

## CHAPTER 185.

[H. B. 283.]

## LEGALIZING LABOR UNIONS.

AN ACT declaring labor unions to be lawful organizations; relating to the powers of the courts of this state in the granting of injunctions; declaring the labor of a human being not a commodity or article of commerce; prohibiting the indictment, prosecution or trial of any person or combination of persons for any lawful act in furtherance of bettering of his or their conditions.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:*

SECTION 1. It shall be lawful for working men and women to organize themselves into, or carry on labor unions for the purpose of lessening the hours of labor or increasing the wages or bettering the conditions of the members of such organizations; or carry out their legitimate purposes by any lawful means.

SEC. 2. No restraining order or injunction shall be granted by any court of this state, or any judge or judges thereof in any case between an employer and employee or between employer and employees or between employees or between persons employed and persons seeking employment involving or growing out of a dispute concerning terms or conditions of employment, unless necessary to prevent irreparable damage to property or to a personal right or to a property right of the party making the application, for which injury there is no adequate remedy at law, and such petition must be in writing describing such damage or injury feared by the applicant, and sworn to by the applicant or his agent or attorney. No such restraining order or injunction shall prohibit any such person or persons, whether singly or in concert, from terminating any relation of employment or from ceasing to perform any work or

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labor; or from paying or giving to, or withholding from any person engaged in such dispute, any strike benefits or other moneys or things of value; or from doing any act or thing which might lawfully be done in the absence of such dispute by any party thereto; nor shall any of the acts specified in this section be considered or held to be illegal or unlawful in any court of the state.

SEC. 3. The labor of a human being is not a commodity or article of commerce, and the right to enter into the relation of employer and employee or to change that relation except in violation of contract is a legal right. In all cases involving the violation of the contract of employment, either by the employee or employer where no irreparable damage is about to be done to the property, personal rights or property rights of either, no injunction shall be granted, but the parties shall be left to their remedy at law.

Employment contracts.

Remedy for violation.

SEC. 4. No person shall be indicted, prosecuted, or tried in any court of this state for entering into or carrying on any lawful arrangement, agreement, or combination between themselves made with a view of lessening the number of hours of labor or increasing wages or bettering the conditions of working men and women, or for any lawful act done in pursuance thereof.

Prosecutions prohibited.

Passed the House, March 10, 1919.

Passed the Senate, March 12, 1919.

Approved by the Governor March 19, 1919.