

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 2537**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Furutani**

February 21, 2008

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An act to amend Section 1720.4 of the Labor Code, relating to public works.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2537, as introduced, Furutani. Public works: exemption: volunteers.

Existing law defines "public works," for purposes of regulating public works contracts, as, among other things, construction, alteration, demolition, installation, or repair work that are performed under contract and paid for in whole or in part out of public funds. Pursuant to existing law, all workers employed on public works shall be paid not less than the general prevailing rate of per diem wages for work, except for public works projects of \$1,000 or less, or except for any work performed, on or after January 1, 2002, and until January 1, 2009, by a volunteer, a volunteer coordinator, or by members of the California Conservation Corps or of certified Community Conservation Corps.

This bill would extend, until January 1, 2012, the exemption from the definition of "public works" for any work performed by a volunteer, a volunteer coordinator, or by members of the California Conservation Corps or of certified Community Conservation Corps.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 1720.4 of the Labor Code is amended to  
2 read:

3 1720.4. (a) This chapter shall not apply to any of the following  
4 work:

5 (1) Any work performed by a volunteer. For purposes of this  
6 section, “volunteer” means an individual who performs work for  
7 civic, charitable, or humanitarian reasons for a public agency or  
8 corporation qualified under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal  
9 Revenue Code as a tax-exempt organization, without promise,  
10 expectation, or receipt of any compensation for work performed.

11 (A) An individual shall be considered a volunteer only when  
12 his or her services are offered freely and without pressure and  
13 coercion, direct or implied, from an employer.

14 (B) An individual may receive reasonable meals, lodging,  
15 transportation, and incidental expenses or nominal nonmonetary  
16 awards without losing volunteer status if, in the entire context of  
17 the situation, those benefits and payments are not a substitute form  
18 of compensation for work performed.

19 (C) An individual shall not be considered a volunteer if the  
20 person is otherwise employed for compensation at any time (i) in  
21 the construction, alteration, demolition, installation, repair, or  
22 maintenance work on the same project, or (ii) by a contractor, other  
23 than a corporation qualified under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal  
24 Revenue Code as a tax-exempt organization, that is receiving  
25 payment to perform construction, alteration, demolition,  
26 installation, repair, or maintenance work on the same project.

27 (2) Any work performed by a volunteer coordinator. For  
28 purposes of this section, “volunteer coordinator” means an  
29 individual paid by a corporation qualified under Section 501(c)(3)  
30 of the Internal Revenue Code as a tax-exempt organization, to  
31 oversee or supervise volunteers. An individual may be considered  
32 a volunteer coordinator even if the individual performs some  
33 nonsupervisory work on a project alongside the volunteers, so long  
34 as the individual’s primary responsibility on the project is to  
35 oversee or supervise the volunteers rather than to perform  
36 nonsupervisory work.

37 (3) Any work performed by members of the California  
38 Conservation Corps or of Community Conservation Corps certified

1 by the California Conservation Corps pursuant to Section 14507.5  
2 of the Public Resources Code.

3 (b) This section shall apply retroactively to otherwise covered  
4 work concluded on or after January 1, 2002, to the extent permitted  
5 by law.

6 (c) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, ~~2009~~  
7 2012, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute,  
8 which is enacted before January 1, ~~2009~~ 2012, deletes or extends  
9 that date.

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