



Judicial Council of California

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Chief Justice of California
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April 21, 2025

Hon. Buffy Wicks
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee
1021 O Street, Room 8220
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: Assembly Bill 792 (Lee), as amended March 10, 2025—Oppose, unless amended
Hearing: Assembly Appropriations Committee—April 23, 2025

Dear Assembly Member Wicks:

The Judicial Council has adopted an oppose unless amended position on Assembly Bill 792 which amends section 71808 of the Government Code to authorize the recognized employee organization to request multiregional bargaining when more than one interpreter bargaining region is engaged in bargaining within the same calendar year. The bill also requires the courts to accept the request within 30 days unless agreement is reached by all but one region.

The Judicial Council has concerns with the language in the bill that requires the courts to accept all multiregional bargaining requests. This unbalanced approach to bargaining could be problematic and does not lend to good faith bargaining environments. To address this problem, the council requests amendments to remove the requirement that forces the courts to accept any multiregional bargaining request and instead allow multiregional bargaining upon mutual consent of both parties.

While the judicial branch appreciates the resources required to conduct bargaining negotiations in multiple regions at the same time, this approach may not create efficiencies as the more regions involved in a negotiation, the more complicated the negotiations become. While there are common issues between the regions, there are not always solutions that can be applied across regions. The regions were originally established to allow for regional components to be considered during bargaining negotiations, including cost of living factors and regional needs.

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The judicial branch also has concerns with the language that would allow the multiregional request to be submitted whenever there is more than one region bargaining within the same year. The timeline of negotiations may be held up or requested earlier than appropriate in order for the bill's provisions to be applied and that may result in negative impacts on court administration and the relationship between the courts and the court interpreters. The Judicial Council looks forward to continuing to work through these concerns with the author and sponsors of the bill.

For these reasons the Judicial Council is opposed to AB 792 unless amended to allow the courts to engage in multiregional bargaining upon mutual consent of the parties.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Morgan Lardizabal at 916-323-3121.

Sincerely,



Cory T. Jaspersen
Director
Governmental Affairs

CTJ/ML/lmm

cc: Members, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Hon. Alex Lee, Member of the Assembly, 24th District
Ms. Irene Ho, Deputy Chief Consultant, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Mr. Gary Olson, Consultant, Assembly Republican Office of Policy
Mr. Jith Meganathan, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor
Ms. Michelle Curran, Administrative Director, Judicial Council of California