

HCS HBs 1194 & 1193 -- MINIMUM WAGE

SPONSOR: Chipman

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Rules - Administrative Oversight by a vote of 10 to 4.

This bill provides that no political subdivision shall require an employer to provide an employee a minimum or living wage, or employment benefits, that exceed state law. Sections 290.500 to 290.530, RSMo, preempt and nullify all political subdivision ordinances in effect or later enacted relating to the establishment or enforcement of a minimum or living wage or the provision of employee benefits.

The bill includes an emergency clause.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that many small business owners are currently paying wages that are higher than the state minimum wage to attract an employee that is willing to do more than the minimum work. If this bill does not pass and cities are able to establish a minimum wage higher than the state wage it will be difficult for these small businesses to keep their current employees without raising their wages as well. In addition, it is impractical to maintain a competitive playing field for businesses if each municipality has a different wage that is required.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Chipman; Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Trey Propes, Ehrhardt Hotels/Missouri Hotel and Lodging Association; Jane Dueker; John Iovaldi, Pietro's Restaurant; Jodi Pate, Amera Manor Inc; James N Foster; John Chen, Urban Eats; National Federation Of Independent Business; Missouri Retailers Association; Missouri Tire Industry Association; Missouri Grocers Association; Associated Industries of Missouri (AIM); Thomas C. Cogan; and Missouri Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that many minimum wage workers have to make difficult decisions about whether to clothe or feed their children. Allowing cities to increase their minimum wage would give individuals dignity and no longer require them to receive government subsidies. In addition, city officials should be able to respond to wage and labor issues that arise locally. A majority of the affected businesses are corporations and not locally-owned small businesses.

Testifying against the bill were Empower Missouri; Brian Smith, Missouri Rural Crisis Center; Jeff Stack, Mid-Missouri Fellowship Of Reconciliation (FOR); ACLU Missouri; Missouri Municipal League;

Francis G. Slay, City of Saint Louis; Rev. Mary Albert, United Church of Christ; Cynthia S Holmes; Michael Garvin, City of St. Louis; Bridget Hughes, Stand Up KC; Rev. C. Dessel Strong, Metropolitan Clergy Coalition; Taleah Gray-Turner, Service Employees International Union; Dennis Shaw; Webster Davis, NAACP; Wanda Rogers, Show-Me \$15/Fight For \$15; Bettie Douglas, Show-Me \$15/Fight For \$15; Rev. Dr. Martin J Rafanan, Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Missouri Jobs With Justice; and Rev. Dr. Cassandra Gould, Missouri Faith Voices.