

HB 382 -- Prevailing Wages on Public Works

Sponsor: George

This bill changes the laws regarding prevailing wages on public work projects. The bill:

- (1) Requires that workers on all public projects or aggregate of projects in excess of \$5,000 receive a wage of no less than the prevailing hourly wage rate for similar work performed in that locality;
- (2) Requires that workers be notified of the wage rates issued by the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations that are contained in the contract specifications;
- (3) Expands the job site to include adjacent property dedicated to the completion of the contracted work;
- (4) Requires a contractor to pay a penalty to the contracting public body of \$50 per calendar day for each worker paid less than the prevailing wage;
- (5) Requires a contractor to pay an additional penalty to the department of \$50 per calendar day for each worker paid less than the prevailing wage and requires that these penalties be deposited into the newly created Prevailing Wage Enforcement and Education Fund;
- (6) Requires additional information for the annual general wage order for the Highways and Transportation Commission;
- (7) Permits individuals to submit information to supersede the wage rate established by collective bargaining;
- (8) Allows records from public and nonpublic work projects to be subpoenaed by the department for any matter under investigation;
- (9) Requires contractors to remit payroll information to the contracting public body monthly to ensure compliance with the Prevailing Wage Law;
- (10) Requires contractors to report all convictions, plea agreements, and debarments to the Secretary of State for public body notification;
- (11) Requires the Attorney General to recover any uncollected prevailing wage violation penalty due a public body, the department, or a worker;

(12) Requires that any person who willfully violates or knowingly provides false information pursuant to the Prevailing Wage Law be prosecuted in the respective jurisdiction by the appropriate prosecutor; and

(13) Requires that any person or entity discharging a worker for filing a prevailing wage complaint be fined up to \$500 and/or imprisoned for up to six months. The employer will also pay 60 days' wages to the discharged worker.