



**The 2011 legislative session has come to an end.** Governor Brown has taken action on the over 600 bills that passed the Legislature. Thanks to all our members, leaders, and Executive Council for your hard work in making sure Labor's legislative agenda was realized.

#### **STATE FEDERATION SPONSORED BILLS**

**SB 459 (Corbett) – misclassification of independent contractors.** There is no existing penalty in state law for employers who misclassify their employees as independent contractors to evade their obligations. This bill would create significant new penalties for willful misclassification, require violators to post a notice on their company website, hold consultants liable for advising employers to misclassify, and notify the Contractors State Licensing Board to discipline a contractor who willfully misclassifies. Co-sponsored with IBT and CWA. **SIGNED.**

**AB 469 (Swanson) – wage theft.** Each year, workers are cheated out of billions of dollars in wages and our labor law enforcement resources will never keep up. This bill will help fight wage theft by providing workers and enforcement agents more information about rates of pay, hours worked, and employer location and stiffening penalties after a final order or judgment. **SIGNED.**

**AB 506 (Wieckowski) – municipal bankruptcy.** For three years, we have tried to set standards for when a city can enter bankruptcy proceedings to abrogate their collective bargaining agreements. Finally, this year, we were able to get a bill passed by the Legislature. AB 506 would impose new requirements before a locality can file for bankruptcy. Co-sponsored with the CA Professional Firefighters. **SIGNED.**

**AB 22 (Mendoza) – no credit checks for employment unless related to job.** Over 65% of all employers now use credit checks to screen out prospective employees, even though no research ties credit scores to work performance or trustworthiness. A worker's credit score may suffer because they lost their job, lost their home, lost their insurance. AB 22 would bar credit checks for employment purposes unless a worker's credit history is substantially related to the job. Co-sponsored with UNITE HERE. **SIGNED.**

**SB 734 (DeSaulnier) – WIA minimum training requirement.** California receives nearly \$500 million annually in federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funds, with the majority of these funds going to 49 local Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs). Not enough of these dollars are going to fund job training programs. This bill would require local WIBs to invest at least 25% of public funds on quality job training programs. Starting in 2016, local WIBs would have to raise this minimum training standard to 30%. Co-sponsored with State Building Trades. **SIGNED.**

**SB 698 (Lieu) – high performing WIB boards.** Currently, little coordination exists between

state WIB and the 49 local WIBs. This bill will create a “high performance board” standard, allowing the state WIB to hold local WIBs accountable to the state strategic plan, state law, and higher standards, like more funds to job training programs. Co-sponsored with State Building Trades. **SIGNED.**

**AB 894 (VM Perez) – revolving loan fund for manufacturing jobs.** We need more manufacturing jobs in CA; we must start building things again. AB 894 would have established a statewide revolving loan fund for manufacturing jobs. Co-sponsored with IAM. **VETOED.**

**SB 364 (Yee) – clawbacks for tax credits.** This bill is simple – if a company takes a tax credit meant to create jobs and doesn’t create jobs then the company would have to pay a penalty back to the state. Co-sponsored with State Building Trades. **VETOED.**

**SB 469 (Vargas) – economic impact for supercenters.** When a supercenter comes to town, every part of the local economy is affected. Small businesses and other local retailers lose business, lay off workers and ultimately close their doors. SB 469 would have required localities to have an independent economic impact study done before authorizing a supercenter. Co-sponsored with UFCW and San Diego CLC. **VETOED.**

**SB 931 (Evans) – regulating and authorizing paycards for wages.** A big fight with the banking industry, SB 931 would have regulated the fees charged to unbanked workers who get paid on electronic paycards. Low-wage, immigrant, and rural workers have been nicked and dimed with bank fees. **VETOED.**

## **KEY AFFILIATE BILLS**

**SB 202 (Steinberg) – moving all initiatives to general election.** Since 2000, 2.5 million more people voted in the general election over the primary election. As ballot initiatives become more prominent as a governing tool, voter voice and participation should be maximized. **SIGNED.**

**SB 922 (Steinberg) –protect local PLA options.** This bill would ensure local entities can decide on a case-by-case basis whether PLAs are best for their community. Those with a blanket prohibition on PLAs would be ineligible for state funds. It doesn’t require cities to use PLAs, it just protects them as a local option. (SBCTC) **SIGNED.**

**AB 183 (Ma) – ban on self-checkout for alcohol sales.** In an effort to combat underage drinking, this bill would ban the use of self-check-out stands for alcohol sales. Our members know how to screen customers to prevent youth from buying alcohol but self-checkout machines are not up to the task. (UFCW) **SIGNED.**

**SB 126 (Steinberg) – organizing and bargaining rights for farmworkers.** This bill makes a number of changes to the ALRA to enhance the right to organize for farmworkers. If employers interfere in an election to the extent that a fair election is impossible, the employer could be ordered to recognize the union. The bill also provides for tighter timeframes and extends

contract mediation to help farmworkers organize and bargain for better. (UFW) **SIGNED.**

**AB 501 (Campos) – Public employee units.** This bill clarifies that all public school employees have the right to union representation. (CFT and CSEA) **SIGNED.**

**AB 438 (Williams) – Limit library contracting out.** This bill will restrict contracting out of library services unless specific safeguards are met. (SEIU) **SIGNED.**

**AB 740 (Blumenfield) - Cancel disapproved contracts.** This bill will end state contracting out where the State Personnel Board disapproves a contract. (SEIU 1000) **SIGNED.**

**AB 1069 (Fuentes) – Film Tax Credit.** Extended for 1 year to keep good film industry jobs in CA. (Hollywood unions) **SIGNED.**

**AB 514 (Hernández): Prevailing wage for refuse drivers.** This bill clarifies that hauling refuse work is covered by the prevailing wage law. (IBT) **SIGNED.**

**SB 857 (Lieu): No strike damages.** This bill will prohibit the Public Employment Relations Board (PERB) from awarding strike damages against a union. (AFSCME and CNA) **SIGNED.**

**AB 1136 (Swanson) – Lift teams.** This bill establishes the Hospital Patient and Health Care Worker Injury Protection Act to require hospitals to adopt a safe patient handling policy. (CNA) **SIGNED.**

**AB 436 (Solorio): Improve labor compliance.** This bill will protect construction workers and good contractors by improving enforcement of the state's prevailing wage law. (SBCTC) **SIGNED.**

**SB 292 (Padilla) – expedited CEQA for downtown LA stadium.** We need jobs. Los Angeles' unemployment rate is a full percentage point higher than the state's 12.4% rate. This bill leaves CEQA intact and creates an expedited process for CEQA litigation. Tens of thousands of temporary and permanent living wage jobs are expected to be created by this project. **SIGNED.**

**AB 136 (Yee)— prevailing wage.** This bill will close a loophole that allows certain retrofit and renewable energy projects on public structures to avoid prevailing wage standards. (SBCTC) **SIGNED.**

**AB 551 (Campos)—prevailing wage enforcement.** This bill will increase fines for violations of prevailing wage law. (SBCTC) **SIGNED.**

**AB 1344 (Feuer) – charter city conversion.** This bill will create a more transparent public process for cities considering converting from general law cities to charter cities. (SBCTC) **SIGNED.**

**SB 454 (Pavley) – energy efficiency standards.** This bill will enhance the state's ability to enforce energy efficiency building regulation, to protect the environment and level the playing

field for responsible contractors. (SBCTC) **SIGNED.**

**SB 609 (Negrete McLeod)** – union recognition. This bill will ensure that PERB handles union recognition petitions promptly or recognition will be deemed granted after 180 days. (Teamsters) **SIGNED.**

**SB 161 (Huff)** – diastat administration. This bill will allow school districts to shift responsibility for administering the epilepsy drug diastat onto unlicensed school employees. (LABOR OPPOSED) **SIGNED.**

**AB 101 (Perez) – child care organizing.** Child care services are under the constant threat of budget cuts and lost services. Nearly all working families depend on access to quality childcare to go to work every day. High turnover in this sector creates the worst outcomes for our children. This bill would have given providers a place at the table to improve standards in their industry. (SEIU / AFSCME). **VETOED.**

**AB 86 (Mendoza) – charter schools.** This bill would have given classified employees a voice in the decision about whether to convert to a charter school. (SEIU) **VETOED.**

#### **OTHER BILLS OF INTEREST**

**AB 1236 (Fong) - E-Verify limitations.** The bill would prohibit the state, or a city, county, city and county, or special district, from requiring a private sector employer to use an electronic employment verification system except when required by federal law or as a condition of receiving federal funds. **SIGNED.**

**AB 131 (Cedillo) – Dream Act.** This bill will allow undocumented students that went to a California high school and are applying to adjust their status to apply for financial aid for college. **SIGNED.**

**SB 397 (Yee) – online voter registration.** This bill will allow online voter registration. **SIGNED.**

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