
SENATE BILL 5174

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Senators Angel, Baumgartner, Honeyford, and Padden

Read first time 01/16/17. Referred to Committee on Commerce, Labor & Sports.

1 AN ACT Relating to amending the consumer protection act to
2 prohibit labor organizations from engaging in unfair or deceptive
3 acts or practices; amending RCW 19.86.070; and creating a new
4 section.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that, while the
7 existence of labor organizations should not be prohibited by consumer
8 protection laws, labor organizations are fundamentally business
9 enterprises providing and receiving payment for the provision of
10 workplace representation services. As such, recipients of workplace
11 representation services from labor organizations should receive the
12 same protections of law against unfair or deceptive practices
13 afforded to consumers of other goods or services.

14 **Sec. 2.** RCW 19.86.070 and 1961 c 216 s 7 are each amended to
15 read as follows:

16 (1) The labor of a human being is not a commodity or article of
17 commerce. Nothing contained in this chapter shall be construed to
18 forbid the existence and operation of labor, agricultural, or
19 horticultural organizations, instituted for the purposes of mutual
20 help, and not having capital stock or conducted for profit, or to

1 forbid or restrain individual members of such organizations from
2 lawfully carrying out the legitimate objects thereof.

3 (2)(a) This section does not prevent the attorney general or any
4 injured person from bringing a civil action, in accordance with this
5 chapter, against any labor organization for engaging in any unfair or
6 deceptive acts or practices prohibited by RCW 19.86.020.

7 (b) For the purposes of this chapter, it is injurious to the
8 public interest for any labor organization to mislead or misinform
9 employees about their statutory or constitutional rights regarding
10 membership in, or the payment of dues or fees to, a labor
11 organization.

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