

HCS HB 61 -- STATE MINIMUM WAGE

SPONSOR: Nolte

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on International Trade and Job Creation by a vote of 10 to 5.

This substitute prohibits the Missouri minimum wage from exceeding the federal minimum wage and specifies that every employer must pay each employee who receives compensation in the form of gratuities a wage of \$3.63 per hour unless otherwise provided by law.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2012, FY 2013, and FY 2014.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that allowing Missouri's minimum wage, with its automatic cost-of-living adjustment, to increase over the federal minimum wage also makes it exceed the minimum wage in surrounding states, thereby increasing the cost of doing business in the state and making the state less attractive for new business. Missouri is one of only nine states that has an automatic increase.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Nolte; Greg Hunsucker, V's Italiano Ristorante; Rod Reid, Shepherd Hills Factory Outlets; Richard Walls, Boone Tavern; Robert Harrington; Ken Lueckenotte, Rural Missouri, Incorporated; Associated Industries of Missouri; Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Missouri League of Nursing Home Administrators; Ramona Mormann, Missouri Hotel and Lodging Association; National Federation of Independent Business; Associated Builders and Contractors; Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce; St. Louis Regional Chamber and Growth Association; Missouri Retailers Association; and Missouri Grocers' Association.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that the cost-of-living adjustment in the state minimum wage was passed by an overwhelming majority in the state as a whole and in every county in the state. The will of the people should not be overridden by corporate interests. No studies have made a correlation between minimum wage increases and job loss. Raising wages is actually an economic stimulator.

Testifying against the bill were Lara Granich, Missouri Jobs with Justice; Lew Prince, Vintage Vinyls, Incorporated; Dana Dreher; Elizabeth Dunn; Joe Wicks; Missouri AFL-CIO; Service Employees International Union MO/KS State Council; United Steelworkers District 11; Michael McLaughlin, Bleeding Deacon Public House; Phil Bourne, Waldo Pizza; Maureen Costello, MoKaBe's Coffeehouse;

LaTrisha Gandy; and Robert Logue.