



PRESS RELEASE

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RI Council 94, AFSCME Announces New Contract Approval & Ratification

North Providence – Today, Rhode Island Council 94, American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees announced that the master contract was approved by Council 94’s state employee membership. The final vote was 1659 to 84.

Michael McDonald, State Vice-President, stated, “Our state membership overwhelmingly approved a new contract with the state. This new contract provides good wage increases, more up front vacation time for younger employees, and some health insurance benefit plan design changes which will produce savings for the state and our members. Our negotiating committee appreciates the thoughtful dialogue and successful negotiations that occurred with Governor McKee’s administration This contract provides security and stability to the essential services we provide to the public.”

Some highlights from the new contract include:

- **Wage increases:**
 - 5% effective the pay period including July 1, 2024
 - 4% effective the pay period including July 1, 2025
 - 3% effective the pay period including July 1, 2026
- **Adjustments to the State health plans, including:**

(-MORE-)

- **Implementation of a prescription drug cost management program for certain specialty drugs, which could save the State up to an estimated \$3.3 million while also saving money on out-of-pocket costs for members**
- **A new voluntary virtual musculoskeletal program that offers personalized care for members experiencing joint and muscle pain, saving the State up to an estimated \$1.2 million**
- **To compete with the private sector and give the State an extra tool for recruitment, the agreements offer more of employees' vacation time upfront for those who have less than 20 years of state service. The contract also offers more overall vacation days for employees who have been working for the State for less than 10 years**
- **Standardization of language in advance of the State launching its new human resources, payroll and finance system in 2025**

Council 94, Rhode Island's largest state employee union, represents over 3,500 members.

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