



The Voice of Merit Construction

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March 5, 2021

TO: ECONOMIC MATTERS COMMITTEE
FROM: ASSOCIATED BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS
RE: H.B. 923 – LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT – WORKER
SAFETY AND HEALTH – INJURY AND ILLNESS
PREVENTION PROGRAM
POSITION: OPPOSE

Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) opposes H.B. 923 which is before you today for consideration. This bill would require employers with 10 or more employees, or whose rate of work-related injury and illness exceeds the average incidence rate of all industries in the State to develop and implement a health and safety committee to promote health and safety in the workplace.

This bill effectively charges non-management employees with management responsibilities and requires them to make decisions on complex issues. The average employee is not legally trained nor educated on how to interpret regulations that are very complex and have multiple solutions.

The public availability of records from the committee meetings can deter open discussion on a safety issue or an incident review. Decisions made in a committee setting do not guarantee the best solution. The quality of employee input and involvement can be stifled when safety committees are run on a rigid schedule or format. The data requirement in 5-1305(B) is already being performed in conjunction with Federal OSHA and the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

On behalf of our over 1,500 business members, we respectfully request you vote to give H.B. 923 an unfavorable report.

Marcus Jackson, Director
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