

HCS HB 337 -- WORKERS COMPENSATION

SPONSOR: McGaugh

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Standing Committee on Employment Security by a vote of 5 to 3. Voted "Do Pass" by the Select Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations by a vote of 6 to 1.

Currently only construction industry employers are deemed employers for workers compensation if they have one or more employees; all other non-construction industry employers are not deemed employers for workers compensation purposes unless they have five or more employees.

This bill adds any person or corporation in the construction industry who erects, demolishes, alters, or repairs improvements to the definition of "employer" as it relates to the Workers' Compensation Law.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill adds to the list of employers industries that are statistically as dangerous or more dangerous than construction companies. Currently, there are small businesses that do remodeling work or smaller construction projects and have to pay for workers' compensation for only having one employee.

Testifying for the bill was Representative McGaugh.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that they would rather have the bill exempt all employers with less than five employees from workers' compensation, rather than adding more industries into a provision that includes construction companies. Opponents say that the bill can stunt the growth of small businesses.

Testifying against the bill was Associated Industries Of Missouri.