



AB 1174
ASSEMBLYMAN MATTHEW HARPER &
SENATOR JOHN MOORLACH



Right to Work State

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED BILL

This bill will establish California as a right-to-work state. Specifically, AB 1174 will prohibit requiring an employee to:

- Become or remain a member of a labor organization;
- Pay any dues, or other similar charges to a labor organization;
- Pay any charity or other third party any amount in lieu of dues.

PROBLEM & NEED FOR BILL:

Background:

Unions have a long history in California and certainly have a place in history; however no employee should be forced to join one. The right-to-work principle affirms the right of every Californian to work for a living without undermining personal freedom by mandating an employee must join a union.

Union membership has increased in California to over 2.5 million members. Much of the dues collected from members are directly contributed to political donations to lobby for increased government spending and higher taxes. Compulsory unionism contributes to the tax-and-spend policies in our state. This bill will eliminate those forced fees and will shift power to employees so they can make their own decisions whether to join a union or not.

Certain public employers in California do not require their employees to join a union. However, they require those opting out of a union to pay their "fair share" fees, which are forced payments to unions ostensibly to pay for bargaining rights. This bill will eliminate those forced fees.

Currently 28 states have passed Right to Work laws giving choices to employees. Nothing in AB 1174 prohibits employees from joining a union; it simply gives them the option not to join.

Problems Created by Regulatory

Disparities:

Right to work states enjoy greater economic prosperity than forced unionism states (which California is considered). Data shows that per capita income has grown significantly faster in Right to Work states. Right to Work states also have faster growth in manufacturing and nonagricultural jobs, increased capital expenditures, and have lower unemployment rates.

Recent Reform:

In the last eight years Missouri, Kentucky, Oklahoma, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, and West Virginia have all become right-to-work states. Legislation is pending in New Hampshire.

Most recently in California, SB 1180 (2010) was introduced to establish California as a right to work state. AB 1174 will continue that goal to free employees to make choices about their employment representation.

Need for Regulatory Reform:

In light of California's emerging distressed economical issues, those who work for a union deserve the right to opt-out of paying their union dues if they choose to do so. Forcing members to participate is wrong and they should not have the financial burden or fear of repercussion if they chose to opt-out.

SUPPORT

OPPOSITION

Co-Authors

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