

Calendar No. 33105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION**S. 295****[Report No. 105-12]**

To amend the National Labor Relations Act to allow labor management cooperative efforts that improve economic competitiveness in the United States to continue to thrive, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 10, 1997

Mr. JEFFORDS (for himself, Mr. COATS, Mr. GREGG, Mr. FRIST, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. ENZI, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. WARNER, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. ASHCROFT, Mr. GORTON, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. MACK, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. HELMS, Mr. FAIRCLOTH, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. HOLLINGS, and Mr. MCCAIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources

APRIL 2, 1997

Reported under the authority of the order of the Senate on March 27, 1997,
by Mr. JEFFORDS, without amendment

A BILL

To amend the National Labor Relations Act to allow labor management cooperative efforts that improve economic competitiveness in the United States to continue to thrive, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Teamwork for Employ-
5 ees and Managers Act of 1997”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

8 (1) the escalating demands of global competi-
9 tion have compelled an increasing number of employ-
10 ers in the United States to make dramatic changes
11 in workplace and employer-employee relationships;

12 (2) such changes involve an enhanced role for
13 the employee in workplace decisionmaking, often re-
14 ferred to as “Employee Involvement”, which has
15 taken many forms, including self-managed work
16 teams, quality-of-worklife, quality circles, and joint
17 labor-management committees;

18 (3) Employee Involvement programs, which op-
19 erate successfully in both unionized and nonunion-
20 ized settings, have been established by over 80 per-
21 cent of the largest employers in the United States
22 and exist in an estimated 30,000 workplaces;

23 (4) in addition to enhancing the productivity
24 and competitiveness of businesses in the United
25 States, Employee Involvement programs have had a

1 positive impact on the lives of such employees, better
2 enabling them to reach their potential in the
3 workforce;

4 (5) recognizing that foreign competitors have
5 successfully utilized Employee Involvement tech-
6 niques, the Congress has consistently joined busi-
7 ness, labor and academic leaders in encouraging and
8 recognizing successful Employee Involvement pro-
9 grams in the workplace through such incentives as
10 the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award;

11 (6) employers who have instituted legitimate
12 Employee Involvement programs have not done so to
13 interfere with the collective bargaining rights guar-
14 anteed by the labor laws, as was the case in the
15 1930's when employers established deceptive sham
16 "company unions" to avoid unionization; and

17 (7) Employee Involvement is currently threat-
18 ened by legal interpretations of the prohibition
19 against employer-dominated "company unions".

20 (b) PURPOSES.—The purpose of this Act is—

21 (1) to protect legitimate Employee Involvement
22 programs against governmental interference;

23 (2) to preserve existing protections against de-
24 ceptive, coercive employer practices; and

1 (3) to allow legitimate Employee Involvement
2 programs, in which workers may discuss issues in-
3 volving terms and conditions of employment, to con-
4 tinue to evolve and proliferate.

5 **SEC. 3. EMPLOYER EXCEPTION.**

6 Section 8(a)(2) of the National Labor Relations Act
7 is amended by striking the semicolon and inserting the
8 following: “: *Provided further*, That it shall not constitute
9 or be evidence of an unfair labor practice under this para-
10 graph for an employer to establish, assist, maintain, or
11 participate in any organization or entity of any kind, in
12 which employees participate to at least the same extent
13 practicable as representatives of management participate,
14 to address matters of mutual interest, including, but not
15 limited to, issues of quality, productivity, efficiency, and
16 safety and health, and which does not have, claim, or seek
17 authority to be the exclusive bargaining representative of
18 the employees or to negotiate or enter into collective bar-
19 gaining agreements with the employer or to amend exist-
20 ing collective bargaining agreements between the employer
21 and any labor organization, except that in a case in which
22 a labor organization is the representative of such employ-
23 ees as provided in section 9(a), this proviso shall not
24 apply;”.

1 **SEC. 4. LIMITATION ON EFFECT OF ACT.**

2 Nothing in this Act shall affect employee rights and
3 responsibilities contained in provisions other than section
4 8(a)(2) of the National Labor Relations Act, as amended.

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