

HB 1313 -- PREVAILING WAGE

SPONSOR: White

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Economic Development by a vote of 6 to 2.

This bill prohibits the Missouri Housing Development Commission from requiring a prevailing hourly wage to be paid to a contractor on a project eligible for a housing tax credit.

This bill is the same as HCS #2 HB 44 (2017).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that prevailing wage was a significant impediment to rebuilding Joplin after the notorious 2011 tornado. Prevailing wage requirements should not apply to tax credits because tax credits are not government expenditures unlike a public works project, which requires prevailing wage payments.

Testifying for the bill was Representative White.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that prevailing wage is complex, and should be addressed methodically and not in a wholesale repeal model. Prevailing wage is critical for financing apprenticeship programs, and retains quality workers. A compromise between a full repeal of prevailing wage and the status quo should be pursued instead of this bill.

Testifying against the bill were Missouri AFL-CIO; United Steelworkers District 11; International Union of Operating Engineers; Builders Association; St Louis Chapter NECA; Associated General Contractors of Missouri; Walter Bazan, Bazan Painting Company; Tim Weis, TJ Weis Contracting, Inc; Daniel Wienstroer, Painting And Decorating Foundation; Mechanical Contractors Associations of Kansas City; Missouri Association of Plumbing, Heating, Contractors and Plumbing Industry Council; Sheet Metal Air Conditioning Contractors Association St. Louis Chapter; Plumbing Industry Council; and Plumbers & Pipefitters #562.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that prevailing wage should be fully repealed, but this bill is a good start.

Testifying on the bill were the Missouri School Board Association and Missouri Association of Counties.