

SB 107-FN - AS INTRODUCED

2015 SESSION

15-0329
06/05

SENATE BILL ***107-FN***

AN ACT prohibiting collective bargaining agreements that require employees to join or contribute to a labor union.

SPONSORS: Sen. Reagan, Dist 17; Sen. Cataldo, Dist 6; Sen. Little, Dist 8; Sen. Sanborn, Dist 9; Sen. Daniels, Dist 11; Sen. Avar, Dist 12

COMMITTEE: Commerce

ANALYSIS

This bill prohibits collective bargaining agreements that require employees to join or contribute to a labor union.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
 Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struck through.~~]
 Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Fifteen

AN ACT prohibiting collective bargaining agreements that require employees to join or contribute to a labor union.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 1 Name of Act. It is the intent of the general court that this act be known as “The
2 New Hampshire Right to Work Act.”

3 2 New Chapter; Right to Work Act. Amend RSA by inserting after chapter 273-C the following
4 new chapter:

5 CHAPTER 273-D

6 RIGHT TO WORK ACT

7 273-D:1 Short Title. This act may be cited as the “Right to Work Act.”

8 273-D:2 Declaration of Public Policy. It is hereby declared to be the public policy of this state in
9 order to maximize individual freedom of choice in the pursuit of employment and to encourage an
10 employment climate conducive to economic growth, that all persons shall have, and shall be
11 protected in the exercise of, the right freely, and without fear of penalty or reprisal, to form, join, or
12 assist labor organizations, or to refrain from any such activity.

13 273-D:3 Definitions. In this chapter:

14 I. “Employer” means any individual, corporation, association, organization, or entity that
15 employs one or more persons. The term includes, but is not limited to, the state of New Hampshire
16 and its agencies, every district, board, commission, instrumentality, or other unit whose governing
17 body exercises similar governmental powers. The term “employer” includes, but is not limited to,
18 employers of agricultural labor.

19 II. “Labor organization” means any organization of any kind, or agency or employee
20 representation committee or plan, which exists for the purpose, in whole or in part, of dealing with
21 employers concerning grievances, labor disputes, wages, rates of pay, hours of work, or other
22 conditions of employment.

23 273-D:4 Freedom of Choice Guaranteed; Discrimination Prohibited. No person shall be
24 required, as a condition of employment or continuation of employment:

25 I. To resign or refrain from voluntary membership in, voluntary affiliation with, or
26 voluntary financial support of a labor organization;

27 II. To become or remain a member of a labor organization;

28 III. To pay any dues, fees, assessments, or other charges of any kind or amount to a labor
29 organization;

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1 IV. To pay any charity or other third party, in lieu of such payments, any amount equivalent
2 to or a pro-rata portion of dues, fees, assessments, or other charges of a labor organization; or

3 V. To be recommended, approved, referred, or cleared by or through a labor organization.

4 273-D:5 Voluntary Deductions Protected. It shall be unlawful for any employer to deduct from the
5 wages, earnings, or compensation of any employee any dues, fees, assessments, or other charges, to be
6 held for, transferred to, or paid over to a labor organization, unless the employee has first presented,
7 and the employer has received, a signed written authorization of such deductions, which authorization
8 may be revoked by the employee at any time by giving written notice of such revocation 30 days in
9 advance of its effective date. Every employer who receives such an authorization from an employee
10 shall have a duty to promptly notify that employee in writing that the employee may revoke an
11 authorization at any time by giving the employer 30 days written notice.

12 273-D:6 Agreements in Violation, and Actions to Induce Such Agreements, Declared Illegal.
13 Any agreement, understanding or practice, written or oral, implied or expressed, between any labor
14 organization and employer which violates the rights of employees as guaranteed by the provisions of
15 this chapter is hereby declared to be unlawful, null and void, and of no legal effect. Any strike,
16 picketing, boycott, or other action, by a labor organization for the sole purpose of inducing or
17 attempting to induce an employer to enter into any agreement prohibited under this chapter is
18 hereby declared to be for an illegal purpose and is a violation of the provisions of this chapter.

19 273-D:7 Notice to be Posted. It shall be the duty of every employer to post and keep
20 continuously displayed the following notice at such a place or places in the business, establishment,
21 or premises where it may be readily seen by all employees, and it shall be the further duty of every
22 employer to furnish a copy of such notice to each employee at the time the employee is hired:

EMPLOYEES FREEDOM OF CHOICE

24 Under the law of the state of New Hampshire, employees are protected in the exercise of their
25 free choice to join or refrain from joining labor unions, and it is unlawful for an employer and a labor
26 union to enter into a contract or agreement requiring them to pay dues, fees, or charges of any kind
27 to a labor union as a condition of obtaining or keeping a job. Under this law, an employer may not
28 discharge or otherwise discriminate against an employee because of joining or refusing to join a labor
29 union, or to pay dues, or other charges to a labor union.

30 273-D:8 Coercion and Intimidation Prohibited. It shall be unlawful for any person, labor
31 organization, or officer, agent or member thereof, or employer, or officer thereof, by any threatened
32 or actual intimidation of an employee or prospective employee, or the employee's parents, spouse,
33 children, grandchildren, or any other persons residing in the employee's or prospective employee's
34 home, or by any damage or threatened damage to property, to compel or attempt to compel such
35 employee to join, affiliate with, or financially support a labor organization or to refrain from doing so,
36 or otherwise forfeit any rights as guaranteed by provisions of this chapter. It shall also be unlawful
37 to cause or attempt to cause an employee to be denied employment or discharged from employment

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1 because of support or nonsupport of a labor organization by inducing or attempting to induce any
2 other person to refuse to work with such employees.

3 273-D:9 Penalties. Any person, employer, labor organization, agent, or representative of an
4 employer or labor organization, who directly or indirectly imposes upon any person any requirement
5 prohibited by this chapter shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and, notwithstanding RSA 651:2, shall
6 be subject for each offense to a fine not exceeding \$1,000, or to imprisonment not exceeding 90 days,
7 or both.

8 273-D:10 Civil Remedies. Any person harmed as a result of any violation or threatened
9 violation of the provisions of this chapter shall be entitled to injunctive relief against any and all
10 violators or persons threatening violation, and may also recover any or all damages of any character,
11 including costs and reasonable attorney fees, resulting from such violation or threatened violation,
12 cognizable at common law. Such remedies shall be independent of, and in addition to, the penalties
13 and remedies prescribed in other provisions of this chapter.

14 273-D:11 Duty to Investigate. It shall be the duty of the attorney general and of each county
15 attorney, to investigate any complaints of violation of this chapter, and to prosecute all persons
16 violating any of its provisions, and to use all means at their command to insure effective enforcement
17 of the provisions of this chapter.

18 273-D:12 Existing Contracts. The provisions of this chapter shall apply to all contracts entered
19 into on or after the effective date of this chapter and shall not apply to existing contracts, but shall
20 apply to any renewal or extensions of such existing contracts.

21 273-D:13 Exceptions. The provisions of this chapter shall not apply:

22 I. To employers and employees covered by the federal Railway Labor Act.

23 II. To federal employers and employees.

24 III. To employers and employees on exclusive federal enclaves.

25 IV. Where they would otherwise conflict with, or be preempted by, federal law.

26 273-D:14 Severability. If any provision of this chapter or the application thereof to any person
27 or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications of the
28 chapter which can be given effect without the invalid provisions or applications, and to this end the
29 provisions of this chapter are severable.

30 3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

SB 107-FN - FISCAL NOTE

AN ACT prohibiting collective bargaining agreements that require employees to join or contribute to a labor union.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Department of Justice, Judicial Branch, New Hampshire Association of Counties, New Hampshire Municipal Association, and Department of Labor state this bill, as introduced, may increase state, county, and local expenditures by an indeterminable amount in FY 2015 and each year thereafter. The Public Employees Labor Relations Board and Department of Administrative Services state this bill will have an indeterminable fiscal impact on state, county, and local expenditures in FY 2015 and each year thereafter. There will be no fiscal impact on state, county, and local revenue.

METHODOLOGY:

The Department of Justice states this bill prohibits any person from being required, as a condition of employment or continuation of employment to: 1) resign or affiliate with a labor union; 2) become or remain a member of a labor union; 3) pay dues or other charges to a labor organization; 4) pay a third party in place of payments to a labor organization; or 5) provide clearance for hire through a Labor union. This bill prohibits employers from deducting certain fees or assessments without written authorization and requires the Attorney General and all county attorneys to investigate any complaints of violations and prosecute all persons who violate any of its provisions. The Department states it cannot predict how many investigations, prosecutions, criminal penalties, or appeals will result from this bill and therefore cannot determine the impact on expenditures.

The Judicial Branch states it does not have information on which to estimate how many charges would be brought as a result of the changes contained in this bill to determine the fiscal impact on expenditures. However, the Judicial Branch has provided the potential costs associated with this bill, where they can be determined. See table below for average cost information:

	FY 2016	FY 2017
Class A Misdemeanor	\$69	\$71
Complex Equity Case	\$699	\$712

Complex Civil Case	\$707	\$728
Appeals	Varies	Varies
It should be noted average case cost estimates for FY 2016 and FY 2017 are based on data that is more than nine years old and does not reflect changes to the courts over that same period of time or the impact these changes may have on processing the various case types.		

The New Hampshire Association of Counties states this bill may increase county expenditures by an indeterminable amount if investigation and enforcement activities increase.

The New Hampshire Municipal Association states this bill may have some effect on collective bargaining costs, but the fiscal impact is indeterminable because it cannot predict what that effect will be.

The Department of Labor states this bill may increase expenditures by a minimal amount.

The Department of Administrative Services states this bill will have an indeterminable impact because it is not known how collective bargaining with the State's four unions would be impacted.

The Public Employees Labor Relations Board states the fiscal impact of this bill is indeterminable due to a number of unknown factors. The Board states the proposed bill may directly or indirectly affect the extent to which employee organizations provide representation to bargaining unit employees in collective bargaining and grievance proceedings, matters commonly brought before the Board, and the state superior and supreme courts. The Board reports that any changes in these areas may result in related expenditure reductions at the state, county, and local level, but the occurrence of such changes and the amount of any related expenditures deductions is speculative. Enforcement provisions of the Act may require new expenditures at the state and county levels to conduct investigations and prosecutions to ensure effective enforcement of the law. However, the amount of activity that will be required cannot be determined based upon the information currently available.

The Judicial Council states this bill would not impact expenditures. The Council states anyone charged with an offense under this bill would be defended or indemnified by the employer or the union. Accordingly, the Council would not be obliged to provide representation to the accused and there would be no change to expenditures.