

HCS HB 309 -- PREVAILING WAGE LAWS

SPONSOR: Davis

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Economic Development by a vote of 9 to 3.

This bill allows any municipality to opt out of the provisions regarding prevailing wages for the construction of public works.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that prevailing wage discourages local workforces from engaging in public project bids, and unreasonably drives up construction costs. This bill would foster competitive bidding as well as help stem the advantages that urban contractors have over rural ones.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Davis; Marlon Collins, Cedar County; City of Nevada; Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Missouri Association of Municipal Utilities; Missouri School Board Association; and the Missouri Municipal League.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that this bill would advantage out-of-state contract bidders over those in Missouri, that the prevailing wage in rural areas would lower if local contractors would only report their wages, and that prevailing wage does not necessarily increase construction costs.

Testifying against the bill were Alise Martiny, Kansas City Building Trades Council; St. Louis NECA; Associated General Contractors of Missouri; Kevin King, Roofers Local #20; Missouri Association of Plumbing, Heating, and Cooling Contractors; Site Improvement Association; Walter Bazan, American Subcontractors Association; Louie W Brinkoetter Jr; David C. Hudson, Plumbers And Gas Fitters; and Dennis Palmer, Coastal Electric.