



# Pennsylvania Conference of Teamsters

## Strength in Numbers 95,000

William Hamilton, President & Eastern PA Legislative Coordinator – Joseph Molinero, Sec.-Treasurer & Western PA Legislative Coordinator – Tim O'Neill, Consultant – Dan Grace, Trustee & Legislative Advisor – Robert Baptiste, Esq. Legal Advisor

# LEGISLATIVE ACTION ALERT

THE SACRAMENTO BEE



THE STATE WORKER JUNE 14, 2017

## Get a state job and meet your labor rep: How state budget protects California unions

BY ADAM ASHTON SEE COMPLETE ARTICLE AT:

[HTTP://WWW.SACBEE.COM/NEWS/POLITICS-GOVERNMENT/THE-STATE-WORKER/ARTICLE156146364.HTML](http://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/the-state-worker/article156146364.html)

New California government workers will hear from union representatives almost as soon as they start their jobs under a state budget provision bolstering labor groups as they prepare for court decisions that may cut into their membership and revenue. Unions would gain mandatory access to new employee orientation sessions in schools, cities and in state government through one of two labor-friendly provisions that lawmakers inserted into the state budget last week without much debate.

The second provision bans public agencies from releasing the personal email addresses of government workers, creating a new exemption in the California Public Records Act. Those email addresses are basic information that could be used in anti-union campaigns. Both measures were [discussed by the Legislature last year](#), but dropped when the Supreme Court deadlocked on a lawsuit that would have banned unions from collecting fees from workers who don't want to join labor groups. That stalemate left in place California's practice of allowing unions to charge fair-share fees to workers who benefit from representation, but don't pay full dues. Now, two more so-called right-to-work lawsuits are jockeying to reach the

Supreme Court where newly appointed Justice Neil Gorsuch [may tip the balance against fair-share fees](#). "We may

get a decision that eliminates various forms of union security that prevent free riders, so we're trying to find an alternate message," said David Rosenfeld, a Bay Area labor attorney. The measure inviting unions to participate in new employee orientation will give labor groups an opportunity to make their case just as workers begin their jobs. Many public agencies already allow unions to brief new workers. The budget bill would make that a standard practice across the state.

Its supporters cast it as way to ensure that public employees are well informed about their rights, and about the general workplace environment of their new offices. "We want a better-trained and well-informed workforce," said Assemblyman Jim Cooper, D-Elk Grove, who carried the bill last year. "It really wasn't about the unions so much as it was just an orientation." Gov. Jerry Brown's administration favored the measure, which allows government agencies to negotiate with unions over what kind of access labor groups would have to new employee orientation sessions

Moorlach and Assemblyman Matt Harper, R-Huntington Beach, submitted a right-to-work bill to the Legislature this year. It died in committee. At an April hearing, they argued that fair-share fees undermine the free speech rights of workers who disagree



# Pennsylvania Conference of Teamsters

## Strength in Numbers 95,000

William Hamilton, President & Eastern PA Legislative Coordinator – Joseph Molinero, Sec.-Treasurer & Western PA Legislative Coordinator – Tim O'Neill, Consultant – Dan Grace, Trustee & Legislative Advisor – Robert Baptiste, Esq. Legal Advisor

with the political stances of California's Democratic-leaning unions. "You have a First Amendment problem," Samuel Han, California director for the Freedom Foundation, a group that wants to break the "stranglehold" of public sector unions. Union membership has declined somewhat in states that recently blocked mandatory union fees, but it has not plummeted. Michigan, for instance, became a right-to-work state in 2013 and union membership has edged down from

16.3 percent of the state's workforce to 14.4 percent of workers, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Indiana banned fair-share fees in 2012 and union membership has increased there from 9.1 percent of the state's workforce that year to 10.4 percent in 2016. The right-to-work laws are "a stumbling block, but labor isn't going anywhere," Secunda said.

SEE COMPLETE ARTICLE AT:

## THE SACRAMENTO BEE



[HTTP://WWW.SACBEE.COM/NEWS/POLITICS-GOVERNMENT/THE-STATE-WORKER/ARTICLE156146364.HTML](http://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/the-state-worker/article156146364.html)

These Legislative Action Alerts will be posted on the PA Conference of Teamsters web site at [www.pacfteamsters.com](http://www.pacfteamsters.com) Go to the home page and click on the black box titled Legislative Action Alert Bulletins. Please share these alerts with your officers, agents and stewards.

