



ABC SUPPORTS SENATE BILL 167

Bill Summary

Senate Bill 167 is a joint resolution to amend the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, prohibiting public employers from automatically deducting money designated for political purposes from the wages of employees. This legislation also prohibits individuals and organizations from requesting such a deduction and bars any collective bargaining agreement entered into after the effective date of the act from requiring such automatic deduction.

ABC Position

ABC supports Senate Bill 167 for the reasons listed below. We ask that you vote in support of the legislation.

- **Provides savings to taxpayers.** Current automatic deduction systems utilize the Commonwealth payroll system, meaning taxpayer funds are utilized to provide for the automatic assessment of union political funds and other resources that are used to slow, handicap, and disable the progress of Pennsylvania's government operations. SB 167 would prohibit the Commonwealth from utilizing taxpayer-provided collection systems to automatically deduct political funding from the pay of public employee union members.
- **Encourages a level playing field and free choice for hard-working union members.** Currently, public employee unions are unique in their ability to utilize the Commonwealth and taxpayer-funded collection methods to acquire funding for political purposes, campaign expenditures, arbitration costs, and legal fees. SB 167 would level the playing field, requiring those organizations to actively solicit contributions from their members in the same way that thousands of private organizations operate. This would also provide more choice to union members who would make an active choice to participate in a variety of activities offered by their union.
- **Requires direct voter approval.** This legislation is unique because it is an amendment to the Pennsylvania Constitution. While general acts of the legislature require a simple majority of both legislative chambers and the approval of the Governor, an amendment to Pennsylvania's Constitution requires legislative approval in two successive sessions. Following that legislative approval, such an amendment must also be directly approved by Pennsylvania's voting electorate via referendum, signaling unequivocal support from the public for the issue. While polls and surveys have consistently shown public support for the abolition of automatic dues collection for public employee unions, SB 167, through its Constitutional amendment process, would provide distinct evidence of such support.