



Utah
Public
Employees
Association

Understand the issues

Payroll dues deduction for members

The Issue

Whether Utah should join other states in prohibiting or limiting public employee payroll deductions to pay membership dues for the Utah Public Employees' Association (UPEA) and other associations.

Why It Matters

Payroll deduction is the most efficient and effective way for UPEA to collect dues from its members, who also benefit because they don't have to remember to pay monthly or quarterly bills. The practice also promotes stable income and consistent budgeting for UPEA so the Association can focus its resources on protecting public employees' rights and promoting their interests.

States that have eliminated payroll dues deduction argue that it's inappropriate for government to provide accounting and collection services for employee associations. In at least some instances, however, their actions were motivated by a desire to weaken associations.

UPEA's Position

UPEA argues that the state allowing payroll deduction to pay employee association membership dues is no different than allowing payroll deduction to contribute to the United Way or another charity. If Utah were to prohibit payroll dues deduction for employee associations, it would have to prohibit deductions for other organizations as well.



admin@upea.net



upea.net



1000 W Bellwood Ln., SLC



(801) 264-8732



UPEA believes payroll dues deduction benefits employee associations without harming the state in any way. The Association actively opposes any effort to prohibit or limit the practice.

UPEA in Action

Like peers in Michigan, Wisconsin, Oklahoma, North Carolina, and Texas, Utah lawmakers in recent years have introduced bills that would have prohibited or limited payroll deduction of employee association dues. UPEA joined other associations in lobbying to help prevent passage of:

- House Bill 173: Sponsored by Rep. John Westwood, R-Cedar City, during the 2016 legislative session, the bill would have allowed any public employer in Utah to disallow payroll deduction of employee association dues. In part due to lobbying efforts, HB173 never emerged from the House Rules Committee.
- Senate Bill 350: This 2012 legislation, sponsored by Rep. Brad Daw, R-Orem, initially would have prevented all payroll dues deduction before UPEA and other groups worked with the sponsor to amend it so that public employees could have dues deducted from their pay not just for associations such as UPEA, but for any trade or professional organization. SB350 passed the House but the Senate never voted on it before the 2012 session ended.

Although payroll dues deduction continues in Utah, the practice remains under attack in other states. UPEA will monitor legislation introduced in Utah and act swiftly if the issue resurfaces.

Understand the issue, and help UPEA advocate for state employee rights. For more information or to join now, call (801) 264-8732.

 admin@upea.net

 upea.net

 1000 W Bellwood Ln., SLC

 (801) 264-8732