



An Act advancing public employee labor rights

MTA Legislative Agenda, 2021-2022

Lead Sponsors: Sen. Rebecca Rausch (D-Needham) | Rep. Orlando Ramos (D-Springfield)

Addressing the statutory prohibition on public employees engaging in a strike.

Massachusetts public employees, including educators, are currently prohibited by law from engaging in a strike, regardless of their working conditions or whether their employer may have committed unfair labor practices.

This outright ban on public employees striking is unjust and outdated, and unfairly restricts the ability of public employees to take collective action in support of themselves and the communities they serve.

An Act advancing public employee labor rights would amend the current law by:

- Allowing public employees, except for public safety personnel, to legally strike should the state Department of Labor Relations (DLR) determine that the strike is related to unfair labor practices committed by the employer.
- Ensuring that a public employee's right to free speech is not restricted as it relates to discussing a strike.

Passing *An Act advancing public employee labor rights* means:

- Providing public employees with an important tool to take collective action in order to achieve fair, safe and healthy workplaces.
- The Commonwealth will join 12 other states, including California and Vermont, that provide public school educators with the right to strike.

For more information please contact the MTA Government Relations Division
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