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Anti-outsourcing resolution passes California Assembly

<http://blogs.sacbee.com/capitolalert/latest/2014/04/anti-outsourcing-resolution-passes-california-assembly.html>

On a party-line vote, the Assembly on Thursday affirmed a union-backed resolution urging lawmakers to resist contracting out public services.

The non-binding resolution stipulates that the Assembly "opposes outsourcing of public services and assets." Assemblyman **Jimmy Gomez**, D-Los Angeles, the measure's author, said public entities can cloud an otherwise open process when they contract out work, and warned outsourcing can lead to "rubber-stamped" contract awards with no discussion.

"Over the years, outsourcing has left taxpayers without transparency or accountability to where the taxpayer money is being used," said Gomez.

But opponents, including a number of Republicans who decried the measure, said it skews the contracting process by limiting choices that can drive down costs to the benefit of voters. Assemblyman **Don Wagner**, R-Irvine, urged his colleagues to "stand for free competition," a message echoed by other critics.

"We represent all the residents of this state, not just public workers," said Assemblyman Curt Hagman, R-Chino Hills.

The measure passed 42-22, with several Democrats refusing to vote.

Before the vote, [business and local government organizations rallied](#) against the measure, saying it would constrain their decisions and strain budgets. That a legally non-binding resolution caused such consternation demonstrated the issue's potentially broad impact.

"We contract with other local agencies for services" from garbage collection to maintaining public buildings, said **Dan Carrigg**, legislative director of the California League of Cities, faulting the Legislature for "one of the most ill-informed, poorly considered things they could possibly do."

PHOTO: Assemblyman Jimmy Gomez, D- Los Angeles listens during the first day of session at the State Capitol in Sacramento, Calif. on Monday, Dec. 3, 2012 .



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