

HB 476 -- PREVAILING WAGE LAWS

SPONSOR: Andrews

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

This bill exempts counties of the third and fourth classification from the provisions regarding prevailing wages for the construction of public works projects.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that prevailing wage discourages local workforces from engaging in public project bids, and unreasonably drive 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 Andrews; Marlon Collins, Cedar County; City of Nevada; Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry; 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 be 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 National Electrical Contractors Association; Edward Twehouse, Associated General Contractors Of Missouri; Roofers Local #20; Raymond Hefner, Plumbing Industry Council/Sheet Metal, Air Conditioning Contractors National Association STL/Missouri Association of Plumbing, Heating, Contractors; Aaron D. Griesheimer, Site Improvement Association; Walter Bazan, American Subcontractors Association; Louie W. Brinkoetter Jr; and David C. Hudson, Plumbers and Gas Fitters.