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February 23, 2011

Discord, State by State

By **SARAH WHEATON**

WISCONSIN

THE BILL The proposal by Gov. [Scott Walker](#), a Republican, would prohibit collective bargaining by public workers for issues beyond wages, require unions to hold annual votes on whether they should remain in existence and increase workers' contributions for pensions and health benefits.

WHAT IS HAPPENING NOW Senate Democrats are withholding a quorum by holing up in the Chicago area and weighing a Republican senator's offer to make the bargaining ban temporary. In the House, Democrats filibustered for 24 hours and delayed Republican efforts to hold a vote by offering more than 100 amendments. Citizen demonstrations were in their ninth day.

WHEN IT MIGHT BE RESOLVED Democratic senators say they will not return if Mr. Walker maintains his refusal to compromise — a vow he reiterated Wednesday. He warns of a cascade of layoffs: 1,500 without a deal by the end of the week, and thousands more if the fight stretches beyond July 1.

INDIANA

THE BILLS Several measures would weaken organized labor, most notably legislation that would bar any requirement that employees in unionized, private-sector workplaces pay any union dues or fees.

WHAT IS HAPPENING NOW All but three Democratic members of the House have decamped to Urbana, Ill., to block a quorum, while thousands of protesters swarmed the Capitol.

WHEN IT MIGHT BE RESOLVED Democrats say they will not return until Republicans promise not to reintroduce the union bill this session. The measure is not a priority for Gov. [Mitch Daniels](#), a Republican, and the House speaker said he would let it die in chamber, but did not rule out its resurrection.

OHIO

THE BILL As originally conceived, Senate Bill 5 would effectively end collective bargaining for state workers and allow hiring alternate workers during a strike. It would end binding

arbitration, an option favored by the police and firefighters, who are not allowed to strike.

WHAT IS HAPPENING NOW Senate Republican leaders said they would offer a revision that would allow collective bargaining by state workers for wages only, but ban strikes. Though thousands protested on Tuesday, Columbus was relatively quiet on Wednesday, with the Rev. [Jesse L. Jackson](#) rallying a more modest crowd at a [Teamsters](#) union hall.

WHEN IT MIGHT BE RESOLVED Republicans plan to accept amendments to the measure until Friday, then consider the new version next week, a Democratic senator said. Democrats have also threatened a ballot challenge if the bargaining ban goes through — potentially pushing the fight into the November 2012 election. **SARAH WHEATON**

This article has been revised to reflect the following correction:

Correction: February 25, 2011

A “State by State” legislative roundup on Thursday with an article about discord between union workers and some state legislators in Wisconsin, Ohio and Indiana referred incorrectly to a proposed bill in Indiana. The legislation would bar any requirement that employees in unionized, private-sector workplaces pay any union dues or fees; it would not prohibit making union membership a prerequisite for employment in the private sector.