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Randy Fine
Florida Senate
Senator, District 19

February 26, 2025

Sen. Randy Fine and Rep. Dean Black File Bills to Improve Accountability in Government Unions

Tallahassee, FL—Today, Sen. Randy Fine and Rep. Dean Black are proud to announce the filing of SB 1328 and HB 1217, Public Employee Collective Bargaining, to protect taxpayers and strengthen accountability in state collective bargaining laws for public employees. This legislation builds on Florida’s 2023 union reform successes to keep taxpayer dollars out of government union business and ensure public unions have the continued support of their members.

Public sector unions were originally designed to promise representation and protection from unfair treatment. For too long, government unions have been used as a political tool with little to no accountability to their members or to taxpayers, whose tax dollars inevitably end up supporting them. This legislation would safeguard taxpayers and improve the political accountability of government unions. The proposed language:

- Requires government unions to receive majority support of their members in order to be certified, re-certified, or decertified.
- Prohibits taxpayer-funded union business by barring union contracts from including provisions that require taxpayers to pay for time spent engaging in union activities during work hours. This would not apply to bargaining units in which a majority of the employees are law enforcement officers, firefighters, or EMTs/paramedics.
- Prevents government unions from receiving preferential access to taxpayer resources by allowing non-profits or other unions to have the same access to public facilities and events as incumbent unions. This would also not apply to bargaining units in which a majority of the employees are law enforcement officers, firefighters, or EMTs/paramedics.

Nationally, [nearly 40 percent](#) of local government employees are in a union, while the union membership rate stands at just [six percent](#) in the private sector. Overall, [99 percent](#) of union contributions to political candidates and causes go to Democrats. This legislation would bring much-needed reform to ensure tax dollars aren’t allowing government unions to wield undue political influence and become political machines instead of representing members.

Governmental Oversight and Accountability, Chair
Community Affairs, Vice Chair
Joint Select Committee on Collective Bargaining, Alternating Chair
Appropriations -- Regulated Industries
Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government
Appropriations Committee on Pre-K - 12 Education -- Education Postsecondary
Brevard County Delegation

“These reforms are the logical next step for Florida’s union reform—we need to keep government unions accountable to taxpayers,” said Sen Fine. “This legislation will not only protect taxpayer dollars, but it will also help protect government employees from activist unions who aren’t supported by the majority of their union members.”

“For too long public unions have not represented the real interests of their workers or served the interests of Florida Taxpayers.” said Rep. Black. “This bill will make sure they do both.”

Read the full bill text [here](#) and [here](#).