

Assembly Bill 437

Employee obligations: exclusivity requirements: actors.

Assembly Member Ash Kalra

SUMMARY

AB 437 would restore actors' ability to freely work by removing unfair restrictions from studio contracts.

BACKGROUND

Many actors are under exclusive contracts that prohibit them from performing or finding work in between seasons. The advent of new forms of content distribution like streaming services has dramatically changed production schedules, eliminating the ability of annual work schedules that included consistent work for nine months, and only short breaks between seasons.

Today, many TV and new media series shoot episodes for only 4-5 months per season and leave actors on hold, without work and pay, for an average of 12 months before the next season begins. These actors are prohibited by their contracts continue to perform and work until the next contracted season.

SOLUTION

AB 437 enables actors in California the freedom to work in their best interest as long as there is no material conflict of interest with their original employer. This bill will affirmatively state that artists may work for multiple employers if there is no scheduling conflict with their original employer.

SPONSORS

California Labor Federation
Screen Actors Guild – American Federation of
Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA)
Music Artists Coalition

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