

(3) labor costs incurred in providing mass transit in the national capital area have increased at an alarming rate and wages and benefits of operators and mechanics currently are among the highest in the Nation;

(4) higher operating costs incurred for public transit in the national capital area cannot be offset by increasing costs to patrons, since this often discourages ridership and thus undermines the public interest in promoting the use of public transit;

(5) spiraling labor costs cannot be offset by the governmental entities that are responsible for subsidy payments for public transit services since local governments generally, and the District of Columbia government in particular, are operating under severe fiscal constraints;

(6) imposition of mandatory standards applicable to arbitrators resolving arbitration disputes involving interstate compact agencies operating in the national capital area will ensure that wage increases are justified and do not exceed the ability of transit patrons and taxpayers to fund the increase; and

(7) Federal legislation is necessary under Article I of section 8¹ of the United States Constitution to balance the need to moderate and lower labor costs while maintaining industrial peace.

(b) Purpose

It is therefore the purpose of this chapter to adopt standards governing arbitration which must be applied by arbitrators resolving disputes involving interstate compact agencies operating in the national capital area in order to lower operating costs for public transportation in the Washington metropolitan area.

(Pub. L. 104-50, title IV, §402, Nov. 15, 1995, 109 Stat. 463.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in subsec. (b), was in the original “this Act” and was translated as reading “this title” meaning title IV of Pub. L. 104-50 which enacted this chapter, to reflect the probable intent of Congress.

SHORT TITLE

Section 401 of title IV of Pub. L. 104-50 provided that: “This title [enacting this chapter] may be cited as the ‘National Capital Area Interest Arbitration Standards Act of 1995’.”

§ 1302. Definitions

As used in this chapter—

(1) the term “arbitration” means—

(A) the arbitration of disputes, regarding the terms and conditions of employment, that is required under an interstate compact governing an interstate compact agency operating in the national capital area; and

(B) does not include the interpretation and application of rights arising from an existing collective bargaining agreement;

(2) the term “arbitrator” refers to either a single arbitrator, or a board of arbitrators, chosen under applicable procedures;

(3) an interstate compact agency’s “funding ability” is the ability of the interstate com-

compact agency, or of any governmental jurisdiction which provides subsidy payments or budgetary assistance to the interstate compact agency, to obtain the necessary financial resources to pay for wage and benefit increases for employees of the interstate compact agency;

(4) the term “interstate compact agency operating in the national capital area” means any interstate compact agency which provides public transit services;

(5) the term “interstate compact agency” means any agency established by an interstate compact to which the District of Columbia is a signatory; and

(6) the term “public welfare” includes, with respect to arbitration under an interstate compact—

(A) the financial ability of the individual jurisdictions participating in the compact to pay for the costs of providing public transit services; and

(B) the average per capita tax burden, during the term of the collective bargaining agreement to which the arbitration relates, of the residents of the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, and the effect of an arbitration award rendered pursuant to such arbitration on the respective income or property tax rates of the jurisdictions which provide subsidy payments to the interstate compact agency established under the compact.

(Pub. L. 104-50, title IV, §403, Nov. 15, 1995, 109 Stat. 464.)

§ 1303. Standards for arbitrators

(a) Factors in making arbitration award

An arbitrator rendering an arbitration award involving the employees of an interstate compact agency operating in the national capital area may not make a finding or a decision for inclusion in a collective bargaining agreement governing conditions of employment without considering the following factors:

(1) The existing terms and conditions of employment of the employees in the bargaining unit.

(2) All available financial resources of the interstate compact agency.

(3) The annual increase or decrease in consumer prices for goods and services as reflected in the most recent consumer price index for the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor.

(4) The wages, benefits, and terms and conditions of the employment of other employees who perform, in other jurisdictions in the Washington, D.C. standard metropolitan statistical area, services similar to those in the bargaining unit.

(5) The special nature of the work performed by the employees in the bargaining unit, including any hazards or the relative ease of employment, physical requirements, educational qualifications, job training and skills, shift assignments, and the demands placed upon the employees as compared to other employees of the interstate compact agency.

(6) The interests and welfare of the employees in the bargaining unit, including—

¹ So in original. Probably should be “section 8 of article I”.

(A) the overall compensation presently received by the employees, having regard not only for wage rates but also for wages for time not worked, including vacations, holidays, and other excused absences;

(B) all benefits received by the employees, including previous bonuses, insurance, and pensions; and

(C) the continuity and stability of employment.

(7) The public welfare.

(b) Compact agency's funding ability

An arbitrator rendering an arbitration award involving the employees of an interstate compact agency operating in the national capital area may not, with respect to a collective bargaining agreement governing conditions of employment, provide for salaries and other benefits that exceed the interstate compact agency's funding ability.

(c) Requirements for final award

In resolving a dispute submitted to arbitration involving the employees of an interstate compact agency operating in the national capital area, the arbitrator shall issue a written award that demonstrates that all the factors set forth in subsections (a) and (b) of this section have been considered and applied. An award may grant an increase in pay rates or benefits (including insurance and pension benefits), or reduce hours of work, only if the arbitrator concludes that any costs to the agency do not adversely affect the public welfare. The arbitrator's conclusion regarding the public welfare must be supported by substantial evidence.

(Pub. L. 104-50, title IV, § 404, Nov. 15, 1995, 109 Stat. 464.)

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 1304 of this title.

§ 1304. Procedures for enforcement of awards

(a) Modifications and finality of award

In the case of an arbitration award to which section 1303 of this title applies, the interstate compact agency and the employees in the bargaining unit, through their representative, may agree in writing upon any modifications to the award within 10 days after the award is received by the parties. After the end of that 10-day period, the award, with any such modifications, shall become binding upon the interstate compact agency, the employees in the bargaining unit, and the employees' representative.

(b) Implementation

Each party to an award that becomes binding under subsection (a) of this section shall take all actions necessary to implement the award.

(c) Judicial review

Within 60 days after an award becomes binding under subsection (a) of this section, the interstate compact agency or the exclusive representative of the employees concerned may file a civil action in a court which has jurisdiction over the interstate compact agency for review of the award. The court shall review the award on the record, and shall vacate the award or any

part of the award, after notice and a hearing, if—

(1) the award is in violation of applicable law;

(2) the arbitrator exceeded the arbitrator's powers;

(3) the decision by the arbitrator is arbitrary or capricious;

(4) the arbitrator conducted the hearing contrary to the provisions of this chapter or other statutes or rules that apply to the arbitration so as to substantially prejudice the rights of a party;

(5) there was partiality or misconduct by the arbitrator prejudicing the rights of a party;

(6) the award was procured by corruption, fraud, or bias on the part of the arbitrator; or

(7) the arbitrator did not comply with the provisions of section 1303 of this title.

(Pub. L. 104-50, title IV, § 405, Nov. 15, 1995, 109 Stat. 465.)

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