

SCS SB 180 -- CREATION OF MILITARY JOBS

SPONSOR: Wallingford (Basye)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Veterans by a vote of 12 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 8 to 1.

This bill modifies the Missouri Works program by creating an additional tax credit, substituted for any other tax credit offered under the program, for the expansion or improvement of a military base or installation that causes an increase of 10 or more military or civilian support personnel with an average wage of at least 90% of the county average wage and health insurance benefits, as described in the bill, and investment in real or tangible personal property at the base or installation expressly for the purpose of serving a new or expanded military activity or unit.

The tax credit must be issued to an industrial development authority, as defined in the bill, in an amount equal to the withholdings taxes associated with the civilian and military new jobs located and the facility and directly impacted by the qualified military project. The tax credits will be issued for no more than 15 years, and will be the least amount necessary to ensure the completion of the project. A project will not be eligible for tax credits unless the Department of Economic Development determines that such project will provide a net positive fiscal benefit to the state.

This bill is similar to HB 346.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this bill will let Missouri compete with other states for military projects since the Department of Defense actively looks at the cost of new projects in multiple states. Additionally, it was claimed that this bill would assist creating and retaining quality jobs in Missouri, and it would contribute to an overall military friendly climate in Missouri.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Wallingford; and the St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.