

ASSEMBLY LABOR COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 5794

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: NOVEMBER 30, 2023

The Assembly Labor Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 5794.

As amended, this bill provides that unions may file wage claim suits on behalf of their own workers and workers unaffiliated with a union, against a contractor or subcontractor at any tier, for unpaid wages. As amended, the bill requires that a worker who is not represented by a union consent to representation by a union prior to representation. The current law provides that only the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development and a joint labor-management cooperation committee may file suit on behalf of a worker owed unpaid wages. This bill establishes that unions are eligible to file suit against contractors or subcontractors at any tier for unpaid wages. The unions may file wage claims suits on behalf of workers already represented by a union or on behalf of workers not affiliated by any union, in any project.

As reported by the committee, Assembly Bill No. 5794 (1R) is identical to Senate Bill No. S1438 (SCS) (1R), which was also reported by the committee on this date.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to require that a worker who is not represented by a union consent to representation by a union prior to representation.