

SENATE BILL REPORT

HB 2751

As Passed Senate, February 28, 2018

Title: An act relating to the deduction of union dues and fees.

Brief Description: Concerning the deduction of union dues and fees.

Sponsors: Representatives Stonier, Valdez, Kloba, Macri, Stanford, Appleton, Jinkins, Fitzgibbon, Bergquist, Goodman, Gregerson, Doglio, Pollet and Frame.

Brief History: Passed House: 2/12/18, 50-48.

Committee Activity: Labor & Commerce: 2/19/18 [DPA, DNP].

Floor Activity:

Passed Senate: 2/28/18, 26-22.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Provides that, if a union security provision exists in a collective bargaining agreement, written authorization from the employee is not required in order for the employer to enforce the union security agreement by deducting the required dues or fees from the employees' pay and transmitting them directly to the union.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR & COMMERCE

Majority Report: Do pass as amended.

Signed by Senators Keiser, Chair; Hasegawa, Vice Chair; Conway, Kuderer and Saldaña.

Minority Report: Do not pass.

Signed by Senators King and Wilson.

Staff: Jarrett Sacks (786-7448)

Background: Union Security Clauses. State law permits, under certain conditions, public sector collective bargaining agreements to contain union security provisions. A union security provision requires employees to maintain union membership or pay union dues or fees as a condition of continued employment. One type of union security provision is an agency shop agreement, where the employer may hire union or non-union employees, and

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the employees do not need to join the union. However, non-union employees must pay a fee to cover representation-related costs. This fee is known as an agency shop fee or agency fee.

Dues Checkoff. A collective bargaining agreement that contains union security provisions may also contain a dues checkoff agreement, where the employer agrees to collect dues and fees from members of the collective bargaining units' pay and transmit the money directly to the union. Under most state collective bargaining laws, written authorization from the employee is required in order for union dues and fees to be withheld from their pay. However, for independent providers who collectively bargain under the Public Employees' Collective Bargaining Act, written authorization is not required if the collective bargaining agreement contains a union security provision.

Summary of Bill: Under state collective bargaining laws, if a collective bargaining agreement contains an authorized union security provision, the employer must enforce the agreement by deducting the dues required for membership in the exclusive bargaining representative, or the equivalent fee for nonmembers, from the employee's pay and transmitting that money to the exclusive bargaining representative. If the collective bargaining agreement requires deductions that are not subject to the union security provision, written authorization from the employee is required before the employer may make the deduction from the employee's pay. If a collective bargaining does not contain a union security provision, written authorization from the employee is required before the employer may deduct union dues from the employee's pay.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony on House Bill: No public hearing was held.

Persons Testifying: N/A

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: N/A