

HCS HB 1891 -- LABOR ORGANIZATIONS

SPONSOR: Rehder

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Workforce Standards and Development by a vote of 8 to 3. Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Select Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations by a vote of 5 to 3.

This bill prohibits any sum from being withheld from the earnings of a public employee for the payment of any portion of dues, agency shop fees, or other fees paid by public employee members of a public labor organization or a public employee who is a nonmember except upon the annual written authorization of the employee.

A public labor organization is prohibited from using or obtaining any portion of dues, agency shop fees, or any other fees paid by member and nonmember public employees to make political campaign contributions or expenditures unless it obtains a written authorization from the member or nonmember within the previous 12 months.

This bill is similar to HB 159 (2015).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that public employees should have the option to choose annually whether they would like to be part of the union and to what they would like to contribute. Supporters say that there is no additional government intervention added by this bill, and the additional cost to implement is not expected to be significant.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Rehder; Americans For Prosperity; and Missouri Alliance For Freedom.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that this bill is too burdensome on individuals and that it increases government intervention. Opponents argue that this bill is a union buster, and it only limits employees' choices with respect to labor unions, not any other choice for payment or contribution. Opponents further state that the bill is confusing as written, and it would be better to afford employees the opportunity to opt out at any time, which is the status quo, versus forcing them to opt in annually. Opponents suggested giving employees the ability to email their opposition to deductions rather than making them fill out unnecessary additional paperwork.

Testifying against the bill were SEIU (Service Employees Intl. Union) MO/KS State Council; Missouri National Education Association; Bradley Harmon, CWA 6355 Afl-Cio; Empower Missouri;

Plumbers & Pipefitters Local #562; AFT St. Louis Local 420; International Union of Painters and Allied Trades District Council#3; International Union Of Painters And Allied Trades District Council#58; United Steelworkers District 11; Builders Association Of Missouri; Missouri Afl-Cio; and Sheet Metal/Air/Rail/Transportation.