

HB 195 -- PREVAILING WAGES IN THIRD CLASSIFICATION COUNTIES

SPONSOR: Love

This bill changes the laws regarding prevailing wages on public works projects. In its main provisions, the bill:

(1) Revises the definition of "construction" as it relates to prevailing wages on public works projects by removing improvements, alterations, or major repairs and specifies that it does not include maintenance work. Currently, it includes construction, reconstruction, improvement, enlargement, alteration, painting and decorating, or major repair;

(2) Revises the definition of "locality" in instances when there are not a sufficient number of competent skilled workmen to construct a public works efficiently to include two or more counties adjacent to the one in which the work is to be performed;

(3) Revises the definition of "maintenance work" to include repairs that restore existing facilities to a previous state or condition or improve the utility or enhance the appearance of an existing facility provided that the size, type, or extent of the existing facility is not changed. Maintenance work cannot include "major repairs" that is defined as any work that exceeds the replacement cost of existing facilities;

(4) Specifies that the prevailing hourly rate of wages for all counties except Cass, Clay, Franklin, Jackson, Jefferson, Lincoln, St. Charles, St. Louis, and Warren, and the City of St. Louis, will be the median hourly estimated wage for the construction and extraction occupational code most closely resembling the occupational title as published in the latest United States Bureau of Labor Statistics by Metropolitan and Non-Metropolitan Area Occupational Employment Wage Estimate or, if the rate cannot be determined under that method, the prevailing hourly rate of wages will be median hourly wage estimate for occupational code 47-0000 in the construction and extraction occupational code published in the latest United States Bureau of Labor Statistics publication; and

(5) Specifies that for the City of St. Louis and the counties of Cass, Clay, Franklin, Jackson, Jefferson, Lincoln, St. Charles, St. Louis, and Warren, the prevailing hourly rate of wages will continue to be determined by consideration of the applicable wage rates established by collective bargaining agreements, if any, and the rates paid generally within those counties and city. The applicable wage rates paid by members of a tax-exempt trade organization as defined in the bill also can be considered.