

HB 1700 -- PREVAILING WAGE LAWS

SPONSOR: Lant

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Workforce Standards and Development by a vote of 8 to 3. Voted "Do Pass" by the Select Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations by a vote of 6 to 3.

This bill allows any public body to opt out of the provisions regarding prevailing wages for the construction of public works projects for which the contract awarded is \$750,000 or less.

This bill is the same as HB 69 (2015).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that small towns could afford to complete necessary projects, as this bill would free up funds by allowing them to opt out of prevailing wage. Rural areas expressed concern that they were paying higher than necessary wages, as they were likely paying the wages of metropolitan areas. Supporters were not concerned that any quality or safety of the work performed would be compromised by the passing of this bill.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Lant; Americans For Prosperity; Missouri Municipal League; Missouri Association of Municipal Utilities; and the Missouri Chamber of Commerce.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that this would be devastating to private contractors and lower class Missourians, because it would bring about lower contractor wages, and, therefore, lower quality contractors. Opponents also stated that a majority of their annual income was from public works, so this bill would affect their income significantly.

Testifying against the bill were Construction Employers Coalition; Site Improvement Association; Dennis Palmer, Coastal Electric; Darwin Gardner, Operating Engineers; Nick Carey, Operating Engineers Local #101; James Dixon; Charles Kendrick; Shawn Mulligan; Jerry McKnight; Plumbers & Pipefitters Local #562; Heavy Constructors Association Of Greater Kansas City; United Steelworkers District 11; Timothy J. Wies, TJ Wies Contracting, Inc.; Erectors and Riggers Association; American Subcontractors Association; Fred Voigt; Associated General Contractors of Missouri; Builders Association; St. Louis Building And Construction Trades Council; Missouri State Labor Council, AFL-CIO; Missouri AFL-CIO; Douglas Piant; Missouri Association of Plumbing, Heating, and Cooling Contractors; Plumbing Industry Council; SMACNA St. Louis; Sheet Metal/Air/Rail/Transportation; Rick Phillips; International Union of Painters And Allied Trades District

Council#3; International Union of Painters and Allied Trades  
District Council #58; St. Louis Electrical Connection; Missouri  
National Education Association; Mechanical Contractors Association-  
Eastern Missouri; and Mechanical Contractors Association Of Kansas  
City.