More Professions Receive Exemptions From Landmark Labor Law

California lawmakers on Monday OK’d exemptions to about two-dozen more professions from a landmark labor law designed to treat more people like employees instead of contractors. The law that took effect this year was primarily aimed at ride-hailing giants Uber and Lyft, which are fighting the new requirements in court and with a measure on the November ballot. This new legislation would end what critics had said were unworkable limits on services provided by freelance still photographers, photojournalists, freelance writers, editors, and newspaper cartoonists, with certain restrictions to make sure they are not replacing current employees. The bill would also exempt fine artists, freelance writers, translators, editors, content contributors, advisors, narrators, cartographers, producers, copy editors, illustrators, and newspaper cartoonists who work under written contracts. It would add further exemptions for musicians with single-engagement live performances, those involved with sound recordings or musical compositions, insurance inspectors, real estate appraisers and inspectors, manufactured housing salespersons, youth sports coaches, people engaged by an international exchange visitor program, and competition judges. Also added were those engaged in consulting services or animal services, along with landscape architects and professional foresters. The measure cleared the Senate on a 39-0 vote and passed the Assembly on a 66-0 vote. It would take effect immediately if Governor Newsom signs it into law.

