

HB 865 -- POLITICAL SUBDIVISION REGULATION

SPONSOR: Rowden

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Business Attraction and Retention by a vote of 8 to 3. Voted "Do Pass" by the Select Committee on Commerce by a vote of 6 to 2.

This bill prohibits a political subdivision from establishing, mandating, or otherwise requiring an employer to provide to an employee a minimum wage rate or employment benefits that exceed the requirements of federal or state laws, rules, or regulations. The bill also prohibits a political subdivision from prohibiting an employer from inquiring into or considering a job applicant's criminal history on an initial employment application.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that local minimum wage creates unfair advantage to competitors outside of city limits. Private businesses should be allowed to establish their own rules for the hiring process and should also determine their own benefits in the competitive market. Supporters don't want local municipalities to infringe on the rights and freedoms of the private businesses.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Rowden; Missouri Chamber of Commerce And Industry; Associated Industries of Missouri; Missouri Grocers' Association; Citizens For A Better Columbia; Missouri Restaurant Association; and National Federation Of Independent Business.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that local political subdivisions should have control over this issue.

Testifying against the bill was Kansas City Missouri and Jeff Stack, Mid-Missouri Fellowship of Reconciliation.