

News Story

Fake Tea Party Scam Ends In Fraud Convictions

By Jarrett Skorup  | Jan. 12, 2012

Jason Bauer, a former Oakland County Democratic Party official, was sentenced to one year of probation and \$2,600 in fines for his involvement with a 2010 fake Tea Party scheme. Bauer is the second person involved in the plot to be sentenced. Former Oakland County Democratic Party Chair Mike McGuinness pleaded no contest in October to charges of perjury and forgery.



Capitol Confidential broke the story of the fake “Tea Party” in July of 2010 in the article, “Democratic Party Political Director Linked to Mysterious Tea Party Political Party.”

The Tea Party fraud was initially caught by blogger Jason Gillman, who writes at www.RightMichigan.com. Gillman won an award from the Sam Adam’s Alliance for “Watchdog” reporting. At the time, Gillman said, “Make no mistake, bloggers are useful for digging up info, exposing corruption, underhandedness, etc., but ultimately, ... even the important unearthed truths must pass through established and credible sources. In this case my go-to was the Mackinac Center, and specifically Capitol Confidential.”

Subsequent CapCon stories on the fake Tea Party are here:

Fake Political Party Runs Mystery Candidates

Tea Party Candidate Identity Statements Could Be Invalid

Fake Tea Brewing

A Lawyer Offering Few Details is Face of Mysterious ‘The Tea Party’

Mysterious ‘The Tea Party’ Under Investigation and Going to Court

BREAKING NEWS: Oakland County Clerk claims forged candidate filing from “fake” Tea Party

‘The Tea Party’ Barred From November Ballot

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News Story

Indiana Right-to-Work Bill Slows Down

By Jack Spencer | Jan. 12, 2012

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana becoming a right-to-work state still appears inevitable, but exactly when the legislation would be signed into law — and what it will look like — is now unclear.



RIGHT-TO-WORK

According to some reports, a deal has been struck between Republicans and Democrats in the Indiana House that would delay passage of the House version of an right-to-work bill (House Bill 1001) until at least

late next week. The agreement apparently involves allowing the Democrats to sound-off at a full hearing over the legislation in exchange for them promising not to walk out.

That report will either be verified or repudiated by what takes place in the House on Thursday. There are other reasons, however, to predict that movement of the legislation may be slowed.

As first reported by Capitol Confidential late Monday, an amendment, or amendments, are pending that could potentially exempt some trade unions from the effects of the right-to-work measure. It now appears that the Republicans (who hold majorities in both the House and Senate) are anticipating that it could take weeks to work out the complications of these potential amendments and coordinate them between the two chambers.

Capitol Confidential asked one well-placed source if the legislation might just sit on the legislative calendars for two or three weeks.

“That’s a good possibility,” the source responded. “Leadership won’t try to move it until everything is ready.”

When the Democrats showed up on the Indiana House floor Monday, the biggest obstacle in the way of Indiana becoming an right-to-work state seemed to have been avoided. What’s more, when the House Democrats showed up Wednesday it allowed a key procedural step to take place that would theoretically have allowed the full House to take a vote on House Bill 1001 this week.

Later, however, the story surfaced that the reason the Democrats had cooperated Wednesday was part of the agreement for a full hearing and delayed vote.

In practical terms, the Democrats could delay, but not prevent, the legislative process. Democrats face \$1,000 per-day fines if they prevent the House from reaching the required 67-member quorum by not coming to work. But the way the penalties are assessed, they could deny the quorums periodically without being fined.

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See also:

**Right-to-Work Inches Ahead in Indiana**

**Dems Don’t Run: Standoff Ends — Indiana Right-to-Work Obstacle Cleared**

**Indiana Senate Committee Passes Right-to-Work Bill; Unions Protest While Democrats Boycott**

**Right-to-Work Repeats Itself; Indiana Democrats Manufacture a Filibuster**

**Strong Support for Right-to-Work Measures in the Michigan Legislature**

**Right-to-Work Legislation Possible in Indiana**

**Michigan Loses \$2.5 billion Yearly Income; Right to Work States Gain Billions**

**Freedom to Work: A New Right-to-Work Effort in Michigan**

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**Unionized Government Takes and Spends More**

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**Tim Bos**

This development doesn't pass the smell test.

Of all unions, skilled trades unions are the least affected by allowing workers to resist joining or staying in a union. The reason is that many tradesmen jump from employer to employer repeatedly based on the amount of work they have available- and it's been that way for many, many decades. Consequently, their unions carry and offer retirement benefit plans, health insurance, etc. In other words, you can renounce your membership, and then kiss your retirement goodbye. Even when you leave the trades to work at something else, if you want to save that retirement accumulation, you must continue paying your union dues. It happens all the time.

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