

The **Association** report

from the **Capitol**

January 26, 2017

The new legislature is moving quickly this year on an issue that we are watching, not so much for what it does, but how it could evolve.

House Committee Substitute for House Bills 91, 42, 131, 265 and 314, also known as “right-to-work,” passed the house last week (Jan. 19) and is in the senate. Closely resembling that proposal (and sometimes confused with it) are SB21 and HB251. Known informally as “paycheck protection,” this is legislation which would weaken and threaten to eliminate voluntary public employee associations. Simply put, a law such as this would require annual written consent from each employee in order to continue payroll deduction for association dues.

While not moving with the urgency of “right-to-work,” SB21 had a hearing on Jan. 11 before the Senate General Laws Committee and was voted “do pass” on Jan. 18. The house version, HB251, was heard Tuesday, Jan.24, in the House Economic Development Committee.

The unofficial word around the Capitol is that an agreement has been reached to pursue only “right-to-work” legislation this session. I’ll keep you posted.

**From Harry Hill, Lobbyist
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