

Connecticut General Assembly, 2017

BILLS ON COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AND UNIONIZATION:

On limiting union membership

SB 596: Reclassifies many workers as managers, making them ineligible to participate in union

HB 6201: Prohibits mandatory union membership

HB 5287 AN ACT INFORMING CERTAIN EMPLOYEES OF THE RIGHT TO OPT OUT OF UNION MEMBERSHIP. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened: That the general statutes be amended to require that state and municipal collective bargaining agreements and related employee notices include a clear and conspicuous statement of any employee's right to opt out of membership in the union, subject only to a fee to cover the actual costs of collective bargaining.

HB 5148 AN ACT PREVENTING UNWILLING EMPLOYEES FROM JOINING A UNION OR PAYING UNION DUES. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened: That the general statutes be amended to prohibit a union or an employer from requiring employees to join a union or pay any dues or fees to unions to represent them. Purpose: To establish Connecticut as a "Right to Work" state.

Also: HB 6201; 5287; 5148;

On Volunteer services:

HB 5658: Prohibits collective bargaining contracts from prohibiting state from making use of volunteer services.

On doing union work while employed by the state:

HB 6209: An act concerning union stewards and compensation from the state. That the general statutes be amended to prohibit collective bargaining agreements that result in a state employee receiving compensation from the state during the period of time that such state employee is performing in his or her capacity as a union steward conducting union-related business.

On state employee union lobbying:

HB 5092: That chapter 10 of the general statutes be amended to prohibit an employee organization, as defined in section 5-270 of the general statutes, from lobbying any legislator or legislative committee regarding the state budget or an increase in salary for state employees. Purpose: To prohibit certain lobbying by state employee unions in order to prevent a conflict of interest.

Bills requiring that the General Assembly vote on all collective bargaining agreements: some also require that votes be taken on “stipulated agreements” and settlements of lawsuits.

HB 5013; HB 5221; HB 5330; HB 5334; HB 5469; HB 5693; SB 148; HB 5782; SB 280; HB 6090; HB 6079; SB 464; HB 6080; HB 6085

Bills limiting arbitration:

HB 6285 prohibits pay increases to be awarded by arbitration

SB 158: Redefines “insufficient funds” in collective bargaining agreements; HB 6082 also

SB 28: Requires that arbitrated agreements also be approved by the legislature

Bills excluding pension and/or health benefits from collective bargaining

HB 5552; SB 368 ; HB 5838; HB 6093

HB 6083 would limit duration of state employee contracts

ON WORKING CONDITIONS AND BENEFITS:

HB 5331: AN ACT STUDYING A FORTY-HOUR WORK WEEK FOR STATE EMPLOYEES. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened: That the Office of Policy and Management conduct a study of the feasibility of instituting a forty-hour work week for state employees. Purpose: To study the feasibility of a forty-hour work week for state employees.

Tuition Remission: SB 5841 institutes a cap on the amount of tuition remission; HB 5114 would prohibit it from being included in public employee collective bargaining contracts

ON PENSIONS:

Bills Requiring defined contribution plans instead of defined benefit plans:

HB 5012; HB 5006; HB 5988; SB 88; HB 5594; HB 5696; HB 5689; 5780; SB 146; SB 347; HB 6089; HB 295; SB 114; HB 5783:

Bills about calculating retirement income, usually removing overtime and/or mileage reimbursement from calculations

HB 5001; HB 5009; HB 5017; HB 5333; HB 5397; HB 5399; HB 5988; SB 90; SB 92; HB 5691; HB 5690; HB 5692;

HB 5698; SB 159; SB 147; SB 5781; SB 150; SB 149; SB 371; SB 368; SB 367; HB 6088; HB 6087; HB 6084; HB 6094

HB 5695: makes calculation for retirement on an average of 10 years.

Bills increasing state employee contributions to the pension program

HB 5464; SB 87 (increasing contributions from 2% to 8%)

SB 91: On prohibiting receiving a pension while having reemployment by the state

HB 6098

Bills requiring increase in health care contributions:

SB 86; SB 348

Bills limiting cost of living increases to state pension to the social security cola increase:

HB 5335 HB 5285

On the age at which one becomes eligible for a state pension:

HB 5015: An act concerning retirement health care and pension payments for state employees included in certain collective bargaining agreements. That the general statutes be amended to provide that, for state employees included in any collective bargaining agreement negotiated after the passage of this act, no retirement health care or pension payments shall be paid to any such employee that retires before the age of sixty-five until the employee reaches that age. Purpose: To address skyrocketing costs by limiting the payment of retirement benefits to retired state employees who have reached the age of sixty-five.

On making pensions tax exempt

SB 272; HB 5895; 5HB5238; SB 420; SB 290; 5056; 5057; 5058; 5075

On charging a 30% transaction penalty on pensions of non-state residents:

HB 5200