.09	\$1,575.77	\$1,612.45	\$1,650.13	\$1,688.77	\$1,728.48	\$1,769.23	\$1,811.12	\$1,853.99	\$1,898.16	\$1,932.92	\$1,968.56	\$2,004.84	\$2,041.89
06A	03	\$1,588.35	\$1,626.93	\$1,666.55	\$1,707.26	\$1,749.18	\$1,792.15	\$1,836.36	\$1,881.89	\$1,929.40	\$1,978.81	\$2,015.40	\$2,052.61	\$2,090.60	\$2,129.34
06A	04	\$1,651.65	\$1,691.98	\$1,733.47	\$1,776.10	\$1,819.90	\$1,864.96	\$1,911.52	\$1,960.54	\$2,010.87	\$2,062.76	\$2,100.96	\$2,139.90	\$2,179.65	\$2,220.18
06A	05	\$1,735.22	\$1,777.75	\$1,821.47	\$1,866.49	\$1,912.95	\$1,961.90	\$2,012.19	\$2,063.88	\$2,116.92	\$2,171.58	\$2,211.92	\$2,253.09	\$2,295.06	\$2,337.91
06A	06	\$1,801.05	\$1,849.97	\$1,900.43	\$1,953.92	\$2,009.11	\$2,066.02	\$2,124.65	\$2,185.11	\$2,247.39	\$2,311.62	\$2,354.79	\$2,398.89	\$2,443.83	\$2,489.68
06A	07	\$1,880.91	\$1,934.97	\$1,991.36	\$2,049.60	\$2,109.71	\$2,171.71	\$2,235.65	\$2,301.61	\$2,369.67	\$2,439.89	\$2,485.62	\$2,532.31	\$2,579.89	\$2,628.82
06A	08	\$1,973.51	\$2,032.96	\$2,094.34	\$2,157.79	\$2,223.25	\$2,290.78	\$2,360.65	\$2,432.69	\$2,507.21	\$2,584.05	\$2,633.16	\$2,684.29	\$2,737.62	\$2,792.37
06A	09	\$2,083.36	\$2,145.41	\$2,209.45	\$2,275.56	\$2,343.83	\$2,414.20	\$2,486.89	\$2,561.87	\$2,639.98	\$2,723.07	\$2,777.63	\$2,833.10	\$2,889.73	\$2,947.55
06A	10	\$2,176.12	\$2,242.08	\$2,310.17	\$2,380.57	\$2,453.25	\$2,528.31	\$2,605.76	\$2,687.81	\$2,775.27	\$2,865.71	\$2,923.13	\$2,981.54	\$3,041.15	\$3,101.98
06A	11	\$2,309.59	\$2,377.28	\$2,447.09	\$2,519.11	\$2,593.27	\$2,671.53	\$2,754.60	\$2,841.01	\$2,930.13	\$3,022.06	\$3,082.51	\$3,144.16	\$3,207.01	\$3,271.15
06A	12	\$2,394.93	\$2,467.43	\$2,542.24	\$2,619.56	\$2,701.80	\$2,789.15	\$2,879.22	\$2,972.30	\$3,068.33	\$3,167.51	\$3,230.84	\$3,295.44	\$3,361.36	\$3,428.58
06A	13	\$2,499.09	\$2,576.00	\$2,656.60	\$2,742.46	\$2,832.40	\$2,925.19	\$3,021.15	\$3,120.18	\$3,222.42	\$3,328.05	\$3,394.66	\$3,462.49	\$3,531.77	\$3,602.41
06A	14	\$2,616.02	\$2,699.81	\$2,788.91	\$2,881.00	\$2,976.02	\$3,074.23	\$3,175.74	\$3,280.55	\$3,388.73	\$3,500.52	\$3,570.60	\$3,641.99	\$3,714.82	\$3,789.12
06A	15	\$2,747.25	\$2,836.12	\$2,927.98	\$3,022.75	\$3,120.50	\$3,221.50	\$3,325.74	\$3,433.31	\$3,544.45	\$3,659.06	\$3,732.25	\$3,807.01	\$3,883.14	\$3,960.81
06A	16	\$2,871.49	\$2,964.65	\$3,060.71	\$3,159.97	\$3,262.42	\$3,368.15	\$3,477.30	\$3,590.08	\$3,706.44	\$3,826.57	\$3,903.15	\$3,981.20	\$4,060.82	\$4,142.03
06A	17	\$2,995.68	\$3,093.37	\$3,194.30	\$3,298.51	\$3,406.09	\$3,517.26	\$3,631.92	\$3,750.42	\$3,872.77	\$3,999.12	\$4,079.08	\$4,160.69	\$4,243.92	\$4,328.79
06A	18	\$3,106.48	\$3,208.28	\$3,313.31	\$3,421.89	\$3,534.08	\$3,649.83	\$3,769.41	\$3,892.95	\$4,020.46	\$4,152.22	\$4,235.27	\$4,319.91	\$4,406.34	\$4,494.47
06A	19	\$3,240.16	\$3,345.22	\$3,453.70	\$3,565.64	\$3,681.30	\$3,800.61	\$3,923.88	\$4,050.96	\$4,182.36	\$4,317.99	\$4,404.34	\$4,492.45	\$4,582.29	\$4,673.94
06A	20	\$3,364.88	\$3,474.30	\$3,587.37	\$3,704.04	\$3,824.55	\$3,948.99	\$4,077.47	\$4,210.09	\$4,347.06	\$4,488.44	\$4,578.23	\$4,669.79	\$4,763.20	\$4,858.47
06A	21	\$3,500.97	\$3,614.97	\$3,732.73	\$3,854.30	\$3,979.74	\$4,109.43	\$4,243.23	\$4,381.41	\$4,524.11	\$4,671.49	\$4,764.89	\$4,860.21	\$4,957.42	\$5,056.57
06A	22	\$3,651.05	\$3,769.64	\$3,892.11	\$4,018.56	\$4,149.11	\$4,283.87	\$4,423.06	\$4,566.75	\$4,715.12	\$4,868.27	\$4,965.63	\$5,064.95	\$5,166.25	\$5,269.59

APPENDIX B

Step # _____ Union & Local # _____ Bargaining Unit # _____

GRIEVANCE REPORT

Grievant(s): _____ Soc. Sec. #: _____

Job Title: _____ Agency: _____

Facility/Region: _____ Work Location: _____

Agency Start Date (if known): _____ Manager: _____

Telephone Number _____

Employer is in violation of Article(s) _____

and other relevant provisions of the Agreement.

STATEMENT BY GRIEVANT OR UNION

The "statement" should include: (1) nature of the contract violation; i.e., what action did the employer take, or fail to take, which violated the Contract; (2) the date(s) of the violation and, where appropriate as in promotions, demotions, transfers, reassignments, etc., the relevant title(s) and work location(s). (Use additional sheets of paper, if necessary.)

RELIEF OR REMEDY SOUGHT

Grievant's Signature Date Steward/Union Representative Signature Date

In accordance with Articles 22 and 23, all disciplinary grievances must also include the following completed form.

WAIVER OF RIGHT TO APPEAL DISCIPLINARY ACTION

I wish to submit the attached grievance under Article 23, Grievance Procedure and Article 22, Arbitration of Disciplinary Action, appealing my demotion, suspension or discharge effective on _____ and pursuant to Article 22, Section 4 of the Agreement between the NAGE and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts dated _____. I hereby waive any and all rights to appeal this disciplinary action to any other forum including the Civil Service Commission. I have not initiated any other appeal of this disciplinary action.

DATE EMPLOYEE SIGNATURE UNION REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

**APPENDIX C
NON-SELECTION FORM**

EMPLOYEE NAME _____ CURRENT POSITION J.G. _____

ADDRESS _____ TITLE _____

POSITION SOUGHT J.G. _____

TITLE _____

Employee Identification Number: _____

We regret to inform you that another applicant has been selected for the position you sought. That applicant has been selected (because he/she has been deemed to be more qualified than you by virtue of) for one or more of the following reasons:

- 1. Better Able (Ability) to perform the job due to:
 - More experience in the same or related work.
 - Demonstrated competence in the same or related work.
 - Job Performance (including evaluations and disciplinary record).
- 2. Interview ***An explanation must be provided below if this section is checked.***
- 3. Education and training (directly related to the duties of the vacant position), including Licenses and/or Registration.
- 4. More Seniority.
- (Applicant from within the work unit selected.)
- 5. Other

Comments/Explanation:

This notice is for the purpose of meeting the notice requirements of Article 14, Section 1B. It does not preclude either party from raising other issues under the provisions of Article 23A of the Agreement.

By: _____
Supervisor

Date

APPENDIX D
MEMORANDUM of UNDERSTANDING
between the
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
and the
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES (NAGE)
UNITS 1, 3 AND 6

Concerning Expedited Arbitration

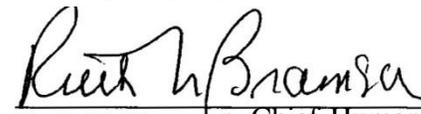
In the event of a dispute between the parties involving a decision by the employer that an employee does not meet the qualifications for a position to which he/she wishes to be reassigned, bump or be recalled, the union may submit such dispute directly to expedited arbitration in accordance with the following:

- 1) The request by the Union shall be submitted in writing directly to the Director of OER within 21 days of receipt the notification to the employee/union.
- 2) The case shall be assigned to a rotating list of arbitrators agreed to by the parties who have agreed to comply with this procedure.
- 3) All cases shall be heard and decided within 90 days of filing and both parties shall cooperate in the scheduling of dates in order to achieve this result.
- 4) Continuances shall only be granted by agreement of the parties or for good cause shown.
- 5) Post hearing briefs if any, must be submitted within two weeks of the close of the hearing.
- 6) Decisions of the arbitrator shall be no more than two pages in length and shall not serve as precedent in any other matter. Such decisions shall be final and binding.
- 7) Nothing in this procedure shall preclude the OER from convening a step III conference at its discretion however no such conference shall extend any deadlines in this procedure.
- 8) The parties shall share the costs of the arbitrator.
- 9) The arbitrator shall have no authority to decide any question other than whether the employee was qualified for the position(s) in question and the appropriate remedy if any.

The parties agree that this program shall be established as a pilot program, and shall expire on June 30, 2005.


Theresa McGoldrick, Unit 6


Greg Sorozan, Unit 6


Ruth N. Bramson, Chief Human
Resources Officer


Date

**APPENDIX D-1
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
CERTIFICATION OF HEALTH CARE PROVIDER FOR EMPLOYEE'S SERIOUS
HEALTH CONDITION (FMLA)**

SECTION I: For Completion by the EMPLOYER

INSTRUCTIONS to the EMPLOYER: The Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) provides that an employer may require an employee seeking FMLA protections because of a need for leave due to a serious health condition to submit a medical certification issued by the employee's health care provider. Please complete Section I before giving this form to your employee. Your response is voluntary. While you are not required to use this form, you may not ask the employee to provide more information than allowed under the FMLA regulations, 29 C.F.R. §§ 825.306-825.308. Employers must generally maintain records and documents relating to medical certifications, recertifications, or medical histories of employees created for FMLA purposes as confidential medical records in separate files/records from the usual personnel files and in accordance with 29 C.F.R. § 1630.14(c)(1), if the Americans with Disabilities Act applies.

Employer name and contact:

Employee's job title:

Regular work schedule: _____

Employee's essential job functions:

Check if job description is attached: _____

SECTION II: For Completion by the EMPLOYEE

INSTRUCTIONS to the EMPLOYEE: Please complete Section II before giving this form to your medical provider. The FMLA permits an employer to require that you submit a timely, complete, and sufficient medical certification to support a request for FMLA leave due to your own serious health condition. If requested by your employer, your response is required to obtain or retain the benefit of FMLA protections. 29 U.S.C. §§ 2613, 2614(c)(3). Failure to provide a complete and sufficient medical certification may result in a denial of your FMLA request. 20 C.F.R. § 825.313. Your employer must give you at least 15 calendar days to return this form. 29 C.F.R. § 825.305(b).

Your name:

First Middle
Last

SECTION III: For Completion by the HEALTH CARE PROVIDER

INSTRUCTIONS to the HEALTH CARE PROVIDER: Your patient has requested leave under the FMLA. Answer, fully and completely, all applicable parts. Several questions seek a response as to the frequency or duration of a condition, treatment, etc. Your answer should be your best estimate based upon your medical knowledge, experience, and examination of the patient. Be as specific as you can; terms such as “lifetime,” “unknown,” or “indeterminate” may not be sufficient to determine FMLA coverage. Limit your responses to the condition for which the employee is seeking leave. Please be sure to sign the form on the last page.

Provider’s name and business address:

Type of practice / Medical specialty:

Telephone: (_____) _____ Fax: (_____) _____

Part A: MEDICAL FACTS

1. Approximate date condition commenced:

Probable duration of condition:

Mark below as applicable:

Was the patient admitted for an overnight stay in a hospital, hospice, or residential medical care facility?

____ No ____ Yes. If so, dates of admission:

Date(s) you treated the patient for condition:

Will the patient need to have treatment visits at least twice per year due to the condition?

____ No ____ Yes

Was medication, other than over-the-counter medication, prescribed?

____ No ____ Yes

Was the patient referred to other health care provider(s) for evaluation or treatment (e.g. physical therapist)? ____ No ____ Yes If so, state the nature of such treatments and expected duration of treatment:

2. Is the medical condition pregnancy? _____ No _____ Yes

If so, expected delivery date: _____

3. Use the information provided by the employer in Section I to answer this question. If the employer fails to provide a list of the employee's essential functions or a job description, answer these questions based upon the employee's own description of his/her job functions.

Is the employee unable to perform any of his/her job functions due to the condition?:
___ No ___ Yes.

If so, identify the job functions the employee is unable to perform:

4. Describe other relevant medical facts, if any, related to the condition for which the employee seeks leave (such medical facts may include symptoms, diagnosis, or any regimen of continuing treatment such as the use of specialized equipment):

PART B: AMOUNT OF LEAVE NEEDED

5. Will the employee be incapacitated for a single continuous period of time due to his/her medical condition, including any time for treatment and recovery? _____No ___ Yes

If so, estimate the beginning and ending dates for the period of incapacity:

6. Will the employee need to attend follow-up treatment appointments or work part-time or on a reduced schedule because of the employee's medical condition?
___ No ___ Yes

If so, are the treatments or the reduced number of hours of work medically necessary?
___ No ___ Yes

Estimate treatment schedule, if any, including the dates of any scheduled appointments and the time required for each appointment, including any recovery period:

Estimate the part-time or reduced work schedule the employee needs, if any:

_____ hour(s) per day; _____ days per week from _____ through _____

7. Will the condition cause episodic flare-ups periodically preventing the employee from performing his/her job functions? _____ No _____ Yes

Is it medically necessary for the employee to be absent from work during the flare-ups?
_____ No ___ Yes. If so, explain:

Based upon the patient's medical history and your knowledge of the medical condition, estimate the frequency of flare-ups and the duration of related incapacity that the patient may have over the next 6 months (e.g., 1 episode every 3 months lasting 1-2 days):

Frequency: _____ times per _____ week(s) _____ month(s)

Duration: _____ hours or _____ day(s) per episode

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: IDENTIFY QUESTION NUMBER WITH YOUR ADDITIONAL ANSWER:

Signature of Health Care Provider

Date

APPENDIX D-2
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS CERTIFICATION OF HEALTH
CARE PROVIDER FOR FAMILY MEMBER'S SERIOUS HEALTH
CONDITION (FMLA)

SECTION I: For Completion by the EMPLOYER

INSTRUCTIONS to the EMPLOYER: The Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) provides that an employer may require an employee seeking FMLA protections because of a need for leave to care for a covered family member with a serious health condition to submit a medical certification issued by the health care provider of the covered family member. Please complete Section I before giving this form to your employee. Your response is voluntary. While you are not required to use this form, you may not ask the employee to provide more information than allowed under the FMLA regulations, 29 C.F.R. §§ 825.306-825.308. Employers must generally maintain records and documents relating to medical certifications, recertifications, or medical histories of employees' family members, created for FMLA purposes as confidential medical records in separate files/records from the usual personnel files and in accordance with 29 C.F.R. § 1630.14(c)(1), if the Americans with Disabilities Act applies.

Employer name and contact:

SECTION II: For Completion by the EMPLOYEE

INSTRUCTIONS to the EMPLOYEE: Please complete Section II before giving this form to your family member or his/her medical provider. The FMLA permits an employer to require that you submit a timely, complete, and sufficient medical certification to support a request for FMLA leave to care for a covered family member with a serious health condition. If requested by your employer, your response is required to obtain or retain the benefit of FMLA protections. 29 U.S.C. §§ 2613, 2614(c)(3). Failure to provide a complete and sufficient medical certification may result in a denial of your FMLA request. 29 C.F.R. § 825.313. Your employer must give you at least 15 calendar days to return this form to your employer. 29 C.F.R. § 825.305.

Your name:

Name of family member for whom you will provide care:

First	Middle	Last
-------	--------	------

Relationship of family member to you:

If family member is your son or daughter, date of birth: _____
Describe care you will provide to your family member and estimate leave needed to provide care:

Employee Signature

Date

SECTION III: For Completion by the HEALTH CARE PROVIDER

INSTRUCTIONS to the HEALTH CARE PROVIDER: The employee listed above has requested leave under the FMLA to care for your patient. Answer, fully and completely, all applicable parts below. Several questions seek a response as to the frequency or duration of a condition, treatment, etc. Your answer should be your best estimate based upon your medical knowledge, experience, and examination of the patient. Be as specific as you can; terms such as “lifetime,” “unknown,” or “indeterminate” may not be sufficient to determine FMLA coverage. Limit your responses to the condition for which the patient needs leave. Page 3 provides space for additional information, should you need it. Please be sure to sign the form on the last page.

Provider’s name and business address: _____

Type of practice / Medical specialty:

Telephone: (_____) _____ Fax:(_____) _____

PART A: MEDICAL FACTS

1. Approximate date condition commenced: _____

Probable duration of condition: _____

Was the patient admitted for an overnight stay in a hospital, hospice, or residential medical care facility? _____ No _____ Yes . If so, dates of admission: _____

Date(s) you treated the patient for condition: _____

Was medication, other than over-the-counter medication, prescribed?
_____ No _____ Yes.

Will the patient need to have treatment visits at least twice per year due to the condition?
_____ No _____ Yes

Was the patient referred to other health care provider(s) for evaluation or treatment (e.g., physical therapist)? _____ No _____ Yes

If so, state the nature of such treatments and expected duration of treatment:

2. Is the medical condition pregnancy? _____ No _____ Yes. If so, expected delivery date:

3. Describe other relevant medical facts, if any, related to the condition for which the patient needs care (such medical facts may include symptoms, diagnosis, or any regimen of continuing treatment such as the use of specialized equipment):

PART B: AMOUNT OF CARE NEEDED: When answering these questions, keep in mind that your patient's need for care by the employee seeking leave may include assistance with basic medical, hygienic, nutritional, safety or transportation needs, or the provision of physical or psychological care.

4. Will the patient be incapacitated for a single continuous period of time, including any time for treatment and recovery? ___ No ___ Yes

Estimate the beginning and ending dates for the period of incapacity:

During this time, will the patient need _____ No ___ Yes care?

Explain the care needed by the patient and why such care is medically necessary:

4. Will the patient require follow-up treatments, including any time for recovery? ___ No ___ Yes

Estimate treatment schedule, if any, including the dates of any scheduled appointments and the time required for each appointment, including any recovery period:

Explain the care needed by the patient, and why such care is medically necessary: _____

6. Will the patient require care on an intermittent or reduced schedule basis, including any time for recovery? ___ No ___ Yes

Estimate the hours the patient needs care on an intermittent basis, if any:

___ hour(s) per day; ___ day(s) per week from _____ through _____

Explain the care needed by the patient, and why such care is medically necessary:

7. Will the condition cause episodic flare-ups periodically preventing the patient from participating in normal daily activities? ___ No ___ Yes

Based upon the patient's medical history and your knowledge of the medical condition, estimate the frequency of flare-ups and the duration of related incapacity that the patient may have over the next 6 months (e.g., 1 episode every 3 months lasting 1-2 days):

Frequency: ___ times per ___ week(s) ___ month(s)

Duration: ___ hours or ___ day(s) per episode

Does the patient need care during these flare-ups? ___ No ___ Yes

Explain the care needed by the patient, and why such care is medically necessary:

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: IDENTIFY QUESTION NUMBER WITH YOUR ADDITIONAL ANSWER:

Signature of Health Care Provider

Date

APPENDIX G
ARTICLE 17
CLASSIFICATION AND RE-CLASSIFICATION

Specifications

The Commonwealth and the Union agree that during the term of this agreement the Commonwealth shall retain the unreserved right to implement revised job specifications for job titles certified to bargaining units 1, 3 and 6, except when:

- The revised job specification will require a change in minimum entrance requirements that would adversely affect promotional opportunities for employees in bargaining units 1, 3 and 6.

Or

- The revised job specification contains level distinguishing characteristics that are more restrictive than current and prevailing employment practices.

In the event the union believes either of the above are true, the matter shall be submitted to expedited arbitration in a forum agreed to by the parties. The issue(s) to be reviewed by the neutral shall be limited to an affirmative or negative assessment of the union's claim under the above standards. Should the arbitrator agree with the union's position, the parties acknowledge that implementation of the specification shall be subject to ordinary bargaining obligations.

SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT A

Information Technology Titles

The parties agree to the establishment of a revised Information Technology job series, which shall incorporate all current Information Technology titles. The parties agree that the title of Information Technology Specialist in use at the University of Massachusetts, provides a structural framework from which the parties may draw in development of this new series. The parties recognize that the pace of change in the information technology industry warrants expedited review and implementation of this new job series. To this end the parties agree to meet no later than September 1, 2014 to begin the process of updating and consolidating the IT series.

The Commonwealth agrees that transition to this new series will not result in any reduction in pay to any current employees. In consideration thereof, the union agrees that the Commonwealth shall enjoy wide latitude in the development of the language in the new specifications, unless the language at issue falls within the exceptions enumerated in paragraph 1 above.

TPL

Technical Pay Law IT Positions

The parties agree that a new level will be added to the TPL series. The TPL "C" will be a high level position that is exempt from Articles 7.2, 7.5 and 7.6 (overtime, standby and call back). Management can offer TPL C's additional vacation time as part of recruitment. TPL C's will serve a one year probationary period. TPL C's will have limited rights to Article 18 (Layoff/Recall). The parties agree that the application of just cause standard to these high level goal oriented positions will of necessity be more focused on results and less on process and procedure than would be applicable to other bargaining unit positions. TPL C's salary increases will be based on merit/market value and not included in the Salary Increases described in this agreement under Article 12.

TPL A's and B's will be included in the salary increases as described in Article 12 of this agreement. In addition they will be eligible for merit based increases.

SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT B

EPRS PILOT

The parties agree to meet at the conclusion of the EPRS pilot to review the outcome of the pilot and to make recommendations to the Human Resources Division.

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
AND THE
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES**

The Parties agree that the employees covered by this Collective Bargaining Agreement will be permitted to participate in the Employer's Adoption Assistance Program.

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
AND THE
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES**

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts through the Human Resources Division (HRD) and the Union are parties to a Collective Bargaining Agreement which provides for employees covered by the terms and conditions of the Agreement to have their salaries directly transferred electronically. Whereas the Union has expressed concern that not all members would be able to avail themselves of the electronic transfer because of severe hardship, the Parties agree as follows:

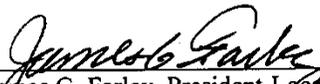
1. The Commonwealth and the Union agree that all employees will have their net salary checks electronically forwarded to an account or accounts selected by the employee.
2. In the extraordinary event that the Union alleges that an employee cannot comply with the collective bargaining agreement relative to the electronic transfer due to severe hardship such as inability to access a bank or financial institution during off hours or, there is no ATM available within a reasonable geographic distance from an employee's worksite or home, the Union shall petition the Human Resources Division for a Direct Deposit Special Exemption.
3. The Human Resources Division, in concert with the Office of the State Comptroller, shall review the request for the Direct Deposit Special Exemption filed by the Union and will notify the Union of its finding.
4. The Parties agree that no other appeal may be commenced by the employee or the Union relative to the Direct Deposit Special Exemption and further, that this Memorandum is not grievable and is inarbitrable.

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
AND THE
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES**

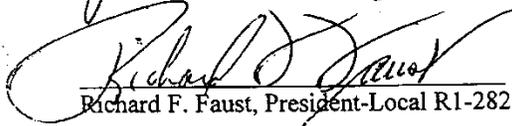
Regarding Article 8, Section 1.C.4

This Memorandum of Understanding is entered into between the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, acting through the Human Resources Division and the National Association of Government Employees (NAGE). This Memorandum reflects a clarification of Article 8, Section 1.C.4 of the NAGE Agreement concerning sick leave use in conjunction with licensed medical or dental appointments.

Permissible sick leave use for these purposes shall include reasonable travel time to and from said licensed medical or dental appointments.


James G. Farley, President-Local R1-207


James J. Hartnett, Jr., Personnel Administrator

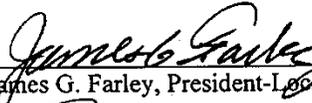

Richard F. Faust, President-Local R1-282

2/3/00
Date

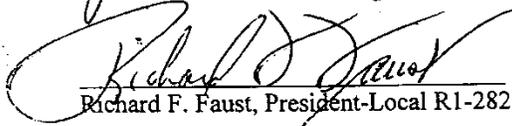
**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
AND THE
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES**

Regarding MBTA Passes

This Memorandum of Understanding is entered into between the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, acting through the Human Resources Division and the National Association of Government Employees (NAGE). Contingent on compliance with all federal and state regulations, and as soon as is administratively feasible for the Employer, the Commonwealth agrees to deduct the permissible cost of MBTA passes from an employee's salary on a pre-tax basis for all employees who wish to participate in such a program.


James G. Farley, President-Local R1-207


James J. Hartnett, Jr., Personnel Administrator


Richard F. Faust, President-Local R1-282

2/3/00
Date

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
AND THE
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES**

Regarding Article 7, Section 2

This Memorandum of understanding is entered into between the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, acting through the Human Resources Division and the National Association of Government Employees (NAGE). This Memorandum reflects a clarification of Article 7, Section 2 of the NAGE Agreement concerning a payment of overtime for part-time employees who are regularly scheduled to work fewer than thirty-seven and one-half (37.5) hours per week.

- A. An employee whose regular workweek is less than thirty-seven and one-half (37.5) hours shall be:
1. Compensated at his/her regular rate for authorized overtime work performed up to forty (40) hours per week that is in excess of his/her regular workweek; and,
 2. compensated at the rate of time and one-half his/her regular hourly rate of pay for authorized overtime work performed in excess of forty (40) hours in a workweek.
- B. Except as outlined in Article 7.2 paragraph D of the Agreement, paid sick leave shall not be considered time worked for the purpose of calculating any overtime compensation.
- C. An employee whose regular workweek is less than thirty-seven and one-half (37.5) hours shall be compensated at the rate of time and one half his/her regular hourly rate of pay for authorized overtime work performed in excess of eight (8) hours in his/her regular workday except that:
1. an employee whose regular workday is more than eight (8) hours shall be compensated at the rate of time and one half his/her regular hourly rate of pay for authorized overtime work performed in excess of his/her regular workday; and,
 2. as outlined in Article 7.2 paragraph D of the Agreement any paid sick leave used during that payroll period shall be excluded from any such overtime calculations.


James G. Farley, President-Local R1-207


James J. Hartnett, Jr., Personnel Administrator


Richard F. Faust, President-Local R1-282

2/3/00
Date

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS AND THE
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES**

Regarding State of Emergency

During a declared state of Emergency, employees that have been designated emergency personnel that have a documented hardship which prevents the employee from getting to work during said emergency may utilize appropriate leave balances provided that personal leave, if available, is utilized first.

Employees that have been designated as emergency personnel shall have flexibility regarding late arrival to work and the ability to utilize appropriate leave balances so long as the employee has notified the Employer, at least one (1) hour prior to the starting time of their shift, that due to the state of emergency, the employee is unable to arrive at the normal starting time of the shift. In such situations, personal leave, if available, must be utilized first.

The parties agree to establish a joint labor management committee to continue further discussion on this topic during the life of the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Employees who are designated as emergency personnel and are required to physically report to a work location when non-emergency personnel are directed to stay home, shall be provided with one (1) emergency day each January. Said emergency day must be taken within the calendar year it was granted at a time requested by the employee and approved by the Appointing Authority. Any emergency leave not taken by the last Saturday prior to the first full pay period in January will be forfeited by the employee.

Employees designated emergency personnel shall be notified in writing of such designation upon hire, upon change in classification or by September 1st of each year.

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
AND THE
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES**

Vacation Accruals for Current Employees

Current employees with less than 4.5 years of creditable service as of January 1, 2019 may, upon the approval of the Appointing Authority, begin to accrue vacation credits at the rate of 4.326975 hours (75/biweekly) or 4.61544 hours (80/biweekly). To be eligible, employees must have had at least 4.5 years of relevant work history prior to commencement of employment with the Commonwealth.

Employees must apply within 6 months of the implementation of the parties' Collective Bargaining Agreement, on a form to be supplied by their Appointing Authority. If approved, the commencement of the enhanced vacation accrual will be effective January 1, 2019. If the employee fails to file a request within the allotted six months, he/she shall be eligible to receive enhanced vacation accrual on a prospective basis. If the employees' vacation accrual is changed, the employees will remain at this rate until they reach 9.5 years of creditable service with the Commonwealth.

Grievances of an Appointing Authority's denial of accelerated vacation accrual may be processed in an expedited Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) hearing upon request by the Union.

**CODE OF CONDUCT
FOR COMMONWEALTH OF
MASSACHUSETTS NAGE UNIT SIX
EMPLOYEES**

Text in *Italic* lettering applies to all
Unit Six Employees; text in block lettering applies to
Department of Revenue Employees only.

**CODE OF CONDUCT FOR COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
NAGE UNIT SIX EMPLOYEES**

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CODE OF CONDUCT COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS UNIT SIX

"No responsibility of Government is more fundamental than the responsibility for maintaining the highest standards of ethical behavior by those who conduct the public business. There can be no dissent from the principle that all officials must act with unwavering integrity, absolute impartiality, and complete devotion to the public interest. This principle must be followed not only in reality but in appearance. For the basis of effective government is public confidence, and that confidence is endangered when ethical standards falter or appear to falter."

*President John F. Kennedy
April 27, 1961*

1. INTRODUCTION

This document constitutes a Handbook and Code of Conduct for all NAGE Unit 6 employees of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. This Code is designed to give all employees full and fair notice of their professional and ethical obligations.

The fundamental mission of the Department of Revenue is to foster, to the fullest extent possible, voluntary compliance with the Commonwealth's revenue laws. Public confidence in the integrity and dependability of the Department and its employees is essential to achieving this goal.

We can maintain that confidence only to the extent that all of our official activities and all of our contacts with the public reflect the highest ethical and moral standards. We must perform our duties with integrity and propriety. We must also do all in our power to ensure that none of our words or actions can be interpreted otherwise.

This Code is written for your own protection. It strives to impart three fundamental messages:

- A. *Every employee must scrupulously avoid any actual conduct which constitutes a conflict of interest or conduct which gives the reasonable basis for the impression of a conflict of interest between his/her private interests, usually financial, and the public interest. The public interest must always take precedence;*
- B. *Every employee is prohibited from either taking some action, or failing to perform some duty, which would personally benefit himself/herself or give preferential treatment to any citizen;*

- C. *Every employee is prohibited from taking any action which would result in illegal receipt of public or private funds.*

Guidance-both on what we are expected to do and on what we are prohibited from doing-should help all of us understand generally what is expected of us. It should also help resolve particular situations we are faced with in our daily work.

Please read these rules carefully and aide by their spirit as well as their letter. Each of us can take pride in belonging to an organization which contributes so much to the growth, strength and quality of life of the Commonwealth.

2. DEFINITIONS:

As used in this Code, unless the context requires otherwise:

- a. *"administrative inquiries" - means those occasions when an employee is required to respond to questions of importance to the agency/department when directed to do so by his/her Appointing Authority or that Authority's designee.*
- b. *"disciplinary action" - means any action taken by the Appointing Authority to discipline an employee, and when applicable in accordance with the provisions of the collective bargaining agreement or civil service law.*
- c. *"employee" - means any person in the Alliance on the current personnel roster of the agency/department. This shall include all bargaining unit workers; those who are on any form of leave of absence; workers who are serving suspension.*
- d. *"immediate family" - means the employee and his/her spouse and their parents, children, brothers and sisters.*
- e. *"nominal value" - means monetary worth not exceeding twenty-five dollars (\$25.00).*
- f. *"official action" - means any activity performed or required to be performed by an employee in the course of his/her official duties.*

3. REGULATORY BASIS

This handbook and Code of Conduct is issued pursuant to the powers of the Commissioner of Administration, as set forth in Chapter 7, Section 4 of the General Laws, and in accordance with, but not limited to M.G.L. Ch. 268A. Opinions of the Attorney General, Ethics Commissions Rulings and applicable management rights provisions of any relevant collective bargaining agreements.

4. GENERAL RULES

A. The Code Generally

- 1. *Applicability of Code*
The Code applies to all Bargaining Unit 6 employees including those on any type of leaves (e.g., leave without pay, military leave, civic-duty leave, etc.)

2. Scope of Code

This Code is not to be considered all-inclusive. The absence of a specific published rule of conduct does not mean or imply that any act of misconduct tending to discredit an employee is condoned or permissible or would not result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

3. Knowledge of Code

Each employee is required to know the Code of Conduct and rules contained herein; to seek information from his/her appointing authority, the appointing authority's designee or personnel office in case of doubt or misunderstanding as to their application.

Decisions in personnel matters involving disciplinary action will be based on the assumption that each employee has familiarized himself/herself with this Code and that he or she is aware of the obligation to abide by it.

4. Effect of Code

Employees whose conduct does not conform to the rules and guidelines contained in this Code may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination. Any disciplinary action taken will conform to civil service law and/or the provisions of the collective bargaining agreement.

5. Distribution of Code

Each appointing authority or his/her designee will see that each employee receives a copy of this Code. Employees will acknowledge receipt of the Code by signing the attached Receipt of Code of Conduct Form (Form CC-3) in the space provided. In each instance, the signed Receipt Form will be returned to the employee's appointing authority or his/her designee within ten days of receipt, and filed in the employee's personnel folder. The employee's signature on the Receipt Form is notice of his/her obligation to familiarize himself/herself with the contents of the Code of Conduct and to abide by it. (An audio tape of the Code shall be made available at no cost to any employee who reasonably requires it.)

Each appointing authority or his/her designee will be responsible for providing accurate information and guidance to his/her employees with regard to the specifics of the Code and may from time to time offer training sessions on the Code to his/her employees as the need arises.

6. Effective Date of Code

The effective date of the Code shall be ten days after the Code of Conduct is distributed and the Code of Conduct Receipt Form is received by the employee(s).

B. Conformance to Laws

Employees shall obey the laws of the United States and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Any employee who is convicted of a crime relating to his/her employment shall be subject to discipline.

Any employee who has been indicted or arrested for a serious crime, supported by a judicial finding or probable cause in a preliminary hearing when the nature of the charge with its attendant publicity reasonably gives rise to legitimate fear for the safety of other employees, the property of the Commonwealth, or jeopardizes the public trust in the ethical standards of agency/departmental employees or undermines trust in the integrity of the Commonwealth's system of tax administration or the administration of other laws of the Commonwealth, may also be subject to suspension without pay or other employee benefits, pending resolution of the case.

If the employee is found guilty, pleads nolo contendere, has his/her case continued without a finding, is granted immunity from prosecution or has his/her case filed, further disciplinary action, including termination, may be taken. If the employee is found not guilty, or the case is nolle prosequi or dismissed, the employee shall be immediately reinstated to employment retroactive to the date of suspension without loss of wages or other employee benefits.

C. Conformance to Policies, Procedures and Directives

Employees shall comply with all of the policies and operating procedures of the agency/department in which they work. This requirement includes, but is not limited to, all agency/departmental policies and procedures. Employees shall respond forthrightly and promptly to the work-related directives of their supervisors.

D. Conduct, Attitude and Demeanor

Employees are expected to conduct themselves in their official relations with the public and with their fellow employees in a manner which will enhance public respect for, and confidence in, the employee and in the Commonwealth as a whole. They must not only perform their duties in a wholly impartial manner, but must avoid any conduct which gives the reasonable basis for the impression of acting otherwise.

Specifically, all employees shall avoid any action which may result in or create the reasonable basis for the impression of:

- (a) using public office for private gain;*
- (b) giving preferential treatment to any citizen;*
- (c) making work-related decisions contrary to agency/departmental policy;*
- (d) using one's official position to harass or intimidate any person or entity outside the course of official duties.*

E. Administrative Inquiries

Employees must respond promptly and fully to administrative inquiries when directed to do so.

F. State Ethics Commission Financial Disclosure Requirements

Employees who are required to file a "Statement of Financial Disclosure" with the State Ethics Commission, under the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 268B, shall do so in a timely manner as prescribed by the State Ethics Commission. The State Ethics Commission will notify each employee who is required to file such a statement.

All Department of Revenue employees who are required to file such a Statement with the State Ethics Commission shall file a copy of the Statement with the Commissioner of the Department of Revenue on or before the date such Statement shall be filed with the State Ethics Commission.

5. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The necessity for the fair and impartial administration of state government and the enforcement of its laws makes the avoidance of any conflict of interest of primary importance. A conflict of interest is a situation in which an employee's private interest, usually financial, conflicts or raises a reasonable question of conflict with his/her official duties and responsibilities.

Chapter 268A of the General Laws provides criminal and civil penalties for conflict of interest violations. The following three general categories of prohibitions are to be used as guidelines for your information (Chapter 268A of the General Laws offers specific details.):

- 1. No employee may request or receive, in any manner whatsoever, compensation or anything else of value, except from the Commonwealth: (a) for performance of his/her duties; or (b) for influencing or appearing to influence such performance.*
- 2. No employee may participate in any official action relating to any entity in which the employee or a member of his/her immediate family has a financial interest.*
- 3. No employee may participate in any official action relating to any individual with whom or entity in which the employee has a substantial personal interest.*

Employees have an obligation to avoid scrupulously the potential conflicts of interest which exist in their employment. They have a duty to disclose and report promptly the existence or possible existence of a conflict of interest to their agency head or his/her designee. They should request from their supervisor the transfer from their caseload of any case which involves their immediate family, close friend or any person with whom or entity in which they have some personal or financial involvement.

In addition, they have a right under law to have any question relating to a possible conflict of interest confidentially reviewed and decided by the State Ethics Commission. Information regarding the filing of a conflict of interest request with the State Ethics Commission is available from the agency head or his/her designee or from the Ethics Commission directly.

In addition to the sanctions referred to above, M.G.L. Chapter 268A, Section 23 also prescribes and describes certain "Standards of Conduct." Violations of these standards are subject to appropriate disciplinary action. All employees are required to abide by the spirit as well as the letter of these standards, which provide as follows:

"No current or former officer or employee of a state, county or municipal agency shall:

- (1) accept other employment which will impair his independence of judgment in the exercise of his official duties;*
- (2) use or attempt to use his official position to secure unwarranted privileges or exemptions for himself or others;*
- (3) by his conduct give reasonable basis for the impression that any person can improperly influence or unduly enjoy his favor in the performance of his official duties, or that he is unduly affected by the kinship, rank, position or influence of any party or person."*

"No current or former officer or employee of a state, county or municipal agency shall:

- (1) accept employment or engage in any business or professional activity which will require him to disclose confidential information which he has gained by reason of his official position or authority;*
- (2) improperly disclose materials or data within the exemptions to the definition of public records as defined by Section Seven of Chapter Four of the General Laws, and were acquired by him in the course of his official duties nor use such information to further his personal interests." (See Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 268A, Section 23.)*

These rules with respect to conflicts of interest are in addition to, and supplement, state policies and agency/departmental rules, regulations and operating procedures that may otherwise apply to the official actions of employees.

(In the event that the Appointing Authority, or his/her designee, approves a particular activity and the Ethics Commission subsequently determines that such activity is a conflict of interest, the appointing authority will not discipline the employee for such activity. However, only the Ethics Commission, and formerly the Attorney General, have the authority to issue an opinion interpreting M.G.L. Chapter 268A, which is binding.)

6. GIFTS AND GRATUITIES FROM OUTSIDE SOURCES

A. General Limitations

Employees shall not solicit or accept, directly or indirectly, any gift, gratuity, favor, entertainment, loan or any other thing of monetary value, from a person who or entity which, the employee knows or has reason to know:

- (1) Has, or is seeking to obtain, contractual or other business or financial relations with his/her agency/department;*
- (2) Conducts business or other activities which are regulated or monitored by the agency/department, except as permitted by this section or by agency/departmental directives; or*
- (3) Has interests that may be or give the reasonable impression of being substantially affected by the performance or nonperformance of the employee's official duties.*

B. Exceptions:

The restrictions set forth in paragraph A of this Section do not apply to:

- (1) Obvious family or personal relationships when the circumstances make it clear that those relationships, rather than the business or the persons concerned, are the motivating factors behind any gift or gratuity.*
- (2) The acceptance of food or refreshments of nominal value on infrequent occasions in the ordinary course of a breakfast, luncheon, dinner or other meeting attended for educational, informational or other similar purpose. However, agency/departmental employees are specifically prohibited from accepting free food or other gratuity except non-alcoholic beverages (coffee, tea, etc.), while on official business, from persons with whom they have contact in the performance of their official duties.*
- (3) The acceptance of loans from banks or other financial institutions on customary terms to finance proper and usual activities of employees, such as home mortgage loans, automobile loans, personal loans, etc., provided that the employee does not deal with that institution in the course of his/her official duties. However, if dealing with such banks or financial institutions is unavoidable, the employee must disclose such dealings to the appointing authority in writing prior to engaging in such dealings.*
- (4) The acceptance of unsolicited advertising or promotional material, such as pens, pencils, note pads, calendars, and other items of nominal value.*
- (5) The acceptance of an award or gift of nominal value for a speech, participation in a conference, or some public contribution or achievement given by a charitable, religious, professional, social, fraternal, educational, recreational, public service or civic organization, if such organization falls within Paragraph A above.*
- (6) Acceptance of reimbursement, in cash or in kind, for travel, subsistence and other expenses incident to attendance at meetings, provided such attendance and reimbursement is approved by the appointing authority or his designee. Such reimbursement can be made directly to the employee.*

An employee on official business may not be reimbursed, and payment may not be made on his or her behalf, for excessive (e.g., reimbursement which exceeds actual costs) personal living expenses, gifts, entertainment, travel or other benefits. At no time shall an employee accept reimbursement from both the Commonwealth and another source for the same expenses.

7. OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT AND BUSINESS ACTIVITY

A. Introduction: Principles

The Commonwealth seeks to give employees the maximum freedom possible to engage in outside employment or business activities consistent with the Commonwealth's responsibilities. However, the extremely sensitive mission of the Commonwealth and its employees necessitates certain restrictions. Employees may engage in outside employment or business activity provided such activity is not prohibited by this Code or by any statute, regulation or departmental order.

An activity that is permissible for the occupant of one position may very well not be permissible for the occupant of another position. Therefore, in considering each case on its individual merits, the employee must satisfy the following principles:

- (1) The outside activity would not place the employee in a situation where there is a conflict, or in a situation which gives the reasonable basis for the impression of a conflict, between his or her private interests and his or her official duties and responsibilities (see Section 5, above, "Conflict of Interest," for additional guidance).*
- (2) The outside activity (unless otherwise permitted by this code) would not relate directly to tax problems, preparation of tax returns or tax liabilities solely of others, whether federal, state or local taxes.*
- (3) The outside activity would not result in use, dissemination or disclosure to others of confidential information obtained in connection with the employee's departmental duties or position.*
- (4) The nature of the employment or business activity or the hours to be devoted to such activity would not impair the employee's availability, capacity of efficiency for the performance of his/her official duties as an employee of the Commonwealth.*
- (5) Employees shall not engage directly or indirectly in financial transactions as a result of, or primarily relying on, information obtained through their employment. In particular, they shall not use confidential information obtained in the course of their employment with the Commonwealth to obtain benefits, financial or otherwise, for themselves, their families or others.*

B. Activities Which Do Not Require Prior Notice

(1) Introduction

Employees are generally not required to submit written notice before engaging in outside activities which are not considered to be employment or

business. Although it is not feasible to cover every specific activity of this nature, the general categories discussed below are furnished as basic guidelines.

(2) General Examples

(a) *Membership and uncompensated services (including holding of office) in civic, scout, religious, educational, fraternal, social, community, veterans, or charitable organizations.*

Bookkeeping services provided to such organizations require prior written approval. (See Section 7 (C) (I) (b) (3).)

(b) *Services as a notary public or justice of the peace. (Except notarization of tax returns).*

(c) *Rental of employee-owned property, real or personal, to the extent such property is not rented to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts or any agency or subdivision thereof, or the lessee is not a subject of the employee's official duties.*

(d) *Minor services and odd jobs for friends, relatives, or neighbors. These include a wide variety of activities, including: repair or maintenance work such as painting, yard work, carpentry, or services such as babysitting and carpooling involving payment for transportation.*

(e) *Temporary (thirty days or less) assistance in a family enterprise, in the event of an emergency, such as the death or serious illness/accident to a member of the family engaged in that business.*

(f) *However, no employee shall without appropriate disclaimer stating that the employee does not speak for the agency/department, take an active part or become an advocate on behalf of a professional society in any conflict between such society and the agency/department.*

C. Specific Prohibitions and Restrictions of Employment

(1) Outside Legal or Accounting Practice or Employment

(a) General Prohibitions

1. *No outside legal or accounting practice is permitted which is in violation of M.G.L. Ch. 268A. Specifically, employees are prohibited from receiving compensation from or acting as agent or attorney for anyone other than the Commonwealth in relation to any particular matter in which the Commonwealth a state agency is a party or has a direct and substantial interest.*
2. *Managerial employees are prohibited from engaging in outside legal or accounting practices for which they receive compensation.*
3. *Employees who hold Counsel I, Counsel II, or Tax Counsel positions shall not engage in the outside practice of law during normal business hours. In no event shall an employee holding a Counsel I, Counsel II or Tax Counsel position appear in court as an attorney on behalf of a private client.*

4. To the extent that outside legal or accounting practice is permitted, it must not interfere with the effective performance of an employee's official duties with the Department of Revenue.

The employee must give notice of outside legal or accounting practice to the Appointing Authority or his/her designee on Form CC-4, "Notice of Outside Legal or Accounting Practice" or Employment. Notice to the Appointing Authority or his/her designee does not mean or imply that such outside employment or practice is not in conflict with M.G.L. Ch. 268A.

(b). Exceptions

1. An employee may render uncompensated legal or accounting service to and employee's immediate family, provided the service does not create a conflict of interest with the Department of Revenue or include representation of family members before the Department of Revenue, a state administrative agency or in the courts of the Commonwealth where the Commonwealth is a party.
2. An employee may, with prior written approval from the Commissioner or his/her designee, and during off duty hours with or without compensation: exercise a power of attorney, act as trustee, guardian, conservator, executor, administrator and or act as a resident agent for an employee's immediate family as authorized by M.G.L. Ch. 268A, Section 4.
3. An employee may, with prior written approval from the Commissioner or his/her designee, act as bookkeeper or accountant for a civic, scout, religious, educational, fraternal, social community, veterans, and/or charitable organization without compensation.

In connection with any of the activities listed in Section 7 (C) (1) (B) (1) (2) and (3), employees may not prepare or sign tax returns, advise or act in matters involving claims against the Commonwealth of Massachusetts or any agency thereof, or participate in matters which the Commonwealth or any agency thereof, is a party thereto or has a direct and substantial interest, or which are the subject of their official duties.

(2) Outside Preparation of Tax Returns and Other Forms

Preparation of tax returns and other forms required by the Department of Revenue or the Internal Revenue Service, whether compensated or uncompensated, for a person other than a member of the employee's immediate family is not permitted.

(3) Outside Employment As An Assessor

Outside employment as an assessor or consultant performing assessing or appraisal duties for a city or town or other political subdivision of the Commonwealth is prohibited. This restriction applies whether or not the employee is compensated for performing these services.

D. Activities Which Require Prior Written Notice

There are a number of areas in which employees, subject to the conditions and prohibitions stated in part 7A, B, and C above may engage in certain categories of outside employment/outside business provided they submit prior written notice on Form CC-2 to the Commissioner of Revenue or his designee.

The categories of outside employment/outside business which require an employee to provide prior written notice are those which require the filing of state or federal tax returns and/or the collection of state or federal taxes.

Employees who are engaged in such outside employment/outside business at the time of the implementation of this Code of Conduct shall submit such notice on Form CC-2 to the Commissioner or his/her designee within twenty (20) days of their receipt of this Code.

The Commissioner may disapprove of such outside employment/outside business if he determines that it violates M.G.L. Ch. 268A or this Code.

8. DUTY TO REPORT VIOLATIONS OF LAW AND CODE OF CONDUCT

A. Generally

Every employee is expected to maintain and uphold the integrity of the Department. In satisfying this requirement, it shall be the duty of every employee to report promptly and accurately violations of law that affect the administration of the Department or the tax laws of the Commonwealth to his or her agency/department head or designee. To the fullest extent possible, any such reports shall be treated confidentially.

B. Tax Law Violations

Employees must report to their bureau chief or the Commissioner's designee (under circumstances involving an employee directly to Internal Affairs) any knowledge they have of the violation of any tax law of the Commonwealth by any person

C. Attempts to Bribe

Bribery and attempted bribery are claims which strike at the core of state government. Employees alert to solicitation to accept money, consideration, or anything of value in return for acts or omissions involving their official functions. Such solicitations may be indirect and subtle. Any attempt to bribe a departmental employee shall be reported immediately to the proper agency authority. In the Department of Revenue employees shall immediately report any attempt of bribery to the Office of Internal Affairs. After reporting, the employee shall thereafter cooperate with Internal Affairs in any ensuing investigation and avoid any unnecessary discussion of the case with others.

D. Threats, Harassment, Etc.

The physical, psychological and emotional well being of all employees is of paramount concern to the Department. Any threats, physical or verbal harassment, including sexual harassment, or other actions designed to, or having the effect of interfering with tax administration shall be reported immediately by all employees who have information of such activities to the proper agency authority. In the Department of Revenue employees shall report to their bureau chief or the Commissioner's designee and to the Office of Internal Affairs. Those who receive such reports will maintain confidentiality of the source in a manner appropriate to the circumstances of the case.

E. Employee Obligations

Violations of any law relating to tax administration or the Code by any employee tend to bring discredit upon the entire Department. The Department holds its employees responsible for cooperating in the identification of such violations. In meeting this requirement, it shall be the duty of every employee to bring to the attention of the Office of Internal Affairs knowledge of violations of any law relating to tax administration or any violations of any provision of this Code which has, or which if unreported would likely result in the commission of a crime. The identity of any employee bringing such knowledge to the attention of the Office of Internal Affairs will be kept strictly confidential, and such employee will not be required to participate further in any investigation or disciplinary proceeding against an employee arising from such investigation.

The Commissioner of Revenue shall recommend to the Commissioner of Administration and Finance that he/she file a bill, or take other appropriate action, to indemnify fully, including reasonable attorney's fees and costs, in accordance with the dollar limit set by M.G.L. Ch. 258 section 9 any Department of Revenue employee for any civil damages awarded by a court as a result of a report made pursuant to this section of the Code, and provided the Commissioner of Revenue determines the employee acted in good faith and within the scope of his/her official duties or employment.

9. **OTHER STANDARDS OF CONDUCT**

A. **Timely Filing and Certification of Federal and State Tax Returns and Timely Payment of Taxes Due**

The mission of the Department of Revenue is to encourage and achieve the highest possible degree of voluntary compliance with out tax laws and regulations. In light of this mission, it is imperative that all employees comply fully with all applicable requirements of federal and state taxing authorities.

Therefore, all employees shall file all federal and state tax returns timely and pay any tax due in a timely manner or enter into a payment agreement, file in good faith an application for abatement or have an appeal pending before a tribunal of competent jurisdiction. A "tax due" as used in the preceding sentence, includes:

- a) A balance due on a federal or state tax return; or
- b) A federal or state tax assessment where that agency's statutes or regulations require immediate payment notwithstanding the fact that the tax assessment is being contested.

All employees will be required to file a "Certificate of Filing" with their bureau chief or the Commissioner's designee certifying they have timely filed their Massachusetts individual income tax return commencing with their 1985 individual income tax return. This certificate will then be filed with their bureau chief or the Commissioner's designee. This certificate will be due on or before May 1, of each year, certifying the filing of the prior year's return or the existence of a valid extension of time to file.

B. False Statements

Proper functioning of the government requires that the agency/department, the courts, other state agencies and the public be able to rely fully on the truthfulness of government employees in matters of official interest. An employee will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination for intentionally making false or misleading verbal or written statements in matters of official interest.

C. Recommending Professional Assistance

Employees may not recommend or suggest, specifically or by implication, to anyone that he/she obtain the services of any particular accountant, attorney or firm of accountants or attorneys, or any other professional or business organization in connection with official business which involves or may involve the agency/department.

D. Tax Information to be Treated as Confidential

Employees may not publish, divulge or make known, in any manner, except as provided or required by law, any information contained in any tax return or in any schedule, list or other statement designed to supplement or to become a part of a tax return. Employees also may not publish, divulge, disclose or make known in any manner or to any extent not authorized by law any information resulting from any examination or investigation or contained in any report, record or electronic data source, when the information concerns or relates to: trade secrets, processes, operations, style of work or apparatus, or to the identity, confidential, statistical data, amount or source of any income, profits, losses or expenditures of any person, firm, party corporation, or association. When a question arises as to whether an item of information may be disclosed, the employee shall discuss the facts with his/her bureau chief or the Commissioner's designee and where appropriate, request an opinion from the Legal Bureau.

E. Public Records

All requests for public records should be directed to the Appointing Authority or his/her designee who shall determine whether the requested documents are public records in accordance with M.G.L.Ch. 4, Sec. 7, Ch.. 26.

F. Drugs and Alcohol

While on duty no employee shall consume or use alcohol, intoxicants, narcotics, or controlled substances in any form. Similarly, no employee shall report for work under the influence of intoxicants, narcotics or controlled substances in any form. The only exception to this rule is the use of medication when prescribed for the treatment of the employee by a registered physician or dentist.

G. Departmental Identification Cards, Badges, Etc.

Agency/Departmental identification cards, badges and other identification or access cards or documents are for use only in establishing identity, authority or access in connection with official duties.

Agency/departmental identification cards or badges may be used for personal identification purpose when cashing checks or used as proof of employment, such as applying for a loan, for credit or when renting an apartment.

Employees are responsible for the safeguarding and proper use of agency/departmental identification cards, badges and access cards, for promptly reporting their loss and for surrendering them on termination of employment or demand by proper agency/departmental authorities.

Cards, badges or documents, or an employee's official position or status, are not to be used to exert influence or obtain, either directly or indirectly, personal privileges, favors or rewards for themselves or others. Photo identification badges must be worn while at work in an agency which requires them to be worn. Department of Revenue photo identification badges must be worn by Department of Revenue employees while in any Department of Revenue facility.

H. Political Activities

Employees are prohibited from using their office or official duties to interfere with, affect or influence the results of a nomination or election for public office.

No employee shall use his/her official authority directly or indirectly to coerce, attempt to coerce, command, advise or prevent any person or body to pay, lend or contribute anything of value to any party candidate or political committee.

No employee shall solicit or accept funds or anything of value for any party, political committee, agency, person or organization for political purposes.

Employees are not prohibited from contributing to the campaign committee or organization for nomination or election of any individual running for public office or to any committee, agency, or organization for political purposes.

Employees are prohibited from campaigning for political office for themselves or others during normal working hours. Employees are prohibited from being a candidate for federal, state or full-time municipal office while on active duty. Such employees must obtain a leave of absence to run for such offices.

Employees are prohibited from wearing a political or campaign button while on official agency/departmental business.

Employees shall abide by the provisions of the following paragraph from M.G.L. Ch. 268A, Section 11 which provides:

"This section shall not prohibit a state or county employee from holding an elective or appointive office in a city, town or district nor in any way prohibit such an employee from performing the duties of or receiving the compensation provided for such office. No such elected or appointed official may vote or act on any matter which is within the purview of the agency by which he/she is employed or over which such employee has official responsibility."

I. Firearms and Deadly Weapons

An employee shall not carry firearms or other dangerous weapons on his/her person during the performance of official duties or on work premises except as specifically authorized by the agency/department head or his/her designee. An employee authorized to carry a firearm is forbidden to display it unnecessarily in public.

J. Testimonial Dinners

Employees are prohibited from selling or accepting payment for tickets, admissions or contributions, for a testimonial dinner or function or any affair having a purpose similar to a testimonial dinner or function held on behalf of any employee of his/her agency/department. No employee shall participate in or accept contributions for or from any testimonial dinner or function or any affair having a similar purpose, held on his or her behalf while he or she is an employee if such dinner, function or affair is sponsored by a person or organization which is regulated by or has official business with the employee's department or agency.

This section shall not prohibit the collection sums of nominal value to cover the cost of small celebrations or other small events (such as birthday or holiday parties) held within agency/departmental offices.

K. News Media and Publicity

To ensure that the Department of Revenue speaks with one informed voice on the many sensitive matters that come before it, no news media release concerning

Department of Revenue official business is to be issued by any employee unless first approved by the Director of Communications.

All contacts concerning official departmental business with the media must be approved in advance by the Commissioner of Director of Communications or follow specific guidelines established by them. All requests for information or documents from the news media should be referred to, and all correspondence to the news media must be mailed from, the Communications Office or follow specific guidelines for the handling of such material established by that office.

L. **Legal and Other Professional or Scholarly Publications**

All employees are encouraged to publish articles in professional and scholarly journals. However, to protect the integrity of departmental letter rulings and other official documents of this Department and to ensure application of a clear and consistent legal policy within the Department, all legal, accounting, tax, or tax administration related publications authored by employees must bear the following caveat:

This article represents the opinions and (legal) conclusions of its author(s) and not necessarily those of the Department of Revenue.

Also, copies of all such article published should be made available to the departmental library in the Legal Bureau.

M. **Legislative Requests and Inquiries**

All requests or inquiries from public officials or their staffs must be referred to the agency/department head or his or designee before any action is taken, unless employees are directed to handle such requests otherwise by the agency/department head or his or her designee.

All request or inquiries from legislators or other public officials or their staffs must be referred to the Department of Revenue Problem Resolution Office before any action is taken by the employees, unless employees are directed to handle such requests otherwise by the Commissioner or his/her designee.

**CODE OF CONDUCT
FOR
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
NAGE UNIT SIX**

*** * * RECEIPT * * ***

I hereby acknowledge that I have received a copy of the Employee Code of Conduct for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts NAGE UNIT 6 Employees. I also acknowledge that it is my responsibility as an employee of the Commonwealth to read this CODE OF CONDUCT and to comply with its terms and conditions.

Signature

Date

Name in print

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
PROGRAM GUIDELINES
FOR ALTERNATIVE WORK
OPTIONS**

The Commonwealth and the Union, NAGE Units 1, 3 and 6 support Alternative Work Options (AWO). The parties agree that there are many benefits that may result from Alternative Work Options such as increased productivity and improved morale throughout the work-place. An Alternative Work Option is available to eligible employees based on operational needs of the Agency. This program shall not be subject to the grievance procedure as outlined in the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA), and shall not be arbitrable. All parties must recognize the importance of accepting mutual responsibility for good communication for successful participation in an AWO program. Employees, supervisors and managers must understand the heightened importance of communication once an agency begins an Alternative Work Options program. Verbal and written communication among all parties about schedules is essential to increase the efficiency of the process.

The following are the Commonwealth's guidelines for Alternative Work Options.

I. Definitions:

- Alternative Work Options: Variations from the standard work schedule.
- Full-time Employee: Works a total of 37.5 or 40 hours per week.
- Part-time Employee: Works at least half-time, such as 18.75 or 20 hours per week and less than full-time each week.
- Job Sharing: Two part-time employees share the responsibility of one full-time position.
- Telecommuting: Working at an alternate location (a place which differs from an employee's primary work location).
- Four day work week: Working full-time in four days each week, (also known as a compressed workweek).
- Four and one-half day workweek: A full-time work schedule consisting of four extended work days and one day on which the employee works at least 3.5 or 4 hours.
- Staggered Schedule: The scheduled arrival and departure times differ from the standard work hours or shift hours. Once established, the employee works the same schedule each week.
- Flexible ("Flex") Schedule: Daily and or weekly variations in the time an employee starts and or stops working. A Flex schedule permits employees to set their own schedules within the guidelines established by the Agency's Management and collective bargaining agreements.

Arrival and departure times may vary, as can the number of hours worked each day. Employees must work the total number of hours that are required of full-time or part-time employees each week. Employees are able to make up time missed due to a doctor's appointment or any other personal business by working longer that day or making up the time another day during the week. Some agencies may establish "core hours" during which all employees must be at work regardless of individual schedules. This is not a four day work program.

- **Bandwidth:** The earliest time an employee may begin work, to the latest time work may end.
- **Core Hours:** The designated time period which all employees must be at work, regardless of an alternative schedule. Agencies will define core hours as the range of hours (example 10am to 2pm or 10-11am and 1-3 pm) in a day when employees must be at work, inclusive of a meal period. Example of an exception: Employees working a four and one-half day schedules are exempt from the core hour requirement one day per week. Core hours do not apply when an employee is charging leave time (vacation, sick, or personal time) or unpaid time off.
- **Meal Break:** Federal and state law require employees to take a break for a minimum of 30 minutes after six consecutive hours of work. With prior approval, an employee may take a longer meal break.
- **Holidays:** Regardless of how many hours an employee normally works in a day, all holiday pay is for a maximum of 7.5 hours or 8 hours (pro-rated for part-time employees).
- **Sick, Vacation and Personal Leave:** Approved sick, personal and vacation leave may be charged for core time missed. If a whole day is taken off, an employee must charge their accrued leave time to cover their regularly scheduled hours for that day.
- **Overtime/Comp Time Policy:** Refer to the Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- **Default Schedule:** Prior approved work schedule.
- **Operational Need:** The Agency must have necessary staff present in order to operate during business hours so that there is no disruption in the workplace. The Agency must also ensure that there is staff to meet the responsibilities of the workplace. (Employees must report to the work site or any other designated location for any required trainings or meetings.)
- Any and all other options mutually agreed upon.

II. Eligibility:

Alternative Work Options are open to employees with the approval of Management. The assessment of a request for an alternative work option involves taking into account the employee's recent performance history, up to 24 months from the date of the request, length of time in the bargaining unit, and operational needs of the Agency. Employees in their probationary period may not participate in an Alternative Work Option Program.

III. Application

- In order to participate, an employee must submit an Alternative Work Options Form and define their “default” schedule for the purpose of ensuring that minimum staffing requirements are met and for ease of time and attendance reporting.
- Unit managers must review all requests for Alternative Work Option schedules and provide a written approval, modification or denial. If the decision is a denial or revocation of an existing individual AWO arrangement, Management must indicate the reason for the denial or revocation. Absent an emergency, the agency will provide notice within ten business days of the elimination of the AWO program for all participants or for a particular participant.
- AWO Request Forms should be maintained in each employee’s personnel file.

IV. Alternative Work Options Review Committee

A. Each Department or Agency will establish a process to review all Alternative Work Option (AWO) applications. The review process shall include members from both the Bargaining Unit and Managers.

This process will include all approved and denied AWO applications. The review process will insure that applications are in accordance with the AWO guidelines.

Departments or Agencies will collect information from these applications which will enable them to assess the success of the AWO program.

B. There will be a state wide Review Committee which will review the program on a quarterly basis and recommend changes to the program as necessary to the Agency Heads and the Human Resources Division, (HRD). The Committee shall consist of the current Efficiency Work Group members, or in the alternative, three bargaining unit employees and three Managers.