

State Legislative Highlights – October 18, 2013

Alaska: The Anchorage Assembly will meet on Tuesday, October 22nd, and will discuss when the initiative to repeal AO-37 would appear on the city ballot. The [Assembly will also consider a bill to repeal AO-37 that evening](#).

Arizona: The [minimum wage in Arizona will go up by 10 cents in January, to \\$7.90](#). This increase is the annual adjustment that occurs to the wage rate as a result of a ballot initiative passed in 2006 requiring that the wage rate be adjusted each year based on changes to the cost of living.

Arkansas: A special session was called by the Governor this week. The legislature is considering [a proposal to use \\$43 million in surplus funds to subsidize health care plans for public school teachers](#).

California: Working families in California saw [fifteen big victories in the state legislature](#) this year. A blog article on these victories can be found [here](#).

San Jose Mayor Chuck Reed filed paperwork this week with the state Attorney General to begin the process for collecting signatures [to put a constitutional amendment on the November 2014 ballot that would allow state and local governments to cut pension benefits for current employees](#). The Attorney General will prepare a ballot title and summary for signature collection. Meanwhile, Governor Brown announced this week the [appointment of Stuart Drown to be the deputy secretary of the state Government Operations Agency](#). Drown was the Executive Director of the Little Hoover Commission, where he advocated for pension cuts for current government employees.

District of Columbia: The City Council's Committee on Business, Consumer, and Regulatory Affairs and the Committee on Finance and Revenue will hold a [hearing on minimum wage, paid sick days, and living wage legislation](#) on Monday, October 28th.

Maryland: The Montgomery County Council will hold a [hearing on legislation that would increase the county minimum wage to \\$11.50 on Thursday, October 24th](#). Meanwhile, the Prince George's County Council held a [hearing this week on a similar proposal](#).

Michigan: This week, the Senate passed [SB 358](#) – this bill would remove a requirement that licensed electricians perform electrical work in manufacturing and mining operations. The bill only requires a business to employ one master electrician, who is not even required to be at the work site. The bill has been sent to the House, where it has been referred to the Committee on Regulatory Reform.

Late last month, the House Oversight Committee passed [HB 4643](#). This bill is intended to [intimidate workers from exercising their right to assemble](#). Workers who violate the law and engage in mass pickets would be fined \$1,000 per day, and

unions that are involved in the mass pickets would be fined \$10,000 per day. The bill would also give employers the right to receive an injunction without demonstrating irreparable harm.

This week, [the Senate passed legislation that would allow UI benefits to be eliminated for unemployed workers who either refuse to take or fail a drug test required by a prospective employer](#). The legislation goes back to the House for consideration of changes made to the bill in the Senate.

Efforts are underway to [repeal the state law that prohibits marriage equality](#).

Ohio: Right to work supporters in Ohio announced this week that they have 100,000 signatures collected in support of putting Right to Work on the 2014 ballot. They also announced that [they are mobilizing to get another 100,000 signatures collected on Election Day next month](#).

The Ohio Controlling Board will consider a request from the Governor on Monday, October 21st [to expand Medicaid in the state](#).

Oregon: Following the decision by the Oregon Department of Justice, [the state will now recognize and extend benefits to same-sex couples who were legally married in states and countries that have enacted marriage equality laws](#).

Tennessee: This week, the [Tennessee Supreme Court upheld a 2011 law requiring photo identification](#) at the polls.