



**Colorado  
Legislative  
Council  
Staff**

**SB17-055**

**FINAL  
FISCAL NOTE**

**FISCAL IMPACT:**  State  Local  Statutory Public Entity  Conditional  No Fiscal Impact

**Drafting Number:** LLS 17-0168  
**Prime Sponsor(s):** Sen. Neville T.  
Rep. Everett

**Date:** July 19, 2017  
**Bill Status:** Postponed Indefinitely  
**Fiscal Analyst:** Amanda Hayden (303-866-4918)

**BILL TOPIC:** PROHIBIT DISCRIMINATION LABOR UNION PARTICIPATION

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2017-2018	FY 2018-2019
<b>State Revenue</b>	<u>&lt;\$5,000</u>	<u>&lt;\$5,000</u>
Cash Funds	<5,000	<5,000
<b>State Expenditures</b>	Minimal workload increase.	
<b>Appropriation Required:</b> None.		
<b>Future Year Impacts:</b> Ongoing increase in state cash fund revenue and workload.		

**NOTE:** This bill was not enacted into law; therefore, the impacts identified in this analysis do not take effect.

**Summary of Legislation**

This bill prohibits an employer from requiring employee membership in a labor organization as a condition of employment and from requiring employees to pay dues or fees to a labor organization, charity, or other third party. Standing agreements that violate these prohibitions are made void. The bill also defines all-union agreements as unfair labor practices. Violations by employers are considered unclassified misdemeanors and are subject to civil and criminal penalties of a fine up to \$1,000, imprisonment in county jail for up to 90 days, or both. Civil remedies include all damages and attorney fees resulting from the violation. The Attorney General or the district attorney of each judicial district is responsible for investigating complaints and taking actions to enforce the statute. Federal employers and employees, as well as those covered by the Railway Labor Act, are exempt from the bill.

**Background and Comparable Crime**

Legislative Council Staff is required to include certain information in the fiscal note for any bill that creates a new crime, changes the classification of an existing crime, or changes an element of the existing crime that creates a new factual basis for the offense. Senate Bill 17-055 creates a new unclassified misdemeanor crime for employers who require participation with or payment to a labor organization, charity, or other third party as a condition of employment, punishable by a fine up to \$1,000, imprisonment in county jail for up to 90 days, or both. Under current law, violation of any section of the Labor Peace Act constitutes a misdemeanor punishable by a fine. The fine

is \$50 to \$100 for the first convicted offense, and \$100 to \$500 for subsequent offenses, together with costs. In the last three years, there have been no charges or convictions under the Labor Peace Act. The Department of Labor and Employment reports receiving six complaints related to unfair labor practices over the last two years, though no requests to revoke an all-union agreement or instances in which the director has declared an all-union agreement void.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Colorado had 194,000 union members in 2015, with another 21,000 workers represented by a union on their main job or covered by an employee association or contract while not being members themselves.

### **State Revenue**

Beginning in FY 2017-18, this bill may increase state cash fund revenue by a minimal amount.

***Criminal fines.*** Beginning in FY 2017-18, the bill may increase state cash fund revenue from fines by less than \$5,000 per year. Fine revenue is credited to the Fines Collection Cash Fund in the Judicial Department. The bill creates a misdemeanor penalty punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000. The fiscal note assumes a high rate of compliance by employers and that any increase in state cash fund revenue will be minimal.

***Court and administrative fees.*** This bill may also increase state fee revenue by a minimal amount, including the \$50 per offender per month probation supervision fee. Fees are imposed for a variety of court-related costs, which vary based on the offense and the type of court. Typical fees may include such items as genetic testing, victim compensation, late fees, and other administrative fees. Some fee revenue is shared with local governments; please refer to the Local Government Impact section for additional information.

### **State Expenditures**

Beginning in FY 2017-18, this bill may increase workload in the Department of Law, which is responsible for investigating and prosecuting complaints associated with employer violations, and in the Department of Labor and Employment, to answer questions from employers about the law. To the extent that the bill increases court filings for employer complaints, the bill may also increase the workload of the Judicial Department. Because the fiscal note assumes a high level of employer compliance, however, it is assumed that these workload increases will be minimal and can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

### **Local Government Impact**

This bill affects local governments in the following ways:

***Local government workload.*** This bill may increase workload for district attorneys, who are charged with investigating and prosecuting complaints associated with employer violations. It may increase workload for the Denver County Court, managed and funded by the City and County of Denver, to try new misdemeanor cases. Probation services in the Denver County Court may also experience a minimal increase in workload to supervise persons convicted under the bill. Counties that currently use collective bargaining agreements will be minimally impacted as they make necessary changes to conform with the law. It is assumed these costs will be minimal.

***Criminal fine revenue.*** This bill may increase revenue by a minimal amount for Denver City and County. Under the bill, an offender may be fined up to \$1,000.

***Court and administrative fees.*** Similar to the state, court and administrative fee revenue may increase. In the City and County of Denver, probation fee revenue may increase by \$50 per month, per offender. Revenue may increase by a minimal amount as a result of any court and administrative fees shared with the state.

***County jail expenditures.*** To the extent that this bill increases misdemeanor convictions and offenders are sentenced to jail, costs will increase. Under the bill, a court may sentence an offender to jail for up to 90 days. Because the courts have the discretion of incarceration or imposing a fine, the precise impact at the local level cannot be determined. The cost to house an offender in county jails varies from about \$53 to \$114 per day. It is assumed that the impact of this bill will be minimal.

### **Statutory Public Entity Impact**

Statutory public entities, insofar as these entities require labor union participation, will be minimally impacted by the bill. The Regional Transportation District (RTD), for example, currently deducts compulsory union dues from their employees' salaries. The fiscal note assumes that the workload impact will occur as these entities repeal compulsory union membership in accordance with the bill and make updates to their payroll system. Should RTD repeal compulsory union membership, it may no longer be in compliance with federal requirements and may lose federal grant funds as a result.

### **Effective Date**

The bill was postponed indefinitely by the House State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee on March 15, 2017.

### **State and Local Government Contacts**

Counties  
Information Technology  
Law  
Personnel  
Regulatory Agencies

Education  
Judicial  
Local Affairs  
Public Safety

Higher Education  
Labor  
Municipalities  
RTD