

HB 2148 -- FAIRNESS IN PUBLIC CONSTITUTION

SPONSOR: Vescovo

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Workforce Standards and Development by a vote of 7 to 3. Voted "Do Pass" by the Select Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations by a vote of 6 to 1.

This bill prohibits any political subdivision of the state from encouraging or giving preferential treatment to bidders, offerors, contractors, or subcontractors for entering or refusing to enter into agreements with labor organizations on the same or related construction, repair, remodeling, or demolition projects.

This bill also prohibits political subdivisions of the state from awarding grants, tax abatements, or tax credits for cooperative agreements for improvement, maintenance, or renovation projects, which have the condition of meeting elements set out in the section.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that political subdivisions should not give preferential treatment when dealing with bidding for jobs. Contractors who choose to be non-union should have access to these jobs.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Vescovo; Missouri Chamber Of Commerce; and Associated Builders And Contractors Heart Of America.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that this will affect quality. Furthermore, there are usually hearings held before bids are accepted. This could also potentially bring undocumented workers into our areas.

Testifying against the bill were St. Louis Building Trades Council; Plumbers & Pipefitters Local #562; Construction Employers Coalition; Carpenters Council Of St. Louis And Kansas City; G Raymond Hefner, Missouri Association Of Plumbing, Heating, And Cooling Contractors; Plumbing Industry Council; SMACNA St. Louis; Mechanical Contractors Association-Eastern Missouri; Mechanical Contractors Association Of Kansas City; Missouri AFL-CIO; International Union Of Painters And Allied Trades District Council# 3; International Union Of Painters And Allied Trades District Council#58; Sheet Metal/Air/Rail/Transportation (SMART); and IBEWL/St. Louis NECA.