

State Contract Approval: What You Need to Know

Congratulations AFSCME Council 5 members! Your activism worked.

Just six days after more than 1,000 members from across the state rallied and lobbied legislators at Day on the Hill, the House and Senate overwhelmingly approved state public worker contracts on Monday, March 26, and Gov. Dayton quickly signed them.

The contracts bring a 2 percent general raise retroactive to July 1, 2017; and another 2.25 percent on July 1, 2018; plus steps.

They cover AFSCME workers in Unit 2 (craft and maintenance), Unit 3 (service), Unit 4 (health care), Unit 6 (clerical), Unit 7 (technical), Unit 8 (corrections) and Unit 25 (radio communications).

The contracts hold the line on health care costs and improve health and dental benefits.

Frequently Asked Questions

When will our raises go into effect?

Minnesota Management and Budget says it will take four to six weeks to set up the process for giving the retroactive raises. They plan to publish a schedule next week.

When do language changes in our contracts go into effect?

Immediately. They started as soon as Gov. Dayton signed the contracts.

I understand the contract holds the line on health care costs, and even includes some improvements. When do the health insurance changes begin?

The Minute Clinic/Virtuwell charge moves from \$10 to \$0 on approximately May 1. Every member will get a new SEGIP benefit card in the mail. The diabetes pilot project is already in effect.

When do our dental coverage improvements start?

Due to Republicans on the Subcommittee on Employee Relations (SER) rejecting approval of our contracts last October, members will need to wait to enroll for the improved dental benefits during open enrollment this fall. Those new benefits take effect Jan. 1, 2019.

What do the improved dental benefits include? The dental plan now covers fluoride sealants at no cost, and 80 percent of the cost for implants, prosthetics, prosthetic repairs and orthodontics. The plan continues to pay 80 percent of the cost for in-network restorative services (fillings, endodontics, periodontics, oral surgery and crowns). It also continues to pay 100 percent of diagnostic and preventative care, such as annual exams and teeth cleaning. Orthodontia now covers adults as well as children. Annual maximums will increase from \$1,500 to \$2,000.

What language improvements are part of our new contracts?

- Injured on Duty Pay increases from 240 hours to 300 hours.
- Mileage reimbursement for motorcycles increases from 15 cents a mile to 30 cents.
- Comp-time bank increases from 150 hours to 200 hours.
- Workers can now put up to 100 hours in their deferred compensation each year, up from 80 hours.
- New employees earn and can use their vacation immediately.

Where can I find out what changed in my contract?

Find a summary of changes to your Tentative Agreement for each unit here:

- Multi-unit, http://afscmemn.org/sites/afscmemnd6.prometheuslabor.com/files/2017-19_-_afscme_units_2_3_4_6_7_summary_ta.pdf
- Unit 8 (corrections), <http://afscmemn.org/unit-8>
- Unit 25 (radio control communicators), http://afscmemn.org/sites/afscmemnd6.prometheuslabor.com/files/2017-19_-_afscme_unit_25-_summary_ta.pdf