

---

SENATE BILL 5174

---

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Senators Angel, Baumgartner, Honeyford, and Padden

1 AN ACT Relating to amending the consumer protection act to  
2 prohibit labor organizations from engaging in unfair or deceptive  
3 acts or practices; amending RCW 19.86.070; and creating a new  
4 section.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that, while the  
7 existence of labor organizations should not be prohibited by consumer  
8 protection laws, labor organizations are fundamentally business  
9 enterprises providing and receiving payment for the provision of  
10 workplace representation services. As such, recipients of workplace  
11 representation services from labor organizations should receive the  
12 same protections of law against unfair or deceptive practices  
13 afforded to consumers of other goods or services.

14 **Sec. 2.** RCW 19.86.070 and 1961 c 216 s 7 are each amended to  
15 read as follows:

16 (1) The labor of a human being is not a commodity or article of  
17 commerce. Nothing contained in this chapter shall be construed to  
18 forbid the existence and operation of labor, agricultural, or  
19 horticultural organizations, instituted for the purposes of mutual  
20 help, and not having capital stock or conducted for profit, or to

1 forbid or restrain individual members of such organizations from  
2 lawfully carrying out the legitimate objects thereof.

3 (2)(a) This section does not prevent the attorney general or any  
4 injured person from bringing a civil action, in accordance with this  
5 chapter, against any labor organization for engaging in any unfair or  
6 deceptive acts or practices prohibited by RCW 19.86.020.

7 (b) For the purposes of this chapter, it is injurious to the  
8 public interest for any labor organization to mislead or misinform  
9 employees about their statutory or constitutional rights regarding  
10 membership in, or the payment of dues or fees to, a labor  
11 organization.

--- END ---