

**§892. Panel**

The Panel of Mediators, as established by Title 5, section 12004-B, subsection 3, consisting of not less than 5 nor more than 10 impartial members, must be appointed by the Governor from time to time upon the expiration of the terms of the several members, for terms of 3 years. The Maine Labor Relations Board shall supply to the Governor nominations for filling vacancies. Vacancies occurring during a term must be filled for the unexpired term. Members of the panel are entitled to compensation according to section 965, subsection 2, paragraph C. The costs for services rendered and expenses incurred by the panel and any applicable state cost allocation program charges must be shared equally by the parties to mediation and must be paid into a special fund administered by the Maine Labor Relations Board. Authorization for services rendered and expenditures incurred by members of the panel is the responsibility of the Executive Director of the Maine Labor Relations Board. All costs must be paid from that special fund. The executive director may estimate costs upon receipt of a request for services and collect those costs prior to providing the services. The executive director shall bill or reimburse the parties, as appropriate, for any difference between the estimated costs that were collected and the actual costs of providing the services. Once one party has paid its share of the estimated cost of providing the service, the mediator is assigned. A party who has not paid an invoice for the estimated or actual cost of providing services within 60 days of the date the invoice was issued is, in the absence of good cause shown, liable for the amount of the invoice together with a penalty in the amount of 25% of the amount of the invoice. Any penalty amount collected pursuant to this provision remains in the special fund administered by the Maine Labor Relations Board and that fund does not lapse. The executive director is authorized to collect any sums due and payable pursuant to this provision through civil action. In such an action, the court shall allow litigation costs, including court costs and reasonable attorney's fees, to be deposited in the General Fund if the executive director is the prevailing party in the action. [PL 1997, c. 412, §1 (AMD).]

**SECTION HISTORY**

PL 1975, c. 564, §1 (NEW). PL 1983, c. 812, §160 (AMD). PL 1991, c. 92, §1 (AMD). PL 1991, c. 622, §O2 (AMD). PL 1991, c. 798, §2 (AMD). PL 1997, c. 412, §1 (AMD).

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