

Collective Bargaining Under the Railway Labor Act

The flow chart below illustrates the various steps of the RLA negotiation process, including the numerous safeguards that help overcome bargaining stalemates. Although the parties often reach agreement without any outside intervention, the RLA bargaining process can include mediation by an independent federal agency and action by the President of the United States if necessary to facilitate resolution of the parties' negotiations. Even after the RLA process has concluded, Congress has stepped in to prevent or terminate service disruptions that would harm the national economy.

