

Ratified agreement moves forward

AB 964 clears key committee, advances to full Assembly

The bill containing our member-ratified agreement moved through the Assembly Appropriations Committee Wednesday, and on to the full Assembly.

The bill, AB 964, passed on a party-line vote with unanimous Democratic support, after Committee Chair Kevin De Leon (D-Los Angeles) called on fellow Assembly members to support the legislation. All Republican members of the committee abstained.

It is unclear when the bill will go to a vote of the full Assembly since the legislative calendar is backlogged. After it clears the Assembly, it will go to the Senate PERS Committee, then the Senate Appropriations Committee before going to the full Senate.



Local 1000 President Yvonne Walker has testified in favor of AB 964 at two Assembly committees. The next stop for the bill containing our ratified agreement is the full Assembly.

Finally, AB 964 must be signed by the governor before it becomes law.

During much less challenging economic times in 2006, our contract bill took nearly two months to pass through the legislative process.

Along with Local 1000, the bill is co-sponsored by the Department of Personnel Administration. A representative of the Department of Finance also spoke in support of AB 964, saying its passage will save the state money.

Local 1000 President Yvonne Walker said the ratified bill was the result of nearly a year of tough negotiations on behalf of the 95,000 workers represented by Local 1000.

Bill to help jobless workers clears hurdle

Local 1000 finds support in bid to add in-person unemployment aid

After lobbying and testimony from our members, the Assembly Labor and Employment Committee voted to approve a Local 1000-backed bill that would improve walk-in service for the hundreds of thousands of unemployed Californians.

AB 857, authored by Assemblywoman Cathleen Galgiani (D-Livingston), has drawn bipartisan support. The bill would address gaps in current law to require the Employment Development Department (EDD) to have available walk-in unemployment insurance services at all comprehensive one-stop career centers.

Unanswered calls

Most people apply for unemployment insurance benefits on the Internet. But if an unemployed worker has problems or unanswered questions, it is nearly impossible to get through to a representative by phone –

millions of calls have gone unanswered.

“AB 857 is a simple measure that will allow out-of-work Californians the option of in-person unemployment insurance assistance provided by fully trained workers,” Galgiani said. “With an 11.2 percent statewide unemployment rate, we need to do everything we can to help jobless workers gain access to their benefits.”

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—Assemblywoman Cathleen Galgiani

Even before the state’s unemployment rate nearly doubled last year, EDD was already understaffed. Since last fall EDD has been inundated with new claims jamming the state’s system of call centers.

Because they cannot get help through

EDD call centers, frustrated jobless Californians seek help at EDD Job Services offices – the only EDD facilities that provide in-person service. Job Service employees do not have the authorization to resolve unemployment insurance problems and are required to direct upset claimants to a phone at the office – which only causes further frustration.

Better EDD service

Local 1000 members testified that deploying trained unemployment insurance representatives to career centers would help alleviate the call backlog and help jobless workers receive their benefits faster.

“This bill has widespread support from people who recognize that we need to provide better services to unemployed workers,” said EDD employee Adrienne Suffin.

Outsourcing watchdog legislation advances

Local 1000-backed bill moves to Assembly Appropriations Committee

A Local 1000-sponsored bill to help the public keep track of wasteful government outsourcing contracts passed a key Assembly committee on April 21.

AB 756, which would require state agencies to post all their private outsourcing contracts on the internet in an easily searchable format, passed the Assembly Business and Professions Committee.

The bill, sponsored by Assemblyman Mike Eng (D-Monterey Park) is designed to allow taxpayers to easily examine how their money is being spent and make government officials more accountable for their spending decisions.

“Assembly Bill 756 brings needed sunshine and transparency to state departments and the work they contract

out to companies,” Eng said. “While a state agency’s payroll is public information, the money paid to private contractors is hard to access because it is scattered throughout each department’s budget. This legislation will change that.”

The legislation follows a 2006 report conducted by the independent California Research Bureau showing that many state agencies hire private

firms to perform information technology services at more than twice the cost of doing the work in-house. Local 1000 researchers estimate that more than \$350 million could be saved each year by hiring state employees

to perform work now contracted out. Last week Local 1000 released a study on the high cost of government outsourcing titled “The Hidden Branch of Government.” To read the report, go to seiu1000.org and click the “Hidden

“Contractors need to be held to the same level of accountability that we use for the state workforce.”

—Thomas Perine
Staff programmer analyst,
Dept. of Child Support Services



Local 1000 released this study showing how the state could save hundreds of millions of dollars by replacing private contractors with state workers.

Branch of Government” icon.

“There needs to be full accountability for every dollar the state spends, especially during these times of fiscal crisis,” said Thomas Perine, a staff programmer analyst at the Department of Child Support Services. “Contractors need to be held to the same level of accountability that we use for the state workforce.”

The next step in the process for the bill is the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

KNOW YOUR NEW CONTRACT

State to cover health care premium increase

Many of our members have asked: How do the new provisions on health care premiums affect us?

The health insurance contributions of employees represented by Local 1000 will remain frozen at 2008 levels. The governor’s negotiators agreed to a Local 1000 proposal increasing the state’s contributions for health insurance premiums. The new contract language is retroactive to January 30, 2009 and means the state will pick up most increases in employee contributions for health insurance premiums through 2010.

Once the contract is ratified by the Legislature and signed

into law by the governor, you will be credited with the following monthly employer premium contribution if you are enrolled in the Blue Shield Access+, Blue Shield Net Value or Kaiser HMO plans:

Single: \$13.78 • 2-party: \$29.96 • Family: \$43.72

In addition, our new contract gives Bargaining Unit 3 educators the 80/80 healthcare formula in line with other Local 1000 members.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL LOCAL 1000 TOLL FREE: (866) 471-SEIU (7348) or visit our website: www.seiu1000.org

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Read our new agreement & frequently asked questions at seiu1000.org or local1000ratification.org