

An Overview of “Right to Work”

By [Daniel Schwartz](#) on January 26th, 2012

Anyone who has read this blog for a while knows that I am a big fan of the [Office of Legislative Research](#), a little-known office at the Connecticut General Assembly. They produce reports, backgrounders and items like that for legislators and release them to the public.

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As a result, you can get some free research into topics that may be of interest.

While reviewing their recent reports over the weekend (it was a snow day), [I found one done a few months ago analyzing “Right to Work” and the impact on various states.](#)

As noted by the report, “Right-to-work laws allow employees to decide whether or not to join or financially support a union. Twenty-two states currently have right-to-work laws; Connecticut is not one of them.”

The report notes that studies have shown that such laws have no impact (positive or negative) on wages. But it goes on to note that such laws appear to have a “statistically significant, positive effect on employment levels and job creation.”

Studies show that right-to-work laws have a statistically significant positive effect on employment levels and job creation, including faster growth in manufacturing jobs and lower unemployment rates. This may be because right-to-work laws affect where companies locate and manufacturing plants open. For example, all new auto plants built in the United States in the last 10 years were built in right-to-work states.

The report does indicate that other scholars dispute this conclusion, however.

“Right to Work” made headlines again last night. The [Indiana House passed a “right to work” bill yesterday](#). And [the Wall Street Journal Law Blog did an overview as well](#).

It seems very unlikely that Connecticut will ever approve — must less consider— such a proposal. Governor Malloy would surely veto any such measure as well. Will this movement, however, continue to pick up steam? As the saying goes, only time will tell.

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