

1997-1998 IBEW® Vote Report 105th Congress U.S. Senate

Legend	
Code	Value
R	Voted With Us
W	Voted Against Us
P	Present
S	Speaker did not vote
A	Did Not Vote
*	Not in Office
Lifetime	Career Right Vote Percentage

IBEW® SENATE VOTE DESCRIPTION - 105th Congress (1997-1998)

1 - Nuclear Waste

The U.S. Senate overwhelmingly passed the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1997 (S. 104), which mandated construction of a temporary storage site for high-level nuclear waste at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. This bill forced the Department of Energy to develop an intergrated management system for spent nuclear fuel from commercial reactors and defense programs presently being stored in 41 states. The bill passed on April 15 by a 65-34 vote. The IBEW position on Official Roll Call Vote #42: **SUPPORT (Yes = Right, No = Wrong).**

2 - Comp Time

One of the first bills of the 105th Congress was a direct attack on working families: S. 4 sought to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, eliminating the eight-hour day as we know it. Instead of paying private-sector workers cash for overtime worked after eight hours, it allows employers to pay workers in compensatory time off. While it called for "voluntary agreements" between employees and employers, penalties for violating the voluntary provisions were weak, at best. Many working families count on overtime to balance the family budget, and unrepresented workers can be easily intimidated into "voluntarily" giving it up. The bill also allotted an 80-hour work period before any worker could earn overtime, established a program that allowed employers to provide only one hour off for each hour of overtime instead of an hour and a half, and even allowed bosses to dock the pay of salaried workers for taking time off during the day for things such as dental and doctor's appointments. Worker-friendly lawmakers staged a filibuster against the bill (open-ended debate designed to kill a bill) and defeated a cloture motion (vote to cut-off debate) that would have killed the filibuster on June 4 by a 51-47 vote (60 votes are needed for cloture). The IBEW position on Official Roll Call Vote #93: **OPPOSE (Yes = Wrong, No = Right).**

3 - Fast Track

This bill allowed the President of the United States to submit bills implementing trade pacts to Congress under expedited review procedures requiring up-or-down votes without amendments. Labor unions vehemently opposed this concept because it did not give lawmakers an opportunity to add worker and human rights protections to trade deals. Fast Track opponents in the Senate staged a filibuster against a motion to bring the bill (S. 1269) to the floor; however, the Senate voted to kill the filibuster by a 69-31 vote on November 4. The IBEW position on Official Roll Call Vote #292: **OPPOSE (Yes = Wrong, No = Right)**.

4 - Paycheck Deception/Union Dues

The Republican leadership in the Senate still upset by organized labor's positive efforts in the 1996 elections, tried to cripple the labor movement's effectiveness in the political process with S. 1663. This bill would have singled out labor unions for special political fund-raising restrictions by requiring union members to sign a government form every year to allow a portion of their dues to be used for pro-worker political and legislative activities. This bill died on the Senate floor having failed on a cloture vote of 45-54 on February 26. IBEW position on Official Roll Call Vote #17: **OPPOSE (Yes = Wrong, No = Right)**

5 - Foreign Worker Visas

High Tech Industry claims there are not enough skilled American workers to perform such jobs. Instead of putting resources into training Americans, the companies sought to expand the number of H-1B visas issued by the U.S. to allow more immigrants into the country to fill the jobs. S. 1723 would increase the cap of 65,000 immigrants per year to 95,000 for the remainder of fiscal year 1998. It would then increase the cap on the visas to 105,000 for fiscal 1999 and 115,000 for the following three fiscal years. Despite organized labor's concerns that the bill did not include worker protection language or training provisions, the bill passed by a vote of 78-20 on May 18. The IBEW position on Official Roll Call Vote #141: **OPPOSE (Yes = Wrong, No = Right)**.

6 - Social Security

The Republican-controlled Congress wanted to pass an election-year tax cut so their members would have something on which to campaign. The bad part was they wanted to finance this tax cut largely by using the Social Security Trust Fund surplus. The Hollings Amendment to S. 2260 sought a commitment from Congress to "save Social Security first" by reserving any fiscal 1999 budget surplus for that purpose; work together to balance the budget without counting Social Security Trust Fund surpluses; and enact bi-partisan legislation to ensure the financial security of the Social Security system. The Senate rejected this amendment by a 47-53 vote on July 22. The IBEW position on Official Roll Call Vote #222: **SUPPORT (Yes = Right, No = Wrong)**.

7 - Right to Organize/Anti-Salting

S. 1981 would have outlawed the practice of "salting" by which building and construction trades union members hire on at non-union contracting companies in order to organize them. Workers could have been fired simply for engaging in pro- union activities. This bill undermined the fundamental principle of our nation's labor laws: workers have the right to organize free from management interference. The bill would prohibit "salting" as an organizing tool, would make single unit bargaining more difficult, and would shift NLRB case cost from the employer back to the Board. The worker-friendly members of the Senate threatened to filibuster if the bill was brought to the floor, so the Republican leadership proceeded with a cloture vote to kill the filibuster. They failed to garner the 60 votes needed for cloture, so the bill died. The cloture vote was 52-42 on September 14. The IBEW position on Official Roll Call Vote #266: **OPPOSE (Yes = Wrong, No = Right).**

8 - Minimum Wage

Big business has pushed anti-union bills through Congress for many years, putting organized labor on the defensive on such issues as "Right-to-Work," paycheck deception, repeal of Davis-Bacon, and more. Raising the minimum wage is a positive issue for workers that puts business on the defensive. Senator Kennedy introduced a bill to raise the minimum wage, but the Republican leadership refused to bring the bill to the floor for a vote. The bill would have increased the minimum wage by 50 cents in 1999 and 50 cents in 2000, raising it from \$5.15 per hour to \$6.15 per hour over two years. The Democrats tried, by amending the Consumer Bankruptcy Revisions bill with the increase, to force (a vote on minimum wage). The Republican majority voted to table, or kill, the amendment, because they did not want a recorded vote on minimum wage that could haunt them in the upcoming elections. The IBEW supported the bill to raise the minimum wage; but, we opposed the motion to table the amendment, because it would not give Senators the opportunity to vote on the bill itself. The vote to table passed by a 55-44 vote on September 22. The IBEW position on Official Roll Call Vote #278: **OPPOSE (Yes = Wrong, No = Right).**

Congressional Session	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2			
IBEW® Position	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N			
Alabama	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	R	W	Lifetime
Jeff Sessions (R)	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	1	7	3%
Richard Shelby (R)	R	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	2	6	58%
Alaska	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	R	W	Lifetime
Frank Murkowski (R)	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	1	7	22%
Ted Stevens (R)	R	W	R	R	W	W	W	W	3	5	41%
Arizona	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	R	W	Lifetime
Jon Kyl (R)	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	1	7	3%
John McCain (R)	R	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	2	6	12%
Arkansas	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	R	W	Lifetime
Dale Bumpers (D)	W	R	W	R	R	R	R	R	6	2	73%
Tim Hutchinson (R)	R	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	2	6	3%
California	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	R	W	Lifetime
Barbara Boxer (D)	W	R	R	R	W	R	R	R	6	2	95%
Dianne Feinstein (D)	W	R	R	R	W	R	R	R	6	2	86%
Colorado	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	R	W	Lifetime
Wayne Allard (R)	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	1	7	3%
Ben Nighthorse Campbell (R)	W	R	R	R	W	W	R	W	4	4	57%
Connecticut	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	R	W	Lifetime
Joseph Lieberman (D)	W	R	W	R	W	R	R	R	5	3	80%
Christopher Dodd (D)	W	R	W	R	W	R	R	R	5	3	91%
Delaware	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	R	W	Lifetime
William Roth (R)	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	1	7	18%
Joseph Biden (D)	W	R	W	R	R	R	R	R	6	2	83%
Florida	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	R	W	Lifetime
Bob Graham (D)	R	R	W	R	W	R	R	W	5	3	78%
Connie Mack (R)	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	1	7	10%
Georgia	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	R	W	Lifetime
Paul Coverdell (R)	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	1	7	4%
Max Cleland (D)	R	R	W	R	W	R	R	R	6	2	63%

Hawaii	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	R	W	Lifetime
Daniel Inouye (D)	W	R	W	R	W	R	R	R	5	3	91%
Daniel Akaka (D)	W	R	W	R	R	R	R	R	6	2	93%
Idaho	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	R	W	Lifetime
Dirk Kempthorne (R)	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	1	7	4%
Larry Craig (R)	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	1	7	10%
Illinois	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	R	W	Lifetime
Richard Durbin (D)	W	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	7	1	98%
Carol Moseley-Braun (D)	R	R	R	R	R	R	A	R	7	0	80%
Indiana	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	R	W	Lifetime
Richard Lugar (R)	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	1	7	10%
Dan Coats (R)	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	0	8	11%
Iowa	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	R	W	Lifetime
Tom Harkin (D)	R	R	R	A	R	R	R	R	7	0	91%
Charles Grassley (R)	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	1	7	10%
Kansas	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	R	W	Lifetime
Pat Roberts (R)	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	1	7	3%
Sam Brownback (R)	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	1	7	3%
Kentucky	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	R	W	Lifetime
Wendell Ford (D)	W	R	R	R	W	R	R	R	6	2	80%
Mitch McConnell (R)	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	1	7	10%
Louisiana	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	R	W	Lifetime
Mary Landrieu (D)	W	R	W	R	W	R	R	R	5	3	50%
John Breaux (D)	W	R	W	R	W	R	R	R	5	3	76%
Maine	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	R	W	Lifetime
Susan Collins (R)	R	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	2	6	14%
Olympia Snowe (R)	R	W	R	R	W	R	W	W	4	4	31%
Maryland	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	R	W	Lifetime
Paul Sarbanes (D)	W	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	7	1	97%
Barbara Mikulski (D)	W	R	R	R	R	R	A	R	6	1	95%
Massachusetts	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	R	W	Lifetime
John Kerry (D)	W	R	W	R	R	R	R	R	6	2	93%
Edward Kennedy (D)	W	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	7	1	95%

Michigan	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	R	W	Lifetime
Spencer Abraham (R)	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	1	7	10%
Carl Levin (D)	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	8	0	93%
Minnesota	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	R	W	Lifetime
Rod Grams (R)	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	1	7	8%
Paul David Wellstone (D)	W	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	7	1	94%
Mississippi	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	R	W	Lifetime
Trent Lott (R)	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	1	7	10%
Thad Cochran (R)	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	1	7	12%
Missouri	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	R	W	Lifetime
Christopher Bond (R)	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	1	7	15%
John Ashcroft (R)	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	1	7	4%
Montana	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	R	W	Lifetime
Max Baucus (D)	W	R	W	R	W	R	R	R	5	3	75%
Conrad Burns (R)	R	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	2	6	10%
Nebraska	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	R	W	Lifetime
Chuck Hagel (R)	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	1	7	3%
J. Robert Kerrey (D)	W	R	W	R	W	R	R	R	5	3	79%
Nevada	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	R	W	Lifetime
Richard Bryan (D)	W	R	W	R	W	R	R	R	5	3	77%
Harry Reid (D)	W	R	R	R	W	R	R	R	6	2	90%
New Hampshire	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	R	W	Lifetime
Robert Smith (R)	R	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	2	6	10%
Judd Gregg (R)	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	1	7	3%
New Jersey	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	R	W	Lifetime
Robert Torricelli (D)	W	R	R	R	R	R	A	R	6	1	90%
Frank Lautenberg (D)	W	R	W	R	W	R	R	R	5	3	91%
New Mexico	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	R	W	Lifetime
Jeff Bingaman (D)	W	R	W	R	W	R	R	R	5	3	83%
Pete Domenici (R)	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	1	7	20%
New York	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	R	W	Lifetime
Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D)	W	R	W	R	R	R	R	R	6	2	93%
Alfonse D'Amato (R)	R	R	W	R	A	W	A	R	4	2	47%

North Carolina	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	R	W	Lifetime
Lauch Faircloth (R)	R	W	R	W	A	W	W	W	2	5	7%
Jesse Helms (R)	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	1	7	9%
North Dakota	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	R	W	Lifetime
Byron Dorgan (D)	W	R	R	R	W	R	R	R	6	2	86%
Kent Conrad (D)	W	R	R	R	W	R	R	R	6	2	85%
Ohio	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	R	W	Lifetime
John Glenn (D)	W	R	W	R	R	R	R	A	5	2	83%
Mike DeWine (R)	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	1	7	10%
Oklahoma	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	R	W	Lifetime
Don Nickles (R)	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	1	7	3%
James Inhofe (R)	R	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	2	6	7%
Oregon	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	R	W	Lifetime
Ron Wyden (D)	R	R	W	R	W	R	R	R	6	2	81%
Gordon Smith (R)	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	1	7	3%
Pennsylvania	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	R	W	Lifetime
Rick Santorum (R)	R	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	2	6	19%
Arlen Specter (R)	R	R	R	R	W	R	W	R	6	2	68%
Rhode Island	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	R	W	Lifetime
John Chafee (R)	R	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	2	6	41%
Jack Reed (D)	W	A	R	R	W	R	R	R	5	2	98%
South Carolina	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	R	W	Lifetime
Strom Thurmond (R)	R	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	2	6	12%
Ernest Hollings (D)	R	R	R	R	W	R	A	W	5	2	68%
South Dakota	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	R	W	Lifetime
Tim Johnson (D)	R	R	W	R	W	R	R	R	6	2	75%
Thomas Daschle (D)	W	R	W	R	W	R	R	R	5	3	83%
Tennessee	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	R	W	Lifetime
Bill Frist (R)	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	1	7	3%
Fred Thompson (R)	R	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	2	6	4%
Texas	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	R	W	Lifetime
Kay Bailey Hutchison (R)	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	1	7	2%
Phil Gramm (R)	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	1	7	5%

Utah	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	R	W	Lifetime
Orrin Hatch (R)	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	1	7	12%
Robert Bennett (R)	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	1	7	3%
Vermont	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	R	W	Lifetime
Patrick Leahy (D)	R	R	W	R	W	R	R	R	6	2	88%
Jim Jeffords (R)	R	A	W	R	W	W	W	W	2	5	41%
Virginia	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	R	W	Lifetime
John Warner (R)	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	1	7	17%
Charles Robb (D)	R	R	W	R	W	R	R	R	6	2	77%
Washington	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	R	W	Lifetime
Slade Gorton (R)	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	1	7	15%
Patty Murray (D)	R	R	W	R	W	R	R	R	6	2	93%
West Virginia	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	R	W	Lifetime
Robert Byrd (D)	W	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	7	1	78%
John Rockefeller (D)	A	R	W	R	R	R	R	R	6	1	90%
Wisconsin	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	R	W	Lifetime
Herbert Kohl (D)	R	R	W	R	W	R	R	R	6	2	75%
Russ Feingold (D)	W	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	7	1	95%
Wyoming	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	R	W	Lifetime
Michael Enzi (R)	R	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	2	6	14%
Craig Thomas (R)	R	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	2	6	3%