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**SENATE BILL 5174**

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**State of Washington 65th Legislature 2017 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Angel, Baumgartner, Honeyford, and Padden

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

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

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

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

(1) The labor of a human being is not a commodity or article of commerce. Nothing contained in this chapter shall be construed to forbid the existence and operation of labor, agricultural, or horticultural organizations, instituted for the purposes of mutual help, and not having capital stock or conducted for profit, or to forbid or restrain individual members of such organizations from lawfully carrying out the legitimate objects thereof.

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

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

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