

SS SCS SB 29 -- LABOR ORGANIZATIONS

SPONSOR: Brown (Burlison)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Workforce Development and Workplace Safety by a vote of 7 to 4.

This bill prohibits sums from being withheld from the earnings of public employees for dues, agency shop fees, or other fees paid by public employee members and nonmembers of a public labor organization unless a written authorization is obtained each year on a form prescribed in the bill.

Public labor organizations are prohibited from using any portion of dues or agency shop fees paid by member and nonmember public employees to make political campaign contributions unless it obtains a written authorization from the member or nonmember within the previous 12 months on a form prescribed in the bill.

Any public labor organization that uses dues or agency shop fees to make political campaign contributions must maintain a record of the written authorization and the amount and date the funds were transferred, but should not include the employee's home address or telephone number. Copies of these records should be sent to the Labor and Industrial Relations Commission within the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. Employees who do not authorize political campaign contributions cannot have their dues or agency shop fees increased in lieu of making the contribution.

The requirement of obtaining a written authorization cannot be waived by the member or nonmember. The execution or nonexecution of, or the waiver of the written authorization cannot be made a condition of employment or continued employment.

The requirements of the bill will not apply to certain first responders or any labor organization that represents first responders.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill is about fundamental fairness. It is important to protect a union member's wages by ensuring that he or she is not forced to support political candidates out-of-pocket and against their will.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Brown; and Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that under current law, the union cannot take money from an employee or member without permission. This is just another administrative burden put onto

unions from Jefferson City. There are approximately 75 authorized payroll deductions other than the union deductions, and none of the other payroll deductions require annual reauthorization.

Testifying against the bill were Missouri AFL-CIO; United Steelworkers District 11; Service Employees International Union MO/KS State Council; American Federation of Teachers; Missouri National Education Association; Clint Harris, United Auto Workers; Plumbing Industry Council; Missouri Association of Plumbing, Heating, and Cooling Contractors; Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors' National Association, St. Louis; International Union of Painters and Allied Trades District Council #2 and District Council #3; Carpenters Council of Greater St. Louis; Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen; and Bradley Harman, Local 6355, Communications Workers of America.