



CALIFORNIA LABOR FEDERATION FACT SHEET SB 1259 (DeSaulnier)

ESTABLISH AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND JOB CREATION AGENCY

Purpose

To create an Economic Development and Job Creation Agency and provide a single portal for economic development in California. This bill would reorganize the multiple and dispersed economic development programs in the state to attract business and create good jobs.

Background

California is facing a jobs crisis of a magnitude not seen since the Great Depression. California has one of the highest unemployment rates in the country at 12.3% and in 2009 over 2 million Californians were looking for work.

Not only is unemployment at an all-time high in California, but people are staying unemployed longer as the economy falters. Thirty-four percent of unemployed Californians have been looking for work for over 6 months and that number increased by **170.4%** since 2008.

California lost 952,800 jobs over the last two years (July 2007 to July 2009) and the state is projected to lose over a million jobs by 2013. The construction industry has been particularly hard hit, with employment down by 29% since 2007.

The jobs crisis in California requires concerted and strategic efforts to bring business to the state, spur the economy and create jobs. Businesses that are struggling to retain jobs, want to expand or are considering relocating to California could all benefit from the resources that the state has to offer.

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PAGE 1 | California Labor Federation

However, the state lacks a single point of entry for employers to access state services and benefits that save and create jobs.

Currently, there are nearly 100 agencies, departments, commissions, and task forces scattered throughout state government geared toward job creation. This dispersal of resources leads to inefficiencies, confusion, and lack of accountability.

What This Bill Will Do

This bill will create an Economic Development and Job Creation Agency for California. The office will be tasked with evaluating all existing economic development and job creation programs, departments and funding streams at the state level and developing a re-organization plan. The plan will prioritize the creation of good jobs for Californians.

Support

~ California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO
(Sponsor)

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