

HCS HB 763 -- STATE MINIMUM WAGE RATE

SPONSOR: Remole

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 8 to 4. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Administrative Oversight by a vote of 5 to 3.

This bill defines "private schools" as any non-public school or school operated by a religious organization and specifies that private schools shall not be required to increase their minimum wage to \$8.60 or the applicable federal rate on January 1, 2019 or increase it annually as required by current law.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that private schools often have a smaller budget and less room to absorb annual increases to payroll. Supporters point out that often the costs are passed on to the consumer, so private school tuition costs might be increased to cover the minimum wage worker's pay raise.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Remole; Missouri Education Reform Council; and Philip Marley, Tri County Christian School.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that changes to a recently passed voter initiative may be reactionary when the minimum raise increase has been in effect for less than a fiscal quarter. Opponents also point out that a large majority of the state approved of the minimum wage increase.

Testifying against the bill was Sixteen Thirty Fund.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say public employees were exempted from the Proposition B measure, which was a statutory change to existing language, due to the requirement that initiative ballot issues may not have unfunded mandates of which a minimum wage increase that effected public employees could be deemed.

Testifying on the bill was Jake Buckton, Department of Labor.