



MARLOWE & COMPANY

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS CONSULTANTS

Memo

To: Marlowe & Company Clients
From: Michael Willis, Public Affairs Advisor
Re: Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act
Date: July 7, 2010

Your Marlowe & Company Team wants you to know that the House of Representatives added a provision into the Emergency War Supplemental bill late last week that guarantees collective bargaining rights for the nation's first responders employed by States and localities. The amendment allows for States to administer and enforce their own labor laws. However, the Federal Labor Relations Authority would step in where such laws do not exist or do not meet minimum federal standards. The language prohibits public safety officers from engaging in a lockout, sickout, work slowdown, strike, or any other organized job action that will disrupt the delivery of emergency services.

Currently 33 states allow collective bargaining while 17 prohibit or substantially limit it. Proponents of the amendment argue that it is necessary because it prevents public safety employees from being marginalized. Opponents of the amendment argue that it is unnecessary, expensive, and interferes in State affairs such that it may be an unconstitutional unfunded mandate. As you may know, the Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act is opposed by the National League of Cities.

The Senate is scheduled to consider the measure the week that it returns to session following the July 4th recess. We will continue to monitor the bill's progress and keep you apprised of any further developments.

If you would like help drafting a letter to you Congressional Delegation, please feel free to contact us. We would be happy to assist you in that effort.

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